

## **UWRA President's Report to the Annual General Meeting – May 2020**

I would like to start by extending much gratitude to all UWRA Board members this past year for their representation and input in their various roles. With the recent world crisis of the COVID-19 epidemic we are certainly doing things differently today to stay safe. Hence our 2020 AGM will be on-line using Zoom.

All current board members have agreed to stay on for another year with the exception of Dale Weber leaving the board. Thank you to Dale for arranging the ***UWRA Fall 2019 Reception*** and the ***2020 UWRA AGM***, it has been great a pleasure to work with you.

Some other roles have changed. This past year we said goodbye to ***Kelly McManus*** and welcomed on-board ***Brandon Sweet (University Communications)*** who gives us a monthly campus update for UW. Brandon is better known as the person who runs the Daily Bulletin.

We are grateful that board member Mary Thompson has agreed to serve another term as the UWRA representative on the ***UW Pension & Benefits Committee***. Thank you also to Alan George for taking over the role of Editor of ***WATtimes*** with assistance from other board members.

Vice-President Lynn Judge has been instrumental in continuing to pursue a ***Memorandum of Agreement*** to give the UWRA formal recognition with UW to ensure notification of any changes that may affect retirees. Lynn researched other Retiree Associations to see what arrangements exist between them and their respective Universities. This document is now in the final stages. Thank you, Lynn, for taking on this task.

On June 9, 2019 Peggy Day hosted a ***UWRA Beer Tasting at Block 3*** in St. Jacobs. This was an informal event and it was great to spend time chatting to retirees and meeting their respective spouses.

On Thursday, July 11, 2019 UWRA members were invited to participate in the ***UWSA Golf Tournament*** held at Conestogo Golf & Country Club and hosted by the ***UW Staff Association***. Another collaborative golf event is tentatively booked for Thursday, July 16, 2020 at Foxwood, but we are unsure whether this event will take place. The UWRA is extremely grateful to the UWSA for inviting retirees to take part.

Other collaborative events with the ***UW Staff Association*** that included retirees were the weekend ***UWSA Shopping Trip to Erie, PN*** which took place on Friday, November 8-10, 2019. The hosts for this event was myself and Peggy Day. We are unsure whether this event will again take place in November 2020.

The ***26<sup>th</sup> Annual UWSA Craft Show*** including retirees as vendors took place on Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019 at the Davis Centre. Close to \$3,000 was raised from this event with the funds being equally split between the ***UW Senate Scholarship Fund (University-wide)*** and the ***UW Staff Association Bursary***. As the host

of this event, I have tentatively booked the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Show for November 26-27, 2020.

On behalf of the UWRA, I attended a ***UW United Way Campaign Kickoff*** luncheon on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

***Update on the Pension Investment Committee:*** In November 2019, the Board of Governors formed a subcommittee to the Pensions & Benefits Committee and the Finance & Investment Committee to oversee and make recommendations on the investments for the pension plan. This included one representative from each of the Associations and CUPE with two voting members and two non-voting members. The names put forward were Ranjini Jha (faculty), Michael Hertz (staff), Greg Macedo (CUPE) and Phelim Boyle (retiree). The two voting members have now been chosen: Ranjini Jha (faculty) and Phelim Boyle (retiree).

***Upcoming Education Credit Union Seminars:*** Three seminars were discussed at our December 2019 meeting: a) Registered Disability Saving Plan (RDSP); b) Executors, Wills and POA; c) Fraud and You. A quarterly seminar on Executors, Wills and POA with Jim Kibble was scheduled for March 30, 2020 at the Waterloo branch (Toby Jenkins building) but unfortunately had to be cancelled. Once these seminars are up and running again, we will inform retirees.

***Honorary Members Committee:*** I am the retiree representative on this committee. Several recent meetings of this committee were unfortunately cancelled.

***Pension & Benefits:*** We are extremely grateful to Mary Thompson and Stewart Forrest for keeping us up to date on any concerns that retirees may have with regards to pension and benefit issues affecting retirees.

***UWRA Survey:*** Thank you to those members who completed the survey to assess what events such as receptions, luncheons, bus tours, ECU seminars, etc. that would be of most interest to retirees. A final report of the survey will be forthcoming. Thank you to Paul Eagles for heading this up.

***UWRA Spring Luncheon:*** This event arranged for Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at Fed Hall unfortunately due to present times had to be cancelled. The two speakers were to be Mark Seasons and Paul Eagles who were going to give talks on predicting the state of the University of Waterloo in the year 2050. Retirees who registered for this luncheon have been reimbursed. Thank you to Paul Eagles for organizing this event.

***UWRA Coach Tours:*** Board member Peggy Day had planned to host a May day trip for retirees to the Niagara region which included lunch and visits to local wineries. Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled and those retirees who registered for this trip have been reimbursed. Thank you, Peggy, for taking time in planning this event.

***Monthly e-mails to Retirees:*** The board had agreed to send out monthly emails to UWRA retirees informing them of upcoming events and also to see if retirees would be

willing to participate in upcoming research studies. These monthly emails would have the approval of the board before sending.

Due to these unfortunate times, our **March 2020 Board Meeting** was cancelled. We did, however, have a board meeting in April on-line using Zoom. At this meeting it was agreed that we would purchase an annual membership to Zoom so that retirees will be able to participate in the May 2020 AGM. A blast email will be sent to members prior to the AGM with general instructions on how to connect to this event.

**WATimes Winter 2020 Newsletter:** As the University of Waterloo is now closed and we are unable to produce hard copies, this newsletter will be posted electronically on the UWRA website when finalized.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank **UW Parking Services** for issuing parking permits so that UWRA events can be held on campus.

Sue Fraser

Monday, April 27, 2020