

UWRA President's Report to the 2018 Annual General Meeting

As usual, I will start by extending my sincere appreciation to members of the Board for all their work on your behalf during the past year.

The University has rearranged some of its recognition events for staff and retirees. One of the results of the change is that on May 9th the University hosted a Retirees Reception in Fed Hall to which all retirees were invited, with the 2017 retirees given special recognition. President Hamdullahpur addressed the attendees and reflected generously on the dedication and contributions that retirees have made to the University's foundation and continued success.

As President of the UWRA I was also invited to make some remarks, which were mainly focussed on the two main roles of the UWRA: organizing social and other events of interest and/or importance to retirees, and serving as a communication channel between retirees and the University. In terms of communication, key elements include WATtimes and through membership on the Pension & Benefits Committee. Ken McLaughlin and Mary Thompson have done outstanding jobs as editor of WATtimes and member of the P&B committee respectively. Kelly McManus (Community Relations & Events Office) regularly attends our Board meetings which provides another avenue through which to stay in touch with the University.

I am pleased that Ron Champion and Bob Hicks have agreed to let their names stand in nomination for at-large positions on the Board. There will still be one open position on the Board, so volunteers are welcome. Ian Fraser has recently joined the Board to replace Hazel Kennedy as Web Master. Hazel has done a great job in managing our website and interfacing with Ticketfi, the online booking service that we use for event registration. David Matthews has also recently joined the Board to replace Gail Hansen Cunningham as Treasurer. Gail has done a wonderful job in keeping our finances in pristine shape. Our sincere thanks go to Hazel and Gail for their service to the UWRA.

And last, but not least, Terry Weldon will also be leaving the Board, after having served in numerous roles, among them being Coach Tour Coordinator, President, and past President. He is one of the longest serving Board member and deserves our profound gratitude for his service to the UWRA.

I have mentioned in past AGM reports the desirability of the UWRA having a Memorandum of Understanding with the University, similar to those of the Faculty and Staff Associations. Lynn Judge has been exploring what arrangements exist between other Retirees Associations and their respective Universities but the development of an actual MOU remains on the to-do list for the Board.

As noted in my report last year, the Education Credit Union on the north campus (Toby Jenkins Building) offers free seminars on a variety of topics, along with free parking for the events. Sue Fraser has been instrumental in identifying seminars of potential interest to retirees. Two special presentations for retirees titled "Being an Executor: the good, the bad and the ugly" have been arranged as well as one dealing with how to avoid fraud and scams via the internet or phone. All have been very well attended.

Finally, on behalf of the UWRA, I would again like to express our appreciation to members of UW Parking Services who have been generous in arranging for parking in connection with our tours and luncheons. We are also grateful to the University Club, which continues to provide parking and the venue for the monthly meetings of the UWRA Board.

Alan George

President, UWRA

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