

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

I will start by extending my sincere appreciation to members of the Board for all their work on your behalf during the past year. Of particular note is Ken McLaughlin's serving as Editor of WATtimes and Terry Weldon's assuming the role of tour coordinator in addition to his chairing the Nominations Committee. Finally, special thanks goes to Mary Thompson for agreeing to serve as the UWRA representative on the UWaterloo Pension and Benefits Committee. Much appreciation is due to Ramesh Kumar, who previously served in that role.

Terry may have more to say about the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campus Tour for retirees that occurred about a month ago, but I do want to express appreciation to the University for generously underwriting the tour. The modest cost of the event for our members was due to major support from the University through Kelly McManus's Community Relations office. President Hamdullaphur spoke at the mid-day luncheon and was generous in his praise for the contributions that retirees have made to building a sound foundation for the University's continued success.

I am pleased that Jim Frank and Dale Weber have agreed to let their names stand in nomination for at-large positions on the Board. It is perhaps a little presumptuous, but I look forward to their being approved as Board members at the AGM.

I mentioned in my remarks at the last AGM the idea of pursuing some type of formal recognition by the University. As you surely know, each employee group (faculty, staff, union) has a Memorandum of Agreement between them and the University Administration. These lay out protocols on how to interact under various circumstances. The University recognizes each group as having certain rights and privileges, and consults before making changes that might affect them. One could legitimately argue that retirees, while no longer employees, are an important constituency within the University, and perhaps the UWRA should have its own Memorandum of Understanding with the University. It is not clear what form that might take, but Lynn Judge has been exploring what arrangements exist between other Retirees Associations and their respective Universities.

The Education Credit Union on the north campus (Toby Jenkins Building) offers free seminars on a variety of topics. Sue Fraser recently attended one titled "Being an Executor: the good, the bad and the ugly" She found it very informative and thought it might be of interest to retirees. A special presentation for UWRA members has been arranged for Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 10-11:30 a.m. Details about registration and parking will be sent to our members via email.

Finally, on behalf of the UWRA, I would 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 the recent luncheon that we held at Fed Hall. We are also grateful to the University Club, which provides parking and the venue for the monthly meetings of the UWRA Board.

Alan George

2017-05-17