

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

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. A special thank you goes to board member Mary Thompson who continues as our representative on the Pension & Benefits Committee and has agreed to serve another year. Unfortunately, we are losing Ken McLaughlin who served as our Editor of WATtimes. Ken has done an excellent job co-ordinating relevant news of interest to retirees. He will be missed.

I am so grateful that all other Board members have decided to stay on for another year in their respectful roles. I cannot say enough about having such an amazing team.

The Office of University Relations is the University of Waterloo liaison unit for the UW Retirees Association. Within this unit our direct contact is with Kelly McManus and her team from Community Relations & Events for most matters. Kelly regularly attends our monthly board meetings and updates us with what is going on at UW.

Former board member, Terry Weldon was made an Honorary Member of the UWRA Board after serving on the board for 12 years.

A thank you to Vice-President, Lynn Judge who over this past year has been instrumental in continuing to pursue a **Memorandum of Understanding** to give the UWRA formal recognition with UW to ensure notification of any changes that may affect retirees. At present, this is ongoing. Lynn has also researched other Retirees Associations to see what arrangements exist between them and their respective Universities.

I am presently the retiree representative on the **Honorary Member of the University Committee**. The one question that I asked was: Are retirees eligible for this award and was told they are, but they have to have the backing of their previous department administrators,

This past year we have continued our luncheons with the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** theme with guest speakers from various departments giving us an overview of the history of these areas.

We continue to offer seminars with the **Education Credit Union** on topics of interest to retirees. We are extremely grateful. Some of the topics this past year were:

**The Good, The Bad & the Ugly** – Wednesday, November 14, 2018 and **The Importance of Tax-Free Saving** – Tuesday, February 19, 2019. We will continue to work with the Education Credit Union to offer seminars of interest to retirees.

Board member, Peggy Day is presently looking into local trips of interest and is also actively pursuing booking coach tours when the destination is further afield.

**Benefits Canada Story:** We were approached by Benefits Canada to write a story about the UW Retirees Association's continued affiliation with the University of Waterloo

which we were delighted to comply with. Thank you to Mary Thompson and Alan George for their input for this article. Our University is unique in our continued communication with UW after retirement.

Thank you to the **UW Staff Association** for including retirees in collaborative events. This past year we were invited to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UWSA Golf Social Tournament on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at Foxwood. A number of retirees participated in the tournament whilst three retirees including myself, Peggy Day and Dianne Foreman supported this event in administrative roles. We were invited to attend another collaborative event on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at the Drayton theatre's production of "**Shear Madness**" of which a large number of retirees attended the private show. Positive feedback was given on how much they enjoyed the show.

I was invited to attend a **Special Citizenship Ceremony** on Friday, March 29, 2019 at the Student Life Centre which welcomed 200 new Canadians.

A **Retiree Reception** was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at Fed Hall; to which all retirees were invited with the 2018 retirees given special recognition. President Feridan Hamdullahpur addressed the attendees and reflected generously on the dedication and contributions that retirees have made to the University's foundation and continued success. A special thank you goes to the Community Relations & Events team for their organization of this event.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank **Parking Services** for issuing parking permits so that UWRA events can be held on campus. Parking Services has now moved to a new location across from the Davis Centre.

Sue Fraser

May 2, 2019