

Chosen Logo:



Northwest Retiree Association
General Meeting, December 1, 2022
Hughes Center Rooms 211 & 212
10 am—11:30 am

Attendance:

Board Members: Johanne Fairchild, Karen Schaffer, Rosalie Weathermon, Bob Dewhirst, Jim Eiswert (former President), Janice Brandon-Falcone (President), Joel Benson (V. President), Christine Benson (Secretary);

Other Members: Ann Brekke, Jerry Brekke, Louise Horner, Channing Horner, Tom Zweifel, Ken Nelsen, Barbara Nelsen, John Shaw

Ex-officio: Lori Steiner and Brenda Untied. Ray Courter (Treasurer)—absent but sent a report.

Other: Jana Hanson

Minutes:

- I. WELCOME—Janice Brandon-Falcone—Introduction (10:00)
 - II. Approval of Agenda (Joel—moved approval, Karen—seconded, and passed unanimously)
 - III. Approval of October 25, 2022 Minutes (Bob—moved approval, Joel—seconded, and passed unanimously)
 - IV. Treasurer’s Report—Janice shared Ray Courter’s Report as follows:
Here is a summary of financial information for Northwest Retirees Association:
Time Period: July 1, 2019 to October 31, 2022 (3 years/4 months)
Income:
 - Membership Dues: \$1,735.00
 - Donations: 2,755.19
 - Total Income: 4,490.19Expenses:
 - Banner/Signs 174.12
 - Annual Meeting:
 - Drinks 66.83
 - Food 659.40
 - Web Site 233.84
 - Total Expense 1,134.19Net Balance Oct. 31, 2022 \$3,356.00.
- V. Janice named and thanked the previous officers for their service in getting NWRA stated and keeping it going during the pandemic.

Then each current officer present introduced themselves and introduced a project they are currently working on.

- a. Vice-President: Joel Benson— Joel will offer Lunch and Learn from noon to 2:00 p.m. in Rm 301 of the First United Methodist Church, 103 N. Main St., Maryville, starting Tuesday 1/10/22.
- b. Secretary: Christine Benson—Christine presented three options for an NWRA logo that may be embroidered on clothes or hats when taken to The Student Body. The consensus was option C. (See above.) NWRA will pay the set-up fee (approx. \$45), and then people may take in (or buy at The Student Body) an article of clothing or hats and pay approximately \$10.00 to have the logo sewn on. In January, Christine will send an email to members with a recommended date to have their clothes there. This date will not be required, but it will make things more efficient. Christine will also ask for the minimum number of orders needed (clothes or canvas bags) to do a large screen printing.
- c. Treasurer: Ray Courter (not present)
- d. Board Members
 - i. Jim Eiswert: Ex Officio—Jim invited everyone to Happy Hours at the Pub on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month. We have also invited out-of-town members to set up their own gatherings and let us know (with pictures or possibly Zoom).
 - ii. Jolaine Zweifel: Ex Officio—Webmaster—In Jolaine’s absence, Janice shared the NWRA URLs: www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/nwretirees/ is the page managed by the NW Foundation, and www.nwretirees.org is the GoDaddy site managed by Jolaine link and is linked on the university site. Janice encouraged members to check out these sites to find the newsletter, calendar of events, minutes of meetings, and resources for retirees.
 - iii. Johanna Fairchild: At-Large—She shared that in January 2023 NWRA will be doing a year-long TRIAL Membership in The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. They provide opportunities for resources and other educational opportunities across the country. See the newsletter for details.
 - iv. Karen Schaffer: At-Large—She shared that Dr. John Shaw will be doing a lecture on the James Webb Telescope in GS 3520 (Astronomy Lab) at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022. Christine will send an email reminder.
 - v. Rosalie Weathermon: At-Large—She shared that she had consolidated a list of ideas from before the pandemic. She had planned to pass out a handout of these activities, but there was some miscommunication concerning who would make the copies, so the handouts were not available. So she shared the categories included day trips (which will be done via carpooling), community services, educational opportunities, social events, and exercise activities. She will be planning a trip to King City (sawmill, shops, etc.) and mentioned a tour of the Abbey. If anyone has suggestions for things they are willing to organize, or if they have a specialty they would like to share, they should let us know.

- vi. Bob Dewhirst: Newsletter Editor—The newsletter will be coming out next week, and it will feature Ed Farquhar and Linda Girard. Newsletters will be published twice a year. Bob also invited members to either volunteer or say yes when they are asked to fill out a 300-word questionnaire about what they have been doing since they retired, so they may be featured in future newsletters.

VI. New Business

a. Suggestions for New Activities

- i. Karen—Spring 2023, Karen will organize a tour of the Arboretum, hopefully with Johanna Fairchild who played a major role in getting the State Arboretum on the Northwest campus and knows a great deal of the history of these trees. Karen will limit the tour to a walkable distance, and we will ask the Alumni Association if we may borrow some golf carts for those who need them.
- ii. Karen—Spring 2023, Karen will organize a day trip to Shatto Dairy. Check-in is at 10:15 a.m. for a tour from 10:30 to noon. She will need to offer three dates to Shatto in hopes that one of them will be open.
- iii. Janice—Janice invited members to walk at Hughes Center from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. weekdays.
- iv. Member Ideas—Janice invited members to submit ideas to the board.

b. Dr. Clarence Green, Interim President, Northwest Missouri State University:

Updates on DEI efforts, Facility improvements, Academics:

Dr. Green shared the current plans/events/initiatives on the NW Campus:

- Adventure 2030 is the strategic plan (10,000-foot view)
 - Engagement—Build Trust among people, students, alumni, and stakeholders. He noted that “people” included faculty and staff and anyone interested in Northwest.
 - Being more transparent: Northwest Leadership will show up to talk about whatever people are concerned about, especially regarding finances, and share focal points so that people may rally around them.
 - Taking care of people: A compensation study is currently underway to see how Northwest should compensate its employees, balancing equality with equity. Also, insurance premiums were lowered this year. The presidents of Faculty Senate and Staff Council are on the team doing the study.
 - Enrollment—The priority is on-ground, undergraduate Maryville enrollment, which had dropped significantly.
 - More visit days
 - Recruiting more undergraduate international students
 - Recruiting students from Dallas-Grimes High School in Iowa. NW used to have a significant number of students from this school and now we have none, due in part to Iowa’s efforts to keep their students. Funded in part by a generous donor, Northwest will offer each of ten of these students \$3,000 stackable scholarships. In the

future, Northwest will look at other schools from which enrollment has declined and focus recruitment efforts there.

- Developing a Sense of Belonging:
 - Students as well as faculty and staff are participating in a book club, social justice sessions, etc. These activities offer high engagement are being well attended.
- Key Initiatives—The following list is not exhaustive.
 - Martindale Hall Renovation: The state has agreed to give NW \$8.5 million if Northwest can raise the same amount by Summer 2024.
 - A Public/Private Partnership (PPP) was pursued to improve power and other infrastructure on campus, but it was too expensive. So NW is currently pursuing a 50/50 partnership where the state would pay at least 50% of the \$60 million cost of the project.
 - An Athletic Strategic Plan is in process to improve the facilities on campus, add new programs—women’s wrestling, for example—and other initiatives. NWRA will consider asking the Athletic Director to speak at a meeting to share this plan.
 - In Residential Life, there are plans to tear down Phillips Hall and North Complex and add showers to South Complex. Any future student housing will be apartment style, as this is what the market demands.
 - The Provost is leading an audit of Academic Programs. For example, names of programs need to use words that students search for when looking at colleges (Marketing vs. Influencer, for example).
 - The Agricultural Learning Center just received a \$1.2 million grant from the state to finish the creamery. Additional funding of \$800,000 will be needed. NW had also received a 50/50 grant to add a welding lab and facility at McKemy and is seeking additional donor funding to cover the university’s half of that project.
 - The Legislative Agenda includes keeping our state legislature, especially our new senator and representative, informed of what Northwest is doing and seeking support in those initiatives.
- Search for a new President of Northwest: The applicants will be cut to a list of about ten people by January. The committee will interview them and cut the list to about three to five by late February. Those will be brought to campus, and a final decision should be made by late March or early April.
- c. Next Board Meeting: March 14, 2023, 1 pm-2pm, in the Lawhead Conference Room of the Michael L. Faust Center for Alumni and Friends. [This was amended to March 14, 2023 11 am-noon, Rm. 301, First United Methodist Church, 301 N. Main, due to scheduling conflicts. Board members were asked and the entire NWRA was notified of the change at least 2 weeks in advance.]