



Northwest Retiree Association
General Meeting: November 29, 2023, 1 pm - 2 pm
The Board Room in the Student Union

Attendance:

Board Members: Joel Benson (President), Rosalie Weathermon (Vice President), Theo Ross (Treasurer), Christine Benson (Secretary), Johanne Fairchild, Bob Dewhirst, Karen Schaffer

Ex-officio: Lori Steiner, Brenda Untiedt, and Jana Hanson

Members: John Shaw, Ray Courter, Tom Zweifel, Jolaine Zweifel, Jerry Brekke, Ann Brekke, Jerry Wilmes, Deb Clark

Guests: Kori Hoffman, Amy Nally

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order—1:00 p.m.
- II. Welcome – NWRA President Joel Benson
- III. Presentation: NWRA Scholarship – Guests: Kori Hoffmann and Amy Nally
The program formerly called Lead Green is now Involvement Ambassadors. Involvement Ambassadors help students get involved on campus because students who are involved are more likely to stay in school and graduate.
Involvement Ambassadors (IAs)
 - Train students on the Leadership Certificate Program that aligns with the NW Core Values
 - Enhance Career Ready Skills
 - Work with students who are not involved by
 - a. Assisting students to identify interests and passions to select organizations, clubs, and committees to promote engagement
 - b. Providing multiple trainings to Student Organization Leaders, Departments, and Staff to ensure proper use of Bearcat Link through Presence and Officer Transition Training.
 - In the following Northwest statistics, success means students returned the following semester or graduated.
 - a. There is a 90% success rate for students active in at least 1 organization.
 - b. There is a 96% success rate for first year students who are active in at least 1 organization.
 - c. Students are two times more likely to remain in school/graduate when they are involved in an organization than those who are not.
 - d. The average GPA for students involved in at least one organization is 3.39.
 - Current Involvement Ambassadors:
 - a. There are currently five Involvement Ambassadors each semester.

- b. IAs are currently paid \$750 per semester. Leadership would like to pay them more so they can ask for more visits to students, but they do not have the funds to do so. They would also like to have more IAs because there is plenty of work to be done.
- c. IAs are selected based upon their GPA, completion of the Leadership Workshops, and Level 1 of the JEDI Program—offered through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. All of the current IAs came from the pool of students who took the Leadership-themed University Seminar sections.
- d. Ambassadors serve for 2 years. Four of the five current IAs ambassadors are graduating seniors.
- Other information:
 - a. What is the biggest barrier? Getting students involved. Leadership is trying to figure out a balance between reaching out to contact students who do not usually come to events without being too intrusive.
 - b. Northwest currently has “involvement” (marching band, on-campus job, athletics, intermural programs) by 65% of students; the goal is to get to 80%. Leadership has a goal of 75% being involved in a student organization.
 - c. There are currently 140 clubs on campus.
- Connection, a sense of belonging, is critical for student success and wellbeing.

IV. Approval of Agenda (1:23) (Bob—moved approval, John—seconded, and passed unanimously)

V. Approval of November 15, 2023 Board Minutes—approved online by Board

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Summary period: August 1, 2023 – Oct. 31, 2023

Net Balance July 31, 2023 **\$3589.24**

Income:

- Membership Dues: Aug. 1 – Oct. 31 \$175.00
- Donations: Aug. 1 – Oct. 31 \$105.00
- Total Income: \$280.00

Expenses:

- 10/27/23 Go-Daddy (annual fee) \$23.17
- Total Expenses: (\$23.17)

Net Balance Oct. 31, 2023 **\$3846.07**

VII. Old Business

A. Establishment of a NWRA Scholarship—Joel Benson

\$25,000 is needed to endow a \$1000 scholarship. Any scholarship NWRA funds should go through the Foundation.

Proposal: Establish a Northwest Retiree Scholarship for the Involvement Ambassador. The Board will move forward with ironing out the details of developing a scholarship funded (possibly endowed) by the Northwest Retiree Association. The secretary will send out an email (and letter to those who do not have email) with the proposed details and conduct an electronic poll of the NWRA members. (Rosalie—moved approval, John—seconded, passed unanimously.)

- B. Tour the R.T. Wright Farm—Karen
Karen has talked to Jill Brown who can arrange a tour. Karen will ask about when they milk the cows, the p.m. shift, and when calves are born. Several members showed interest. Karen will work out the details and set a date when it gets warmer. [Addendum: Karen will also ask about having parts of the tour videoed so we can share the types of activities our organization does.]
- C. Joel will offer another Lunch and Learn, starting January 9, covering the Tudor Stuart Era (1500s-1600s) of English history. People will meet at Noon in Rm. 301 of the First United Methodist Church, 103 N. Main, Maryville, bringing their own lunch and enjoying instruction and conversation.
- D. Brown v Board of Education Museum in Topeka, KS—Bob and Janice
Bob—The original school involved in Brown v Board of education is now a museum. We would carpool in the early spring—during the first two weeks of April (Tuesday – Thursday to avoid weekend traffic, preferably Thursday to avoid Joel’s class on Tuesdays and church activities on Wednesdays). Bob and Janice will get more information, as several were interested and wanted them to move forward.

VIII. New Business

- A. The next NWRA Board meeting—Tuesday, March 26 at 11:00 a.m., Rm. 301 of the First United Methodist Church, 103 N. Main, Maryville.
- B. Next General Meeting: August, 2024. Details TBA.

IX. Adjournment—1:59 p.m.