



Northwest Retiree Association  
 Board Meeting: March 26, 2024, 10:30 am – 11:30 am  
 Rm. 305 of the First United Methodist Church, 103 N. Main, Maryville.

Attendance:

**Board Members:** Joel Benson (President), Rosalie Weathermon (Vice President), Theo Ross (Treasurer), Christine Benson (Secretary), Johanne Fairchild, Karen Schaffer, Janice Brandon-Falcone (Past President)

**Ex-officio:** Lori Steiner and Jana Hanson

**Guests:** Ray Courter, Ken Nelson, Jolaine Zweifel

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order – 10:30 a.m.
- II. Welcome – NWRA President Joel Benson
- III. Approval of Agenda  
 Rosalie asked to add Music at Happy Hour to the Agenda, New Business (Theo—moved approval, Bob—seconded, and passed unanimously)
- IV. Approval of November 23, 2023 Minutes (Janice—moved approval, Bob—seconded, and passed unanimously)
- V. Treasurer’s Report—Submitted by Theo Ross
  - a. Summary period: November 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024
 

Net Balance Oct. 31, 2023	<b>\$3,846.07</b>
Income:	
• Membership Dues:	\$50.00
• <u>Donations:</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
• Total Income:	\$60.00
Expenses:	
• <u>None this period</u>	<u>\$00.00</u>
• Total Expenses:	(\$00.00)
Net Balance February 29, 2024	<b>\$3,906.07</b>
  - b. After discussion, it was decided that the Secretary will share the full list of NWRA members with the Treasurer so that the latter may keep track of and report if new members have joined.
  - c. Christine needs to put a notice in What’s Up This Week that dues paid before July 1 apply to the current fiscal year, which starts over July 1.
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Establishment of a NWRA Scholarship—Joel Benson (See attached)  
 Thank you to Ray for initiating this scholarship, and thank you to all those involved in its development.

- i. With the addition, under part 8, to include, “including the Vice President of Student Affairs (or successor title)” (Bob—moved approval, Janice—seconded, and passed unanimously)
  - ii. Discussion to clarify (remind of previous discussions) included:
    - a. Representatives of NWRA will not be part of the process for selecting a scholarship recipient. However, during the event honoring scholarship recipients and donors (currently called Empowering Dreams), members of the Board will meet the recipient. And to further generational conversations, the recipient will be invited (not required) to participate in NWRA events, including but not limited to a General NWRA meeting.
    - b. This scholarship is for **\$1000** for **one** student for **one** year. (Smaller amounts—2 \$500 scholarships—do not draw applications from students.)
  - iii. During discussion about how to raise support and get the word out:
    - Lori will create a form and link so that people may donate online. Jana and Christine will see that these links get on the appropriate NWRA sites. (Donations may be made via check made out to the Foundation with *Retirees Scholarship* written in the memo.)
    - Lori and Jana will secure a picture and quotes from a current Involvement Ambassador.
    - Lori will contact Mark Hornickel to write a press release, recommending he get quotes from Ray, Rosalie, and Theo because they were on the original committee that initiated the scholarship.
    - Lori will also ask that this be put in the next appropriate Alumni Magazine.
    - Jana will help Christine create a Facebook page for NWRA. This will allow us to get the word out and we can post the press release and link to donate.
    - Christine will put a brief announcement in What’s Up This Week with a statement that more information will be forthcoming.
    - Christine will have a brief paper announcement at the April 12 NWRA Happy Hour indicating there is more information coming.
    - Christine will create a separate email to inform NWRA members of the creation of the scholarship and invite them to donate.
- B. Tour University Farm—Karen Schaffer  
**Thank you** to Karen Schaffer for organizing the Tour of the R.T. Wright Farm and the Agricultural Learning Center on the campus of Northwest Missouri State University Thursday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. Dr. Rod Barr and associates led 14 retirees, another alum, and a future Bearcat through the history of how the facility came to be, what is going on now, and what is still in the planning. WOW! Bearcats are on the move, setting the example for the rest of the country! And Rod made special note of the contributions made by our own Dr. Tom Zweifel, even though the major changes happened after Tom retired. (This is a reminder that we all should be working to lift up and help pave the road for those who follow us.)
- C. Brown v Board of Education Museum in Topeka, KS—Bob and Janice

Bob, his wife Nina, and Janice plan to make a scouting trip to the museum on April 18 and inform Christine when they have details, so she can put it in What's Up.

VII. New Business

A. Social Media job description: During the discussion about the scholarship, Christine suggested creating a social media position on the Board so that the Secretary's job was not so big that no one wanted it. Christine will create job descriptions for both *Secretary* and *Social Media* and present that to the Board at our next meeting.

B. Rosalie and Janice talked to a musician and the owner of The Pub and asked if we could have a volunteer do live music (for about 15 minute sets so as not to interfere with conversation) at the April NWRA Happy Hour. (Christine—moved approval, Bob—seconded, and passed unanimously)

C. Confirm date and time for next General meeting—Joel

The next General Meeting of the NWRA is tentatively scheduled for Aug 22, 2024 in order to coincide with the All Employee Picnic. Joel will contact Jacob Wood (President Tatum's Assistant) to invite Dr. Tatum to speak, confirm that retirees are invited to the All Employee Picnic, and confirm a time.

D. Visit to Botanical Gardens in Omaha, NE—Karen

Karen and Rosalie will explore a future trip for the fall, when it is not so hot.

E. Lunch and Learn: History of Religion in the United States—Janice

Janice will offer this class either in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.

F. Dr. Lance Tatum's Inauguration as the 11<sup>th</sup> President of Northwest is April 19, at 1:30 p.m. in Bearcat Arena. Doors open at noon. All are invited—no RSVP required. More information can be found at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/inauguration/index.htm>

VIII. Adjournment—11:30 p.m. (Janice—moved approval, Bob—seconded, and passed unanimously)