



Northwest Retiree Association
General Meeting: August 21, 2024, 4 pm-5 pm
Valk 118

Attendance:

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

Members: Phil Heeler, Linda Heeler, Janice Brandon-Falcone, Margaret Drew, Mike Drew, John Shaw, Barbara Nelson, Ken Nelson, Jim Eiswert, Pat Lucido

Pending Members: Sue Wood, Ted Goudge, Lisa Stobbe, Kenna Johnson

Ex-officio: Jana Hanson and Lori Steiner

Guests: President Dr. Lance Tatum and his assistant Jacob Wood

Minutes

- I. Call to Order (4:00)
- II. Welcome – NWRA President Rosalie Weathermon thanked everyone for coming and shared some fun facts about the incoming freshmen—class of 2029.
- III. Greetings from University President Dr. Lance Tatum
President Tatum shared that he and his wife, enjoying their first year in Maryville, have realized that Maryville is not just mid-west nice, but much more than that. It is a family and a community that loves Northwest. He agreed with his wife, when she said, “Northwest isn’t just a place, it is a feeling.” While summarizing things he observed over the past year, he said we understand that academics is very important, but so are the experiences outside of the classroom, and we know that and invest in it. We allow students to stumble and then help lift them up and grow as a person.
The infrastructure on campus is 30+ years old and is in desperate need of updates. There are many very deep holes on campus as we complete Phase 1 of replacing underground systems. Those in charge of the different pieces are aware of deadlines for students moving in, the first football game, etc. and are working, sometimes around the clock to meet those deadlines. Phase 2 will be next year and will involve even more digging. Phase 3, the following year, will be better.
Enrollment and sustainability, diversity, and the overall portfolio are still the priorities. We are building the undergraduate enrollment of international students; addressing the needs of current students, including mental health support; connecting academics with what it happening outside of the classroom; and helping constituents, including politicians, understand what we are doing and why concerning how we invest our money and time.
Northwest is working on improving the conditions for all employees, preserving the culture and working on compensation and decompression of the salary schedule.
Answers to questions from NWRA members:

1. The Studentbody President is leading an effort to get all students registered to vote.
2. Due to the construction, the International Flag Ceremony during Homecoming Weekend will be held at Charles Johnson Theater.

IV. Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship – Ray Courter

Ray Courter gave some of the history of the development of the Northwest Retiree Association then shared that the press release announcing the Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship, part of the Lead Green Involvement Ambassadors, came out today. We have enough money collected already to award a scholarship this year--to Riley Steele, who was unable to attend the meeting today—but we need to raise \$25,000 as quickly as possible in order to endow the scholarship. There are forms on the back table, and there is a link on the Alumni Association/Retiree website where they paid their membership dues.

V. Approval of Agenda (Janice—moved approval, Karen—seconded, and passed unanimously)

VI. Approval of June 13, 2024 Minutes—approved online by Board

VII. NWRA Constitution and By Laws Proposals – vote by membership present

The original constitution was modeled after another university’s organization as a place to start. Now that we have settled into our own practices, the Board has updated both documents to reflect our needs. President Rosalie summarized the changes in both documents. (The original and proposed documents have been available on the Alumni/Retiree website for several weeks and have been referenced in the What’s Up This Week email several times, as well.) (Robert—moved approval, Janice—seconded, and passed unanimously)

VIII. Treasurer’s Report – Theo Ross

Summary period: July 31, 2023 – July 31, 2024

Net (Operating) Balance July 31, 2023	\$3,589.24
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Income:

Membership Dues and donations	\$1575.00
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Expenses:

AROHE (annual fee)	\$120.00
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GoDaddy	\$23.17
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Net Balance July 31, 2024	\$ 5,021.07
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Northwest Retiree Association Scholarship

(Beginning/current balance)	\$2,117.53
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IX. Election of Board of Director Members – Call for Nominations

The following are the final results after references to previous What’s Up This Week, discussion, volunteers, and those agreeing to be nominated.

Board Members-at-large:

1. Johanne Fairchild (2nd year)
 Karen Schaffer (1st year—2nd term)
 Kenna Johnson (1st year) (Letter writing to Scholarship donors, etc.)
 Pat Lucido (1st year) (Facebook page manager)
 Nancy Farlow
2. President: Rosalie Weathermon (1 year)
3. Past President: Joel Benson (1 year)
4. Vice President/President-elect: Robert Dewhirst (1 year)
 Secretary: Christine Benson (1st year—2nd term)
5. Treasurer: Theo Ross (serving 2nd year – elected in odd years)
6. Other committee members:
 Sue Wood will send out What's Up This Week (Christine will help her get going.)

X. Old Business: NA

XI. New Business and Announcements:

Membership List – Latest list is available today from Theo or Christine

- Some membership cards were sent in errors – if unsure check with these two people
- If not, receiving weekly correspondence, likely we don't have you down as a renewed membership. See Northwest, Alumni section, then renew or see Theo

Need for volunteer/committee people for variety of duties, examples;

- Send thank you notes to scholarship donors
- Facebook/Social media posts/pictures to promote connections/membership
- Planning an event -- one person already will help - Karen Schaeffer
- Correspondence to new members – a letter once a year, other ideas?
- Help with communications – send an email once a week with input from other sources
- Benefits, keep up with Medicare and NW changes– John Shaw

Upcoming Events

October 3 (Thursday) Brown vs Board of Ed Museum Topeka, Ks Leave 9 AM Methodist Parking Lot, ride share and back by 5:30 pm with purchase of your own lunch at 50's diner, Spangles

2nd Fridays Happy Hours with Snacks at the Pub – Maryville – Alcoholic or soda, snacks, friendship, music sometimes. 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm or so

Spring 2025, History of Religion in America – Janice Brandon Falcone - Lunch and Learn (Thursdays) 1 hour weekly, no homework or tests!

Karen Schaffer suggested that we tour R/Farm Distilling Company, a Farm-to-Finish, in Mound City.

Rosalie pointed out that there is an Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) webinar on Cyber Fraud and Personal Security Insights, (1-2 pm, Wednesday, Oct. 24) (To sign up for this free virtual workshop, go to AROHE.org; scroll down, and under Membership Services, click on Idea Exchange Webinars.)

We are looking for program ideas for 1 or 2 online session in fall and spring. Do you have a topic you have been researching that would be of interest to our members both near and far through Facebook video or perhaps Zoom?

More Local offering possibilities – Andrew County Museum, Conception Abbey, McKemy, new renovation at Martindale.

What else would you like to see/do? If time does not allow today, contact a board or committee member soon with your ideas!

Next General Meeting: Tentatively Dec 6, 2024. Details TBA

- XII. Adjournment (4:54) (Jim—moved approval, Janice—seconded, and passed unanimously)