



Northwest Retiree Association Board
 Spring Meeting
 March 14, 2023
 11 am to noon
 First United Methodist Church, 103 N. Main, Rm. 301
 Attendance:

Board Members: Bob Dewhirst, Rosalie Weathermon, Karen Schaffer, Jolain Zweifel (Tech Support), Janice Brandon-Falcone (President), Joel Benson (Vice President), Ray Courter (Treasurer), Christine Benson (Secretary);
Ex-officio: Lori Steiner, Brenda Untied, and Jana Hanson

Minutes:


- I. Welcome – Janice Brandon-Falcone (11:04)
- II. Approval of Agenda (Bob—moved approval, Joel—seconded, and passed unanimously)
- III. Approval of Dec. 01, 2022 General Meeting Minutes—with an added note of the change in time and location of the next Board meeting (Karen—moved approval, Joel—seconded, and passed unanimously)
- IV. Treasurer’s Report—Ray Courter
 Summary period: November 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023
 Net Balance Oct. 31, 2022 \$3,356.00
 Income:
 - Membership Dues: (3 ind., 1 cpl.) \$45.00
 - Total Income: \$45.00
 Expenses:
 - GoDaddy (Website annual fee) \$287.76
 - Student Body (NWRA logo setup fee) \$39.00
 - Total Expenses: (\$326.76)
 Net Balance Feb. 28, 2023 **\$3074.24**
- V. Quarterly Reports/Updates:
 - A. New and Recent Retirees
 1. We have added 5 members since the October Board meeting: Stephen Sutton (Nov.), Jan Corley (Nov.), Beverly (Bev) Schenkel (Dec.), Nancy Zeliff (husband John) retired in Dec. 2022 (Jan.)
 2. Process for recruiting those who have set their retirement date—Christine

- a. The Provost's office will send an email to NWRARetirees@nwmissouri.edu notifying us of any faculty who have informed them of a retirement date.
 - b. We updated the letter (**See Attachment**) that Human Resources will give to all retirees, inviting them to check out NWRA's websites and the retirement resources we have available. It also invites them to become a member even before they retire.
 - c. Christine will ask Nancy Zeliff what specifically sparked her comment that the NWRA Website was very helpful for planning retirement and use that to inform what we keep on our site and what we put in our invitation materials.
 - d. Janice will ask Krista Barcus about having an NWRA member go to the MOSER Retirement Planning seminars to pass out our brochure, and let people know that they may join if they are within 6 months of retirement and the benefits of doing so. (Ray offered to do so.)
 - e. We need to update the brochure and will discuss that at the next meeting.
- B. Report on activities this winter
1. James Webb Telescope Lecture, GS 3520 (Astronomy Lab) at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 (links on <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/nwretirees/index.htm>)—Karen shared that the feedback was very positive. The lecture was well attended by NWRA members and a few other faculty. We need to make sure people know where to find the link to the video of the presentation.
 2. Lunch & Learn: Civil War (Noon-1:00 Tues. Jan 10 – June 20—Joel shared that 2 to 12 people have been coming and that Jolaine has recorded most of lectures, posting them on the <https://nwretirees.org/> site. When Joel asked for people to make suggestions for future classes, people suggested the English Civil War and Presidents.
 3. 2nd Fridays Monthly Happy Hours—Joel said these are well attended.
 4. Walking at the Hughes Fieldhouse—Christine shared that there are several people who walk regularly.
 5. Polo Shirt w/Logo (not for regular caps)—Christine shared a picture of the NWRA logo embroidered on her shirt and the cost, \$10.82. (See the top of these minutes.) The setup cost of \$39 was paid by NWRA. Anyone may take a shirt to The Student Body, choose the logo from their logo book, choose the colors, and pay the fee. Although the original request was to have a logo that could also go on a cap, when Christine took in a cap, she was told that the logo was too tall (3 inches) to go on a cap. If people want

that, we would need to pay for an additional setup with the words next to the N, rather than under it. We will see if there is a demand for that.

6. Trial membership of AROHE (but how do we login?)—Janice shared that she finds the site helpful but cannot login, so she does not know what benefit there is to being able to do so. She needs to be able to authenticate the login, but she does not know whose cell phone the authentication code goes to. Since Johanne Fairchild set up the trial membership, Janice will check with her and report at the next meeting. Janice thought the fee was about \$90 (though it might be less because we are a smaller university), due in July, to maintain our membership and our name on their site but would need to check and Ray offered to help.

C. Possible Activities

1. Arboretum Walk—Karen shared that she wanted to wait until the trees had mature leaves on them. The plan is to start in GS 2520 for a short lecture on vocabulary so people could understand what she meant when she talked on the tour. Then she and Johanne Fairchild would lead a short tour around GS, to the Bell Tower and Gaunt House, discussing science and the history associated with the trees. The Foundation can provide a golf cart and driver for those who need it.
2. Compiled Interest Survey Results—Jolaine shared that the summary of the survey results collected several years ago, and compiled into categories by Rosalie, have been posted to <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/nwretirees/index.htm> and linked to <https://nwretirees.org/>. She also said that the green thought bubble  at the bottom right of <https://nwretirees.org/> is a great place for people to make other suggestions for activities. Christine will make this known on the next What's Up This Week? email.
3. New Retiree Activities: There was discussion about the persistent silos of faculty vs staff and the fact that some are not comfortable going to the Pub. To address this, we talked about having a catered meal at Ray Courter Pavilion, similar to what the Bearcat Booster Club does each year. We need to wear name tags as gatherings and be intentional about mingling with people we do not already know and who are in a different silo than we are. (Bob is bring intentional about including a faculty member and a staff member focus interview in each newsletter.) We decided that this event should be in conjunction with the General Meeting when we elect new officers. See more detail under VIII. A. below.

D. Publications/Advertising

1. Newsletter—Bob shared that he is planning to have the next newsletter out by April 1. Phil and Linda Heeler will be the Focus faculty this time. He

needs some pictures of events. Christine will share pictures she has taken and Jolaine will help him put what he has typed up into an electronic format SWAY and snag pictures from some of the videos.

2. What's Up This Week?—Christine
 - a. Christine shared that she started doing this to remind people about the Lunch & Learn: Civil War and to share information people had requested at the 2nd Friday Happy Hour. Several people commented about how helpful it was (“I can’t go to most of it, but seeing what is going on helps keep me connected. I’m with you in spirit.” “It really helps to get reminders about what is going on this week, the heads up about what is coming, and the extra information you put at the end.” “Please keep doing this! It keeps me connected and reminds me that this is an active organization and part of the community.”) Christine said she will continue to highlight events but also keep referencing the NWRA websites so people use them and get comfortable with them.
 - b. Although the email is weekly, in order not to increase postage costs, she creates a What’s Up This Month—one page of events that may be put on refrigerators—that Brenda mails to those without email. The timing of this will be the same as when she was sending reminders about the 2nd Fridays Happy Hours.
 - c. Jolaine will teach Christine how to update the <https://nwretirees.org/> site each week to include the information in What’s Up This Week.
3. Monthly Review of both NWRA websites (vice president)—no programing, just review and let site controller know what needs to be updated)—Janice shared that to keep the websites up to date, the Vice President, currently Joel Benson, will review all links and content each month. If there are any broken links or materials that need to be updated, the Vice President will contact our Tech Support, currently Jolaine, or Brenda Untied and/or the person who needs to provide updated material.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. Plan for General Meeting—Janice

- a. When? Where? Meal? There were no final decisions made, but discussion included having this meeting associated with the All Employee Meeting in the fall, something that staff and faculty attend. Again, it would be important that NWRA members be intentional about mingling with nonmembers who are eligible or approaching eligibility and people who are in a different staff/faculty silo.
- b. Election of new team? No decisions were made, but we will do this at the fall meeting like we did last year.

- c. Speaker(s)? For this meeting, the introduction of officers is enough.
 - 2. Set date and time for next Board meeting—Janice recommended that this be done just before the General Meeting, whenever that is.
- B. Ray recommended that we talk more at the next meeting about actively pursuing the setup of a scholarship. Lori said that \$25,000 is needed for an Endowment but there are other options. Scholarships should be at least \$1,000 in order to be meaningful to the students. Ray said he would head up a small group to get information and report back at the next meeting. Bob and Karen said they would help.
- IX. Adjournment was at 11:59.