MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2012

TRI-UNIVERSITY MEETING OF RETIREE’S ASSOCIATIONS

ASU was the host university for the annual Tri-University Meeting of Retiree’s Associations. It was convened at 9:00am by William Moor, the current President of the Arizona State University Retiree Association (ASURA). The meeting was held at ASU in the Yavapai Room of the Memorial Union. Attending were: NAU Retiree Association (NAURA) representatives David Best and Don McCallum; University of Arizona Retiree Association (UARA) representative Ruth Eskesen; and ASURA representatives Dick Jacob, Jo Madonna, Barry McNeill, William Moor and David Schwalm. Patrick Klein, Assistant Director of External Affairs at the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) also joined the group at 11:00am as guest speaker.

After introductions and a welcome each association was asked to provide an overview or update about their organization.

University of Arizona

Membership and Dues: UARA has a membership of approximately 900. Dues are $10/year. They do not rent a small office and they receive no financial support from the university.

Newsletter and Website: They have recently changed and updated the look of their association newsletter. The UA Retiree News is published in September, January and April of each year and is mailed to members and 1st year retirees, whether or not they have joined the association. UARA also has a good website that they are able to keep current.

Activities and Events: The UARA Board meets monthly September to May and organizes three member luncheons during the year. They also hold educational seminars. The University of Arizona does have a luncheon for new retirees each year.

Northern Arizona University

Membership and Dues: NAURA has a membership of approximately 350. Dues are $15/year or $225/lifetime. They receive no financial support from the university and have no office space. However, NAU retirees are able to receive a parking decal that allows them to park for free on campus.

Newsletter and Website: Their newsletter, FLASH, is published three times per year, Fall, Winter and Spring. It is mailed to all paid association members and all new university retirees. The newsletter includes the names of all new members.

Activities and Events: The NAURA Board meets two times per year and organizes four NAURA member get-togethers per year. In addition, an informal men’s social group and an informal women’s social group meet throughout the year, approximately once a month. The NAU president hosts (for a nominal fee of $15/person) a new retirees’ luncheon one time per year and each new retiree is recognized by name for his/her service to the University.
Arizona State University

Membership and Dues: ASURA has a membership of approximately 550. Dues are $30/year. ASU provides office space, storage space and access to a conference room. ASU Public Affairs contributes $7000/year to the ASURA budget. A proposal will soon be submitted to the ASURA Board that new retirees, who complete an ASURA membership application, be given one-year free membership.

Newsletter and Website: The ASURA Newsletter, Prime Times, is published three times per year in Fall, Winter and late Spring. It is mailed to all members. The website is dynamic and the front page changes frequently to bring attention to upcoming activities and events. In the Spring of 2012 a decision was made to advertise events only through e-mail, the website and in Prime Times. 60% of ASURA members accept e-mail communication. Currently, a new software program called Wild Apricot is being implemented that will allow the responsibility for updating and monitoring information on the website to be spread out among various people, with one person serving as webmaster. It is now being used to facilitate registration for events and activities, distribution of meeting information and some other administrative functions.

Activities and Events: The ASURA Board meets monthly, September through May. For members at large annually there are three or four luncheons, seminars on a variety of topics, several day trips, and opportunity to join others for international travel, a Retiree Day of educational programming, and a springtime annual meeting that includes the introduction of newly elected officers. The most well attended event is Retiree’s Day, a day of seminars on various academic and current event topics, as well as a luncheon with a guest speaker or entertainment. This was previously called Education Day and it is held each February. This February will be the 20th anniversary of this popular event.

About 10% of the members participate in these activities and events. It is believed that others must join the organization to receive Prime Times, and to support the association and its activities activities such as Adopt-A-Family, the Annual Scholarship, and the Video History Project. This ASURA Living History Video Project records video interviews with retired and former employees of ASU who have a significant history with the university. Each interview contains a unique story from the individual’s perspective regarding ASU and its history. CD’s of these interviews are available for checkout.

ASURA is also doing some fundraising to support the association’s various projects. Members and new retirees are asked to donate books that are no longer needed, especially textbooks, for an on-line book sale that is done in collaboration with the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library. ASURA receives a portion of the proceeds from these sales. Members are also invited to give donations, beyond their annual dues, for specific programs/areas of interest. The recent Golf Tournament will likely generate a bit more than $1000 after expenses.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Patrick Klein, Assistant Director for External Affairs, Arizona State Retirement System, was the guest speaker. He provided an excellent handout of his presentation which included information on:

- ASRS Overview – member statistics, budget, contributions, distributions
- ASRS Financial Health – type of investments, returns, asset allocation
- Issues Past and Present – Defined Benefit Plan membership decreases, cost saving initiatives
- 2013 ASRS Legislative Initiatives – federal conforming changes, ASRS self-insurance, LTD changes, elimination of PBI for new members, non-retired survivor benefit redesign
- DC and Retirement Study Committee – interim report was issued in 2011, final report stalled
• ASRS vs. ADOA Health Insurance Comparisons – side by side chart

Mr. Klein was very informative and thorough as he answered many questions posed by attendees.

Lunch and Wrap-Up

A buffet lunch was served in the meeting room and informal discussion continued.

As previously agreed upon, the responsibility for convening the annual Tri-University Meeting of Retiree’s Associations rotates among the three associations, although for ease of travel it is always held in the Phoenix/Tempe area. This year’s meeting was organized and convened by ASURA. In 2013 it will be UARA’s turn to take the lead.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.