

ANNUAL MEETING
Arizona State University Retirees Association
April 12, 2014, 1:00-3:00pm

Prior to the beginning of the formal meeting, members in attendance enjoyed time for casual conversation and light refreshments.

Welcome

President Barry McNeill opened the formal meeting at 1:10 by welcoming everyone and asking them to introduce themselves to their neighbors.

Barry reported that the seminars were very successful this year and thanked Jan Thompson and her Seminars Committee for their work. Barry pointed out the activities in which ASURA has been involved this year, reviewed work of the Financial Committee, noted that membership is up, and that the Golf Tournament, under the direction of David Schwalm and the Tournament Committee, was the largest fundraising activity. Retirees Day had to be cancelled due to low attendance. Several Liaison positions in the Association were vacant during the past year. Barry indicated that he had touched on only a few items in the Annual Report and encouraged everyone to read it in its entirety. He thanked the Board, the Committee Chairs, the Liaisons, the Office Staff and others for their work in making the past year very successful.

Preliminary Results of Membership Survey

Barry McNeill discussed four PowerPoint slides, see attachments, dealing with the ASURA survey effort which will hopefully offer many insights for the Board to consider to improve the Association. He thanked Carol Moore, Nancy Lesko, Jeannette Robson, and Linda Van Scoy for their effort in assisting with the Survey.

- The first slide showed types of surveys, numbers of surveys sent out, and the return results.
- The second slide showed the top reason people are not joining which is that these people are busy and don't have time for ASURA.
- The third slide showed that the main reason people were dropping membership was that they could no longer take advantage of the ASURA activities. The underlying reason being they were getting old.
- The fourth slide showed the importance the members placed on a variety of ASURA activities. The slide showed:
 - 150 out of 180 members thought advocating for retirees and health insurance were very important- close to unanimous on being very important.
 - Of the four ASURA "social" activities - travel, seminars, retirees day, & luncheons - seminars came out on top relative to viewed importance.

Remarks from Scholarship Recipient

Sue Blumer, Co-chair of the ASURA Scholarship Committee, thanked the members for supporting the Scholarship program, and commended the Committee members for their work on selecting the recipient. She introduced Tomas Espinosa, a mechanical engineering student with extensive experience in community service and the recipient of the ASURA 2013-14 Scholarship. Espinosa then spoke, thanking the Association for its support and speaking about this background, his interest in engineering and energy technology, and his participation in community service activities which included tutoring refugee students. He anticipates a career in energy technology, economic growth, and sustainability. He indicated that as a result of the support from ASURA, he will now be able to enter graduate school and pursue a master's degree in engineering.

Video History Project

Dave Scheatzle presented the Video History Project, which has completed 96 interviews of ASU retirees. Dave announced that they were working with the ASU Library to get the videos included in the Library's digital archive which would make the videos available online. Dave also mentioned that they were collaborating with Mark Tebeau, Director, Public History, to have his students help get key words associated with the interviews. This will allow quick access to interviews addressing a key word. Dave played a 15 minute composite video made up from portions of four of the interviews including: George Morell, James Elmore, Rudy Turk, and Brent Brown.

Remarks from ASU President Michael Crow

Barry McNeill introduced President Crow, who thanked the members of the Association for their contributions to the University during their careers and their service since. President Crow discussed the direction and emphasis on ASU in the context of higher education in the U.S. and the University's contributions to the society. He indicated that when he joined ASU, he set a goal for the University to increase its research and the number of graduates and graduation rates. ASU has worked to give access to all qualified students regardless of background, and at present the undergraduate student population parallels the socio-economic diversity of the state as a whole. ASU is doing this to encourage talent, which comes from all socio-economic sectors – ASU will admit every student who meets the admission requirements. ASU is the largest producer of Pell-eligible graduates, of Hispanic graduates, and of Native American graduates, and the fourth largest producer of African-American graduates. ASU has the lowest cost per graduate among research universities in the U.S. Research funding has quadrupled to over \$400 million. ASU is in the top ten for nearly every award that can be given to undergraduates. President Crow noted that ASU students are terrific, as good any student at any institution, and they have a special tenacity and grittiness to them. ASU's objective is to retain 90% of its freshmen, and have a graduation rate that exceeds 75%. At the conclusion of the presentation President Crow took a few questions from the audience. Barry then thanked Dr. Crow for taking time on a Saturday afternoon and presented him with a copy of A Second Decade of Success

Introduction of New Board Members and Officers

Barry McNeill introduced the incoming President, Jo Madonna, and passed the gavel to her. Jo introduced the new Board members, recognized the continuing Board members, and introduced the Executive Committee. Jo thanked Barry McNeill for his service as President and for a tremendously productive year under his leadership, highlighted his accomplishments, and presented him with a commemorative gift from the Association.

Closing Remarks

Jo Madonna reminded everyone of coming events and offered bon voyage to those who are traveling with an ASURA sponsored trip.

Adjournment

Jo Madonna adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Survey Effort

- 485 paper surveys mailed to ASU retirees who have never joined – 49 (10%) returned
- 250 paper surveys were mailed to members who have dropped membership – 61 (24%) returned
- 192 paper surveys were mailed out to members prefer paper – 56 (29%) returned
- 415 requests were e-mailed to members – 132 (32%) returned

I have not joined ASURA because:

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| I cannot or would not take advantage of the seminars, events, and travel that ASURA offers. | 48% | 19 |
| I haven't heard about the free introductory year. | 30% | 12 |
| I don't know anyone who is an ASURA member. | 28% | 11 |
| I don't see the benefit. | 28% | 11 |
| I was not aware of ASURA's monitoring of existing health insurance programs for University retirees, to provide the best possible health insurance coverage for its members. | 25% | 10 |
| I was unhappy with ASU when I retired, and didn't want to be part of anything "ASU". | 25% | 10 |
| I was not aware of ASURA's programs of advocacy for retirees with ASU. | 23% | 9 |
| I was not aware of ASURA's programs of advocacy for retirees with the state legislature. | 20% | 8 |
| I was not aware of ASURA's programs of advocacy for retirees with the retirement agencies ADOA & ASRS. | 20% | 8 |
| I think the dues are too high. | 13% | 5 |

40 Responses

I did not renew my membership because:

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| I found that I did not take advantage of the opportunities that ASURA offered. | 64.7% | 33 |
| I could no longer attend ASURA events. | 47.1% | 24 |
| I didn't get much useful information from my membership. | 29.4% | 15 |
| I felt the dues were too high. | 13.7% | 7 |
| I found that I did not like the opportunities that ASURA offered. | 7.8% | 4 |
| I didn't think ASURA delivers what it promises in the way of advocacy for retirees with the state retirement agencies (ADOA & ASRS). | 7.8% | 4 |
| I didn't think ASURA delivers what it promises in the way of advocacy for retirees with the Legislature. | 5.9% | 3 |
| I don't think ASURA's delivers good monitoring of existing health insurance programs. | 5.9% | 3 |
| I didn't think ASURA delivers what it promises in the way of advocacy for retirees with ASU. | 3.9% | 2 |

51 Responses

Question 5 – Importance to do Activities

| Answer Options | Not Important | | Neutral | | Very Important | Rating Average |
|--|---------------|----|---------|----|----------------|----------------|
| How important is it for ASURA to advocate for retirees with the state legislature, the state retirement programs, and with ASU? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 150 | 4.81 |
| How important is it for ASURA to monitor existing health insurance programs for University retirees, to provide the best possible health insurance coverage for its members? | 0 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 150 | 4.76 |
| How important is it for ASURA to do the Scholarship program? | 1 | 5 | 27 | 52 | 95 | 4.31 |
| How important is it for ASURA to do the Video History Project? | 6 | 5 | 39 | 55 | 75 | 4.04 |
| How important is it for ASURA to have Seminars? | 0 | 5 | 49 | 73 | 53 | 3.97 |
| How important is it for ASURA to do the Adopt-A-Family program? | 4 | 6 | 50 | 69 | 51 | 3.87 |
| How important is it for ASURA to have Retirees Day? | 3 | 7 | 60 | 60 | 50 | 3.82 |
| How important is it for ASURA to have Luncheons? | 5 | 6 | 64 | 62 | 43 | 3.73 |
| How important is it for ASURA to do Travel Programs? | 8 | 6 | 67 | 64 | 35 | 3.62 |
| How important is it for ASURA to have a Golf Tournament? | 35 | 19 | 80 | 24 | 22 | 2.88 |

180 Responses