

**MINUTES OF November 14, 2023
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING**

Board Members Present: Kay Faris, Maria Hesse, Partha Dasgupta, Will Stasi, Carl Cross, Don Dotts, Barry McNeill, Kathy Palmanteer, Bev Buddee, Helene Ossipov, Tara Roesler

Board Members Absent: Rojann Alpers, Jo Ellen Alberhasky, Terrie Ekin, Jeffrey Bush

Ex-Officio Members Present: Mark Lussier

Committee Chairs Present: Pat Schneider, Connie McNeill, Paul Harper, Jan Shore, John Brock

Executive Staff Present:

Guests Present:

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Faris called the meeting to order at 10:01 am

II. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME TO GUESTS

There were no guests present for this meeting.

III. ADOPTION OF TODAY'S AGENDA

A motion was made by Maria and seconded by Tara to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Motion carried.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF October 10th, 2023 BOARD MEETING

Bev made a motion to approve the minutes. Carl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURER'S REPORT – Terrie Ekin

Barry reported there was not much money spent. The allocation from HR is expected soon.

VI. EX-OFFICIO REPORTS (5 minutes or less, please)

- ASU Alumni Association – Tim Desch
N/A
- Emeritus College Liaison – Mark Lussier
Mark reported that the Emeritus College is very close to getting all its pre-pandemic programs up and running again. He discussed the small stipends the admins get, and also some minor problems. Policy changes will soon fix the

problems. Emeritus College funds two grants, through Barrett College and Honors College. The Honors College is also involved in the Preparing Future Faculty program. The Emeritus College has a long-standing collaborative relationship with ASURA, and this will continue.

- Human Resources – Lynne Soller
N/A
- University Club Liaison – Tara Roesler
Tara reported that the tailgate parties continue to happen 2 hours prior to the game. A University Club membership (\$125/yr) allows free parking on campus. The fee is less than half of the parking costs. Tara offered admission to a tailgate party for anyone willing to try it out, as a way to promote membership. Helene added that the Club is a pleasant place to do some work and have morning coffee.
- University Liaison – Kendra Burton
N/A
- University Senate – Greg Stone
N/A
- University Staff Council – Shawn Banzhaf
N/A

VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS** (*5 minutes or less please*)

- Community Outreach Committee – Subcommittee Reports
 - Adopt-A-Family – Ginny Sylvester
Connie reported that Ginny has two gift cards for the two families but she is having communication problems with Trudy. Trudy is unavailable due to a bad accident
 - Scholarship Committee – Jan Shore
The scholarship has been posted. Scheduling of meetings with the committee is in progress. Some of the committee members are new this year. Connecting with current scholarship recipient (for status updates) will happen in December.
 - Video History Project – Don Doerres
The interviews are ongoing and are wonderful. There are many (sometimes odd) things to learn from the interviewees about the history of the University. A new person, David, is interested in video editing. Carl and Pat will help with metadata management.
- Events Committee & Subcommittee Reports
 - Events Committee Coordination – Trudy Perez
N/A
 - Luncheons & Special Events – Mary Stevens
Holiday potluck is on Dec 12 at Ability 360, but without a bake sale. Trudy is currently laid up, but that may change. An informal 5-min talk by Jared

Swerzenski of OLLI (Osher Life Long Learning Institute) will take place. He will brief us about the great courses offered by OLLI.

- Seminars – Pat Schneider
The ADOA/ASRS Open Enrollment Seminar had 55 attendees. ASRS had the UHC representative provide detailed information about the ASRS insurance. The much wanted comparison grid for the ASRS and ADOA plans is not possible. Comparing these plans are like comparing apples and oranges. ADOA is a Medicare Supplement plan and ASRS is a Medicare Advantage plan. These two plans are inherently different.

In-person and/or hybrid seminars were discussed by the seminar committee. There are several logistic and money problems, in attempting to hold hybrid sessions around the valley. However, the next three seminars will be presented as hybrid, using the CSB conference room, hosted by Bev (and the Owl). In-person seminars will not be re-introduced as attendance will suffer.

- Pre-Retirement Seminars – Trudy Perez, Liz Badalamenti
N/A
- Travel – John Brock
The trip to Southeast Arizona went really well. Tara has an picture album which will be presented at the holiday potluck. There are 9 registrations for the Costa Rica trip in March. A trip to the Sidney Poitier film school is in the planning stage. Ideas about a European trip are being discussed, possibly Sicily or Tuscany. A regional trip to Albuquerque for the balloon festival is under consideration. The travel committee meeting date has been moved to second Tuesday, afternoon.
- Finance Committee – Barry
 - The Annual Review of expenses will be done in December and will be presented in January.
 - Book Collection – Kay reported we received \$67.38 for August and \$43.44 for September on book sales.
- Government Liaison Council – Tara Roesler
 - Legislature – Don Dotts
Don is getting an official designation as a lobbyist. The state legislature has been reducing the University budgets and this is a problem. U of Arizona has declared a financial emergency. We will get more involved in such matters. Pat is active in tracking legislative matters such as bill watching and attending seminars. Don will get in touch with Pat to discuss some strategies for lobbying the legislature.
- Health Insurance Liaison Council
 - ASRS – Dick Jacob
N/A
 - ADOA – Larry Carlson
N/A

- Membership and Communications Committee – Subcommittee Reports
 - E-News – Barry McNeill
E-News is coming out. This will solicit Board nominations for the elections in February. Nominate anyone or nominate yourself to Will Stasi.
 - Membership Update – Carl Cross
The current membership count is at 732. There have been 493 renewals. But 342 people not renewed. The drop in membership is related to the drop in retirement rates, recently. The count of new retirees for the Nov-Oct period was 171 in 2021, which went up to 304 in 2022, but fell to 239 in 2023.

Paul is working on the quarterly database maintenance and should have a new membership report out within the next week or so.
 - Obituaries – Tara Roesler
Reports come in every week. Tara receives notes of appreciation from family members. “It is an Honor to honor our deceased members” she stated.
 - Prime Times – Jeannette Robson
 - Web Site – Connie McNeill, Barry McNeill
No report
 - Database – Paul Harper
Carl has already covered the membership reports

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Discussion of Membership.
Kay presented a report on how Alumni Association handles memberships (information from Tim Desch). There are two levels -- recurring memberships and lifetime memberships. The problem is to keep contact information up to date especially for lifetime members. However, they have a marketing hub that manages alumni liaisons.

A seminar by AROHE talked about increasing association membership, and the takeaway is that we (ASURA) needs to get into all aspects of the University and make our presence known. We are often confused with ASRS and HR. Barry, Terrie and Maria attended a vendor event where they proactively talked about ASURA and got 40 people to sign up for the pre-retirement seminars.

ASURA needs to let a broader audience at ASU know that we exist. We are the alumni association for retirees, very distinct from ASRS. We need to promote ourselves and make people feel good about us. Examples include: contributing the seminars at the Chicano-Latino Faculty Association, setting tables at various ASU events including staff council, homecoming, and such. Connie presented the idea of volunteering to help ASU websites resolve branding issues, format and proofreading content.

Surveys of introductory members and non-renewing introductory members are in the works. Pat will handle the survey design with help from Tara.

Last Meet and Greet Jan Thompson (past president) invited 3-5 new retirees. Kay challenged everyone to do the same and bring new people to the Holiday Potluck.

- Discussion of Annual Meeting speaker/dates, etc.
Kay reported the Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton cannot make it due to time conflicts but is very interested for a future date. Next invitee will be Dr. Thom Reilly from Political science (focus on democracy). Backup will be Randall Cerveny, who will talk about weather and warming.

It was suggested that the time for the annual meeting be in the afternoon, around 1pm. Date is yet to be determined and will depend on availability of the speaker and Ability 360.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Blood Drive: A blood drive is being considered. It would be a good event from a community service standpoint. The level of interest and the logistics are being considered.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting – **January 9, 2024 in person at CSB 203A**
9:15 am Executive Committee
10:00 am Board Meeting

XI. ACTION ITEMS

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.