

**MINUTES OF February 13, 2024
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING**

Board Members Present: Kay Faris, Maria Hesse, Bev Buddee, Jeffrey Bush, Carl Cross, Partha Dasgupta, Terrie Ekin, Barry McNeill, Helene Ossipov, Tara Roesler, Will Stasi

Board Members Absent: Jo Ellen Alberhasky, Rojann Alpers, Don Dotts, Kathy Palmanteer

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Committee Chairs Present: Don Doerres, Pat Schneider, Connie McNeill, Jan Shore

Executive Staff Present:

Guests Present: Denise Blommel

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board president Kay Faris called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME TO GUESTS

Kay introduced Denise Blommel, who is present to talk about liability insurance.

III. ADOPTION OF TODAY'S AGENDA

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

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF January 9, 2024 BOARD MEETING

Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes, Maria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURER'S REPORT –Barry McNeill

Terrie is the new business manager and will present a report next month. Barry announced that the \$7,000 from HR has been received.

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

- ASU Alumni Association – Tim Desch
- Emeritus College Liaison – Mark Lussier
- Human Resources – Lynne Soller
- University Club Liaison – Tara Roesler

- University Liaison – Kendra Burton
- University Senate – Greg Stone
- University Staff Council – Shawn Banzhaf

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

- Community Outreach Committee – Subcommittee Reports
 - Adopt-A-Family – Ginny Sylvester
 - Scholarship Committee – Jan Shore
The scholarship application deadline is March 1st. Soon after that all committee members will review all applications, using online and in-person discussion sessions. The current scholarship recipient, Bea Ahbeck, will attend the annual meeting.
 - Video History Project – Don Doerres
Don reported not much going on at the moment. An interview in March is being planned.
- Events Committee & Subcommittee Reports
 - Events Committee Coordination – Trudy Perez
 - Luncheons & Special Events – Mary Stevens
Kay reported that Mary will step aside due to illness. The spring luncheon planned at Mirabella is on hold and may happen at Mirabella or Friendship Village if another person will coordinate it.
 - Seminars – Pat Schneider
January seminar by Tara Brown on post retirement was well received. Tara offered one free counselling session to attendees. Area Agency on Aging held the February seminar on General Resources, using a hybrid (online and in-person) format. March seminar will also be Area Agency on Aging, with focus on caregivers.

Pat is stepping down as committee chair but will remain on the committee. Karen Moses will be the new committee chair.
 - Pre-Retirement Seminars – Trudy Perez, Liz Badalamenti
Kay stated the seminars are being held regularly.
 - Travel – John Brock
The Silver Star event is approaching. The second visit to ASU film school is scheduled for Feb 29. Costa Rica trip has 9 participants.
- Finance Committee – Barry McNeill
 - There was no finance committee meeting and hence there is no report.
- Government Liaison Council
 - Legislature – Don Dotts
Don stated (in absentia) that the Legislative Committee will be meeting on Friday, Feb. 16 with Kendra Burton to determine how the committee can

help her this legislative session and identify legislation (bills) which they can work on.

Pat is following the legislation at the State Capitol and has narrowed down over 300 bills to about 34 that she is monitoring. Three bills affect the ASRS. One of them extends the existence of the ASRS for another 8 years. The second bill affects the rights of spouses or domestic partners, in the event of a divorce/separation, to have access to the valuation of the member's retirement account who is involved with the divorce/separation. The third bill clarifies the declaration of beneficiaries for the member in the event of his/her death.

Some bills will affect how voting is done in Arizona, one such bill will limit voting by caregivers for homebound patients.

Pat attended the Virtual Day at the Capitol, organized by ARSC (Arizona Retirement Security Coalition). A detailed report was made available to the board. It was a good session, hosted by the ARSC lobbyist Daniella Smith, and attended by legislatures from both the House and the Senate, both Democrat and Republican. The panel session was particularly good. ARSC is biased towards the financial health of ASRS, and considers both the University and ABOR as "threats". This is because changes to retirement systems by these bodies can have negative effects on ASRS (particularly the move from using ASRS, to using the defined contribution plans).

Will talked about the ASU Legislative Breakfast hosted by Dr. Crow. About 100 people attended and the whole agenda was focused on the Medical school, it's funding and goals. The attendance was lower and unlike the past there was no discussion on the general state of ASU.

Pat talked about an interview with Dr. Crow by Arizona Capitol Times. In this interview Dr. Crow discusses how the Medical School will help training and retention of doctors and nurses, including issues with residency. E-News will publish the link to the interview.

- Health Insurance Liaison Council
 - ASRS – Dick Jacob
 - ADOA – Larry Carlson
- Membership and Communications Committee – Subcommittee Reports
 - E-News – Barry McNeill
No report.
 - Membership Update – Mary White
Mary could not attend, but she did her job and will be here next meeting.
 - Obituaries – Tara Roesler
Tara is doing the obituaries.

- Prime Times – Jeannette Robson
Prime Times has been published and on the ASURA website.
- Web Site – Connie McNeill, Barry McNeill
Connie stated that Mary White is working on the retirement seminar videos to be put on the ASURA website. Barry discussed the new format of the ASURA web site.
- Database – Paul Harper
Connie stated that Paul will have membership report done.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Discussion of Membership.
The survey for non-renewing members is getting ready. A meeting is being scheduled. The survey design will be done and sent out.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Denise Blommel, a practicing attorney was our guest, to talk to us about insurance and risk management. Denise stated that one of the fiduciary duties of the Board is to practice risk management. All activities have risk, particularly financial risk, associated with damage claims. The risks can be minimized by having insurance, or having coverage from ASU risk management, or via indemnification by vendors and venues. Two types of insurance are relevant: General Liability Insurance protects ASURA from monetary claims and Directors and Officers Insurance reduces personal monetary risks faced by the members of the Board. Example, D&O insurance mitigates risks from claims by vendors or defamation suits brought by members or volunteers of the organization.

Denise spent time discussing the various risks associated with the meetings, events, travel and such activities of the ASURA organization. She talked about our relationship, or lack thereof, with ASU. There is a possibility that ASU can cover some of the risk. In addition, the risks can be reduced if a tour company or venue agrees to “indemnify” ASURA, that is, they pay for damages incurred by ASURA. This issue is something the Board needs to look into and have commitments in place, which is part of the Board’s “due diligence”. Due diligence is also a fiduciary responsibility of the Board. It was suggested that we have a meeting with Lisa Loo, ASU’s General Counsel, to find out the exact nature of the relationship between ASU and ASURA.

ASU day at the Capitol is on April 8th. This year, the focus will be on Health. Kay needs 2-3 volunteers to staff the tables. Bev and Barry will volunteer.

Annual Meeting is on April 17th, 1pm to 3:30pm. Trudy will arrange the food. Annual reports are needed from all the committee chairs (including pictures), and the deadline is March 31st. Barry will put together reports – please email the committee reports to Barry and Kay.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting – **March 12, 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 11:23 am.