

University of Manitoba Retirees Association  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
October 14, 2006

The third Annual General Meeting of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 205-207 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus.

Active Members Present: J. Barwinsky, G. Baureiss, D. Biehl, L. Brockman, V. Bruce, N. Fetterman, H. Frank, J. Goldstein, I. Gusdal, S. Hryniuk, H. Larimer, N. Losey, D. MacEwan, S. Onyshko, A. Patterson, L. Philip, J. Steel, L. Steele, M. Stothers, S. Stothers, B. Stovel, G. Swift, H. Thompson, B. Webster, P. Williams.

Inactive Members Present: C. Goldstein, A. Onyshko

Guests: M. Macdonald, D. Punket.

The meeting was called to order by the President/Chair, Lois Brockman, at 12:45 p.m. The Secretary being absent, Alan Patterson was appointed secretary *pro tem*.

1. The Agenda was approved as circulated (G. Baureiss/B. Webster).
2. Minutes of October 15, 2005 Annual General Meeting were approved as circulated (I. Gusdal/S. Stothers).
3. Business arising.
  - a. Consideration of UMRA's incorporating. Legal advice received indicated there is no need for UMRA to incorporate. Incorporation would require annual filing and a good deal of paperwork.
  - b. The Chair informed the members of the passing of John Hamerton, a member of the Executive Committee who had worked on the development of UMRA's Privacy Policy and acted as the interim Privacy Officer. Art Braid has agreed to serve as UMRA's Privacy Officer.
4. Constitutional Amendments: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Jay Goldstein, Vice President, proposed three (3) amendments to the Constitution.
  - a. That the phrase "lifetime or" be added to Articles 3.2.1 and 3.2.2., so they would read:
    - 3.2.1 Active members are those who have paid the authorized lifetime or annual membership fee.
    - 3.2.2 Inactive Members are those who have not paid the authorized lifetime or annual membership fee.

**Carried.**
  - b. That in Article 8.1, the phrase "An annual membership fee" be replaced by the phrase "Membership fees" so it would read:

8.1 Membership fees shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

**Carried.**
  - c. That Section 4.3 be added to Article 4 (Executive Committee):

4.3 Only Active members shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

**Carried.**

## 5. Reports

- a. President. Lois Brockman reminded members that our association is now entering its third year of formal existence, with application for membership being initiated just one year ago. Hence, the tasks for the past year focussed on developing an infrastructure for the operation of the organization by establishing our committee structure – reviewing and formalizing existing committees and establishing needed new committees.

Work on the UMRA web site ([www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees](http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees)) has been a major task this past year. Ian Rollo very generously maintained a website for UMRA under his personal account but found that he was unable to continue. Lois thanked Ian for his many years of service. Last Fall, Gunter Baureiss volunteered to take on the responsibilities of UMRA webmaster. Gunter, with the support of Mark O’Riley of Learning and Development Services and the assistance of the University IT personnel, worked diligently to create a pleasing and easily navigated website. Lois asked everyone to join her in thanking Gunter for his tremendous efforts.

Objectives for the next year include continuing refinement of our infrastructure needs and further development of our communication efforts. Two specific areas under exploration are: (I) providing a means for members to form special interest groups (e.g., photography, travel) through our website and (ii) establishing linkages with the U of M Alumni Association so our members can receive the Alumni Journal.

- b. Communication Committee. In the absence of John Mundie (Chair), the President reported on the many activities of this committee. A major task in this past year has been the development of the website. The regular activities of the Committee include the writing and editing the semi-annual Retirees’ News and posting notices of the President’s Reception in the *UM Bulletin* and the Provincial on-line Seniors Events site. In addition, John Mundie wrote the history of UMRA which now appears on our website. John has also accepted an invitation to serve on the Communications Committee of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC).
- c. Benefits and Pensions Committee. Nora Losey (Chair) reported that the members of the Committee were: John Markham, Ian Rollo, Bernice Furlong, John Mundie, June Stewart and Wayne Pucci. The original mandate of the committee was to monitor pensions, supplemental and dental health benefits, and issues associated with the loss of health benefits upon reaching 75 years of age. Over the past year, the Committee has met quarterly in its monitoring role as well as assisting John Mundie with a paper on issues associated with the termination of health benefits at 75 years. With the lead of Bernice Furlong, the Committee also reviewed and updated information on our website about medical and non-medical benefits available to retirees. Matters which the Committee will be pursuing include (I) increasing the dental benefits claim limit (which has remained constant since 1978) and (ii) securing coverage for eye glasses, tray fees, massage therapy and acupuncture.

- d. Membership Committee. In this past year a Membership Committee was established (see g. below) with Jay Goldstein as Acting Chair. Jay reported a total of 160 members of UMRA: 126 Active Members (86 annual and 40 lifetime) and 34 Inactive Members. An immediate concern is the need for some form of formal recognition of membership by means of a receipt, a membership card, or letter by post or e-mail. Current members of the Committee are Jay and Diane Biehl. Jay invited those present to consider joining the Committee.
- e. Ad Hoc Committee Exploring the Feasibility of a Retiree Centre. Members of the Committee are Horst Frank (Chair), Harlyn Thompson, Jerry Gray and Marilyn Stothers. Horst reported on the survey conducted in April regarding interest among retirees in pursuing housing for U of M retirees. Sixty responses were received . Of these only 2% were definitely in favour of pursuing a housing project. The respondents indicated they had already settled into their retirement home, though many supported the general concept. Given these results, Horst asked that the Committee be disbanded. However, as the mandate of the Committee included securing office space for UMRA, Horst offered to pursue this matter. Marilyn Stothers has accepted to be UMRA's liaison with the CURAC Housing Committee.
- f. Treasurer. Doug MacEwan, Treasurer, moved the acceptance of his report (attached), seconded by Diane Biehl. **Carried.**
- g. By-law Changes. Jay Goldstein reported that since the last AGM four by-laws were adopted and two were amended by Executive Committee. The new by-laws adopted are: 1.2 creating the Communications Committee, 1.3 creating a Nominating Committee, 1.4 creating a Membership Committee and 4. creating the position of Webmaster. By-law 1.1 Benefits and Pensions Committee was amended to make our terminology consistent with that of the University's Staff Benefits Office. By-law 4. Webmaster was amended to (I) remove his/her responsibility for maintaining the Association's e-mail list and (ii) to make the Webmaster a member of the Communications Committee. Nora Losey moved and Gunter Baureiss seconded the acceptance of the report. **Carried.**
- h. Nominating Committee. Steve Stothers, on behalf of John Mundie (Chair), nominated Diane Biehl and Bonnie Stovel as Members-at-large of the Executive Committee. The Chair asked for further nominations from the floor. Nora Losey/Gunter Baureiss moved that nominations cease. **Carried.** The chair welcomed the acclaimed Members-at-large to the Executive Committee.
6. Other business. None. The chair thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their support over the past year. She also thanked Vivian Bruce and Laura Philip for their services at the sign-in desk and a special thank you to Rosalyn Howard, Linda Lassman and Mark O'Riley of Learning and Development Services for their continuing support and encouragement.
7. Adjournment at 1:45 p.m.