

University of Manitoba Retirees Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Room 224 University Centre
October 20, 2007

The fourth Annual General Meeting of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association was held on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 224 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus.

Active Members Present: S. Barwinsky, G. Baureiss, D. Biehl, E. Bridges, L. Brockman, A. Brownell, V. Bruce, L. Campbell, N. Fetterman, H. Frank, A. Froese, J. Goldstein, I. Gusdal, J. Jamieson, M. Johnson, G. Lambert, H. Larimer, B. McDonald, J. Mundie, S. Onyshko, D. Punter, B. Renaud, H. Senyskiw, K. Standing, F. Stevens, S. Stothers, H. Thompson, V. Moroz, B. Watts, B. Webster, A. Wilson.

Inactive Members Present: C. Goldstein, I. Hedlin, P. Newman, A. Onyshko.

Guests: I. Frank, M. Johnston, H. Wilson.

The meeting was called to order by President Lois Brockman at 12:37 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. **Motion** (D. Biehl/J. Mundie) - That the agenda be approved, with the addition of a report on the United Way. **Carried**
2. Approval of the Minutes of October 4, 2006.
 - a. **Motion** (J. Goldstein/I. Gusdal) - That the minutes of October 4, 2006 be approved. **Carried**
3. Business Arising
 - a. The Ad Hoc Committee on a Retiree's Centre has been reactivated.
 - b. UMRA has an office in the Alumni House with a telephone and computer.
 - c. The winner of the logo competition is Maureen Johnston. She was presented with a life membership as the prize.
4. Reports
 - a. President - Copies of the President's report were distributed. Coffee mugs with the new UMRA logo have been ordered. The Executive Committee has had a preliminary discussion about creating an UMRA scholarship.
 - b. Communications Committee - John Mundie distributed the Committee's report
 - c. Benefits and Pensions Committee - Frits Stevens distributed the Committee's report. In response to a member's concern that the \$1,000 per annum limit on dental claims was too low, Frits said that he would bring this matter to the attention of the committee.
 - d. Membership Committee - Diane Biehl distributed the Committee's report. Lois Brockman asked that a minute of silence be observed in honour of the memory of members who died in the past year.
 - e. Treasurer - Jim Jamieson distributed copies of the Treasurer's report on behalf of Doug MacEwan.
 - i. **Motion** (D. MacEwan, J. Jamieson) - That Murray Hilton continue to act as auditor for 2007-08. **Carried**
 - f. By-Law Changes - On behalf of the Executive Committee, Jay Goldstein reported that a by-law creating the position of Newsletter Editor had been enacted.
 - g. Nominating Committee - John Mundie distributed the Committee's report and brought forward two motions from Committee.
 - i. **Motion** - That the following Members be re-elected to their positions on the Executive Committee for 2007-08: Lois Brockman (President), Jay Goldstein (Vice-President), and Douglas MacEwan (Treasurer). **Carried**
 - ii. **Motion** - That the following Members be elected to a two-year term as a Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee: Lloyd Campbell and Jim Jamieson. **Carried**
 - h. United Way - Irv Gusdal reported that the start of the United Way campaign has been delayed as a consequence of the ongoing strike by the Canadian Auto Worker's Union. He encouraged retirees to continue their generous support of the United Way when the campaign commences.
5. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

President's Report

Today UMRA is celebrating its fourth birthday. In keeping with the developmental theme introduced two years ago, we have in the past year worked on refining the operations of our committees which are described in their respective reports. Through the efforts of Horst Frank, we now have an office on the third floor of the Alumni House equipped with a desktop computer and, most importantly, a telephone so our members and the outside world can get in touch with us.

As an organization whose constitution states among its purposes “to encourage and promote a spirit of fraternity among its members” and “to organize and promote recreational, educational and other events of benefit to members,” we attempted to set up interest groups through our web site. After a year of experimenting with the JUMP facility which provides the platform for such activities on the University web site, it was decided to drop the effort. The major problem is the complexity of the JUMP program which tends to discourage its use. However, a positive outcome of our efforts is that all UMRA members who have an e-mail account with the University now have access to the JUMP facility. We will continue to pursue other avenues to organize interest groups if our membership so wishes. Ideas from our members are most welcome.

This past year our identification has been enhanced with the adoption of a logo. As winner of the logo contest, Maureen Johnson is receiving a life membership in UMRA .

Positive feedback was received on the April President's Reception when our guest speaker, John Wilkins, informed us of the field of Proteomics and arranged for a laboratory tour. Approximately 100 people attended, some of whom used the University bus transportation we arranged from the Fort Garry Campus to the Bannatyne Campus. Some photos of this event are posted on our web site.

With the announcement of the University's purchase of the Southwood Golf Course and their stated plans to include a residential community, the Ad hoc Committee on a Retiree Centre has been re-activated. We have informed the University of our interest and have asked that we be kept informed of the development of their plans.

As your Executive, we invite your suggestions and comments. For example, the workshop on basic computing skills and the assistance with computer problems in your home mentioned in the September issue of the *Retirees' News* resulted from inquiries or suggestions made by our members. Suggestions for topics or guest speakers for the President's Reception are most welcome. You are also encouraged to consider volunteering to serve on one of our committees. The task is not onerous, perhaps two or three meetings a year.

Last but not least, we have increased our representation on the national organization, the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC). Currently John Mundie is on their Communications Committee, Frits Stevens on their Benefits Committee, Marilyn Stothers on their Housing Committee and Lois Brockman is a Director on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Brockman

Auditor's Report

University of Manitoba Retirees Association
Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments
For the Period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Cash balance July 1, 2006		\$ 6,453.31
Receipts:		
Members dues – annual and life memberships		\$ 4,530.00
Bank interest		<u>2.23</u>
		\$10,985.54
Payments:		
Executive travel and CRUAC expense	2,136.66	
Office expense	346.95	
Investments with BMO	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>8,983.61</u>
Cash balance June 30, 2007		<u>\$ 2001.93</u>

Details of Investments in BMO Dividend Fund

Market value June 30, 2007	\$7,155.93
Cost of investments made during the year	<u>6,500.00</u>
Unrealized gain for the year	\$ <u>655.93</u>

Prepared from the banking records of the association

M. W. Hilton, FCA

Communications Committee Report

The membership of the Committee consists of: John Mundie, Chair; Gunter Baureiss, Webmaster; Ernie Bridges, Electronic Communications; and Steve Stothers.

Again, a major task of the Committee has been the operation of the website under Gunter Baureiss. We receive between 30 and 45 visits to our site every week. This past summer, additional information has been presented on the website, including photos of the 2006 and April 2007 President's Reception for Retirees. These photos can be found under the University of Manitoba "Image Library" in the category "Retirees' Association". Consideration is being given to providing a means whereby members of UMRA who have similar interests can communicate with each other through the establishment of interest groups using the JUMP program of the University of Manitoba. Unfortunately, up to this point in time, things have not worked out as planned because of the complexities arising from using JUMP. However, the Committee continues to explore this matter and hopes something can be arranged within the near future.

As mentioned at the 2006 AGM, there was a request by some of our members to have the University of Manitoba Alumni Association journal, *On Manitoba*, made available to them as retirees although they are not alumni of the University. The Association was favorably inclined to this request and a mechanism was established to make this possible at no cost to the members. We are grateful to the Alumni Association for doing this.

The Committee once again wrote and edited the Retirees' News, which is published and distributed by the University. A by-law is being presented to the 2007 AGM regarding the formal establishment of the position as Newsletter Editor, who as a member of the Communications Committee, will receive support from Committee members. The editor of *The Bulletin*, Dale Barbour, continues to post notices of the Association, particularly the President's Reception in *The Bulletin* and to make it available by mail to members who desire to receive it at no cost.

Ernie Bridges continues to communicate with members electronically about events of interest to members. The Association from time to time receives a message directed to those who are on our email lists. Prior to this message being distributed, we are notified of its existence and are asked whether it should be distributed. An example is the jazz concert recently sponsored by SmartPark. By having this surveillance capability, we are able to screen out what are considered to be inappropriate communications, such as SPAM. However, members should be aware that identity theft is very prevalent and should not open any email message from senders they cannot identify.

UMRA, as a member of CURAC, has access to the CURAC newsletters and other communications from that Association. The first newsletter was published in Spring 2007. You can access this by going to www.curac.ca and click on the appropriate link. This newsletter contains information about what is happening at retiree associations across Canada.

We received a request just prior to the University of Manitoba's Homecoming event on September 15, 2007 for volunteers to serve as guides for the open house building tours. It was thought that this would provide retirees an opportunity to meet with former colleagues and students who would be visiting the campus for the Homecoming. Unfortunately the request came too late for us to inform our members. We have asked that if a similar event is to be held during Homecoming 2008 we be notified well in advance so that members interested in serving as guides will have time to set that day aside in order to participate.

We are in need of additional Committee members. The website has proven to be a very effective way of communicating with our members and others about UMRA and its activities. The three-year term of our Webmaster, Gunter, will terminate in 2008. Consequently, we will need a backup person this year to work with him. Even if Gunter were willing to extend his term, he needs to have someone to assist in the work of maintaining the website. We are certain there are members of our Association who have the expertise to undertake this responsibility. Also, we need a writer and editor for our biannual *Retirees' News*. We would ask those members who have skills for either of these tasks to contact a member of the Committee or the Executive to discuss these positions.

Finally, we would like to thank Rosalyn Howard, Linda Lassman and Mark O'Reilly of Learning and Development Services for the support they provide to members of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
John Mundie, Chair

Benefits and Pensions Committee Report

Committee Composition

The committee underwent a substantial change in membership. We warmly thank outgoing members Bernice Furlong, John Markham, Nora Losey and Ian Rollo for their hard work on our behalf.

The current committee consists of continuing members John Mundie and June Stewart and new members Dick Johnson, Wayne Pucci (Secretary), Frits Stevens (Chair), Glen Swift and Jean Zushman with in addition Lois Brockman (ex officio) the UMRA President.

Supplementary Health Insurance

John Mundie has prepared a document to assist members who retired prior to July 1, 2004 and who are reaching the age of 75 in making an informed decision about replacing the Supplementary Health coverage provided by the University up to age 75. This document is available on the UMRA website (www.umanitoba.ca), click on "Faculty and Staff" and then click on "Retirees Association") in the Benefits section.

Dental Benefits

Glen Swift provided the committee with data on increases in Manitoba Dental Association Fee Guide fees from 1977-78 to 2005-05. Even though the fee rates have increased by 278%, our annual maximum benefit remains at \$1000 per individual.

Dick Johnson has obtained data from the University Staff Benefits Office and Manitoba Blue Cross showing that there were only approximately 180 out of some 1500 claims by retired members in each of 2004-6, 2005-6 and 2006-7 that reached the annual maximum. In light of these data the committee decided not to pursue the matter as a priority.

Pensions

Actuarial evaluation of both the current staff pension fund and the pensioners' account show small deficits. In large part this is due to the new assumptions that go into the calculation. These have to do with increased longevity of members and lower projected investment earnings (based on the interest rate for long term Canada Bonds).

Even though actual earnings of the funds for 2005 and 2006 were around 11% for each of these years the actuary has recommended that there be no increases in annuities until the pensioners' fund is in a stronger financial position.

Liaison with CURAC

CURAC is the national organization of retiree associations of Colleges and Universities. The Benefits committee of CURAC has a final report on the non-medical benefits available to members of the various affiliated associations. This report is available on the CURAC website (www.curac.ca). It is also looking into the possibility of arranging group insurance rates for homes and vehicles (obviously not in MB) for members of CURAC affiliated associations.

At its last meeting the UMRA Executive decided to replace the President with the Chair of its Benefits and Pension Committee as the liaison person with the CURAC Benefits Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Frits Stevens, Chair

Membership Committee Report

The UMRA membership committee for 2007 has the following members: Helen Osman, Laraine Coll, Bonnie Stovel, Horst Frank, Jay Goldstein (past chair), Diane Biehl (current chair).

The committee met on May 28, 2007 to discuss the activities that rightly belong to the committee and to explore additional tasks that we might take on. We will be recommending some constitutional changes to the executive in November regarding the categories of members in UMRA. We also are looking at ways to increase the profile of UMRA and to increase our membership. We will in the future look to putting information in the newsletter about contacting our committee and becoming members of UMRA.

Currently (August 2007) we have 53 "Life Members" of UMRA. These are retirees who have paid the \$100.00 lifemembership fee. In addition we have 96 individuals who have paid the annual fee and 35 "inactive" members who have sent in their information but at present do not wish to actively participate in UMRA. It is one of the goals of our committee to encourage inactive members to become active ones and if possible, convince everyone to become life members not only to make things easier on the committee but also to provide funds for special projects that the executive would like to pursue such as bursaries and scholarships for current Uof M students.

Of the total of 184 members in all categories, 156 or 85% live in Winnipeg. There are 6 other members in the province. We have 15 members in BC, 2 in Alberta, 1 in Quebec and 1 in the Maritimes. We also have one member living in Germany.

Most of our members are recent retirees, but we have 50 members who retired in the 1990s, and 16 who retired in the 1980s. We have one member who retired in 1974!

Our members come from all departments on the Fort Garry and Bannatyne Campuses and represent many different functions on both campuses. Over half of our members still retain and use e-mail addresses.

Last year Jay Goldstein sent out membership cards to all members who have registered with our organization and we hope to continue this for active members this year also.

The membership committee welcomes any questions, suggestions or comments about the organization and our committee. We are looking for new ways to serve our members so please call or e-mail me with your suggestions. My phone number is 204-237-0861 and my e-mail address is dbiehl@mts.net.

Respectively submitted
Diane Biehl, Chair

Nominating Committee Report

Terms of Reference:

Bylaw 1.3 Nominating Committee (Adopted August 17, 2006)

- 1.3.1 – The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Past President of the Association, who shall act as Chair, and two other members of the Executive Committee elected by the Executive Committee.
- 1.3.2 – Terms of Reference:
- 1.3.2.1 – The Nominating Committee shall each year prepare a list of eligible candidates for vacancies among elected members of the Executive Committee, and shall send the list to each member of the Association with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

The members of Executive Committee for 2006-07 are:

President	Lois Brockman *
Vice-President	Jay Goldstein *
Immediate Past-President	John Mundie
Secretary	Jim Jamieson *
Treasurer	Douglas MacEwan *
Members-at-Large:	Diane Biehl
	Horst Frank *
	Steve Stothers
	Bonnie Stovel
Ex-officio Members:	Irv Gusdal –Retiree Chair – United Way
	Frits Stevens – Retiree Benefits Committee

On February 26, 2007 the Executive Committee established a Nominating Committee consisting of John Mundie, Chair, Jim Jamieson and Steve Stothers. The Committee polled the members of the Executive Committee whose terms expire in October 2007 (*) about their willingness to continue beyond 2007. These were Lois Brockman, Jay Goldstein, Jim Jamieson, Douglas MacEwan, and Horst Frank.

Horst Frank indicated he would not seek re-election. Lois Brockman, Jay Goldstein and Douglas MacEwan were willing to serve another term in their positions. Jim Jamieson was willing to stand for election as a Member-at-Large. Bonnie Stovel volunteered to assume the duties of Secretary for the coming year.

The Committee also searched for candidates to fill the vacancies for Members-at-Large. It was successful in obtaining one candidate (Lloyd Campbell) who was willing to stand for election.

Motions:

1. That the following members be re-elected to their respective positions on the 2007-2008 Executive Committee:

President	Lois Brockman
Vice-President	Jay Goldstein
Treasurer	Douglas MacEwan
2. That Lloyd Campbell and Jim Jamieson be elected as Member-at-Large to the 2007-2008 Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted:

John Mundie – Chair
Jim Jamieson, Steve Stothers.

Appendix
University of Manitoba Retirees Association - Constitution
Regulations Governing Elections

Article 4 – Executive Committee

- 4.1 - The Executive Committee shall be composed of: President, Vice-President, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, at least three and no more than five elected Members-at-Large, and the Chairs of Standing Committees as non-voting ex-officio members.
- 4.2 - Elected members shall serve for a period of two years and may be re-elected with the following provisions:
- 4.2.1 - No elected member of the Executive Committee may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- 4.2.2 - The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring on the Executive Committee for the unexpired term.
- 4.3 - Only Active Members shall be eligible for selection to the Executive.

Article 3 – Membership

- 3.2.1 – Active Members are those who have paid the authorized lifetime or annual membership fee.

Article 5 – Elections and Voting

- 5.1 – Voting members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at a General Meeting of the Association.
 - 5.2 – Only Active Members shall be eligible to vote in elections.
- 5.2.1 – No member may be represented by a proxy vote.