



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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**ETSU Retirees Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

Board members present: Dave Benner, Judith Bragg, Bill Fisher, Ethel Garrity, Ted Hughes, Harold Johnson, Betty Moore, Willene Paxton, Nancy Stevenson, and Betty Tester.

Staff from the Office of Human Resources: Diana McClay.

Judith Bragg called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved with the following correction: Under University/Community Service Committee, Brunhilda Tober-Meyer should be the name of the person who worked Fridays, but will be out for a while.

Executive Committee: Judith Bragg, chair

There will be no Board meeting in June.

Human Resources will take care of the invitations to the picnic for persons retiring through the "buyout." These persons must pay \$6 but do not have to bring a covered dish.

Ted Hughes will pick up and deliver food from Red Pig BBQ.

Nancy Stevenson's Communications Committee will call and remind ETSURA members.

Bob LaPella has graciously agreed to lead the singing.

Jerry Gehre and Dan Johnson met with representatives from the Alliance for Continued Learning (ACL) and the Johnson City Senior Center (JCSC) to discuss the potential for three groups sharing program and travel plans. JCSC has several trips planned that ETSURA members may find interesting, including a conference August 24-27 to Wild Acres (Little Switzerland). Harold Johnson made a motion, seconded by Betty Moore, to approve ETSURA's joining a consortium with ACL and JCSC and that we give our mailing list to the other groups so information can be sent to our members. The motion passed.

Membership Committee: Ethel Garrity, chair.

The 2009 membership is now 321, up 2 since last month.

Finance Committee: Betty Tester, chair

The ETSURA Financial Statement for May 2009 shows the following: Operating Fund, \$2,672; Life Membership, \$14,517; Scholarship Endowment Investment, \$136,250; Endowment Interest Income, \$8,527. Part of the interest posted to the Life Membership Account has been corrected and the remainder should be corrected in June.

Program Committee: Jerry Gehre, chair

No report.

Diana McClay has sent a request for the parking lot next to the Museum to be reserved for the Annual Luncheon on Friday, 6 November 2009.

Communications Committee: Nancy Stevenson, chair

No report.

University/Community Service Committee: Betty Moore, chair

Betty is making calls seeking volunteers to man the ETSURA office one day a month. Those who wish to volunteer for Orientations should call Betty Moore (928-3832).

Judy Bragg will attend a training session for Orientation volunteers tomorrow (27 May).

\$260 has been contributed toward purchasing a bench. A reminder will be made at the picnic.

Liaison Committee: Bill Fisher, chair

Bill distributed no handouts—a first!

Legislation: 1) A bill authorizing retired state employees to participate in the dental insurance plan offered to state employees passed the Senate; the House Calendar Committee passed the bill, and the full House is to take it up on 11 May. 2) Action has been deferred until 2010 on a bill authorizing retired state employees with at least 30 years service to attend one course per term without paying tuition or fees at state-supported institutions. 3) The \$50 surcharge on insurance premiums for smoking has been delayed for one year. 4) The state librarian has retired, so current bills are not being posted to the Internet.

Bill asked that ETSURA, with help from Rich Ashley (Human Resources), offer a program on Medicare Part D in November 2009—sometime after the ETSURA Annual Luncheon but before Thanksgiving.

The Johnson City Commission has discussed withdrawing from the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System and adopting a deferred compensation plan. Johnson County College (Kansas) and the University of North Carolina at Asheville have requested information from ETSURA and were given links to our web site. Once on Medicare, one will have no surcharge for smoking.

The only training sessions in fall 2009 will be on Medicare Part D.

Restructuring of Tennessee Higher Education is ongoing and cost saving is the driving force. A major item is a single research institution in the state.

Additional Comments/Reports

Ted Hughes reminded us that last year emeriti were included in the graduate catalog but not in the undergraduate catalog. Diana McClay will check with Ramona Williams (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs).

Adjournment:

Judith Bragg adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Betty Tester for taking excellent notes,
Dan M. Johnson