



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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**ETSU Retirees Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2009**

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

Staff from the Office of Human Resources: Debi Frakes.

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

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Executive Committee: Judith Bragg, chair

There will be no Board meeting in June.

The *University of Tennessee Retirees Association Newsletter* says they are taking a trip to Berea, Ky., instead of Jonesborough and Abingdon as previously planned.

Bill Fisher said there was a meeting of Faculty Senate representatives at Fall Creek Falls State Park in April. Tennessee Tech did not attend.

Membership Committee: Ethel Garrity, chair.

The 2009 membership is now 320, up 10 since last month.

Finance Committee: Betty Tester, chair

The ETSURA Financial Statement for April 2009 shows the following: Operating Fund, \$2,611; Life Membership, \$14,354 {They seem to have added interest here again; Betty will check on that.}; Scholarship Endowment Investment, \$136,074; Endowment Interest Income, \$8,847.

Program Committee: Jerry Gehre, chair

The 13 April Eat & Chat event drew a good crowd, and Fred Sauceman's presentation went well.

The Annual Picnic will be Thursday, 11 June, in Rotary Park. Judy Bragg said that Red Pig BBQ will charge \$4.95 per person (tax included); Betty Tester suggested we charge \$6 per person to attend. Ted Hughes will pick up ice and food; he will also bring lemonade. Judy Bragg will bring coffee and serving pieces.

Program Committee (continued):

Because there will be no entertainment this year, Debi Frakes will print song sheets that have been used at some past picnics. It was agreed that Human Resources should invite local legislative representatives. They will also attempt to invite prospective retirees who have agreed to take the proffered “buyout.” We hope Dr. Stanton will approve time off so they can attend on a working day. The next Eat & Chat event will be on Tuesday, 15 September 2009, at *Golden Corral*. Program suggestions are welcomed. The Annual Luncheon Meeting is scheduled for Friday, 6 November 2009.

Communications Committee: Nancy Stevenson, chair

Calls were made reminding members of the recent Eat & Chat event. David Logan has been volunteering in the ETSURA office on Mondays, and he has sent e-mail reminders from that computer.

University/Community Service Committee: Betty Moore, chair

Betty and Dave Logan are concerned that the Faculty Senate has moved a large number of boxes into shared office space. Dave has agreed to volunteer in the office on Mondays, but he would like to identify a backup for days he is unable to work. Nancy Stevenson has worked some Tuesdays. Judy Bragg has worked some Wednesdays. Betty Tester has worked Fridays, but she’ll be out for a while. Betty Moore is trying to identify more than one volunteer per day of the week so that no one has to work every week. Ted Hughes will check on a new key arrangement for access to the office. We need to let departments know that office volunteers are available to do some things for them.

We have not yet been asked to work the 5 May fundraiser golf tournament.

Liaison Committee: Bill Fisher, chair

Bill distributed three handouts and reviewed each briefly:

- 1) An e-mail to him from Jill Backus, Director of TCRS, describing how annual cost of living adjustments (COLAs) are being calculated.
 - 2) A Capitol Update memo dated April 2, 2009, from the Tennessee Chamber describing a rule by the State Insurance Committee that state employees and retirees who smoke—or have a smoking spouse—will pay an extra \$50 per month for health insurance. Smoking status will be determined in October.
 - 3) A description of the Voluntary Buyout Program at the University of Memphis.
- As of 1 September 2009 *CAHABA* from Alabama will process retirees’ claims under Medicare Parts A & B instead of *Sigma*.

There will be a meeting of State of Tennessee Higher Education Retiree Associations at Fall Creek Falls State Park on 1-2 November 2009.

Additional Comments/Reports

Jerry Gehre reported that Austin Peay State University is getting retirees organized based on the ETSURA model as reflected on our web site.

Adjournment:

Judith Bragg adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan M. Johnson