



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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

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

Staff from the Office of Human Resources: Diana McClay, Debi Frakes.

Judith Bragg called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. She introduced guests to discuss plans for a Center for Healthy Aging and Retirement in the Mountain South (CHARMS): Wilsie Bishop (Vice President for Health Affairs), Randy Wykoff (Dean, College of Public Health), Ron Hamdy (Quillen Chair of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology), Nancy Robinson (Director, Center for Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology), and Barbara Sucher (Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education). Drs. Bishop, Wykoff, and Hamdy made brief presentations. The purpose of CHARMS is to increase awareness of opportunities in the community and to promote health among older citizens. Two notable facts: 1) the Tri-Cities metropolitan region is 10<sup>th</sup> oldest by average age; and 2) Quillen College of Medicine has initiated a curriculum teaching every graduate to manage geriatric patients.

Information about existing programs was discussed. Among those mentioned were JC Senior Synergy, International Storytelling Center, Tennessee higher education retirees organizations, widowed persons groups, church programs, AARP Johnson City Chapter, Washington County Retired Teachers Association, Johnson City Public Library Friendly Visitors Program, Contact Ministries, First District Community Development Agency, and Johnson City's "Up & At 'Em" program.

Jerry Gehre and Wilsie Bishop agreed to pursue the idea of holding a "town hall" meeting to further discuss how CHARMS might help to coordinate sharing information about such disparate activities and promote healthy aging in the region.

**Minutes** of the May meeting were approved with the following correction: Harold Johnson should have been recorded as present.

**Executive Committee:** Judith Bragg, chair

Judy Bragg, Jerry Gehre and Dan Johnson attended meetings with representatives of Johnson City Senior Center and Alliance for Continued Learning that formed a coalition to be called JC Senior Synergy. A meeting on 19 August will finalize plans for a press-release event on 9 September. ETSURA will offer door prizes donated by International Storytelling Center, Johnson City Community Theatre, and Jonesborough Repertory Theatre.

**Membership Committee:** Ethel Garrity, chair.

The 2009 membership is now 346, up 19 since May, with 12 of those being new retirees effective 30 June.

**Finance Committee:** Betty Tester, chair

The ETSURA Financial Statement for July (actually partial-June pending final accounting for the fiscal year) 2009 shows the following: Operating Fund, \$2,590; Life Membership, \$15,087; Scholarship Endowment Investment, \$136,250; Endowment Interest Income, \$8,527; and a new account set up to handle donations for benches and other Special Projects: \$330. Part of the interest posted to the Life Membership Account still needs to be corrected.

**Program Committee:** Jerry Gehre, chair

Jerry reviewed a handout showing that the Annual Picnic was attended by 82 people, and that it made a small profit of \$9.16. Many people liked no band this year.

The next Eat & Chat event will be on Tuesday, 15 September, at Golden Corral. The program will be the Center for Healthy Aging and Retirement in the Mountain South (CHARMS). Keith Turkett asked that speakers be encouraged to provide a handout listing the main points of their presentation.

The Annual Luncheon Meeting will be Friday, 6 November. The program has not yet been planned. Judy Bragg said we will need to elect four new Board members at that meeting and asked for a volunteer to chair the Nominating Committee.

**Communications Committee:** Nancy Stevenson, chair

No report.

The deadline for receiving material for the next *ETSURA Newsletter* is 25 August.

**University/Community Service Committee:** Betty Moore, chair

Twenty eight ETSURA members (8% of membership) volunteered for service activities this year. Volunteers are needed for Move-in Day (27 August), 6:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Betty passed around a sign-up sheet.

Volunteers are still needed to staff the ETSURA office. Ted Hughes is still trying to contact someone who could make office access easier.

**Liaison Committee:** Bill Fisher, chair

Bill passed out a handout that included: 1) calculation of Cost of Living increases for Social Security and TCRS; 2) changes made by the State Group Insurance Committee to cover only generic drugs that are Proton Pump Inhibitors; 3) passage of a Retiree Dental Bill and deferral of action on a Retiree Free Course bill; 4) news items related to Social Security COLAs and Johnson City retirement plans; and 5) a comparison of benefits from "Defined Benefits Plans" (TCRS) and "Defined Contribution Plans" (TIAA-CREF, VALIC, ING).

A program on Medicare Part D is planned for Wednesday, 18 November. The location is to be determined. Dan Johnson suggested the Johnson City Senior Center as a possibility—in the spirit of JC Senior Synergy.

**Adjournment:**

Judith Bragg adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m., having taken back time from recent brief meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan M. Johnson