



RETIREES ASSOCIATION
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 29, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Ken Mijeski, President, called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. The following members were present: Ethel Garrity, Tod Jablonski, Charles Moore, Jerry Rust, Phyllis Taylor, Priscilla Ramsey, Ted Hughes, Susan Campbell, Bill Fisher, Mike Miyamoto and Rachel Henry. Diana McClay represented the Human Resources' staff.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES: It was moved by Tod Jablonski and seconded by Jerry Rust that the minutes be approved as corrected.

Executive Committee: Ken Mijeski reported regarding the ETSURA training sessions. There will be nine training sessions with the first session scheduled for September 17, 2014, each session will be held twice; one in the Culp Center from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and, again on the VA Campus from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ken Mijeski is asking that for each session three board members plan to attend. Ken suggested one recent retiree, one short and one long term retiree in order to give different perspectives of retirement to those attending. One of these people should be prepared to introduce Marla Hayman, HR's Training Manager, and each should be prepared to speak two to three minutes.

The following agreed to be present for the September 17 sessions: Jerry Rust, Priscilla Ramsey and Charles Moore at the 10 a.m. session and at the 6 p.m. session: Ethel Garrity, Phyllis Taylor and Mike Miyamoto. Diana McClay suggested that other board members try to attend each session in addition to those with assigned duties. Ken Mijeski will plan to be at the first session to introduce Marla Hayman.

Diana McClay handed out a copy of the "Planning Your Retirement---Workshop Schedule, fall 2014."

Further session schedules will be assigned at our August board meeting.

Ken Mijeski and Ethel Garrity are now receiving emails from the Association of Retirement Organization in Higher Education (AROHE).

Communications Committee: Mike Miyamoto reported the following: Bob Riser's email is not listed on the ETSURA roster. It is riser@etsu.edu. Bob will serve again on the Communications Committee; Amy Hecht has not been reachable but Mike will continue to try to contact her. The Communications Committee thus far includes: Susan Campbell, Ted Hughes, Mike Miyamoto, Willene Paxton, Bob Riser, and Phyllis Taylor; Mike was told there was a Washington County Teachers function that might have affected attendance at the picnic; and, the committee will begin making reminder calls about two weeks before the September 9, 2014, Eat and Chat.

Mike Miyamoto also has been asked, if in the future, can members pay at the picnic should they decide to attend at the last minute. The answer is "no" due to the ordering of food.

Also Brunhilde is concerned about not being able to receive calls from her husband when she is working in the ETSURA office and could the telephone be restored in the ETSURA office. It was suggested that she ask an adjacent office secretary for permission to have her husband call their office when he needs to reach her. Brunhilde would like to be relieved of her position.

Finance Committee: Charles Moore reported: Operating Fund Account: \$4,204.17; Life Membership Account: \$18,915.00; Scholarship Endowment Investment Account: \$180,599.91; Endowment Interest Income Account; \$11,917.66; ETSURA Special Projects Fund: \$250.50; Total Assets: \$215,887.24.

Membership Committee: Priscilla Ramsey's committee divided up the names and made phone calls and email contacts. Seven were followed up with a note and application. Two or three have confirmed.

Program Committee: Ethel Garrity reported 78 attended the picnic including guests. While successful, some of those attending did not eat. It was felt that not enough sandwiches were provided and that some people loaded up on the chicken strips. A closer look at the picnic menu is suggested perhaps ordering extra food. One suggestion was to eliminate the fruit since members tend to bring fruit thus the funds could be used to purchase other food.

The Eat and Chat will be September 9, 2014. Those attending must be seated by 10:30 a.m. to receive the special price of \$7.49 including coffee or tea. However, this event will be announced "to be seated by 10:15 a.m. to receive that price".

ETSURA annual meeting will be October 17th at the Johnson City County Club. The menu will be discussed and determined at our August board meeting. Ken Mijeski will talk to Ray Flynn and then talk to the Dean of the Medical School regarding a speaker for the annual meeting. Ethel Garrity will check with the Music Department. A decision regarding a speaker and/or entertainment will be made at the August board meeting.

University/Community Service Committee: Ethel Garrity reported for Bobbie Lewis. Move in day is August 21st and 22nd. People are needed from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Charles Moore will bring donuts and Priscilla Ramsey will bring coffee. Those assisting will be working at Governor's Hall. We would prefer to do only the first day. Those who worked the second day in the past said they were not needed. Ethel will check to see if people will needed to be there on the 22nd.

Diana McClay will obtain a banner for the retirees to use on the 21st.

Liaison Committee: Bill Fisher reported from *The Kiplinger Letter* regarding the Tennessee Promise. Tennessee will cover the cost of two years of community college education. This is for state high school graduates which is in addition to any scholarships the student may receive at a cost of approximately \$34 million a year from the state lottery.

Reporting from *The Tennessee Journal* is the following: "Fifteen Republican legislators, all opponents to the Common Core standards, sent a letter to Governor Bill Haslam on Thursday calling for the removal of Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman."

Bill Fisher further reported on the retirees cost of living increase beginning July 1. Tennessee is a state where state retirees received two cost of living increases. One is received on January 1 from the federal government and the other from TCRS on July 1 giving state retirees two cost of living increases in a year. Bill handed out a "Retiree Yearly Cost of Living Increases Data" chart which he has tracked over the past several years. Remember that Tennessee has a 3% cap on cost of living increases.

Bill also announced that ORP representatives will be coming to campus this fall and that the Annual State Retirees meeting will be on November 2 and 3 at Fall Creek Falls.

Please note our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 19, 2014, due to the start of the fall semester.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ted Hughes and seconded by Priscilla Ramsey. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Henry, Secretary