

## **McMaster University Retirees Association**

Minutes of the nineteenth Annual General Meeting held on Monday May 31 st, 2004, at 2pm in Convocation Hall. There were approximately 54 people present and the meeting was preceded by refreshments starting at 1 pm

### **1. Welcome by Mildred McLaren to the 19th Annual Meeting**

"It is an honour to serve as your President. I can assure you that the members of Council I work with are a very dedicated group of people who continuously serve the best interests of all MURA members. Two of them are retiring this year - Marilyn Elliot and Marju Drynan. On your behalf I want to express our thanks.

I would also like to welcome our visitors Dr. Peter George, Mark Haley - VP, Human Resources Services, Simon Ouellet - Director, Human Resources Operations and Michele Leroux - Manager Retirement Support Services."

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the 18th AGM**

**Motion:** that the minutes of the previous AGM held on May 28th, 2003, be approved as printed and circulated to those present ( Erica Giese/ Anne Sinclair Carried)

### **3. President's Report**

"This year has been a busy one in various areas and a few members of Council will be reporting on some of them. However, I would like to mention several.

This year MURA has become a member of the recently formed College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC). Last week Helen Barton and I attended the Annual Meeting of this Association held at the University of Winnipeg. It was very obvious to those present that all associations and committees dealing with retiree pensions and benefits must be alert to changes. It was reported that McMaster University is rated by the CURAC data as a model for other universities. In Ontario, Carleton rates first and McMaster second in the fair treatment of retirees. However, we heard some sad stories on how retirees are being treated by other large Canadian institutions. It is imperative that MURA remains alert to any changes. A more in depth report will be in the next MURA news. It proved helpful to meet with retirees from other universities and colleges in Canada and learn how they are responding to the needs of their retirees.

Another area we are working on is involving more retirees in events of interest to McMaster. For example, we had four members of MURA involved in the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair involving high school students from the surrounding area. It was a well attended event and the volunteers worked for two long days at Mohawk College. We are open to suggestions where we can be of service, but not in places where staff or students would be paid workers.

Please let me take this opportunity to thank Gerry Keech, John McCutcheon, Jack Evans and Nick Solntseff for their assistance during the year. I would also like to thank Dr. Peter George for his continuing support.

In closing I would like to report that we finally have a nominated representative of the hourly wage retirees in the person of Rod Phillips. As you can see, we are not 'just a social club" but a very active retiree organization. However, the social part is very important as you will find out if you join one of the activities that Anne Sinclair plans for our benefit.

Finally, thanks for coming and do get involved in MURA activities. We want your input and welcome suggestions. Our office is at Gilmour Hall Room B 108 - Bonnie White is there on Thursdays but messages can be left at telephone extension 23171 on any day."

#### **4. Auditor's Report**

John McCutcheon presented the Auditor's Report and congratulated Jessie Dunlop and Anne Sinclair on the excellence of their work.

**Motion:** that the Auditor's Report be accepted as printed and circulated to those present (John McCutcheon/Helen Barton Carried)

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Jessie Dunlop presented her report which had been printed and circulated to those present.

**Motion:** that the Treasurer's Report be accepted (Jessie Dunlop/Frank Drieman Carried)

#### **6. Trips and Special Events Report**

Anne Sinclair presented her report which had been printed and circulated to those present. She also made a point of mentioning the Alaska trip which is getting booked up quite quickly.

The Trips and Special Events Report was accepted.

#### **7. Pension Trust Committee Report**

Frank explained that while he was out of the country for an extended period Jack Evans had been appointed to take his place on the PTC until June 30th, 2004. In the absence of Jack Evans, Frank read the report which reflected a healthy financial situation: Les Robb has agreed to follow Jack Evans as the appointed MURA representative on the Pension Trust Committee.

## **8. Membership Report**

Bonnie White presented her report which had been printed and circulated to those present.

**Motion:** that the Membership Report be accepted (Bonnie White/Erica Giese carried)

## **9. Nominating Committee Report**

In the absence of Frank Drieman (Past President) earlier this year Gerry Keech had kindly agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. The report, which had been printed and circulated to those present, was read by Frank Drieman. Mildred McLaren asked whether there were any nominations from the floor and there were none.

**Motion:** that the Nominating Committee Report be accepted and the persons named be appointed (Roland Carter/Erica Giese Carried)

## **10. New Approach to MURA Funding**

Brian Ives spoke about the "Proposal for a Change in MURA Funding" as outlined in the printed handout provided for each person present. This involves funding by the major employee representative groups, rather than by individual retirees and, if approved, would commence in 2005. Much more work remains to be done but approval in principle is needed at this point.

**Motion:** that approval in principle be given to the Proposal for a Change in MURA Funding (Helen Barton/Frank Drieman Carried)

## **11. MURA Website [www.macra.ca](http://www.macra.ca)**

Helen Barton said that the McMaster website is now on line, thanks to the diligent work of a small group of people. It is a useful source of basic information about MURA and its activities but people need to be encouraged to use it. MURA news will be featured soon on our website while continuing the usual mailing. Ideas, suggestions and volunteers are all needed for this new venture.

## **12. Any Other Business**

(a) Janet Fawcett said that Sue Flight's death on September 28th, 2003 had not been reported in the MURA news.

(b) Barry Grayson was concerned that the performance of the managers may not always be consistent with the goals of the Pension Trust Committee. Frank Drieman said that the

managers were each allocated certain specific tasks and it was the function of the Pension Trust Committee to ensure that the goals of the Committee are being met.

(a) Helen Barton reported very favourably on the CURAC Conference in Winnipeg, which she had attended with Mildred McLaren. She gave us some of her impressions and thought that it was very well organized and worthwhile.

### **13. Adjournment**

On a motion for adjournment by John McCutcheon the meeting ended about 3:30 pm. Mildred encouraged people to enjoy some more refreshments and do a little visiting.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Mildred McLaren  
President