



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Of the McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday May 26, 2010, Celebration Hall, Kenneth Taylor Hall**

The meeting was preceded by a light lunch starting at noon. Almost 100 retirees gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the McMaster University Retirees Association. University Advancement provided a cake to celebrate the occasion.

McMaster President Peter George addressed the group during lunch, congratulating MURA on its 25 years of service to the University and its members. Dr. George also praised MURA for its fund raising initiative which had raised \$40,100 to date to endow the MURA academic awards for students in Gerontology.

McMaster President Emeritus Alvin Lee addressed the members with a talk entitled "*Reminiscences about McMaster Employees before and after the Creation of MURA in 1985*".

Following Dr. Lee's presentation, two draws were held for prizes handcrafted by MURA Councillor Al Fraser: a teak and oak picture frame won by Brian Beckburger; and a cedar tray won by Ken Redish.

Special Note: Joan Parker was elected MURA President at last year's AGM. In February of this year she took an extended leave of absence for health reasons. Recently she resigned as MURA President.

Joe Laposa, currently MURA Vice-President, acted as MC for this AGM.

MINUTES of 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
Wednesday May 26, 2010, Celebration Hall, Kenneth Taylor Hall at 2:00PM

1. Approval of the minutes of the 24th AGM, held May 27th, 2009

MOTION:

Marianne Vanderwel **moved, seconded** by Les Robb,
“that the 2009 AGM minutes be approved as circulated to those present”
Carried with no discussion.

2. President's Report (Joe Laposa for Joan Parker)

2.1 MURA Membership: The total membership has increased by 64 during this past year. This number represents 94 new members minus 30 passings. A detailed breakdown is provided in the attached Appendix.

2.2 2009-2010 MURA Highlights: We have continued to make all of you informed about retiree matters via the 4 issues of MURAnews, as well as with timely material at the MURA website (*located at www.mcmaster.retirees.ca*)

We send emails between issues of MURAnews to inform members of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and special “deals”.

MURA continues to be a member of CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada). Beginning in 2009, MURA members can benefit from a group rate property and auto insurance through Waterloo insurance. There are brochures about this at your table.

2.3 Trips: In the past year these included a train trip through the Credit Valley, a Washington D.C. cherry blossom excursion, and a Niagara wineries tour, among others.

Upcoming in the next few months are a St. Jacobs-Drayton overnighter, and a trip to Cape Cod. In 2011 a River Danube boat excursion is planned, with an overwhelming response so far. Trips coordinator Anne Sinclair may have other details.

2.4 Special Events: Events organized in the past year by Margaret Jenkins included a tour of McMaster’s McCallion Planetarium and a visit to the RBG chrysanthemum show. Council also organized a **Following The Group of Seven** presentation by Sue and Jim Waddington.

2.5 Christmas Luncheon: Our ever-popular annual get-together, with more than 100 attending this past December, was held here in Celebration Hall. The event was subsidized by the President’s Office.

2.6 MURA's Academic Awards Endowment Campaign: MURA's long-standing academic awards in Gerontology were started in the 1990's. In the Fall of 2007, a goal of \$32,000 was set to endow the awards, with the aim of reaching that goal by MURA's 25th anniversary. At the 2009 AGM, we reported that over \$30,000 had been raised. You've heard earlier this afternoon that the fund total is now \$40,100. The scholarship and prize that are awarded each year can now be increased.

2.6 Special Projects - Volunteers Network (sponsored by the University Advancement Office) It began last year, and MURA has been involved from the start in the following endeavours: assisting and judging at the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair, calling and thanking financial supporters, helping at convocations, helping with the university archives, helping seniors in a hospital setting.

2.7 Special Projects - Note Cards (Fundraiser for MURA): We have sold enough cards to pay for the expenses of printing in the past year and now we are in a profit situation.

Special thanks again to Stephanie Lisak – Political Science retiree – for giving permission to use her art and to Kathy Overholt who owns the original watercolour painting. The cards are available for sale at the back.

2.8 Council: Joe expressed his thanks to all Council members for their work this year on your behalf.

STANDING COMMITTEES – Cards, Constitutional Matters, Membership, MURA News, Nominating, Pensions & Benefits, Special Events, Trips, Website.

LIAISONS - Salaried Pension Plan (voting), Hourly Pension Plan, Board of Governors (observer), MUFA, CAW Local 555, Hourly Staff, CURAC.

2.9 Geoff Evans: Many of you are aware that Geoff Evans died late last Fall. Geoff had served as chair of the Pensions & Benefits committee, and as the MURA liaison with MUFA. As an active surgeon, he was a pioneer in the use of aspirin for heart attack prevention. We will miss him.

2.10 Special Mention: Helen Dietsche and Al Fraser are finishing their current terms on Council. Both, if elected today, will continue their excellent contributions. Helen has sent out cards to families of MURA members who have died. Al has served as the hourly staff liaison member for MURA, and has employed his skills as a woodworker to create prizes that have been donated to you, the membership, on several occasions.

Margaret Jenkins and Kathy Ryan deserve our thanks for their service on MURA Council. Both have had to give up their positions on Council since the last year's AGM. Margaret served as special events coordinator, and Kathy as CAW staff liaison as well as

on the Pension & Benefits and MURAnews committees. Thank you Margaret and Kathy.

Special Thanks: Joan Parker has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of several MURA Council committees over many years. She served as MURA President since last May. However, in February of this year she went on an extended leave of absence, due to health concerns. Earlier this month she resigned as MURA President. We thank her many contributions to MURA, and wish her well.

Final Thanks: Thanks to Parking Services for once again providing free and convenient parking. I'd like to thank each and every member of MURA for your support. As a group we've been able to get lots of things accomplished. Thanks to Les Robb for his invaluable help to Council in all matters relating to pensions. Les is a great asset to MURA. Our thanks also go to Michele Leroux from Human Resources, who is always willing to help.

My thanks to all of you. It's great to see such a good turnout today.

3. Trips Report (Anne Sinclair)

The financial statement of activity for the Trips Program for 2009-2010 (ending April 30, 2010) was included in the handout circulated to those present. There was a small profit on the trips of \$132.09 and interest of \$68.07 to increase the positive balance to \$5991.28. Anne commented that this balance was accumulated over many years and is extremely useful when she needs to pay for a trip 2-3 months in advance before she can collect the fees from people attending.

4. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth Csordas presented the MURA financial statements for the year ending April 2010 along with explanatory notes. Beth noted this year's income (2010) again exceeded expenses. It is also interesting to note that postage accounts for 55% of the overall *MURAnews* budget of approximately \$5800, and members are again asked to consider switching to the on-line version of the *MURAnews*.

Joe Laposa requested a motion to accept both the "MURA Trips Financial" and the "MURA Financial" reports.

MOTION

Cliff Andrews **moved, seconded** by Jack Evans

"that the *MURA Trips Financial* and the *MURA Financial* reports be accepted as circulated to those present".

Carried without objection

5. Auditor's Report (Eleanor Gow)

Eleanor Gow presented the Auditor's Reports which were circulated in the package given to the AGM attendees. For the year ending April 30, 2010, Eleanor reported that she has examined MURA Trips' Finances, MURA's finances and all supporting documents she deemed necessary and found everything a fair representation of our finances and in order. Eleanor Gow invited members to contact her by e-mail if anyone has further questions or comments at gowe@mcmaster.ca Eleanor requested a motion to accept both the auditor's report for "MURA Trips Financial" and the auditor's report for "MURA Financial" reports.

MOTION:

Helen Barton **moved, seconded** by Al Fraser

"that the auditor's report for *MURA Trips Financial* and the auditor's report for *MURA Financial* be accepted as circulated to those present".

Carried without objection

6. Reports on Pensions

Salaried Plan (Les Robb: Voting Member of Salaried Pension Trust Committee)

Les said that he knows a number of the members are most interested in the finances of the Plan and, in particular, whether the earnings are such that we can look forward to indexing next January. He wrote in an earlier article that the earnings would need to be more than 18 % to give rise to indexing next January. The first three quarters of the year (to the end of March) have earned about 12%. Given the turmoil recently in the markets, he thinks we can agree it is highly unlikely we will make the 18% and so he thinks we will have our pensions held constant next year.

Les then touched on several "big picture items". Please note that the full text of his address will be featured in the July 2010 issue of MURAnews.

Cliff Andrews, Observer Member of Hourly Pension Committee, and Les Robb invited questions from the attending members.

One member asked if changes to employee benefits have any impact on the retiree plans. Both Les and Michele agreed that benefits do not change for retirees. Michele said that when employees retire they change from the employee benefit plan to the retiree plan.

Another member asked if Les and Cliff knew by how much the pension plan is underfunded. Les said it is about 15%.

Cliff commented that with the changes in the hourly employee plan (i.e. those newly hired contribute to a group RRSP plan), there are increasingly fewer people in the hourly pension plan. He felt that this dropout could cause the plan to be increasingly less sustainable.

7. Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

Helen Barton, chair of the 2010 Nominating Committee, presented the Nominating Report for 2010-2011 which had been circulated to the members present.

Helen explained that the Nominating Committee report as included in the agenda package was approved by Council in March. Our constitution permits new nominations to be made up to 7 days before the AGM. In light of Joan Parker's resignation, two nominations were received by the MURA secretary (Wayne Rouse). These were

President	Joe Laposa
Vice-President	Beth Csordas

The constitution also permits nominations from the floor and requires that the question be asked three times. Helen Barton asked three times if there were additional nominees from the floor. There were none.

MOTION:

Lorraine Allen **moved, seconded** by Marju Drynan
"that nominations be closed".

Carried without

8. Election of Executive and Council

The slate of nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee for 2010-2011 with the changes noted above requires a vote.

Jack Evans **moved, seconded** by Cliff Andrews
"that the slate of nominees be accepted as presented".

Carried without discussion.

A question was asked about the replacement of the Treasurer. Helen Barton said that there would be a call for volunteers in the July issue of MURAnews.

9. Incoming President's Address - Joe Laposa

MURA will maintain our information flow about pensions – a concern to all of us. In the upcoming year, MURA will strengthen current liaisons with campus groups, such as the Faculty Association (MUFA) and the Part-time students association (MAPS), as well as develop working relationships with the active members and retirees of the

Clinical Faculty Association.

We will continue to be involved with the Human Resources staff, helping in whatever way we can with the transition of McMaster employees into their retirement years.

We will continue to encourage MURA's members to show their support of McMaster through their volunteer efforts.

We will continue offering exciting trips and special events.

We thank outgoing McMaster President, Peter George, for his encouragement and support of MURA during his 15 year term as president, and are looking forward to continuing those relationships with incoming McMaster President Patrick Deane.

We thank you for your support in the past and ask you to let us know how we can serve you better.

10. Adjournment

Stephania Miller moved we adjourn the meeting at 3:00PM

Appendix: Membership as of May 1, 2010

Regular Members

Affiliates	35
Clinical Faculty	105
Faculty	520
Hourly staff	242
Research Associates	8
CAW 555 staff	625
The Management Group (TMG)	156

Associate Members

Survivors	264
Honorary	3

GRAND TOTAL: 1958