

McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 16, 1994

PRESENT: Joy Baby, Charlie Cook, Jean Duschenko, Dora Haisell, Dorothy Jacobs, Bill MacPherson, Dorothy Matheson Bill McMicking, Warren Mousley, Averil Thompson, Jim Walker, Marion Welton, Joan Wylie

REGRETS; Carm McMullen, John Williamson

Joy Baby moved, Marion Welton seconded that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved with one alteration. Nyisaka should have been spelled as Myisaka.

Joy Baby reported that 32 tickets had been sold for the Stage West dinner and show. The balance of tickets will be purchased by Gemma's church group. So far 45 members were booked for the Ottawa Tulip Time trip and all those present were pleased to hear that Stuart Winn will be joining the group. Joy stated that she is not yet sure about tickets for the Blue Jays game, but confirmations would be made by the end of February.

Averil Thompson advised that the concert for Marie Stock, at which she was present, had been well attended and was most enjoyable with excellent guest musicians.

Jim proposed that "active" MURA members and anyone retiring during the 18 months prior to the Annual General meeting would receive the regular 1994/95 MURA mailings. Non-contributing members would receive the April/May and June/July issue which would give details of the Annual Meeting and regularly organized events, as well as a list of Council members with whom they might be in touch. We would encourage all 'non-active' members to become 'active' and enable the Association to attend to those University issues which may have some effect on our retirement.

Postage for MURA totalled \$376 plus \$19 for labels and \$166 for printing. The Treasurer reported these amounts agree with the budgeted estimate of \$500. for each MURA mailing.

Warren Mousley suggested the whole issue of the MURA mailings be reviewed again at this time in 1995. Meanwhile, the proposal for 1994/95 was approved by those present.

The Chairman advised that Carm McMullen, John Williamson, Jean Duschenko, Charlie Cook and he as well were eligible to move off Council this year, however each of these members may wish their names to go forward for another term. Jack Evans is available for election to office.

Bill MacPherson mentioned that an inordinate amount of responsibility and work falls on the President. For example, group activities, MURA mailings - visitation etc. Delegation of responsibility would ease the load on the President. Thanks were expressed to Marion Welton and Joy Baby for their excellent efforts in connection with social activities and also to Gil Murray who contributes time and effort even though he is not a member of Council. Charlie urged that delegates assuming responsibilities for various committees should be well versed in their duties. Council was requested to give more thought to relieving the incumbent President from some of his many duties by delegation to others on Council.

Names of prospective new members for Council should be submitted for the March meeting.

Dates for upcoming events were outlined as follows:

Annual Picnic - June 8th - Dundas Driving Park Pavilion
from 12 noon onwards (for members only)

BBQ - August ~~23~~ or 24th was suggested, provided
these dates are acceptable to the President

Canterbury
Hills - September 8th or ~~15th~~

Xmas Lunch - Dec. 12 - Schwaben Inn

A copy of the proposed NDP legislation regarding estates and Powers of Attorney was passed to members. It was suggested that members check their current Power of Attorney documents and/or with their lawyers to ensure that their documents were in order.

The subject of retirement 'bridging' was discussed and it was explained that bridging ceases once a retiree turns 65 and commences to receive the OAS. Bob Tangney had agreed to consider that notification should be sent to retirees to indicate this change in pension income.

Coverage for Prescription Drugs

The Benefits Review Committee had circulated to salaried employees a proposal for review, input and vote on changes to the McMaster Major Medical Plan (copies of which were distributed at today's Council Meeting). It was noted, however, that Retirees had not been included in the mailing which caused concern to those on Council. Several members expressed the view that Retirees are still an integral part of the University, and as such should have been given the same privileges as active employees notified of recommendations regarding any proposed changes. Averil Thompson, representing MURA on this Committee, had been asked by Jim Walker to clarify our voting position at the Benefits Committee meeting to be held in January. This meeting was cancelled and Averil had been unaware of the upcoming employee meetings until informed by Jim Walker. Since then Mr. Tangney had advised Averil that retirees would be notified and have the individual options of remaining on the original plan or vote to moving to a new plan if such is inaugurated. It had been pointed out to Jim Walker that the 'over 65' group were not affected to the same extent as were active employees by any change in the plan since those over 65 received OHIP coverage as Senior Citizens.

Open sessions to discuss the proposed changes to the Group Major Medical Plan were to be held February 15th and 17th, 1994, and anyone interested was urged to attend. Averil Thompson will mention our concerns at the next Benefits Committee meeting and Jim Walker will be writing them indicating that although OHIP looks after the 'over 65's' many have dependents under 65 and we do have a number of retirees who accepted early retirement. We feel that these members should have had the privilege of voting on the issue.

It was Warren Mousley's opinion that any correspondence on our views as retirees should be forwarded to the Benefits Review Committee to the attention of A.L. Darling as Chairman - with a copy to Bob Tangney.

The Treasurer, Joy Baby, reported a balance on hand of \$3,447.72 with the amount of \$1,173.08 in outstanding bills to be paid.

Joy briefly outlined suggested upcoming events such as a Cranberry Colour Cruise in Bala on Lake Rosseau with a visit to the Town of Bala to see the Cranberry Marsh, a Muskoka Cruise to view some of the million dollar cottages, and a 5-day trip to Vermont which would include features such as a Broadway Show, a visit to Hogback Mountain, Wilmington and other places of interest.

Marion Welton offered a vote of thanks to the President, Jim Walker, for his conscientious and unceasing work on behalf of the Retirees Association, and in particular, of this Council.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9th at 1:30 p.m. in Gilmour Hall B 109.

It was moved by Warren Mousley and seconded by Bill MacPherson that the meeting be adjourned.