

## **McMaster University Retirees' Association**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, at 1:30 pm, at the home of Veronica Morrison, 179 Orchard Drive, Ancaster

Present: Gerry Keech (chair), Joy Baby, Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop, Jack Evans, Dora Haisell, Mavis Hubley, Margaret Maggs, John McCutcheon, Veronica Morrison, Averil Thompson, and Bonnie White

Regrets: Stan Hambleton, Herb Jenkins and Anne Sinclair

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Page 2 section 4(c) - change sentence to read as follows: It was agreed to have "in house" auditing - Jessie Dunlop volunteered to do it this year and John McCutcheon said that he would do it in the following year.

Motion: that, subject to the above correction, the minutes of the meeting held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001, be approved as previously circulated (John McCutcheon/Dora Haisell carried)

### **2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **(a) Nominating Committee Report**

John McCutcheon said that this was as published in the MURAL.

#### **(b) Speaker for Annual Dinner**

Jack Evans asked that he be relieved of the task of finding a speaker for the September dinner and John McCutcheon agreed to do this. Brian Henley and Bob Bratina were suggested as possible speakers.

#### **(c) Identification of Active Members at the AGM**

It was agreed that, as people entered, those entitled to vote would be given a coloured (? pink) slip of paper and that those who had paid for the barbecue would be given a ticket. Joy thought that there was ample coloured paper and probably a roll of tickets in the office. "Just in time" lists would be produced to identify those entitled to vote and those who had paid for the barbecue.

#### **(d) Proposed changes to the MURA Constitution**

Gerry Keech circulated the proposed changes which will be provided to those who attend the AGM.

### **3. Correspondence (e-mail)**

- (a) Ken Blackwell - Gerry's response had been circulated with the minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- (b) Steve Link - Gerry's response had also been circulated with the minutes of the previous meeting.
- (c) Dr. Peter George is busy with convocation on the day of the AGM but will come to the barbecue after the ceremony.
- (d) University of Alberta - Association of Professors Emeriti - They have some activities which may be of interest and Gerry will provide a summary.

### **4. President's Remarks**

Gerry Keech expressed the heartfelt appreciation of all the Council members for the great work Jack has been doing on behalf of MURA in connection with the McMaster Employees Pension Surplus Committee. Gerry presented Jack with a custom made, wonderfully original card signed by all members present in the greatest secrecy prior to the meeting. Gerry also presented Jack with a Certificate of Appreciation to hang on his wall and Margaret Maggs snuck in with a small bottle. Was it champagne? Jack thanked everybody for the gifts and said that the recent work of encouraging the return of ballots could not have been done without the help of Anne, Averil, Helen (Otrosina), Ian (Thompson), John, and Joy (in alphabetical order).

### **5. Pension Surplus Update**

Jack circulated information received from Koskie Minsky showing the percentage return of "retainers" (known as ballots) from the various groups by April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Although the "Pensioners" have reached 90% many other groups are lagging behind and much work remains to be done before the deadline for the receipt of ballots on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Dora Haisell presented her report and asked for guidance regarding possible reinvestment of \$2,500.

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as previously circulated and that the \$2,500 be re-invested for one year at 4.05% (Dora Haisell/John McCutcheon carried)



Dora mentioned some economies which might be made in the production and distribution of the MURAL, based on our recent experience during the MUSA strike. These will be considered but no decision was made at the meeting.

## **7. Portfolio Reports**

(a) Membership - Bonnie and Gerry are continuing to bring the data base up to date and in sync with Human Resources categories in time for the AGM.

(b) Trips and Events - forthcoming trips to Toronto, the Shaw Festival etc. are being well supported. Lunchtime meetings with a speaker might be a new venture for the future.

(c) MURAL/Courier - the next edition will be soon after the AGM and will contain various reports given at the meeting.

(d) AGM Annual Buffet - Stan Hambleton had sent a message that he had made a tentative booking for 80 people although less than 20 people have paid at this point.

(e) Benefits - Margaret Maggs asked whether Simon Ouellet would be invited to the AGM and Gerry said that both Mark Haley and Simon Ouellet would be invited to attend. Margaret thought that it would be useful if MURA could have a copy of the list of benefits which she understands is (or was) given to each person who is about to retire. Averil volunteered to enquire from Dina LoPresti about this.

(f) Pension Matters - Frank Drieman is preparing his report for the AGM.

(g) MUSA - members went back to work on Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>, but there is still no first contract. The matter may be going to arbitration.

## **8. Other Business**

Liberty Mutual Insurance had asked Gerry if it would be possible to have an information desk on the AGM day and to donate prizes at the barbecue. This was not acceptable to the Council and Gerry will inform the representative.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001, at 1:30pm in Gilmour Hall Room 204.

## 10. Adjournment

John McCutcheon moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:30pm.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Gerry Keech  
President