

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday February 11th, 2004 at 1 :30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 230

- Present:** Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Marju Drynan, Jessie Dunlop, Marilyn Elliot, Jack. Evans, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Averil Thompson, Bonnie White and guests Rod Phillips and Jo-Anne Teoh
- Regrets:** Frank Drieman, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Gerry Keech and Michele Leroux

1. Welcome

Mildred welcomed everyone and introduced our special guests, Jo-Anne Teoh and Rod Phillips. (Rod is a retiree ITom Operations and Maintenance where he was a carpenter. He is interested in the possibility of serving on the Council as a representative of those in the Pension Plan for Hourly Rated Employees.)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

On page 3, 1st line, "Lillian" should have been spelt "Lilian"

Motion: that, subject to the above correction, the minutes of the previous meeting held on December 10th, 2003 be accepted as previously circulated. (Helen Barton/Helen Otrosina carried)

3. Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair

Jo-Anne Teoh, Volunteer Coordinator, spoke about the Fair which is due to take place at Mohawk Fennel campus ITom March 3pt to April 3rd, 2004. Volunteers are needed particularly for the Activity Day on Friday April 2nd. Registration forms were handed out and several people indicated their willingness to help.

4. Business arising from the minutes

(a) AGM - Helen Otrosina reported that the booking of Convocation Hall for Monday May 31st, had been confirmed.

(b) MURA website - Helen Barton reported that it had been launched and may be reached at www.macra.ca She and Marju Drynan welcome feedback in the form of comments and suggestions.

(c) Appointment of Jack Evans as a voting member of the Pension Trust Committee - Averil said that, as an "alternate" for Frank Drieman, Jack would not have been allowed to vote but he is in fact a "replacement" for Frank and is therefore a voting member of the committee.

The PTC is due to meet on March 18th and again on June 3rd, 2004.

(d) E-mail addresses - Averil had revised the list of Council members by adding the e-mail addresses where applicable. Each person present had been given a copy.

(e) "Reminder" and "Invitation" letters - Bonnie and Jessie were delighted with the response to these letters and have been kept busy dealing with all the cheques..

5. Nominating Committee

According to the Constitution, the chair of this committee is the Past President. However, as Frank Drieman is on an extended holiday in the USA, Jack Evans volunteered to contact Gerry Keech and see if he would agree to be the chair, on the understanding that the committee meet at Gerry's condo to combine business with a little tea party. Helen Barton and Marju Drynan volunteered to be the two Council representatives and Jack Evans said that he would be one of the non-Council representatives. Veronica Morrison suggested that Dora Haisell might be approached regarding the second position. The Nominating Committee needs to present its report at the next Council meeting on March 10th, 2004.

6. A possible new approach to MURA funding

Mildred reported that some progress had been made with MUSA and also with MUF A. Helen Barton has kindly agreed to represent us at a meeting of MUS A. Following genuine interest by these two groups an approach can be made to other groups and to the President, Dr. Peter George.

7. Correspondence

(a) CURAC questionnaire - Averil said that with the help of Mildred and Bonnie she had responded to Peter Russell. (The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather facts particularly in connection with health and medical benefits, from each member of CURAC)

(b) Invitation to Human Resources "Meet and Greet Drop In" on February 24th from 2pm to 4pm in the Great Hall of the University Club (formerly Faculty Club) Mildred encouraged us to attend and quietly make the MURA presence known. To help us Bonnie distributed the Council name tags to those who planned to attend.

8. Scholarships and Prizes

Averil described the puzzling situation in which the MURA scholarship winner for 2003 only received \$400 rather than the \$1,000 intended by the Council. After visiting Karen Jowett and studying our own records as well as the University statement of account, both Karen and Averil came to the conclusion that the problem really went back to the beginning when we started to pay the scholarship and prize money after the awards had been made. We now want to pay in advance and at the present time there is only \$200 in our account.

Motion: that MURA pay McMaster University \$1,650 to cover our regular annual commitment of \$1,250 (for scholarship and prize) plus \$400 to be added to the \$200 already in our account and to be paid to Sarah Heasman, the 2003 scholarship winner (Averil Thompson/Helen Barton carried)

It was agreed that Averil would write a letter to Karen Jowett asking that in future MURA be sent an annual statement of account and the names of the winners of the scholarship and the prize.

9. President's Remarks

Mildred mentioned that she had been asked by Chris Brskine to speak with a small group of staff in the Health Sciences Library about retirement. Although she would have liked to help and to spread the word about MURA, she was not able to accept the invitation. She was not sure in what context he was organizing this small meeting. Averil said that she understood from Michele Leroux that Chris was a MUSA representative and that he had asked Michele to speak about benefits at one of the meetings.

The seminars previously organized by Human Resources for people who are soon to retire, or are contemplating retirement, have not taken place in recent years.

10. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop reported a healthy financial situation with a current balance of \$24,355 with INGdirect and a balance of \$2,119 with the Credit Union.

11. Portfolios

(a) Trips/Special Events Anne Sinclair reported that all the bookings are going well. The forthcoming events are on February 25th (The Producers), April 14th (The Foursome), May 13th (Guys and Dolls) and June 8th (A Taste of Niagara).

(b) Cards - Helen Otrrosina reported ten deaths.

(c) MURA news - Veronica said that the next edition would probably be published about the middle of March.

(d) Pension Matters - Jack Evans is all set to attend the next two meetings of the Pension Trust Committee on the first on March 18th, and the second on June 3rd.

12. Any Other Business

Averil asked whether Council members would prefer to receive the minutes of the last meeting and the agenda for the forthcoming meeting just before each meeting date. Nobody seemed to feel very strongly and, at the suggestion of Bonnie White, the question was tabled for the next meeting.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, March 10th, 2004, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre, Room 230.

14. Adjournment

Helen Otrrosina moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:30 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Mildred McLaren
President

