

McMaster University **Retirees Association**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 13th, 2005 at 1 :30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 220 .

Present: Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Jeff Chuchman, Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop, Veronica Morrison, Helen Ostrosina, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Marianna Brown, Gabriele Esrami, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Gerry Keech and Rod Phillips

1. Welcome

Mildred welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday March 9th, 2005 be approved as previously circulated. (Helen/Barton carried)

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Lunch at the President's Residence on April 25th

Mildred reminded us that each person had been asked to RSVP by April 18th.

(b) Letter to Peter Russell re. the proposed CURAC Constitution

Averil had responded on behalf of the Council. Helen reported that our suggestion regarding a nominating procedure had been adopted and written into the draft constitution.

4. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop reported a healthy financial situation and a few outstanding commitments. We have \$27,774 with INGdirect and, at March 31st, \$522 in the Credit Union

5. Nominating Committee

Frank Drieman thanked Helen Barton for finding Beth Csordas, who is willing to be our Treasurer. Helen outlined Beth's background, which included a BSc in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Windsor, an MBA from McMaster, a CMA designation and seventeen years as a lecturer in Accounting in our Faculty of Business.

Motion: that the Council appoint Beth Csordas as Treasurer effective June 1st, 2005
(Frank Drieman/Helen Barton Carried)

It was agreed that it was not appropriate to invite the nominees for election to Council to our meeting on May 11th. Frank was asked to contact these people and explain that, if elected at

the AGM, they would be receiving a letter from Averil inviting them to attend their first Council meeting on June 8th, which is to be held at the home of our current President . Mildred McLaren.

Motion: that the Nominating Committee Report be approved. (Helen Otrosina/ Anne Sinclair carried)

Mildred and Averil between them will write to those who will be leaving and those who will continuing in office, thanking them for their contribution to MURA.

6. MURA Funding

Helen Barton said that there was nothing new to report regarding an understanding with MUSA.

7. AGM - Wednesday May 25th

(a) Helen Otrosina reported that Eric Vengroff, Vice President of Marketing for CARP, will coming, complete with equipment and hand-outs about this organization. Anne Sinclair will find out the easiest way for our visitor's parking to be paid and Ian Thompson has kindly agreed to meet the speaker and escort him to Convocation Hall. Helen Otrosina will introduce Eric (about 2pm) and Brian Ives will be asked to give the vote of thanks.

(b) Name Tags - Bonnie will provide these.

(c) Refreshments

These will be similar to those served last year but a slightly greater qauntity, especially of the chocolate chip cookies. (There was a poor attendance last year due at least in part to the bad weather.)

(d) Handouts - Helen Barton will receive the various reports etc. needed and organize the copying. The responsibilities for contents are as follows: Averil (agenda and minutes of the 2004 meeting), Jessie Dunlop (Treasurer's Report as well as Auditor's Report from John McCutcheon), Bonnie White (Membership Report), Anne Sinclair (Trips and Special Events), Frank Drieman (Nominating Committee Report) and Les Robb/Helen Barton (Pension Matters)

8. Portfolios

(a) Membership

Bonnie White reported that 681 "reminder letters" had been mailed with the MURA news.

(b) Cards - Helen Otrosina had sent five sympathy cards.

(c) Pension Matters

Helen had been in touch with Les Robb , who did not have much to report. A transition plan for moving more of the fixed income portfolio to long term bonds and real interest rate bonds was approved. Helen and Les will be discussing the report to be made to members at the AGM.

(d) Benefits

Jeff Chuchman reported on a meeting with Mark Haley, which was also attended by Helen Barton, Brian Ives, Michele Leroux and Mildred McLaren. I would appear that the, benefits due to a person at the point of retirement are more or less “srosanct” and highly unlikely to be reduced. Improvements in benefits for this still employed are often passed on to retirees. There is no recognized procedure for “negotiating” changes in retiree benefits. Mildred will phone Mark Haley to ask that the basic facts on this subject be put in writing.

(e) Website - In the absence of Brian Ives, Helen reported that she thought that Brian was having a lot of fun on the website. Anne Sinclair (who now has a computer) said that she had been in touch with Brian regarding advertising her trips and special events.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, May 11th, at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre, Room 220.

10. Adjournment

Frank Drieman moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3pm,

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Mildred McLaren
President