



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8, Canada

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171

Home: 905 528 9341

e-mail: [marianne@mcmaster.ca](mailto:marianne@mcmaster.ca)

<http://www.macra.ca>

Marianne van der Wel, Secretary

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING  
of McMaster University Retirees Association -  
Wednesday April 11, 2007, 1:30PM at Student Centre Room 220**

Present: Helen Barton (chair), Jeff Chuchman, Beth Csordas, Geoff Evans, Margaret Jenkins, John McCutcheon, Mildred McLaren, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morrison, Kathy Overholt, Joan Parker, Pam Penny, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair and Marianne Van der Wel

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

- We welcomed Jeff Chuchman, Acting Manager of Retirement Support Services, who will represent the department while Michele Leroux is on leave. You can reach Jeff at Michelle's extension **27253** and his email is [chuchj@mcmaster.ca](mailto:chuchj@mcmaster.ca)

- Brian Ives, Cliff Andrews and Roman March sent their regrets

- Some members of Council presented Michele Leroux with a gift certificate for a spa near her residence so she could relax a bit while on leave. Kathy Overholt gave her a hand-made baby blanket. This is our way of wishing Michele well!

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Approval March 14, 2007 Council Meeting Minutes

There were three typos: "Van Duzen" should be "Van Dusen", "Wynn" should be "Winn", and "out of town" health coverage should have read "out of province".

**MOTION**

Geoff Evans **motioned** that the minutes be accepted as corrected

Marg Jenkins **seconded** the motion

Motion **carried** unanimously

**3. Business Arising**

a) "Visit with Oldest Member", Menno DeGroot (Joan Parker)

Joan reported that she and Brian Ives visited Menno DeGroot at a lovely retirement home in March 2007 for about an hour. Menno, our oldest MURA member, is in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. His daughter, Yoka, and son in law, John, were there as well. All enjoyed the visit! Menno especially enjoyed Joan's goodbye kiss. We plan to put an article in the MURAnews about the visit. Photos are up on MURA's web page: [www.macra.ca](http://www.macra.ca)

#### b) Report on setting up a scholarship endowment and fund raising for it (Beth Csordas)

The revised draft agreement received from the university seems ok in principal, but has left Beth and Helen with some questions. For example: the new draft specifies four years for raising the endowment whereas we understood the term was five years. Helen and Beth have asked for clarification on their questions and expect things to be sorted out by the end of April so they can then post it on our council virtual office web site and present it as a final agreement at the May 9 meeting. This time frame will still allow us to make an announcement about this at the May 30 AGM.

#### c) Annual General Meeting (Joan Morris and Helen Barton)

##### - Physical Arrangements

Helen will contact Joan Morris about the hope that advertising will lead to higher attendance, and whether the food order should be increased. Other questions can wait until our May meeting.

##### - Other Arrangements

- Enticing MURA members over 90 years of age to attend: It was decided that there would be no special invitation sent to MURA members over 90. The advertising of Stuart Winn's presence at the AGM may attract more older retirees. We also want to offer assistance to any **Hamilton area** MURA member either getting to campus or getting to Convocation hall or both. Joan Parker and Helen Barton will look into how best to offer this assistance.

- Special Parking Arrangements: Geoff Evans will look into special parking arrangements for people attending the AGM who need help (e.g. parking outside University Hall for mobility impaired). Anne Sinclair suggested contacting Terri Koppang in Parking when seeking assistance from that department. (Note! Parking is now part of Human Resources.)

Jeff Chuchman (assisted by Helen Barton, if needed), will look into the feasibility of free parking for all retirees attending the AGM.

- Gathering and printing handout packages: We will deal with the specifics of what we will hand out at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Veronica Morrison volunteered to gather the material and arrange for printing, as she did last year. In the meantime, Helen Barton will ask Joan Morris what was handed out in last year's package. Mildred reminded us that we need paper voting ballots just in case. Not all committees need to hand in a written report. We may wish to include the 2006-2007 budget figures along with the "actuals" in the financial report.

- Name tags: If a council member would prefer a clip on name tag as opposed to the current type held by string, please let Marianne know at: [marianne@mcmaster.ca](mailto:marianne@mcmaster.ca) or 905 528 9341

Pam Penny will bring name tags for non-council members.

- Advertising

We will invite MURA members to the AGM in MURAnews, including a note on Stuart Winn's appearance and honorary membership presentation, and offering assistance to those in the Hamilton area who need assistance to attend. MURAnews will be mailed to all members (including those who do not receive MURAnews by mail and have no e-mail) by April 24, 2007 so that notice of the AGM will be given by April 30, as required by our constitution. Helen, Marianne, Joan and Veronica will put together these MURAnews articles.

Special Invitation to AGM in May 2007:

**MOTION**

- Pam Penny **motioned** that a second mailing be sent in early May to all MURA members in the Hamilton area, to try to boost attendance.

- Joan Parker **seconded** the motion

- The motion **carried** unanimously

Of course, this will also go on our Web Page and through e-mail.

- Program

- Theme and Speaker:

A presentation entitled "The McMaster Campus Landscape" will be given by Karen Belaire's "team". We will ask that it include changes **since 2000** including new Student Centre, new entrance, old Teachers' College, Go Station, Residences, DeGroote Health Sciences, Arthur Bourns addition, Athletic Centre.

- Tour of David Braley Athletic Centre:

Kathy Overholt will inquire about tours of the David Braley athletic centre, starting around 2:30-3:00PM, on May 30, after our AGM. Questions will include the minimum and maximum number of people for such a tour and tour length.

- Kick Off Endowment Campaign - We will not be having a formal kick off at the AGM. The new endowment fund and planned fund raising campaign will be done as part of President's Report.

- Other topics/speakers/presenters/elections e.g. audit report, pension reports will be discussed at the May 9 meeting

#### **4. Correspondence**

- E-mail sent to muramembs-1 seeking volunteers for Chaplaincy exam drop-in. At least one MURA member responded.

- Thank You's have been sent to Nicholas Solntseff, Marju Drynan (a copy of each was circulated at the meeting) and a letter of confirmation and thanks was sent to Bob West (auditor)

- McGill university phoned April 11 leaving a message asking for information of services provided by the university to its retirees (e.g. office space, retirees centre,...) Marianne will follow through

- No council member present has received an invitation to the "traditional" President's annual luncheon.

#### **5. President's Report**

- none since Brian is away

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

- Finalize Budget for 2007-2008

The budget presented at this meeting (see attached) was accepted as a "final" planning document to be used as a guide for 2007-2008 MURA Council activities. It does not need to be formally presented for approval nor presented at the AGM

#### **7. Information Reports from Committees (as required)**

a) **Cards** (Joan Morris): No Report

b) **Constitution & By-Laws** (Helen Barton):

In 2007-08, we may need to review the membership clause based on the university's new affiliate rules (See Pension & Benefits report, section 7 f). The current definition of Regular Member is "any person who has retired from McMaster University". There is no immediate effect since the new definition of affiliate affects only "new hires".

**c) Membership (Pam Penny):**

Brian took the current data base and manipulated it to get a more accurate list of people who retired from McMaster and people who are survivors of a McMaster Retiree. A new data base listing retirees will be sent from Human Resources in May as a Spreadsheet. No retirees reported in April 2007.

**d) MURA News (Joan Parker):** No further Report (see section 3c)

**e) Nominating (Mildred McLaren):** Mildred may need Geoff Evans or Kathy Overholt to present the nominating committee's report at the AGM.

**f) Pension & Benefits (Geoffrey Evans/Roman March):**

- Geoff Evans reported:

1) The university is changing pension conditions for affiliates (such as: RMA, Divinity College, Day Care). It "dictated" a change re rule of 80 to 85 and contribution, except the RMA group who got the CAW "deal". In addition, new hires in these affiliate groups are not eligible to participate in the McMaster pension plan

2) Council supports the Pension & Benefits committee to approach Peter George to ask why this is being done as the affiliates have never been considered McMaster employees and yet were included in our pension plan until now. We are concerned about the damage this does to university community, morale etc - particularly if savings are minimal.

3) A parking plan change proposal is being considered by P&B committee: The idea being considered is that retirees should be given a choice of morning or afternoon parking. Some members thought that the idea of all day parking might be feasible since actual usage by retirees who have permits is not high. The committee will contact Parking for information. Does Parking have data or should we do a survey to determine how many retirees actually park on campus, how often, where, when (morning or afternoon) how many people have permits.

- Survey by University of Guelph on pension inflation adjustments

(Brian - Deferred til May)

- Mac special employee discount offers (e.g. Moore's clothiers) available to retirees? (Brian - Deferred til May)

**g) Special Events (Margaret Jenkins):**

Thirty four people attended the Art Gallery tour and tea on April 10, 2007! Council supported the idea of having Dr. Ellen Ryan speak at a lunch or dinner on research that supports healthy habits for us older folks.

**h) Trips (Joan Parker):**

Anne Sinclair reported that the Welland trip was the next day Apr 12, 2007 which includes Wine Tasting, Kipling Ridge pancakes and a museum tour. There are still tickets available for September 13, "OKLAHOMA" at Stratford Festival Theatre; October 4, The Gershwins' "MY ONE AND ONLY"; the June 14 and December 7 Geritol Follies. Note that for the Geritol Follies, Hamilton Place supplies an optional Buffet for \$18.00 before the show. Fifty eight people are leaving by bus on May 18 for Newark and then on May 19 to Bermuda by cruise ship. Return date is May 26, 2007. A Christmas 2007 trip is in the works!

**i) Xmas Lunch (John McCutcheon) No Report**

**j) Web-Site (Brian Ives):**

- Various Council members reported that they like the new web site

**10. Information Reports from Liaisons (*as required*)**

**a) University Board of Governors (Mildred McLaren): No Report**

**b) College & University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC) (Brian Ives):**

- An article written by Brian and edited by Helen was submitted for CURAC newsletter re MURA membership/funding

**c) MUFA (Brian Ives): No Report**

d) **CAW (MUSA)** (Helen Barton/Kathy Overholt): No Report

e) **Hourly Staff Liaison** (Rod Phillips): Ran into several retirees from the hourly group who reported to be doing fairly okay.

## **11. Other Business**

- Proposal: Can we consider Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg for honorary membership for presentation at the Xmas luncheon.

- MURA's Virtual Office...Comments? Good aid to Council activities and council liked the graphics. Two concerns: 1) for two council members, the size of the graphics and text is four times normal size. Marianne needs to explore the reason for this. 2) Investigate putting password protection on the site to make it more secure (private).

## **12. Next Meeting**

Wednesday May 9 , 2007 at 1:30PM in Student Centre Room **220** ◀◀◀(Note! Back in old room)

## **13. Adjournment**

John McCutcheon **motioned** for adjournment at 3:30PM