

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING
of McMaster University Retirees Association -
Wednesday September 12, 2007, 1:30PM at Student Centre Room 220**

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton (chair), Jeff Chuchman, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Geoff Evans, Brian Ives, Margaret Jenkins, Roman March, John McCutcheon, Veronica Morrison, Kathy Overholt, Joan Parker, Pam Penny, Anne Sinclair and Marianne Van der Wel

1. Welcome & Regrets

Regrets: Joan Morris and Rod Phillip

Helen B. Reminded us that our meetings are now from 2-4PM with a half hour before and after for socializing and informal discussion.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

(a) Council Meeting - June 13, 2007 - for approval

- Geoff Evans **motioned** that the June 13/07 minutes be approved as circulated.
- Joan Parker **seconded** the motion.
- Motion **carried** unanimously.

(b) AGM - May 30, 2007 - final approval

Cliff Andrews approved the hourly pension coverage in the AGM minutes from May 30/07.

- John McCutcheon **motioned** that the May 30/07 AGM minutes be approved as circulated at the June 13/07 council meeting.
- Brian Ives **seconded** the motion.
- Motion **carried** unanimously.

3. Business Arising

a) Report on scholarship endowment and fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas/Helen Barton)

- Helen B. Circulated a draft letter to be sent to MURA members at the end of Sep/07 and asked for comment. Suggestions were: clarify that the scholarship/award will be for studies in Gerontology (add 'Gerontology' between 'McMaster' and 'students' in last sentence of paragraph 2); state that donations are 'tax deductible'; reword first sentence in last paragraph to state we will be doing ongoing reporting; put more emphasis that we appreciate donations of any amount and less on the suggested amounts of \$25/month or \$250 one time.
- 100% Council participation is not a major issue but if you are

planning to donate, the sooner the better, so we can report on Council support in October's phone campaign

- tentative date for phone campaign is Thursday October 25 as the first choice and Tuesday October 23 as the second. [Post-meeting note: October 25 date has been confirmed.] Time is approximately 6:30 - 9 PM.

- volunteers for this from Council include: Brian, Joan P., Veronica, Geoff, Roman, Helen, Beth, plus Margaret if needed for a "cheerleader". Suggestions for others: Averil and Ian Thompson, Helen Otrosina, Dora Haisell, Jessie Dunlop, MURA past Presidents Mildred McLaren, Frank Drieman, Jack Evans, Jim Walker(John McCutcheon will be away).

- the university will provide script/training, provide the database, phone numbers etc, hire students to complete phoning after our phone blitz, pay for all mailing/phoning costs.

b) Rescheduling of Annual Luncheon at President's House (Helen Barton)

- The luncheon this year will be used as a "kickoff" of our fundraising campaign. Will be Thursday, Oct. 11 12:30 [Post-meeting note: start time changed 12:00 noon] at the President's Residence;

- Roger Trull, V.P., will host; Alvin Lee will attend

- Will invite past Presidents Frank Drieman, Jack Evans, Jim Walker, Mildred McLaren, plus others not on current Council who will be participating in phoning

- This luncheon takes the place of the normal springtime (2007) luncheon with the McMaster president

4. Correspondence

a) Sympathy letter sent to Bonnie White in June/07 regarding her husband, Brian's, death. - Circulated at the meeting

b) The New Retirees Reception will be Tuesday October 16 at 4:30PM in the Great Hall of the University (Faculty) Club.

c) University Technical Services (UTS) is offering a free, lunch time seminar on Wednesday October 3/07, 11:30AM-1:30PM in MDCL Room 3020. Topic: Setting up a home network and the safety precautions. Marianne will attend and if feasible will write an article for MURAnews. Other council members are also welcome to attend.

d) McMaster Employee Spirit Society invites retirees to attend a Marauders football game against U of T at Ivor Wynne starting at 1:00PM. This is a ticketed event. This invitation was distributed to muramembs-1 on Sept. 3.

e) Carl Moore sent us a letter regarding the clinical faculty pension payout dispute. This involves retirees from the clinical faculty who retired before 2000 and did not get a payout from the university contribution as did retirees who retired later. The letter was passed to the MURA Pension and Benefits committee co-chairs.

f) Elise Hayton (de Bruin) needs volunteers at AGH - request will be put in the MURAnews.

g) A retired Physics faculty member contacted us regarding inequitable treatment. This matter has been passed to MURA's Pension and Benefits committee. No action can be taken until more information is received from the retiree.

h) Lorraine Allan, retired from Psychology, would like to be part of MUFA liaison "team": Geoff Evans will contact Lorraine once he gets her contact information, to be sent to him by Helen.

i) We received a notice from Parking regarding new naming of lots and electronic gates etc. This project has started but we have no firm details. We suspect this will happen in stages and may take a while to complete. Geoff Evans is waiting to hear from Parking in January 2008 regarding any data regarding retiree parking habits. Currently 486 retirees have parking permits, 100 of whom have full 'R' permits.

j) A MURA retiree inquired about group Long Term Care insurance. It is available (e.g. via Sun Life, CARP) but is very expensive. Helen B. will respond accordingly.

k) Carol Woods from the Chaplaincy needs volunteers for their Exam hospitality for Dec. 2007. We will put a notice in MURAnews. Carol is also working with Ellen Ryan (our fall special events speaker) on developing a program for retirees.

l) A four year retiree submitted a letter regarding retiree pension erosion. This letter was passed to the Pension and Benefits committee for them to respond in a similar vein as our 2007 MURAnews articles.

m) United Way letter should go out soon. Pam agreed to sign it, as she did last year.

5. President's Report

a) **New Retiree reception date:** It will be Tuesday Oct. 16 4:30 pm Great Hall. We are expecting a good crowd as there were at least 70-80 new retirees this year. We appreciate a good turn out from MURA council as this is our chance to welcome new retirees to MURA. Joan P., Anne, Pam will be away. However, Anne will provide Helen Barton with information on MURA trips for Helen to mention in her remarks.

b) **Special Events:** Cooking event had to be cancelled due to a lack of participants.

c) 2007 - 2008 organization and activities:

Standing Committees and Portfolios

Changes: Joan M.- Constitution;

Brian - Nominating and Board of Governors (BOG);

Kathy - CAW;

Helen Dietsche - Cards;

Geoff Evans - MUFA

Helen - CURAC with Joan Parker as "apprentice/alternate"

Reporting Schedule: As we not having a pre-planned reporting schedule, let Helen Barton or Marianne know when your committee or liaison needs to report for more than a few minutes so we can add your request to the agenda, at least one week before the meeting.

Activities for 2007-2008

- Helen B. will investigate the setting up of an electronic bulletin board (two way discussion group for our entire membership). Please send your comments and/or desire to participate to Helen Barton.

- "volunteer bureau": Helen Barton will investigate the setting up of a "bureau" to find, post and assign volunteer opportunities. Hamilton's Volunteer Bureau <http://www.volunteerhamilton.on.ca/> may be a good vehicle for posting. We would have to approach Peter George's office to get approval for this, and also to set up a mechanism within McMaster to gather opportunities. Margaret Jenkins may be interested in helping.

- Liaison with Debbie Marinoff-Shupe (Manager of Recreation Services) and Kim Palango (physio services)- Joan Parker will

coordinate a meeting with Marg Jenkins and Marianne to investigate liaisons to develop fitness & physio programs for seniors

d) Renewal of CURAC membership: CURAC offers us good information sharing with our counter parts.

- Brian Ives **motioned** that we renew our annual membership at a cost of \$300
- Geoff Evans **seconded** the motion
- **Carried** unanimously

6. Treasurer's Report

a) Beth circulated the May 1 - Aug. 31 financial report and explained that the MURAnews printing/postage costs were high because they included the cost of mailing a special invitation for the AGM which cost \$213 for printing and \$715 for postage. Beth will examine assigning these costs to the AGM, or to 'special mailings', rather than MURAnews. Council will examine ways to reduce costs for an invitation.

- Brian Ives **motioned** that we accept the financial report as circulated.
- John McCutcheon **seconded** the motion
- **Carried** unanimously

b) The three year budget/renewing funding agreements with MUFA, CAW, and the University needs to be renegotiated next year hence our MURA budget for 2008/09 needs to be ready by January 2008.

7. Information Reports from Committees (as required)

a) **Cards** (Joan Morris/Helen Dietsche): - no report

b) **Constitution & By-Laws** (Joan Morris): - - no report

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

- July added 32 new retirees and August added 11. See attached for membership numbers

- Currently we have 228 survivors in our data base with 43 of them deceased.

- Council decided that when a spousal survivor is also deceased we will mark the entry in the database as "terminated" and we will not use such data except for archival purposes.

- MURAnews will be sent to the living spouse of a deceased McMaster

retiree but not to other survivors (e.g sons/daughters)

- Helen Barton will approach the new Chancellor to see if he wants to continue a relation with MURA (receive MURAnews, attend Xmas luncheon) as did our previous chancellor Mel Hawkrigg.

- We confirmed for Jeff Chuchman that survivors of active employees, when the survivor receives a McMaster pension, are deemed Associate Members of MURA, based on the MURA Constitution.

- We are having discussions with Human Resources about retirees who do not give permission for their personal info to be given to MURA. Is MURA at least able to know that these individuals have retired and thus are members of MURA? Or is MURA only entitled to know statistical information on this category of retirees?

- There is also a problem getting change of address information when we get return undeliverable mail. Pam Penny will send a spread sheet requesting information on this group of people directly to Jeff Chuchman.

d) MURA News (Joan Parker):

- A reminder was given to please send articles for submission to MURAnews to the entire MURAnews committee, not just to Veronica. On our virtual office site, you will find the e-mail addresses for the committee under: <http://mura.mcmaster.ca/justcouncil/contact.html>. Just click on "Newsletter" in the right hand column.

- It was clarified that MURAnews does not include write ups on deceased MURA members unless an individual is covered by our policy guidelines developed March 2006 which states we will accept articles at the MURAnews committee's discretion that: **"A person making a great contribution to MURA or the recipient of a prestigious award, e.g. A Nobel Prize, be acknowledged in the MURAnews."** Also, only the deaths of MURA members are normally acknowledged in MURA, not spouses. See: <http://mura.mcmaster.ca/justcouncil/archives/2006-2007/reports/MURAnews/POLICY.GUIDELINES.FOR.MURANEWS.mar14.07.pdf>

- deadline for MURAnews articles is September 21 but send articles in earlier if possible.

e) Nominating: (Brian Ives) - no report

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

- Les Robb reported that the market returns as of June 30/07 were favourable and indicated a raise for the salaried pensioners.

- Roman and Geoff were prepared to give a longer report, but there was not enough time remaining. They will report at the October meeting.

- Jeff reported that he has some updates on recent happenings in HR to report; he will do so at our October meeting.

g) Special Events (Margaret Jenkins):

- Monday October 30/07, Ellen Ryan is the speaker; will repeat announcement in MURAnews and send e-mail to muramembs-1@mcmaster.ca in October.
- Gary Warner will speak on Thursday April 24/08

h) Trips (Joan Parker):

- 41 people are booked for the Queen Mary in April 2008
- Planning 2 river boat excursions in Europe for 2009
- See MURAnews for other trips

i) Xmas Lunch (John McCutcheon):

- Will be Thursday Dec. 6; will announce again in MURAnews
- Are looking into a published vegetarian menu
- John McCutcheon is booking the sound system next week
- Helen Barton will invite new Chancellor as well as both Hawkriggs, and the university President
- Hawkriggs' honorary membership will be presented.

j) Web-Site (Brian Ives): - Keep sending those news items/photos to Brian!

8. Information Reports from Liaisons (as required)

a) **University Board of Governors (Brian Ives):** - Midred's report on the June 14, 2007 meeting is available on the MURA virtual office web site at:
<http://mura.mcmaster.ca/justcouncil/reports/bog/bog.jun14.07.pdf>

b) **College & University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC):** Roman and Les have been asked to respond individually, if they have relevant observations to make, to a request to MURA for contributions to a submission to an Ontario Expert Committee on Pensions.

c) **MUFA:** - no report

d) **CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt):** - no report

e) **Hourly Staff Liaison (Rod Phillips):** - no report

9. Other Business

- none

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday October 10, 2007 at 1:30PM in Student Centre, Room 220

11. Adjournment

Joan Parker motioned we adjourn at 4:15PM

Carried