

USI Retirees Coordinating Council Minutes

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Foundation Office, 1:30 p.m.

Present: Jim Bandoli, Yvonne Floyd, Linda Cleek, Nils Johansen, Ginger Ramsden, Nancy Johnson, Phil Fisher, Michael Whipple, Sherrienne Standley, ex officio, Sara Rhoades, Foundation liaison

Absent: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jim Bandoli at 1:28 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Phil moved the minutes of the March 16, 2017 meeting be approved as read, Linda seconded. The minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Nancy reported the last formal financial statement she received reflects the February 2017 balance of \$4005.25. This represents \$1220.00 in paid memberships and \$845.50 in expenses, which include the scholarship grants awarded in the spring semester to USI employees who are enrolled in credit coursework at USI.

Retirement Workshop: Jim attended one of the HR-sponsored workshops for USI employees planning to retire, and was given time to explain to the attendees what our council does, and how we advocate for retirees. He asked an HR representative to invite someone from our council to attend these workshops when offered, to provide information to the attendees.

Bereavement Cards: Jim spoke with Chris Jines, former council member, learning Chris still has the bereavement cards the group purchased last year. She has continued to send cards to spouses or families of USI retirees, at the time of the retiree's death. Linda suggested we send Chris postage stamps, as she is willing to carry on with this task. Sherrienne mentioned Chris is not receiving information on all of the USI retiree deaths, and will contact Chris to develop a system that will ensure every retiree's death is acknowledged with a card.

NEW BUSINESS

Council membership 2018: Four positions on the Council will need to be replaced in November 2017, as the following people will end their two year terms: Yvonne Floyd, Ginger Ramsden, Michael Whipple, and Phil Fisher. Phil volunteered to be the nominating committee chair, assisted by Michael. Jim mentioned Donna Laymon is interested in serving on the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

MAIA Conference Donations: Linda, Ginger, and Jim reported on their meeting with MAIA conference representatives from USI to discuss donating \$300 to the conference to grant more retirees participation. The fee to attend the two-day conference is \$60 for retirees (free to retired USI employees). Following discussion, the group decided to designate three \$60 grants to spouses or friends accompanying USI employee retirees to the conference, and two grants to the MAIA committee, targeting retirees of the underserved population, to increase diversity of participants. Ginger will confirm with the MAIA committee the plan for the donations and will work with USI staff to transfer funds from the council account to the MAIA account.

Funds to Augment the Library's Ability to Purchase Books Authored by Staff: Michael spoke with Martha Niemeier, USI librarian, who assured him if the Council purchases copies of books authored by USI staff, those copies will be available to check out, not held on reserve. The group discussed the possibility of spotlighting books authored by USI staff by placing the books together, on a special bookshelf, perhaps a bookshelf purchased by the Retirees Council. Michael will check with Martha regarding this option.

Sponsored Activities: Linda led a discussion on the council-sponsored trip for retirees to the Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville, IN. The admission fee into the park is \$9/person and with transportation provided, the group felt a \$20/person fee should cover all expenses of rented vans and entrance fees. If the vans leave USI at 8:30 a.m. the group would arrive in Jeffersonville at lunchtime. Sherrienne mentioned three restaurants within walking distance of one another, allowing participants options to eat on their own before traveling on to the park. She volunteered to research information on the restaurants and Sara will investigate the procedure and cost for renting vans through USI. The Falls of the Ohio State Park trip will be held on October 10, 2017.

Phil reported on his "scouting" trip to the Red Skelton Museum in Vincennes. He and his wife, Helen thoroughly enjoyed the visit and felt it would make an enjoyable trip for retirees. The facility, housed on VU's campus, has plenty of parking and offers a group tour (20 people max) for \$15/person. The council will sponsor this trip in spring, 2018 and will determine transportation options at a later meeting.

Sherrienne reported on the New Harmony Theater Play/winery event discussed in previous meetings. The play, *Ruthless*, will be showing at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 16. The Little Creek Winery, on Evansville's west side closes at 6 p.m., but the owner agreed to stay open later, if the retirees' group commits to visit after the play. Yvonne mentioned the Raintree Brewery is now open in the basement of Sara's in New Harmony. She will contact the owner to ask if the brewmaster would provide a tour, should the group decide to go to Sara's, instead of the winery. After discussion, the council members concluded it would be best to invite those interested in attending the play to purchase tickets on their own, and anyone who wishes to gather after the play at the designated destination, can do so.

Sara Rhodes stated the Retiree Council newsletter is in the writing stage and will be sent to all retirees at the end of June. All events the council has planned for the year will be highlighted in the newsletter.

Annual Meeting Program: Sherrienne, Yvonne, and Nancy are working on ideas for the annual meeting program. Suggestions for the program included asking a retiree who has visited another country to report on his/her trip; inviting a USI representative to report on the PAC renovation; and, Jim offered to speak about the nature preserve located on USI's campus. The planning group will continue working on the program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Ramsden, Secretary

