

## Minutes Retirees' Coordinating Council Zoom Meeting - APPROVED

Thursday March 18, 2021 3:00pm

**Council Members Present:** Nancy Bizal, John Deem, Tim Mahoney, Craig Ehlen, Joanne Artz, Marlene Shaw, Cindy Brinker, Phyllis Oeth, Donna Koewler (Special Events)

**Call to Order:** President Marlene Shaw called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

**Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting were accepted, with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Deem reported that as of July 1, 2020, the fund balance was \$4,155.65. Membership fees of \$1,420 for 71 paid members were taken in. \$500 was given out for the fall employee scholarships, \$300 for the spring scholarships, and \$75 was donated to the Administrative Assistants and Associates. The fund balance as of February 28, 2021 is \$4,700.65. The report was approved as given.

**President's Report:** Marlene Shaw reported that letters had gone out to all scholarship recipients and new retirees.

**Old Business:** Marlene Shaw asked if all council members had received both print and email copies of *Vintage Times*; had we read the latter format too? Three members did not recall receiving the email copy. Because there had been so many first-person responses about COVID activities, an email addendum was needed; some members missed noticing this. John Deem suggested putting the addendum on the Retirees' website. Phyllis Oeth asked who sends the VT email (S. Herriott.) Cindy Brinker suggested that it come from the Retiree Council president, for better name recognition. Sharri might be able to send it on the current president's behalf, as long as it appears as coming from the Retirees' president. Nancy Bizal noted that the email VT should be sent in batches rather than the full 370 at once. Thanks to Cindy Brinker for the excellent lead article on Connie Weinzapfel in the Winter/Spring 2021 edition.

The Summer/Fall issue of VT should come out around the end of August. The article on Jerry Bulger will definitely be included. Tim Mahoney will contact Mary Branson about her paintings. Marlene Shaw will contact her about an article and which paintings to feature. Once sure of the articles about Jerry B. and Mary B., Nancy Bizal will contact Willie Dortch to find out what he's been doing in retirement. The article on the Fuquay Welcome Center will be held due to space. Sherrienne Standley could take photos of the Igleheart Gardens tour, as well as some of the spring campus floral displays. Marlene Shaw will ask Carolyn Roth if she would allow a reproduction of one of her prints to be placed in a future VT issue. The Council ranked the articles for the upcoming issue as 1) Jerry Bulger; 2) Igleheart tour photos and report; 3) Mary Branson's artwork; 4) Carolyn Roth's print. Phyllis Oeth wondered if recent retiree LaVerne Jones would be interested in sharing campus photos.

Regarding the April 26 tour of Igleheart Gardens, Marlene will send out an email notice to ask for reservations on April 5. Tim Mahoney suggested there be a wait list, should the 35 spots fill quickly. Marlene noted that following a presentation, an outdoor walkabout would be self-guided, with participants required to wear masks and stay no later than 4 p.m.

## New Business

- Joanne Artz discussed the Retiree web page updates and changes, made with the expert help of Taylor Gogel of Foundation, with work contributed by Cindy Brinker and Marlene Shaw.
- Marlene asked members' opinions on the new medical insurance through UHC/AmWins. Craig Ehlen mentioned that it is still early to tell what charges will be coming; Joanne felt that copays and prescription costs seem high, although the UHC website is easy to use. Cindy had told HR she thought the drug prices were higher than Anthem's, and that she had filed a grievance with UHC in order to get an answer to this. John Deem mentioned that several transactions he'd had were expensive. Marlene had been told by UHC that one of her meds was not covered at all, and she should "try something else" or get prior authorization; Nancy had also had a drug formulary issue.
- The new *USI Retirees' Directory* is planned for August 2021, with distribution by email to all, and in print for those who request it from Foundation through S. Herriott (slherriott@usi.edu). Due to privacy concerns, the *Directory* will not be linked on the web page. However, the web page can state that any verified USI retiree may ask Foundation to send a paper copy.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.  
The next meeting will be May 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne R. Artz, Secretary