

Minutes Retirees' Coordinating Council Zoom Meeting - APPROVED

Thursday January 21, 2021 3:00pm

Council Members Present: Nancy Bizal, John Deem, Tim Mahoney, Craig Ehlen, Joanne Artz, Marlene Shaw, Ruston Howard (Special Events) Not present: Cindy Brinker, Phyllis Oeth

Call to Order: President Marlene Shaw called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm and began with a welcome to new council members Cindy Brinker and Tim Mahoney.

Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting (Marlene Shaw, secretary pro tem) were accepted, with corrections. It was decided to hold the approval of the November 19, 2020 general meeting minutes until the November 2021 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: John Deem reported that the group began 2021 with 70 paid members (\$1,400 in fees) and a balance of \$4980.65 as of 1/1/2021. \$500 was given out for the fall employee scholarships, and \$75 was donated to the Administrative Assistants and Associates. Cindy Brinker had asked if the membership had increased, so John Deem reviewed the records and noted membership totals as follows:

52 As of 1/1/2019

50 As of 1/1/2020

70 As of 1/1/2021

The report was approved as given.

President's Report: Marlene Shaw thanked Nancy Bizal for updating notebooks. The list of meeting dates for 2021 was reviewed, noting the COVID cancellation of the proposed January 19 "Not Back-to-School Pizza" lunch at Turoni's, and the February 6 Foundation Luncheon. Meetings will take place on March 18, May 20, July 29 (President Rochon's message at the Griffin Center), September 16, and November 18 (annual meeting.)

Old Business: The Igleheart Gardens tour is reserved for April 26, 2021, at 1 p.m. This will be a tour of the gardens only, not the house. Rick Tremont and Dr. Mark Browning will lead the tour. There can be up to 35 participants, and of course, all is dependent upon the safety factors around COVID and vaccinations.

New Business:

- The time to choose recipients for spring term employee grants approaches. Marlene Shaw has asked John Baburnich for the eligibility list so five choices can be made soon.
- *Vintage Times'* Winter/Spring 2021 issue will publish in late February, with Foundation paying for printing and postage. It will go out by mail to all retirees (>370) and by email to those with email addresses (~270). The lead story will be about Connie Weinzapfel's quest to pay homage to the ancient menhirs (granite monoliths) of Brittany by bringing a 13-foot, 16,000-pound stone from its quarry in Mitchell, IN to a spot in New Harmony. Connie also recently received the Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Historical Society. Another article will cover members' activities and discoveries during the pandemic; in addition, the upcoming Igleheart Gardens tour will be spotlighted. Marlene has also asked Cindy Brinker to write an article on the new UHC Medicare Advantage Plan for a future *VT* issue.

The Summer/Fall 2021 issue will possibly have an article and photos about Jerry Bulger's work with the Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department, and assistance with its annual display of the American flag on the University Parkway overpass to honor 9/11 responders, victims, and survivors. Nancy Bizal suggested there be an article about what people might be doing in retirement aside from pandemic-related activity. An article featuring retiree Willie Dortch may be written, and perhaps Kindra Strupp would write something about the Fuquay Welcome Center.

The USI Foundation is responsible for the layout, printing, mailing, and financial expenses for *VT*. Sherry Darrell is Editor, while Sherrienne Standley is a contributor and photographer. Maggie Carnahan of Foundation provides assistance as needed. It was decided that the entire Retirees' Council can serve as point people for publication oversight, so as not to overburden any one person.

- The USI Retirees' web site (usi.edu/retirees) needs to be reviewed and updated, as noted in particular by Craig Ehlen. Joanne Artz agreed to coordinate with Foundation for this work now and going forward this year. The general consensus was that the page is overlooked by most retirees and would benefit from being publicized in *Vintage Times*.
- The *USI Retirees' Directory* saw only an electronic edition in 2020. Print copies are available upon request. It is put together at the end of the FY and used to be published in February and July. Paper copies are distributed at the July meeting. *Vintage Times* should be used to remind members to contact Foundation with any change of phone, residence, or email address and request the latest copy if not already received.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting will be March 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne R. Artz, Secretary