

Minutes Retirees' Coordinating Council Meeting - APPROVED

Thursday July 29, 2021 Griffin Center 3:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Nancy Bizal, Tim Mahoney, Craig Ehlen, Joanne Artz, Marlene Shaw, Cindy Brinker. John Deem and Phyllis Oeth unable to attend.

Call to Order: President Marlene Shaw called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 20, 2021, meeting were accepted, with one correction.

Treasurer's Report: The 2020-2021 year began on July 1, 2020, with a fund balance of \$4,155.65. 82 paid memberships brought in \$1,640.00. Expenditures were \$500.00 for Fall Student Scholarships, \$75.00 for the Administrative Assistants and Associates Christmas gift project, \$500.00 for Spring Student Scholarships, and \$65.24 for flowers to honor Wanda Hibbitts' 100th birthday. With a total expenditure of \$1,140.24, the fund balance as of June 30, 2021, is \$4,655.41. The report was accepted as presented.

President's Report: Marlene Shaw thanked the many people involved with working on, writing, and editing the articles for the Summer/Fall issue of *Vintage Times*. Featured artists Mary Branson and Carolyn Roth wrote their own articles accompanying photos of one selected painting by each. They were invited to display the paintings at the Retiree Reception on July 29 at the Griffin Center.

Old Business: The 2021 *USI Retirees Directory* is ready and print copies will be distributed at the July 29 reception. PDF or print copies are also available by request to Sharri Herriott in Foundation. The question arose of privacy concerns if PDF attachments are sent by email, even after verification of retiree status. What if the recipient were to forward the PDF to a non-USI affiliate? Consensus indicated that we should add to future print editions, and to the email accompanying the PDF copies, a message requiring that the information in the directory not be shared outside the retiree membership. Cindy Brinker also asked about distributing print copies at other meetings, such as the August 17, 2021, gathering at Turoni's.

New Business

- The "Not Back to School Gathering" at Turoni's on Main is still scheduled for August 17, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., but with the surge of the COVID Delta variant and need for masks, we may see smaller attendance numbers or even cancellation. Cindy volunteered to take email RSVPs, and let people know if the event must be cancelled.
- Marlene will contact John Baburnich in August for eligible Fall scholarship students' names. She would like to have a random drawing not based on "pick a number from X to Y", or some other more fair method. Cindy asked if we make any distinction between students seeking bachelor's or master's degrees. We might consider an emphasis on bachelor's degrees because many pursuing them are support staff, with perhaps more financial need. USI is also

reimbursed more by the state for undergraduate degrees. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that we reserve four scholarships for undergraduates, with one for advanced degree seekers. In the past, any employee taking any class would be considered, but from now on, we'll ask only for names of those who are degree-seeking.

- The next council meeting is September 16, 2021, at 3 p.m. If needed, the format will return to Zoom. Joanne Artz mentioned that she will be out of town that week, and unable to take minutes. The September meeting is the time for constructing the slate of officers and new two-year term Council members to be voted upon during the November General Meeting. Please ensure permission from anyone you wish to submit for nomination. Only paid members may serve on the Council; dues run from July 1 to June 30, so a retiree whose name is on the slate presented at the November meeting may pay their fee then if needed. Tim Mahoney suggested that future issues of the *Vintage Times* carry a small notice soliciting leadership and expertise with a seat on the Council.

Other Business: Tim suggested that in addition to the card and flowers that were sent to Wanda Hibbitts for her 100th birthday, campus could extend an invitation for her to visit campus for a tour, photos, and perhaps media coverage. Not only was this a milestone birthday, but she was a founding member of her department. Would it be Foundation, the RCOB, or other USI entity to steer this? We also need to be sure Dr. Hibbitts would be interested and able to participate.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne R. Artz, Secretary