

Northwest Retiree Association Board  
Summer Meeting  
July 21, 2020  
Zoom Meeting 2-3 pm

Attendees: Jim Eiswert, Rego Jones, Jolaine Zweifel, Richard Fulton, Ray Courter, Brenda Untiedt

Agenda:

1) NWRA Elections – postponed.....what to do?

- After much discussion, it was decided to leave things as they are until it is safe enough for all to meet again. This mean extending all the officers and board members terms until that time we are able to meet and vote in person.
- At this point in time we can't see reasonably having an in person meeting until next spring and of course it would all be determine on covid 19 status at that time.
- Since we are at the beginning of a new fiscal year it would be time for members to pay their dues again. But since we will not be doing any activities at this time we will forgo the dues for this fiscal year and just update everyone's membership through the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- Ray reported there is \$1259.65 in the treasury.

2) Activities? What to do? Education piece- Zoom?

- a. Jim will ask in his next email if anyone is interested in meeting on Zoom to do educational meetings
- b. He will also ask if anyone is interested in being a presenter.
- c. If there seems to be interest in this then we will try to organize something.

3) (From Rosalie concerning Ron) I wanted to let everyone know that **Ron Heller** has really been struggling since before Christmas. He has been diagnosed with Myasthenia gravis and originally his tongue was numb. He thought he had a stroke but didn't. Then he couldn't swallow or eat and lost 40lbs. They tried many medications for weeks and he finally got a feeding tube which slowed down his weight loss and weakness. He has started infusions that are very, very expensive and he only has Medicare. He has been off and on in the hospital. His right foot and ankles swelled up very badly and he had to spend a couple months in the nursing home till swelling and infection got better. He was injured at 8 years old in a farming

accident and had a limb his whole life. He worked at Northwest 44 years even thought he never complained about his foot. Until he retired at 70 years old. His leg did not improve so had his foot cut off below the knee. He hopes to have it heal in 3 month and get a prosthetic and be able to walk again. If you want to send him a card please do so at 401 E. 1st, Maryville, MO 64468 .

One thing I hope you might touch base about -- Ron Heller is ill and medical expenses are quite high. I understand that NW is working on a fundraising event for Ron but I haven't heard any details and it has been several weeks since this information was shared with me. I don't know who might be doing the planning either. Has anyone heard anything? This would be something where we could help.

- 4) **Paul Falcone** passed away last Saturday. Do we want to create some kind of response from NWRA for members that are ill and/or who have passed on?
  - a. Jim inquires if we should put something place to respond to illnesses and death notices for members in the NWRA?
  - b. Discussion led to a yes.
  - c. Brenda will be checking if the university could produce/print stock cards for the NWRA to send for both sympathy for a passing member and get well wishes for a member who has taken ill.
  - d. Brenda can alert us when a death notification is received. Illness alerts would have to come from members who know of the situation.
  - e. Jim's next email to include the addresses for both Ron Heller and Paul Falcone.
  
- 5) (From Sue and Ray) - I was talking to Ray Courter the other day and shared an idea that he liked a lot. Would it be possible to have the **Retired Faculty and Staff Happy Hour** via Zoom video conferencing? I have a license that lets us stay on as long as we want. I know that people like Karen don't have computers but maybe they could use their phone to join us? We just have to schedule it and send everyone the link. We could bring our own beverages and at least visit for a bit? I think people need to stay socially engaged during this time of pandemic.
  - a. We will try a Zoom Happy Hour on Friday, August 14 from 4 to 6.
  - b. We will need to get people to sign up to attend so we know who to send the Zoom invitation to.
  
- 6) (From Sue) - I also am in need of some **help with my Therapeutic Recreation Interventions with the Elderly** (don't take that personally) class this fall. This class is usually taught at Parkdale Care Center but with the COVID thing we can't get in there this fall. So...I'm having to improvise. I need 8-9 volunteers who have access to online video chat (Skype, Zoom, etc) to help me on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4 pm. I was

hoping maybe some of the retired faculty and staff might be able to help me?? If you are interested, please email me at [susanm@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:susanm@nwmissouri.edu). Thanks so much!!

- a. Yes, we are willing to spread the word that Sue M would like our assistance for her class this fall.
- b. We will have members contact Sue directly to her email.

#### 7) NWRA Scholarship

- a. Should we try to establish the scholarship now?
- b. We should wait until there is enough in the fund to make a perpetual scholarship.
- c. Brenda believes the minimum is \$25,000.
- d. Jim will announce we are starting the research for the case for the scholarship and solicit ate ideas from membership.
- e. Rego Jones said he would head the subcommittee to do the homework on the case for the scholarship. He will have to meet with Lori Steiner to get the parameters clear.

#### 8) Membership and Email

- a. Jim will work with Brenda to update the official list for email and snail mail of the NW retiree membership.
- b. Anytime a communication is to be made to the membership, always get the most up-to-date membership list of emails from Brenda.
- c. Brenda will email out the upcoming letter from Jim and will also send paper copy to members with no email address.
- d. Jolaine to make screen recording to show members how to forward email received in the Northwest Account to an account outside of Northwest.

Membership can answer questions in the email by visiting the [online form](#).