



Northwest Retiree Association

General Meeting: 4 p.m. August 22, 2025 in Valk 40

Present:

Board Members: Robert Dewhirst (President), Sue Wood (Vice President and What's Up this Week/Month), Theo Ross (Treasurer), Karen Schaffer (Member-at-large), John Shaw (Member-at-large), Janice Brandon-Falcone (Member-at-large), Rosalie Weathermon (Past President)

Board Members Absent: Nancy Farlow (Member-at-large), Jim Eiswert (Member-at-Large)
Members: Ray Courter, Barbara Nelson, Ken Nelson, Joel Benson, Michael Hobbs, Debbie Clark, Rebecca Dunnell, Margaret Drew, David McLaughlin

Ex-officio: Brenda Untiedt (Foundation—primary contact for NWRA)

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.
- II. Welcome – NWRA President Bob Dewhirst with a special welcome to new retiree (Michael Hobbs).
- III. Approval of Agenda (approved by the Board online)
- IV. Minutes of the May 6, 2025 meeting were approved online by members attending that meeting.
- V. Treasurer's Report – Theo Ross (See Below) (John—moved approval, Janice—seconded, and passed unanimously)
 - Motion to move \$1,000 from NWRA Operating Fund to Scholarship Fund. (David—moved approval, John—seconded, and passed unanimously)
 - This school year, the Empowering Dreams event will be a luncheon in November. This is where an office of NWRA meets with the scholarship recipient.
- VI. Old Business:
 1. Brief reviews of outings/events held since the last general meeting:
Joel Benson's Lunch and Learn, Andrew County Museum tour led by Linda and Phil Heeler, visited Voices and Votes Democracy in America presented by the Smithsonian Institution, John Shaw presentation on AI, and tour of the McKemy Center.
 2. Committee reports—
 - a. Events planning (Karen Schaffer)
See Off Campus Outings under agenda item VII
 - b. Correspondence with new members and thank you notes to scholarship donors (Janice Falcone)
 - Brenda will send Janice a list of people who donate to the scholarship so she can write thank you notes to them.
 - There was discussion about how to make sure new retirees or people who are approaching retirement know about NWRA. In the past, the Provost's Office has sent

Christine a list of faculty who have announced their intention to retire, and Christine has sent them an email inviting them to join. Several years ago, Human Resources told Christine they were not allowed to send her a list of staff who were planning to retire, but they could put the letter in their retirement packet. When Christine asked if an NWRA representative could do a 5-10 minute presentation at the Pre-retirement Meetings provided to NW faculty and staff, she was told that the schedule was full but they would share a letter. These are all important contacts Christine had initiated and last year asked to be taken over by a Board Member-at-Large, offering to share her written instructions and mentor the lead person. We need to have a Board meeting so we can get this set up.

- Results of other discussion:

1. Ray will work with Brenda and the Foundation (not Mark Hornickel because we are not a university organization) to update the brochure (the fun things we do and the money we raise for students), get it printed and placed in appropriate places, including the retirement packets. Jody Strauch and the Foundation may have students who can help with the layout, pictures, etc.
2. Janice will talk with Jody Strauch to see if she can get a feature article promoting NWRA—who we are and how we give back.
3. Brenda will ask again about someone speaking at the Pre-retirement Meetings.
4. Brenda will ask HR if she is allowed to send Christine the contact information for people who either retired or are about to retire each month.

- c. Benefits updates (John Shaw)

John will give an update around December, once he knows the changes in MO and US.

- d. Art auction for scholarship (Janice Falcone)

Janice and Rosalie are still exploring possibilities for an art auction.

VII. New Business/Announcements/Upcoming Events:

1. Should we invite President Tatum to a special meeting to explain how events in Jefferson City and Washington D.C. are affecting Northwest? (No, since we have no influence over it.)
2. Possible Homecoming activities. (Activities in the past have not been fruitful, so we don't want to do anything this year.)
3. Lunch and Learn classes
 - a. Joel will do a Lunch and Learn: WWII starting about Jan. 18, 2026. Janice will lead two of those sessions.)
 - b. Rosalie will do a few sessions on Conception Abby--its history and impact on the region.
4. Off campus outings, tours or activities
 - a. Ask Rob Voss to do a presentation on the nation-wide program he was accepted to concerning using AI in education. (Janice)
 - b. Visit Walter Cronkite Museum on the campus of Missouri Western (Karen)
 - c. Visit Backyard Vinyard (around harvest?) (Joel)
 - d. Visit Angie Cake Bakery in Barnard, MO (Rosalie)
 - e. Visit Karen From's A Little Bit of Leaven Bakery in Maryville, MO (Sue Wood)
 - f. Do a Wednesday matinee at New Theater Restaurant in Overland Park, KS (Christine)

VIII. Membership List: (73 paid members as of 8/22/2025—29 Lifetime, 44 Regular)

- The latest list is available today from Theo Ross or Christine Benson.
 - If you are not a lifetime member, dues cover July 1 – June 30. Online, go to: www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/nwretirees , then *Renew*; or see Theo Ross.
- IX. Next General Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for 4 p.m., in mid-November, 2025, in a room to be determined.
- X. Adjournment (David—moved, John—seconded)— 4:45 p.m.

NWRA Treasurer's Report
April 1, 2025- July 31, 2025

Operating Fund

Balance April 1, 2025		\$6,281.06
Income	\$55	
Expenses	\$570	
	Food and beverage - \$450	
	Org Membership. - \$120	
Balance June 30, 2025		\$5,766.06
Income	\$480	
Expenses	0	

Balance July 31, 2025 **\$6,246.06**

Dues of \$210 were collected on August Fridays. They have been given to the Foundation but have not been recorded.

Scholarship Fund

Balance April 1, 2025		\$5,765.73
*Income	\$3,374.66	
Expenses	\$5.04	
Balance June 30, 2025		\$9,135.35
Income	\$73	
Expenses	0	

Balance July 31, 2025 **\$9,208.35**

*Northwest Day of Green \$2,900.00