

Northwest Retiree Association

General Meeting: 4 p.m. Nov. 13, 2025 in Rm. 118 of Valk Hall

Present:

Board Members: Robert Dewhirst (President), Christine Benson (Secretary), Theo Ross (Treasurer), Karen Schaffer (Member-at-large), Jim Eiswert (Member-at-Large), Janice Brandon-Falcone (Member-at-large), Nancy Farlow (Member-at-large--Membership), Rosalie Weathermon (Past President)

Ex-officio: Duane Havard

Members: Joel Benson, Ken Nelson, Barbara Nelsen, Channing Horner, Louise Horner

Board Members Absent: Sue Wood (Vice President and What's Up this Week/Month), John Shaw (Member-at-large), and Pat Lucido (Member-At-Large)

Minutes

- I. Call To Order—4:00 PM by Bob
- II. Approval of Agenda--approved by the Board via email. (Minutes of the Sept. 16 General Meeting Minutes were approved via email.)
- III. Treasurer's Report—Theo Ross

Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship Fund

Balance Aug. 1, 2025	\$ 9,178.02
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Income

Aug.	\$	1,000 (transfer from NWRA operations)
Sept.	\$	1,319.93 (\$850 in cash contributions)
Oct.	\$	10,000.00 (cash contribution)

Expenses

Aug.	\$	0.00
Sept.	\$	6.83
Oct.	\$	500.00

Balance Oct. 31, 2025	\$20,991.12
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Operating Fund

Balance Aug. 1, 2025	\$ 6,246.06
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Income

Aug.	\$	545 (cash – membership dues)
Sept.	\$	65 (cash – membership dues)
Oct.	\$	10 (cash – membership dues)

Expenses

Aug.	\$	1,000 (transfer to scholarship)
Sept.	\$	0
Oct.	\$	0

Balance Oct. 31, 2025	\$ 5,866.06
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- Out of respect for privacy, Theo will not give the name of the person who made the \$10,000 donation to the *Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship* fund, but he will let us know if he gets permission.
- Duane will work with Brenda to get the names of all donors to the *Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship* and give them to Janice Falcone.

IV. New Business

1. Report from the Northwest Alumni Association—Duane Havard, NWRA Liaison
 - A. Duane passed out Annual Giving Pledge Forms and invitations to Holiday Cheer, December 4th from 2 to 5 at The Faust Center for Alumni & Friends. (Christine will send the invitation to Sue so she can put it in What's Up This Week, and Rosalie will put it on Facebook.)
 - B. He passed out the updated brochure (Thank you, Nancy and Brenda).
 - C. If we have any requests, we must go through Duane. He will forward to Brenda or other employees, if necessary.
 - D. He summarized the timing and processes for renovations to Martindale (done by May), and the total gutting and renovation of the Administration Building (out of building by mid Dec., 7 to 12 months, target for completion is Spring 2027).
2. GoDaddy site: since no one wants to manage/update it, we don't have much traffic on the site, and we now have an active Facebook page to share information. Janice moved that we discontinue the GoDaddy site, put the Calendar information on Facebook, and ask Duane to put presentation recordings and other appropriate resources on the Northwest Alumni/Retirees page. (Joel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.)
3. Upcoming classes:
 - A. Joel Benson will lead Lunch and Learn: WWII on Tuesdays, starting Jan. 13, from noon to 1:00 in the conference room of The Faust Center for Alumni & Friends. Janice will teach two of these sessions covering The Homefront.
 - B. At the meeting, someone said John Shaw is not interested in teaching more on astronomy/space telescopes. However, John sent Christine an email saying that was an error. He would be happy to do another presentation. Christine will send a link of NASA's Twenty Images from the Telescope to Sue and Rosalie, so they can put it on What's Up This Week and Facebook.
 - C. Janice invited Megan Kosmann to give a talk on Immigration and her Border Experience. The presentation will be Dec. 2 at 1:30 p.m. Janice will ask Duane about finding a room and provide him with information so he can ask Mark Hornickel about advertising to a larger audience. (Janice moved, Jim 2nd, approved unanimously)
4. Distance Outings: tours and/or activities
 - A. New Theatre production and meal: Bob has a brochure for New Theatre Restaurant, or people may look online. Let Bob know if there is one you want to go see.
 - B. Bakery Tour: Sue Wood will organize a tour of Karen From's A Bit of Leaven Artisanal Bakery & School (33928 Ideal Rd., Maryville, MO 64468) sometime in February 2026.

- C. Panel presentation on caregivers helping loved ones: Janice, Theo, and Bob will coordinate a panel to discuss resources for primary caregivers of spouses and parents. (Names mentioned to approach were Andrea, Mike, Jerry, and ask John Shaw how Medicare/Medicaid helps cover costs in 2026.) We could encourage people to watch the Netflix movie called *The Fundamentals of Caring*. Bob will talk to Duane about asking for an article in *Northwest This Week* and *Northwest Digest* (possibly the *Maryville Forum*) so we can offer this to a wider audience. Rosalie will check into resources from AROHE and a documentary by Bradley Cooper and will share them with Janice and Theo.

5. Happy Hours:

- A. To encourage more participation: Sue will

- Set up times for other NW Happy Hours (not in Maryville), to Zoom in for at least a few minutes so we can say hello to other NWRetirees across the country.
- Contact the new coffee shop in Maryville, New Haven Coffee and Goods, and set up a 3rd Fridays Happy Hour there.

For both of these situations, it would be good to try to ask what times would be convenient for the targeted people, rather than ask those who already come.

- B. Coupons: Joel moved to discontinue the use of coupons since very few people used them and they were a hassle to keep track of. (Janice 2nd, passed unanimously)
- C. Jim made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to keep a petty cash fund, collected from donations for snacks, to reimburse people who request it after buying snacks. (Janice 2nd, passed unanimously)

V. Old Business

1. The Rob Voss' presentation on the use of AI in education was great.
2. The Cronkite Museum Tour was great.
3. John Shaw sat with the recipient of the *Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship* at the Powering Dreams Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 7th, a celebration that allowed donors to connect with their scholarship recipients. The recipient is a senior, Psychology major who hopes to attend Law School.
4. People who have not renewed their memberships after 2 years will be dropped from the NWRA membership list.

VI. The next General Meeting, where we will elect new officers, is tentatively scheduled for 4:00, Thursday, May 7 (or May 14) somewhere on campus. Bob will talk to Duane about finding a room and scheduling.

VII. Adjournment—4:58 p.m.