

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting August 29, 2024 Minutes  
Held in person and Zoom**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on August 29, 2024 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:00 am.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:**

Members attending: Harvey Sterns, Mary Verstraete, Linda Sugarman, Robert Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, Richard Milford, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Tom Vukovich, Rita Klein, Dan Sheffer, Diane Vukovich, George Haritos, Doug Hausknecht, Richard Steiner, Tom Nichols, Bob Huff

Absent: Kathy DuBose, Carl Leiberman

**III. Approval of Minutes:** Two corrections were identified: Mary Verstraete was Absent and the wording under New Business 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence was changed to “Other people to consider for the future are Bob Huff, Deb Owens and Martin Murphy. Mary Verstraete moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Richard Steiner seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report:** Dan passed out copies of the June and July Treasurer’s Reports. Harvey thanked John Heminger for his 6 years of service as Treasurer.

Rita Klein moved to accept the Treasurer’s report, Tom Vukovich seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

**June 2024**

- UA Account income: Membership dues \$210.00
- UA Account expenses: Book Scholarship \$250.00
- Petty Cash income: from T. Vukovich for Lobster & Suds \$109.20
- Petty Cash expenses: to T. Vukovich for Helpers’ gift cards \$120.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$12,754.80*	\$152.48	\$12,907.28*
Income	\$210.00	\$109.20	\$319.20
Expenses	\$250.00	\$120.00	\$370.00
Final balance	\$12,714.80**	\$141.68	\$12,856.48*
Final Balance			
June 2023	\$10,540.33*	\$235.38	\$10,775.71*

\* These include dues payments for future years.

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**July 2024**

UA Account income: Membership dues \$11110.00  
 UA Account expenses: \$0.00.  
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00  
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$12,714.80*	\$141.68	\$12,856.48*
Income	\$1,110.00	\$0.00	\$1,110.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Final balance	\$13,824.80*	\$141.68	\$13,966.48*
Final Balance			
April 2023	\$12,720.33*	\$235.38	\$12,955.71*

\* These include dues payments for future years.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman had no report. She did mention that Diane Lazzerini’s husband had been attacked and the Board suggested she send a Thinking of You card to him.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom Vukovich reported that a full slate of speaker has been set for the Fall

**9/18** Dr. Gregory Wilson – The Green Book in Akron: A Collaborative Project in Restorative History

**10/16** Dr. Richard Steiner - Teaching and Touring in Portugal

**11/20** Dr. Cherie Strahan – The 2024 Election, Implications for Ohio and the Nation

**12/18** Dr. R.J. Nemer – State of the University

Tom also mentioned that on 9/18 and 10/16, the Press Club Roundtable will also be meeting at Quaker Station, so parking may be a bit crowded.

Dan Sheffer mentioned he would send out a reminder to the membership about parking – both for the lunches and permits in general. The parking office (UAkron Park) can be reached at 330-972-7213.

It was suggested that Dave Liebert would be a good person to bring in to discuss the Akron Bicentennial.

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**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported we will be contacting 194 members by USPS regarding their membership along with an updated brochure. At this time, 117 members have paid their membership dues compared to 175 last year at the same time.

Dan suggested sending another e-mail reminder. Mel suggested it be sent like the others from the University for consistency. Harvey offered to speak to Kim Cole but Mel thought it was OK for now.

**C. Political Action:** Bob Gandee reported that the interim report from Jerry Newsome (Dan had emailed this to the Board previously) indicated that things were a “trainwreck”. Another politician had suggested consolidating all the state retiree systems. The firefighters union has rejected it. We need to worry about politicians getting involved more in the future.

Bob reported that the next OCHER meeting would take place on September 23<sup>th</sup> under the new leadership of MaryAnn Anderson, the new president.

**D. Benefits:** Linda Sugarman reported that when a few retirees tried to register for parking, they found they were already registered with UAkronPark.

Parking was emailed to clarify whether or not retirees needed to register with parking. Linda didn't think they understood the question as they did not reply to the main question.

Due to a lack of space in the newsletter, a single comment was included that indicated if a retiree was unsure of their parking status, they should call parking at 330-972-7213 or email them at [parking@uakron.edu](mailto:parking@uakron.edu). Retirees can register at [www.akronguest.thepermitstore.com](http://www.akronguest.thepermitstore.com) and will need to use their UANET ID.

**E. Faculty Senate:** The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on the first Thursday in September. Harvey will attend via Zoom and Doug Hausknecht will attend in person.

**F. University & Community Service/Website:** Dan Sheffer reported that the website was up to date and the parking instructions could be found under “Benefits”.

Dan stated that the listserv was functional but it still bounces back all AOL and Yahoo e-mails. There are 338 names on the e-mail, many of whom have complimentary memberships. He proposed that we send the newsletter to all P24 (“Paid through FY24”) and above.

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**G. Scholarship:** Interim Chair Rita Klein Reminded the Board that we need a new Scholarship Chair. She is still trying to get information on our 2024-2025 scholarship recipients.

Mel Vye reported that we had received \$942 for scholarships through our membership drive period.

**H. Newsletter:** Martha Vyereported that she submitted the final version of the newsletter and we should be receiving it soon. It is limited to 12 pages. Mel reported that it will include a note on how to check your membership status on the mailing label.

Harvey thanked Martha for all of her hard work. Martha, in turn, thanked Tom and Diane Vukovich for their timely reports of the luncheon speakers.

**VII. Old Business.**

Ad Hoc Reference Committee on By-Laws: Harvey Sterns, Dan Sheffer, Rita Klein and Carl Leiberman, Linda Sugarman, will meet in the next month.

**VIII. New Business.**

Mary Verstraete noted that she would begin the process to update the membership roster for 2024-2025 and will circulate it to the board.

Rita reminded everyone that the collection for the Campus Cupboard will happen at the October luncheon.

The new Board members introduced themselves:

George Haritos – Dean of the College of Engineering from 2003-2015 and a Professor until 2020. Prior to UA, he was in the USAF for 30 years.

Doug Hausknecht –A professor in the Department of Marketing from 1986-2018. He just stopped teaching part-time in July. He helped the student create Remembrance Day.

Bob Huff – Taught in the School of Art 1980-2015 and was a past School Director.

**IX. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.

**Respectfully Submitted: Mary C. Verstraete, Recording Secretary**

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**The next meeting of the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for September 26, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.**