

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting March 24 2022 Minutes  
Held in person and via Zoom**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on **March 24 2022** at 10:00 am by President Rita Klein.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:** Rita welcomed in-person attendees and requested they speak distinctly and clearly toward the microphone so Zoom attendees could hear the proceedings. She asked for volunteers to handle registration and the 50/50 raffle for the April 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon featuring Dr. Gerry Newsom, retiree representative to the STRS Board. John Heminger and Mary Verstraete will do registration and [unknown] will do the 50/50 raffle.

Members attending: Jo Ann Collier, Bob Gandee, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman (audio), Tom Nichols, Dan Sheffer, Laura Moss-Spitler (Zoom), Dick Steiner (Zoom), Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich.

Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards .Absent: Tim Lillie

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 24 2022 Board meeting were approved as distributed with correction of meeting date in the header from February 27<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup> and addition of April 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting to listing of upcoming board meetings on final page.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report.** John Heminger reported:

**February 2022**

UA Account income: dues \$84.00, luncheon proceeds \$513.00.

UA Account expenses: luncheon \$454.23.

Petty Cash income: \$0.00.

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00.

|                 | UA Account | Petty Cash | Totals     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Initial balance | \$8247.60  | \$243.99   | \$8491.59  |
| Income          | \$597.00   | \$0.00     | \$597.00   |
| Expenses        | \$454.23   | \$0.00     | \$454.23   |
| Final balance   | \$8,390.37 | \$243.99   | \$8,634.36 |
|                 |            |            |            |

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|                      |           |         |           |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| <b>February 2021</b> |           |         |           |
| Final balance        | \$8672.03 | \$79.40 | \$8751.43 |

The report was approved subject to audit.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported she sent a card of condolence to the family of Leona Farris. A second get well card was sent to Bob Mravetz. Tom and Diane Vukovich attended calling hours for his deceased wife. A thinking of you card was sent to Jay Hershey at Concordia. A get well card was sent to Diane Lazzarini.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom & Diane Vukovich reported:

1. April 20 Wednesday Luncheon program (in-person) Dr. Gerald Newsom, OSU faculty retiree, OCHER representative to STRS board speaking about his perspective of STRS pension management. A short general membership meeting will be held immediately afterward. The presentation and meeting will not be available virtually but will be recorded and made available later.
2. May 20 Friday - Special Event. Lobster and Suds at Zwisler Hall St Sebastian's Catholic Church.
3. April 22 A road trip to downtown Canton is just about finalized. The guided tour includes city history, public art, visits to the McKinley Monument, the National First Ladies Library, the Saxton House, McKinley's historic church, an art gallery, and the Canton Palace Theater. Lunch will be at Bender's Tavern. Further details will be provided with the request for reservations which will be distributed soon.
4. March 16 program by Dave Lieberth was well received. A description has been sent to Martha Vye for inclusion in the newsletter.
5. The Fall Soup and Chili event will be held Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Goodyear Metro Park in the West Room. Everyone will be asked to contribute \$5.

**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported that he and Dan are still revising the spreadsheet that tracks membership data. There are 249 active members paid through June 2022.

**Motion:** Members will now have the option to select a life membership at a cost of 10 times the yearly membership. Approved without dissent.

**Motion:** Members will now have the option of paying from 2 to 9 years in advance. Approved without dissent.

Further discussion ensued about the possibility of a dues increase. The discussion was tabled until the Fall.

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**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee reported on recent activities affecting pensions in STRS meetings. Dissension and competing views of different retiree groups is evident, notably SCRTA (Summit County Retired Teachers Association), the University of Cincinnati, and ORTA (Ohio Retired Teachers Association) about the need for ongoing COLAs is catching the eye of the legislature who are ignoring the section of the Ohio Revised Code which mandates maintenance of financial integrity of the pension system. The recent one-time 3% increase in the base pension will be reexamined next year. Election of retiree members on the STRS Board begins in April. We voters need to study the issues and views of the candidates carefully.

**D Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported:  
The University of Akron Press will offer AUAR members a 30% discount on books published by them. Details are published on the AUAR website. Parking tags will expire June 30 and will no longer be used. License plate numbers will be scanned instead. Procedures retirees will need to follow to register for parking services will be provided as soon as Linda clarifies them with Parking Services.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Harvey Sterns read excerpts of the transcript of the meeting and answered questions from board members: The full transcript may be viewed online. [from [www.uakron.edu/facultysenate/](http://www.uakron.edu/facultysenate/)]

**Proposals from the Academic Policy Committee**

1. Textbook auto-adopt policy. Approved
2. Eliminate requirement for SAT and ACT scores for admission to the University. Approved
3. Motion on Cyber Forensics. A required course has been eliminated and two substitution courses would enable students to meet graduation requirements. Approved

Other reports were received from CCTC, AAUP, Grad Council, USG, and UC reps.

**New Business:** A motion was presented to remove programs (not departments) with specialized, external accreditation from the program review cycle. Approved

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Sheffer reported he updates information as he receives it. He is looking at information on the listserve to make sure it is accurate. The UA email addresses given to retirees are changing as the university migrates to a new system.

**G. Scholarship.** Chair position is open. Dan Sheffer reviewed the account information available for the end of the fiscal year. An amount of \$5315.24 should

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be available. That amount plus additional carry over funds should enable the awarding of 3 scholarships.

**H. Newsletter.** Martha Vye reported the Fall newsletter is mailed in late August. She thanked Mary Verstraete for taking pictures at the February luncheon program. Suggestions for the conversation section are needed. Members offered several names and Martha will pursue.

**VII. Old Business.**

**Nominations Committee.** The following slate of candidates is being brought forward by the Nominations Committee:

|                          |                    |           |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Vice President           | Cathy Edwards      | 2 yr term |
| Treasurer                | John Heminger      | 2 yr term |
| Recording Secretary      | Mary C. Verstraete | 2 yr term |
| Corresponding Secretary  | Linda Sugarman     | 2 yr term |
| Public Relations Officer | Martha Vye         | 2 yr term |

Members at large of Executive Board

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Dick Steiner      | 2 yr term |
| Mary Schadle      | 2 yr term |
| Connie Heldenfels | 2 yr term |

**Black, Brown and Beyond Male Summit 2022:** Rita will attend on April 8<sup>th</sup> and deliver the \$250 book scholarship to the winning student at the luncheon.

**VIII. New Business.** None

**IX. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

**Respectfully submitted:**  
**JoAnn Collier, Recording Secretary**

**Next meeting will be April 28 2022 in person/via Zoom at 10:00am in Infocision Board Room**

- Meeting Schedule for 2021-22:
  - 2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2
  - 2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
    - Photos of the board taken at the June meeting