MU Retirees Association Representing University of Missouri Retirees since 1990

SEPTEMBER 2

New leader, same goals: Keep MURA active, strong



Ina Linville

Dear MURA members,

We move forward as an organization as we navigate the continuing pandemic challenge. It is our every attempt to serve members in the healthiest manner.

We serve our members guided by the MURA objectives. They are:

 Advocate by amplifying the voice of retirees as we work with the university decision-makers, actively serve on the Total Rewards Advisory Committee and having ombudspersons work through issues with our members.

Facebook.

- newsletters, our website

 https://mura-missouri.com/
 page MU Retirees Association MURA
- Educate and socialize through our breakfasts, socials and town halls. See the Upcoming Events listing on Page 12.
- Contribute to the university family by monitoring and promoting UM interests with elected and appointed leaders and raising awareness of the generosity of retirees' support of time, talent and treasure to the

university. We contribute to our community by highlighting the service of MURA members to the community.

This newsletter highlights the contributions of our MURA members to enhance the education, learning and enrichment of our community. Please see articles beginning on Page 5 as we feature the work of just a few of our members.

MURA would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Ruth Tofle, who led MURA for two years during the uncertainty of COVID-19. Her warm and con-

stant communication kept the organization flourishing during challenging times.

Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who have agreed to lead and serve the organization this coming year. We have 30 returning board members and six new board members. I am so grateful for the investment of the board members as they help MURA serve you. See leadership roster and commit-

tee members on Pages 10 and 11.

On a personal note, I'm honored and excited to serve as your 2022-23 MURA president.

Thank you. My best.

— Ina

Ina Linville MURA president 573-639-0599 LinvilleI@missouri.edu



Important update before annual benefits enrollment begins

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MURA members support learning and enrichment in the local community

p. 5

MURA fiscal health enables new investment and contribution to the scholarship fund

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mura-missouri.com

Be sure to see the health benefits update on p. 2!

Annual Enrollment is Oct. 24 to Nov. 4, with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2023.

There will be a **UM systemwide town hall for retirees** focused on our health benefits plan from **10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18**. It will be conducted via Zoom and will also be recorded for future viewings.

Annual health benefits enrollment starts soon

By Betsy Garrett

Retirement, Health & Other Benefits representative

SOON WE NEED TO BE THINKING about our 2023 health benefits for retirees. Look for your personalized letter regarding annual enrollment to arrive by the end of September/early October.

Annual Enrollment is Oct. 24 to Nov. 4, with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2023.

There will be a UM systemwide town hall for retirees focused on our health benefits plan from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18. It will be conducted via Zoom and will also be recorded for future viewings.

Marshall Stewart, from UM System Engagement and Outreach, will moderate a panel of speakers to answer questions about retirees benefits.

There will be representatives from the human resources staff as well as from United Health Care Medicare Advantage Plan, the vision plan and the dental plan.

Questions may be submitted ahead of time to help the panelists know what issues are top on your mind. Please stay tuned for more information about submitting questions and the meeting details.

What's new

For retirees currently enrolled in the University Dental Plan, a second dental plan option - called the Dental Buy Up Plan will be available to select during Annual Enrollment.

Both plans offer the same coverage for preventive, basic and major services. The Buy Up Plan expands coverage to also include orthodontics benefits from a network orthodontist, a lower deductible and a higher annual maximum. The university subsidizes the Dental Base Plan, and the retiree is responsible for the amount above the subsidized plan.

The university will be transitioning vision coverage from Eyemed to VSP effective Jan. 1, 2023. The change maintains the same level of vision coverage as in previous years, and VSP offers additional benefits of blue light care and no-copay for progressive lenses. VSP does not issue ID cards.

The UM Benefits Office is offering telemeetings to answer questions about the health benefits plans on Oct. 6 and Oct. 11. These will be accessible by telephone and details on times and how to call will be included in your personalized Annual Enrollment letter.

Start thinking now about nominees for Chancellor's awards for 2023

By Dick Otto, MURA Awards Committee co-chair

ALTHOUGH THE DEADLINE for submission is not until March 1, 2023, it's not too early to start thinking about nominating a fellow retiree for the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards.

The MURA Awards Committee assists the chancellor in identifying university retirees deserving of recognition for their accomplishments post-retirement. Each year since 1990, the chancellor has recognized both a retired faculty and a staff member for their volunteer efforts with the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award.

To be eligible for the 2023 awards, a retiree must have retired from the university before Jan. 1, 2018, not previously received the award, nor is a member of the MURA Awards Committee. MURA membership is not a requirement to be a recipient.

For a sneak peek of the application, go to https:// mura-missouri.com/chancellors-retiree-of-the-yearawards/.

The awards are typically presented at an event hosted by the chancellor's office sometime in the spring. Awardees are expected to attend this event.

Recipients receive a certificate from the chancellor and a \$1,000 check, and their names are inscribed on the plaque of all awardees. It is permanently displayed in the lobby of Jesse Auditorium.

For now, just start thinking about who you will be nominating for these awards. More information on the nomination process will be shared in a future MURA News issue. Nominations may be submitted by past and present students, faculty, staff and other community entities. Talk it up with your family and friends, and let's see if we can get recognition for campus/hospital/extension retirees deserving of these awards.

If you have a question regarding an individual's eligibility for this award, send me an e-mail at OttoR@ missouri.edu with Retiree-Award in the subject line. We will check it out for you!

Budget analysis reports a healthy picture of MURA finances

By Donna Johanning **MURA** treasurer

THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the MU Retirees Association as of Jan. 31, 2022, reflects a cash balance at \$6,345.63.

Receipts are at 53% of the projected budget, but most disbursements remain under budget as the organization cautiously returns to in-person social events and meetings.

There has been a buildup of cash on hand the last two years due to the limited events and meetings that were held.

The Finance Committee met in November of 2021 to review our cash position and propose actions for the distribution of these excess funds. The committee's recommendations were presented to the MURA Board at the January 2022 meeting and were accepted as follows:

- \$4,000 donation to the university for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship
- \$4,000 to be transferred to the Vanguard investment fund to increase the balance held in the fund, which will result in an increase in the annual income to the organization. This income is the main source of revenue supporting the yearly expenditures of the organization and provides stability to the annual budget.

The cash balance after these two recommendations were met is at a level consistent with our balances in 2018 and 2019.

See page 4 for a full accounting of MURA funds for fiscal year 2022.



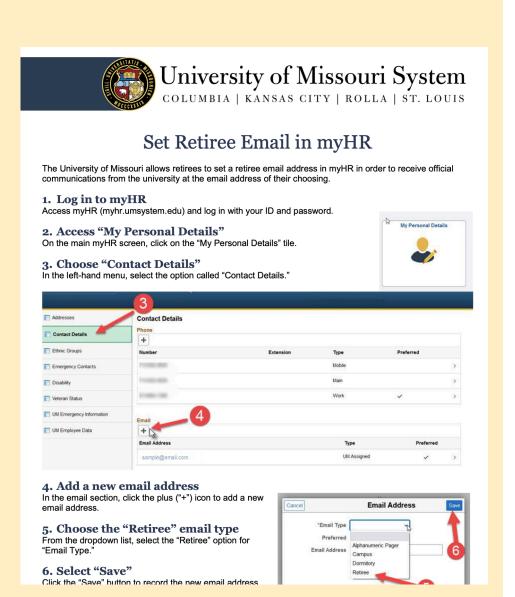
Retirees need to update email address on myHR

ALL RETIREES ARE ENCOURAGED to

log in to myHR to make sure their contact information is correct in order to receive university communications, including those related to Medicare insurance.

Annual Enrollment will be Oct. 24 to Nov. 4. Retirees will receive detailed information regarding the enrollment in the mail at their home address at the beginning of October. Please review and update your contact information as needed in myHR or email HRSC.

At right is a screen shot of the stepby-step process to help retirees update their information.



MURA Budget to Actual Analysis Fiscal Year 2022

Operating Activities Supported by Member Dues and Investment Income: Receipts		Budget Fiscal Year 2023	Budget Fiscal Year 2022	Actual Fiscal Year thru 6/30/22	%age FY 2022 Budget
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Donation to MURA					
Sponsorships			-	•	124.57%
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Fall Information meeting	Disbursements				
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Flagship Council	Fall Information meeting	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
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MURA members contribute widely to supporting a better community





Ina Linville

By Ina Linville **MURA** president

THE 4-H MOTTO, "Learn by Doing," seems to summarize the generous time and talents MURA members contribute to agencies and organizations by helping citizens of all ages grow and learn.

When we help others learn and grow, we cannot help but discover and learn new things ourselves. If you know of my career with 4-H Youth Development, it's easy to deduce why I feel so emotionally attached and supportive of MURA members who help the community by volunteering.

MURA volunteerism in the key objective of "Education and Enrichment" is the focus of this edition of MURA News. Read on to find out about many of our members' contributions.

The agencies and organizations in Boone County can use your gift of time and talent. If you find you have time to volunteer, check out COMO Gives at comogives.com/donate.

It is also a helpful place to find out information about agencies and organizations that make our community a better

Check out ways to volunteer at Columbia's community library

WHEN ONE THINKS OF EDUCATION and learning. the Daniel Boone Regional Library comes to the forethought. Several MURA members serve on the DBRL Foundation. When I was able to catch up with a few of them, all were enthusiastic about the breadth and quality of services offered at the library.

Jacqueline Kelly is an avid reader and has always used libraries. She likes that the library not only serves Columbia but reaches out into the county through the Bookmobile. A smile was brought to Jacqueline's face when she went to visit her mother-in-law in an assisted living facility and saw the library van out front.

"The public library is one of the gems of the community," Jacqueline says.

Kee Groshong serves as treasurer of the foundation. Melia Douglass, development manager at DBRL, says she appreciates his watchful eye and knowledgeable communication with the banks concerning investments.

Kee praised the breadth of programming from children to adults and added his appreciation for the community's generous support of the library.

"Columbia is a better place all around because of the DBRL," he says.

Jane Biers also serves on the DBRL Foundation, and she is delighted with the reading incentive programs for children. The foundation provided \$6,000 in funding for free books and reading incentives. Children who complete a DBRL tour or special program receive a coupon for a free book. Approximately 328 children and their caregivers came to the library last year and experienced the joy of choosing a free book for their home library.

Bill Bondeson, another MURA member, has served on the DBRL Foundation for several years. He recruited Kee to be on foundation. One of MURA's newest members, Nancie Hawke, serves on the foundation board as well.

The DBRL Foundation grants fund for additional initiatives and services. Last year's total was \$72,000.

In addition to the \$6,000 for the free book program, the foundation added \$30,500 to buy more books and materials for circulation; purchased a subscription service to support students online learning with \$21,000; provided \$7,000 for an online self-paced curriculum for adults to earn their high school diploma, \$2,500 for a political science database and materials and \$1,000 for fiber arts materials.

The community is truly generous to the Daniel Boone Regional Library, and it delivers.

— Ina Linville, MURA president



Several MURA members serve on the Daniel Boone Regional Library Foundation Board. Four of them, from left, are Jane Biers, Kee Groshong, Jacqueline Kelly and Nancie Hawke.



Not sure what to do with your time? Follow their lead to Osher@Mizzou.

MURA AND OSHER@MIZZOU are partners in spirit and in action. We share the goal of lifelong learning, and we share members. When you are a part of Osher@Mizzou, there are many ways to serve.

Four examples of members from our two communities are Georgia Morehouse from the Division of Animal Sciences, Bob Churchill from the School of Medicine, Barbara Churchill from MU Health Care and Val Germann from Laws Observatory at the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Georgia, Bob, and Barbara recently "retired" from the Osher Advisory Council after serving for many years. Their generosity of time, and most importantly ideas, judgement and guidance have helped Osher flourish from its inception in 2002 to its transition in 2021 from in-person classes to its current hybrid format accommodating in-person and online preferences.

These volunteers and others have created a learning and social community desired and valued by Osher members.

Their volunteerism also extends widely.

Georgia was MU Staff Volunteer of the Year in 2008 and devotes much of her energy to Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Trinity Presbyterian Church and The Wardrobe. She is the founder of Missouri Symphony Piano Showcase and was on the organizing committee for the Missouri State Senior Games. (She still holds the 5k records for over-60, over-70, and over-80.)

Bob started doing home visits for the St. Vincent de Paul Society after he retired and soon became involved with Rotary, Voluntary Action Center and United Way to help coordinate agencies serving those in need. He has served as president of Rotary and on numerous boards. He was MU Faculty Volunteer of the Year in 2018.

Barbara is a retired Army Major and is serving this year as president of the Military Officers Association of Mid-Missouri as well as of the Downtown Rotary. She is also active with Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Another way of volunteering for Osher@Mizzou is to teach. Our instructors willingly share their passion for some topic of interest – history or literature, art or music, science or technology, theater or travel, civics or current issues.

Val Germann has been interested in astronomy since he was a teenager and built a homemade telescope. He taught at Columbia College and remains an active member of the Central Missouri Astronomical Association.

He has offered Osher classes in astronomy and photography for more than a decade, including "Techniques for Observing the 2017 Total









Bob and Barbara Churchill

Solar Eclipse," which found us outside looking through telescopes and becoming excited for that extraordinary experience of nature. This year, he started an annual class "Stargazing: The Year Ahead," which he will teach again in January 2023.

He says he enjoys teaching at Osher because the students have chosen the class and many are knowledgeable, which allows him to respond to their interests.

We welcome any MURA members to participate as a classmate or committee member, and we would especially enjoy having anyone who has a field of knowledge or a skill that they would share with a group of people who love to explore new subjects or revisit interests from long ago.

Fall classes start Sept. 12. For more information about Osher and its classes, go to osher.missouri.edu.

— Barbara Schneider, Osher@Mizzou liaison

Cecil Moore continues his childhood connection to 4-H even today

MURA BOARD MEMBER CECIL MOORE has a life-long commitment to volunteering, beginning as a teen, helping younger peers learn how to raise, groom and show animals in 4-H competitions. Today, he continues that commitment, volunteering for the Boone County 4-H Foundation Board, as well as at TigerPlace.

Volunteering is a way to help shape the future."

Cecil Moore

As they were growing up in Adair County near Kirksville, Mo., Cecil, and brother, David, were both active 4-H members. The family tradition continued with children and spouses. Moore's wife, Gerri, has been a 4-H volunteer, a club sponsor and a sewing project leader. In addition, Gerri has served on the Boone County University of Missouri Extension Council.

"Volunteering is a way to help shape the future," Moore says. "It also provides a meaningful way to stay engaged with peers and friends."

As a 4-H Foundation trustee, he works with other volunteers to secure financial support for youth programs in Boone County and to provide college scholarships in STEM fields.

At TigerPlace, he makes monthly visits to residents who have pets.

Both volunteer roles allow him to share his experiences and expertise in meaningful ways.

Before retirement, Moore served as director of the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. His advice to fellow retirees? "I think if a person has expertise and a passion for something – be it outdoor activities, working with youth, or teaching – sharing your experiences through volunteering is very rewarding."

For more information about volunteering with 4-H in your local community, go to extension.missouri.edu. Outside of Missouri? Go to: 4-h.org/find

— Jo Turner, MURA past president





GRAND CHAMPION EWE — Cecil and David Moore of Kirksville were the co-owners of the grand champion ewe in the senior division sheep show at the 1963 NEMO fair.



Cecil Moore

Like others, Doris Littrell blends professional fields into her volunteer activities.

WHILE DORIS LITTRELL is known for her work in adult education and community development on the national scene, her current volunteer work is more focused. Today she concentrates on younger learners in our community with the ambitious mission to eliminate racism.

After reminding me that she went back to school when her children were raised, these days she is helping others while continuing her own adult learning and enrichment to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

Littrell is an active member of the Worley Street Round Table's Board of Directors where she serves as both secretary and treasurer. This nonprofit organization actually began around a dinner table on Worley Street. Its clear purpose is "to create access for at-promise children, enabling them to thrive in their everyday environments, as they lead purposeful and meaningful lives."

Volunteers are involved in mentoring local high school students of color interested in becoming teachers and then returning as teachers to our home community.

Members support a teachers-of-color network and celebrate good teachers.

In the "Teachers of Hope and Promise" program, students nominate a teacher deserving of recognition from each middle school and high school. Littrell joins a crowd of well-wishers to show up at the teachers' doors with balloons and a \$500 award to celebrate this teaching honor.

In addition to supporting public education and its teachers, Littrell's volunteer work is also about learning and enrichment by collaborating at monthly dinners, fostering local leadership, village-building and maintaining grounding in the local community.

In both the Worley Street Round Table and volunteering with an organization called Race Onward led by MURA member Don Day, people come together to learn and act on racial issues.

OLUNTEERISM **Learning & enrichment**



Doris Littrell

Littrell dedicates herself in Race Onward to promote human understanding. These volunteer efforts include engaging in book studies, joining pilgrimages to cities scarred by racial violence, attending black churches and hosting fellow black members in her church, promoting black history in schools and voter registration.

— Ruth Tofle, MURA past president



Nancy Schultz, MURA member, and Chris Campbell, executive director of the Boone County History and Culture Center, take a break from their work in the Montminy Gallery.



Barbara Horrell

Volunteers bring history to life at Boone County History and Culture Center

WHILE STROLLING around the Boone County History and Culture Center, home of the Boone County Historical Society, the walker will be treated to a plethora of history and

The Village of Boone Junction offers a glimpse of the lifestyle of Boone County residents from 1818 to 1930. Textiles from weddings tell stories of fashions as well of early ceremonies and traditions.

Virtual tours of the exhibits and programs featuring authors and note-worthy Boone countians can be enjoyed from the comfort of your own computer.

MURA members help bring the history and culture of Boone County to life by volunteering at the center, and several have served on the Boone County Historical Society board.

"There is nothing we do here at the center that would be possible without our volunteers," says Chris Campbell, executive director. "From board service to digitizing our history in the Hank Waters III Digital Lab, to leading children on tours, to helping to manage our vast collections, volunteers are what make this place go!"

MURA members currently serving on the Boone County Historical Society board are Nancy Schultz and Barbara Horrell.

Asked why she spends her time and talents to serve on the board, Schultz explains: "I have learned so much more about the history and culture of Boone County since being on the board. We have some fabulous exhibits, and it's exciting to see new artistic talent in the Montminy Gallery and the music area with the Blind Boone piano and music concerts we have.

"It's a great place to be and meet new people. It's an important center to support keeping our history going."

— Ina Linville, MURA president



Art and science blend in volunteer efforts to build community



Aaron Krawitz

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR AARON KRAWITZ switched venues from the classroom to city chambers, theater stages and radio studios. However, he is still transmitting the visions, values and dynamic patterns of life experiences in time and space.

The same creative process and problem-solving skills used in teaching material science

courses are now applied to his volunteer

efforts in the arts for community enrichment.

Raised by parents who enjoyed community arts in his Tulsa, OK, hometown, Krawitz's own passion for community art began in college when he enrolled in an elective art history course covering the Renaissance to Modern Art.

College life also included savoring the diverse cultural offerings of Chicago museums and nightlife. He was inspired to teach himself to play the harmonica. Moreover, he was inspired by the vibrant cultural impact of the arts in a local community.

Learning by doing, Krawitz learned about community theater through his friendship with Willy Wilson. He recalls that "(Willy) conned me into auditioning for "Song of Singapore" at Maplewood in 1995. I was the bartender. I had one line and washed a glass behind the bar for two hours."

That cameo led to comedic and dramatic character roles in nonprofit community theaters – seven with the Maplewood Barn Theater, eight with the Columbia Entertainment Company, and 12 with Talking Horse Productions.

Behind the scenes, Krawitz's eight-year volunteer service with the Columbia Cultural Affairs Commission provided deeper involvement and enjoyment of the broad scope of the arts.

The commission's mission is "to create an environment where artists and cultural organizations thrive by advancing and supporting the arts for the benefit of the citizens of Columbia."

Krawitz's service brought him the satisfaction of supporting more than 25 non-profit agencies with many artists with talents in fields such as music, theater, folk dance and wood carving.

Equally impressive to his civic organizational leadership in the arts is how he steps up to enrich our community with his own musical talents. Krawitz appeared at Art in the Park and civic events playing folk and blues in a band called Minimal Art, that included fellow MURA member Mike Porter on upright bass.

Krawitz remains true to the purpose of the Columbia Cultural Affairs Commission to support the arts with his monthly radio show on KOPN called "Marooned." The concept is based on the BBC radio show "Desert Island Discs." A local guest is asked what six musical numbers they

> would bring with them if they were a castaway on an uninhabited desert island for the rest of their life.

During the course of a 30-minute conversation, Krawitz plays excerpts of each piece and asks why they were chosen. In this radio storytelling, the community learns about both the radio guests and the music.

Not only in strategic mathematical equations but also in the rhythm of temporal arts, the lines between the sciences and the arts are erased for Krawitz. His volunteer civic efforts with his own creative interests and talents are our community's windfall.

- Ruth Tofle, MURA past president

... He is still transmitting the visions, values and dynamic patterns of life experiences in time and space.

> s your MURA membership up to date?

It's easy to join, renew or consider lifetime membership at mura-missouri.com.

MURA Leadership Directory 2022-23

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MU Retirees Association

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DON'T MISS the informative bi-weekly **MURA Update emails!**

Please provide any email address updates to Barb Harris, MURA Communications chair, at: harrisb@umsystem.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
*Tuesday, Sept. 13	Breakfast/webinar — Chris Campbell, executive director, Boone County History and Culture Center, "Volunteers, our Greatest Treasure!"	**8 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
*Tuesday, Oct. 4	Breakfast/webinar — Candidates forum by the MURA Governmental Affairs Committee	**8 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
Tuesday, Oct. 18	UM Retiree Town Hall — Fall information meeting; webinar for 4-campus retirees; Marshall Stewart will be the moderator with UM panel.	10 to 11 p.m.	Webinar, UM System Engagement & Outreach
*Tuesday, Nov. 1	Breakfast/webinar — Kylee Rucinski, Gordon Arthritis Research Fellow and director Mizzou Joint Health Program at Missouri Orthopaedic Institute; "Keeping Your Bones and Joints Healthy in Retirement."	**8 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
*Tuesday, Dec. 6	Breakfast/webinar — Betsy Garrett, Professor Emeritus, Family and Community Medicine, "Birding in your backyard"	**8 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
December , date TBA	Holiday Social — Sponsorship by Central Bank and Central Trust Company.	TBA	ТВА

- * Requires pre-registration; details at mura-missouri.com
- ** Food service begins at 8 a.m. and program at 8:30 for in-person Breakfast Series; Zoom meeting starts at 8:30 a.m.

United Way campaign, a favorite of retirees, kicks off Sept. 27



By Linda Lorenz, United Way Campaign Representative

THIS YEAR'S UNITED WAY KICKOFF WILL BE ON SEPT. 27 with a goal of \$435,000 for the year.

Since 1946, the Heart of America United Way has fought for mid-Missourians, investing nearly \$92 million to improve lives in our community. See https://uwheartmo.org/partners/#grant. MURA members have been generous in the past, making up a 32.9 percent of the total University of Missouri contributions to the local United Way.

Donations for the past two years, total \$141,000.

MURA members may be interested in the "Give 5" Program that began this July. The program allows retirees to learn about 20 nonprofits to see where their talents and interests align. Every week for five weeks, different non-profits are featured. The program has sparked a lot of interest, so the United Way has a wait list for the next series of "Give 5." If you are interested in signing up, go to uwheartmo.org/ volunteer/give-5 to add your name to the wait list.



Manage Follow Settings

- Search for MURA; select "MU Retirees Association—MURA"
- Then give us a thumbs up!
- To make sure you see all MURA posts, look for the "Manage Follow Settings" icon or the three dots at the top or bottom of the MURA Facebook page.
- Set your "follow settings" to be Favorites. Then change notifications settings to Standard rather than Highlights for posts and videos. You may also "turn on notifications" for this post.

MURA News is published by the MU Retirees Association.

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