

Upcoming Decisions for MURA Members

- Constitution & Bylaws Updates—[pages 3-4](#)
- Board Candidates—[pages 8-9](#)

Keeping MURA Strong: Planning for the Future

DEAR MURA MEMBERS,

Welcome to 2024! This has been and will continue to be a momentous year. You will be bombarded with political advertisements and rancor. Avoid being swept up in that cacophony. I encourage you to be engaged and informed about local, state and national issues, but also to focus on the important matters in your life: your health, family, friends, faith, and overall enjoyment of life. You will be better and happier for it.



Kenneth Dean

MURA has been blessed for the first time with direct financial support of \$8,000 from President Choi. We have used some of this to reduce breakfast and other meal costs to YOU despite rising costs to MURA. With Board approval, we also will be using some of the funds to improve our Zoom and event recording.

On [pages 3 and 4](#), you will find proposed changes to MURA’s Constitution and Bylaws. The membership will vote on those changes at the annual meeting in March. While some of the changes are minor, four proposed changes should be noted: 1. change the definition of membership to include former employees, in recognition that the pension plan no longer exists for new UM employees hired in 2019 and after; 2. combine the Education and Program Committees into one; 3. allow appointment of additional non-voting Board members; and 4. confirm the practice that appointive positions serve at the discretion of the President.

Pages [8 and 9](#) offer the Nominating Committee’s proposed slate of individuals to be considered for election to the Board at our March annual meeting. The nominees are excellent!

You are reminded on [page 10](#) of free Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) webinars. MURA is a member of AROHE, and their Newsletter can be accessed by our members. In future email updates, you will be provided with a link to their Newsletter. The most current one is available [here](#).

Last year the Board approved “Expectations for Elected and Appointed MURA Board Members,” which include the items set out below:

- * Attend scheduled MURA Board meetings;
- * Attend MURA annual meeting;
- * Participate in MURA educational and social events;
- * Accept and fulfill committee assignments and additional volunteer roles in support of MURA;
- * Review MURA Board materials and respond in a timely manner to requests from Board officers;

- * Be familiar with the governing documents of MURA including its by-laws, policies and procedures, website information, and use of Teams software for Board business;
- * Represent the interests of MURA members and bring matters of interest to the MURA Board;
- * When interacting with the press, public or other entities, clarify that you do not speak for MURA unless specifically designated to do so by the MURA Board;
- * Avoid conflicts of interest;
- * Keep confidential any matters that the Board deems confidential; and
- * Act with courtesy, professionalism, and respect toward others.

Your Board works diligently on your behalf, meeting quarterly to ensure that we are meeting the needs and expectations of YOU, our fellow MURA members.

I also direct your attention to the tax tip on page 11 by Ernie Barbee. There are significant changes to Missouri state tax law that will affect all of us who receive Social Security benefits. These changes will also affect the amount of your public pension that may be subject to Missouri state income tax. The changes went into effect January 1, but DO NOT affect your tax filing for 2023.

Finally, my deep thanks to all of you who volunteer and donate your time and talents to make MURA a great organization. Thank you!

Best wishes,
Kenneth Dean
MURA President
deank@missouri.edu
573-268-7435

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MURA Financial Report

Donna Johanning, MURA Treasurer

We are at the halfway mark in this fiscal year, and the financial position of the MU Retirees Association is faring well. With the uptick in the market at the end of the year, the investments in the Vanguard account have a year-to-date average annual return of 7.08 percent. MURA received \$1,970.99 in distributions from the Vanguard fund for the six months ending December 31, which is 56 percent of what was budgeted.

Disbursements appear low at this point in the year, but that is expected, as many expenses typically occur in the second half of

the year. The breakfasts and holiday luncheon were successful and affordable, thanks in part to our sponsor, Central Trust Company.

The University has generously agreed to provide budgetary support to the Association in the amount of \$8,000. More will be shared in the coming months regarding how these funds will be used.

A Statement of Cash Flows is provided on page 5.

MURA Members Help Change the Lives of Mid-Missourians

Dee Montgomery
MURA United Way Representative

The generosity of MU retirees continues to allow the Heart of Missouri United Way (HMUW) to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community. **A HUGE thank you goes to retirees who have pledged a truly amazing total amount as of December 15, the end of the 2023 public-facing MU United Way campaign: \$177,768!** Although the public phase of the MU campaign has ended, the campaign total will continue to include donations received through the online portal at <https://give.uwheartmo.org/p/university-of-missouri-retirees-united-way-campaign> and checks received at 105 E. Ash St., #300, Columbia, MO 65203. Gifts from investments or from Individual Retirement Accounts can be made by contacting David Holtgraewe at dholtgraewe@uwheartmo.org.

Since 1946, the HMUW has been changing systemic disparities and impacting individual lives for Mid-Missourians by promoting their health, education, and financial stability. More than one in five individuals in our area are served by the HMUW. Last year, over 15,000 basic needs and education items were distributed to our community's most vulnerable members.

The HMUW collects short- and long-term data with regard to the effectiveness of the programs it supports. In 2023, the HMUW awarded 45 grants to 29 nonprofit agencies (A complete list of these grants is available at uwheartmo.org/about-us/our-impact.) Analyses of data from these agencies showed impressive and lasting gains for participants. Evidence of the impact on financial stability



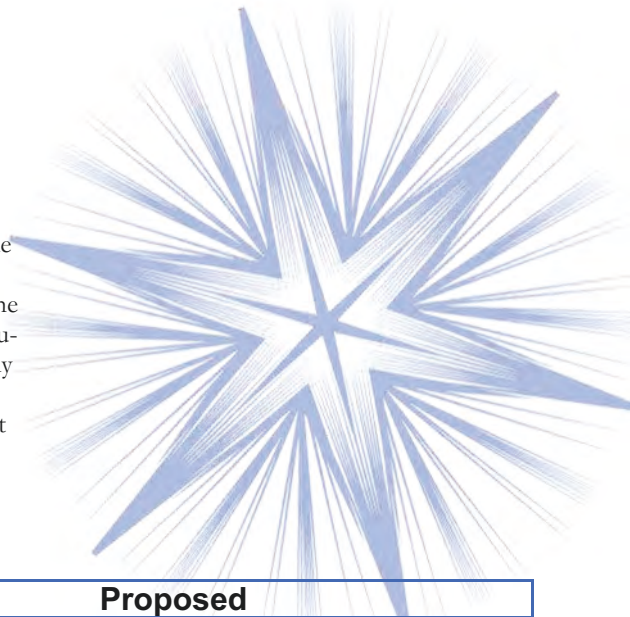
and health showed **95 percent** of employment related-program participants were employed and maintained employment at 3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month follow-ups, and **100 percent** of senior citizen participants reported services positively impacted their ability to live independently for at least a year.

Data for education-related programs from 2022-2024 also showed noteworthy immediate and long-term effectiveness: **100%** of those served and assessed by HMUW-funded programs entered school ready to succeed, and **89 percent** of the participants in these programs graduated from high school on time. HMUW funding improves the chances of a brighter future for many young people whose futures might otherwise not be so promising.

I am so proud to be a member of an organization and university community that so generously supports those in need in the Columbia area through their contributions to the HMUW. Indeed, our university is stronger when our community is stronger. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support.

Board Proposes Updates to the MURA Constitution and Bylaws

Two years ago, then-President Ina Linville appointed an ad hoc committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws and to update the *Policy and Procedure Manual*. The first part of that work has been finished. At the last Board meeting, the recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws were approved for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting on March 13. Set out below are those changes for your review and vote. Only those sections where deletions or additions are proposed are shown. Deletions are shown by line throughs and new material is shown underlined. The complete document with the updates in context can be accessed online <https://mura-missouri.com/proposed-mura-constitution-and-bylaws/>. If you have any questions, please contact Kenneth Dean at deank@missouri.edu.



Current	Proposed
<p>Article III, Membership</p> <p>The membership of the Association shall consist of University of Missouri retirees, their spouses or surviving spouses, and active faculty or staff age 55 and older who each pay the Association dues. Retirees from other universities or colleges and/or their spouses may, upon payment of dues, be non-voting Associate Members.</p>	<p>The membership of the Association shall consist of University of Missouri retirees, <u>former employees</u>, their spouses/partners, their surviving spouses/partners, and active faculty or staff age 55 and older who each pay the Association dues. Retirees from other universities or colleges and/or their spouses partners, <u>after approval by the Board and upon payment of dues, may become members.</u></p>
<p>Article IV, Objectives</p> <p>Sect. 3. To continue as a contributing part of the University family. . . . Sect. 5. To encourage members to continue their active participation in, and involvement with, the University family.</p>	<p>Sect. 4. To encourage members to continue their active participation in, and involvement with, the University family.</p>
<p>Article V, Officers and Board of Directors</p> <p>Sect. 2. The Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of the Officers, the immediate past President, the chairs of standing committees, and six members at large, three of whom shall be listed as staff and three as faculty. The Historian shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board if not otherwise on the Board.</p> <p>Sect. 4. Elections shall be held at the spring meeting. The terms of newly elected Officers and Board members shall begin July 1. No Officer or Board member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms in the same position, with the exception of the Communications Committee chair, Liaison Committee chair, Ombudsman Committee chair, and Education Committee chair. Chairs of these committees will serve at the request of the current president.</p>	<p>Sect. 2. The Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of the Officers, the immediate past President, the chairs of standing committees, and six members at large, three of whom shall be listed as staff and three as faculty <u>Additional members may be added to the Board as allowed in the Constitution and Bylaws, but they shall not be voting members.</u></p> <p>Sect. 4. Elections shall be held at the spring meeting. The terms of newly elected Officers and Board members shall begin July 1. No Officer or <u>elected</u> Board member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms in the same position.</p>
<p>Sect. 5. The Officers shall have the responsibilities listed below:</p> <p>The President shall . . .</p> <p>Appoint chairs of all committees, with the exception of the Finance, Program, and Past Presidents Committees. Appoint chairs of all other committees subject to the approval of the Board, no later than at its next meeting. Appoint members of all committees. . . .</p>	<p>Sect. 5. The Officers shall have the responsibilities listed below:</p> <p>The President shall . . .</p> <p>Appoint chairs of all committees, with the exception of the Finance, Program, and Past Presidents Committees. Appoint chairs of all other committees subject to the approval of the Board. <u>All committee chairs and all other persons appointed to a position such as an ex-officio appointment or ad hoc appointment will serve at the discretion of the President. . . .</u></p>

Continued on page 4

<p>The President Elect shall . . .</p> <p>Chair the Program Committee and be responsible for the programs of the Association, including business, informational, and social meetings. . . .</p>	<p>The President Elect shall . . .</p> <p>Chair the Program <u>and Education</u> Committee and be responsible for the programs of the Association, <u>including educational</u>, business, informational, and social meetings. . . .</p>
<p><i>Sect. 7.</i> Vacancies that occur shall be temporarily filled by the President with the approval of the Board. Such appointments shall run until the next meeting of the Association, at which time persons shall be elected to complete the vacant terms. If the Presidency is vacated, the President Elect shall assume its duties.</p>	<p><i>Sect. 7.</i> Vacancies that occur shall be temporarily filled by the President with the approval of the Board. Such appointments shall run until the next meeting of the Association, at which time <u>such</u> persons <u>may</u> be elected to complete the vacant terms. If the Presidency is vacated, the President Elect shall assume its duties.</p>
<p><i>Sect. 8.</i> There shall normally be at least two meetings of the Board each year. Other meetings may be convened by the President or by written request of the majority of the Board.</p>	<p><i>Sect. 8.</i> There shall be at least two meetings of the Board each year. Other meetings may be convened by the President or by written request of the majority of the <u>voting Board members</u>.</p>
<p><i>Sect. 10.</i> Between meetings of the Board, the Officers may take emergency action, which shall be reported at the next meeting of the Board.</p>	<p><i>Sect. 10.</i> Between meetings of the Board, <u>an Executive Committee consisting of</u> the Officers <u>and the past-president</u> may take emergency action, which shall be reported at the next meeting of the Board.</p>
	<p><i>Sect. 11.</i> <u>Non-voting Board members may be appointed by the President upon approval of the Board. Non-voting Board members may participate in Board meetings as any other Board member, except they shall not be allowed to vote.</u></p>
<p>Bylaws</p>	
<p><i>Sect. 2. Additional Meetings.</i> There shall be at least one other meeting of the Association, normally in the fall, to conduct Association business, other than the regular annual elections and dues changes.</p>	<p><i>Sect. 2. Additional Meetings.</i> <u>There may be other meetings of the Association called by the President.</u></p>
<p><i>Sect. 8. Standing Committees.</i> The standing committees shall be Finance; Membership; Program; Communications; Ombudsman; Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits; University Liaison; Awards; Governmental Affairs; Nominating; Education; . . .</p> <p>2. The Membership Committee shall have the responsibility for recruiting members, certifying applicants, and implementing policies relating to membership.</p> <p>3. The Program Committee, chaired by the President Elect, shall recommend and develop meeting programs as directed by the Board not otherwise covered by the Education Committee. . . .</p> <p>6. The Retirement, Health and Other Benefits Committee shall promote the benefits of retirees, keep the Board informed of any proposed changes in these benefits, and suggest changes that the Association should recommend to the University administration.</p> <p>11. The Education Committee shall be responsible for educational programming including the breakfast meetings. . . .</p>	<p><i>Sect. 8. Standing Committees.</i> The standing committees shall be Finance; Membership; Program <u>and Education</u>; Communications; Ombudsman; Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits; University Liaison; Awards; Governmental Affairs; Nominating; . . .</p> <p>2. The Membership Committee shall have the responsibility for recruiting members, certifying applicants, and implementing policies relating to membership, <u>including maintaining a database of the membership</u>.</p> <p>3. The Program <u>and Education</u> Committee, chaired by the President Elect, shall recommend and develop meeting programs as <u>approved by the Committee</u>. . . .</p> <p>6. The Retirement, Health and Other Benefits Committee shall promote the benefits of retirees, keep the Board informed of any proposed changes in these benefits, and suggest changes that the Association should recommend to the University administration. <u>This committee may be chaired by the MU-designated retiree TRAC appointee, at the discretion of the President and the Board.</u> . . .</p>
<p><i>Sect. 9. Special Committees.</i> The President shall appoint an Audit Committee as an ad hoc committee. The President may appoint other ad hoc and special committees for specific services as needed.</p>	<p><i>Sect. 9. Special Committees.</i> The President shall appoint an Audit Committee as an ad hoc committee. The President may appoint other ad hoc and special committees for specific services as needed. <u>If and when an ad hoc committee of MURA, the Sponsorship Committee, is deemed necessary, it shall consist of the organization's past President, President Elect, Treasurer and any other designees of the President. The purpose of the Committee is to determine if monetary or in-kind sponsorship should be considered and accepted by MURA. As with any ad hoc committee, this Committee will cease to exist after making a recommendation to the Board.</u></p>

MURA Statement of Cash Flows

	Actual		Actual	
	Fiscal Year Ended		Fiscal Year Ended	% of
	December 31, 2023		June 30, 2023	Prior FY
Operating Activities Supported by Member Dues and Investment Income				
Receipts				
Dues-annual	112.50		\$ 550.00	20.45%
Dues-lifetime	862.50		3,450.00	25.00%
Donation to Scholarship Fund	20.00		170.00	11.76%
Sponsorship from Tiger Place for Business Meeting	0.00		1,000.00	0.00%
Budgetary Support from the University	8,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Investment income - Vanguard	1,970.99		3,380.76	58.30%
Total Operating Receipts	10,965.99		8,550.76	128.25%
Disbursements				
Business meeting	0.00		701.50	0.00%
Orientation meeting, Board meeting deposit	(100.00)		540.39	-18.51%
AROHE Dues	0.00		120.00	0.00%
Flagship Council	0.00		250.00	0.00%
Copies, Printing services	445.69		1,928.45	0.00%
Post Office Box rent and postage	0.00		146.00	0.00%
Software (WinHost, Jotform, Adobe)	432.39		647.28	66.80%
State of Missouri - Secretary of State filing fee	10.50		10.50	100.00%
Payment to University for Kitty Dickerson Schp	0.00		170.00	0.00%
PayPal fees assessed against dues payments	16.35		70.09	23.33%
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00	0.00%
Total Operating Disbursements	804.93		4,584.21	
Excess of Operating Receipts over Disbursements	10,161.06		\$ 3,966.55	256.17%
Self-Supporting Social Activities				
Holiday Luncheon				
Receipts - Members	2,525.00		2,175.00	
Receipts - Sponsorship from Central Trust	2,155.47		1,114.95	
Disbursements - PayPal	84.30		66.45	
Disbursements - Honorarium Pianist, supplies	148.77		91.76	
Disbursements - Holiday Inn Executive Center	4,447.40		3,131.74	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00		0.00	0.00%
Shakespeare's Fundraiser				
Receipts	218.52		379.82	
Disbursements-University for Kitty Dickerson Schp	218.52		379.82	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00		0.00	0.00%
Spring Event				
Receipts	0.00		840.00	
Disbursements - PayPal	0.00		44.73	
Disbursements-University for Kitty Dickerson Schp	0.00		795.27	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00		0.00	0.00%
Breakfasts				
Receipts -Members	5,571.00		9,015.00	
Receipts - Sponsorship from Central Trust	1,844.53		1,885.05	
Disbursements - PayPal	233.53		393.64	
Disbursements - CCMO, City of Columbia, A-1	6,487.74		11,307.90	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	694.26		(801.49)	-86.62%
Other Receipts (Disbursements)				
Transfer to Investment Account	0.00		(3,450.00)	
Transfer from Investment Account	0.00		0.00	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash During Period	10,855.32		(284.94)	
Cash Balance, Beginning of Period	5,263.63		5,548.57	
Cash Balance, End of Period	16118.95		5,263.63	
Investment Assets (See note)				
Lifetime Members Reserve Investment Account	108,636.28		\$ 105,557.22	

Note: This asset pool was established from lifetime membership dues. The income from these investments provides continuing services for lifetime members as they no longer pay membership dues. Currently, these assets are invested in the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund.

MURA Holiday Luncheon!



Mike and Alice Misfeldt



Donna Otto, Helen Jankowski, and Becky Morton



Jan and Phil Harrison



Donna Johanning and Kee Groshong



Dick Otto and Janie Harmon



Donna Johanning, Barb Rothenberger, Betsy Garrett, and Charlene Nickolaus



Larry Ganong, Marilyn Coleman, and Jim Scott



Jo Turner and Ruth Tofle



Ted Tarkow reports on Scholarship Committee work.



Alice and Mark Banks





Mary Anne McCollum and Sandra Henderson



Marilyn and John Parker



Kenneth Dean and Jim Scott



Suzette Heiman and Dee Montgomery



Loretta Sanders and Janet Meyer



The MURA choir with pianist Connie Loveless



Jo and Wayne Behymer



Wren Roark and Kim Dude



Darlene and Jack Miles



(Podium) Kenneth Dean and (foreground) Margie Sable



Maggie Walter and Evan Prost





MURA Board Candidates

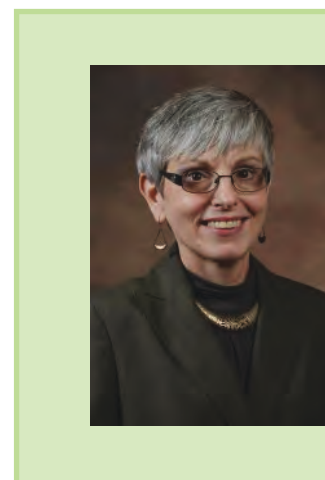
The MURA Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of candidates to serve as elected members of the MURA Board of Directors for the 2024–2025 year. Jim Scott, current president-elect and program committee chair of MURA, will move into the presi-

Mary Leuci, Candidate for President Elect

MARY LEUCI retired in 2021 after serving 35 years in various roles as part of MU Extension and the College of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources. For the past three years, she has worked to complete a 7-year project as MU’s principle investigator for the state-wide program to develop Extension training for the TEDMAG Consortium’s technology and modernization training for agriculture in Ghana. Prior to that, Mary served as director of engaged scholarship, director of the Missouri Campus Compact, assistant dean, and program director for community development, and associate extension professor for community development.

Under her Extension leadership, numerous new collaborative and innovative programs were developed. She also led a national effort for program evaluation and impact in Extension community resource and economic development. For approximately five years, she co-led MU Extension’s annual program planning engagement process with local citizens across the state. She led the international community development leadership program with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and co-led community development exchanges with Thailand and Ireland. She co-founded MU’s Community Development Academy and is known for her work in organizational and participatory processes.

Mary has held a variety of leadership roles in professional organizations and currently serves on the board of the Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship. She continues as an active leader in her church and enjoys gardening, cooking, and reading as well as time with her husband Victor and daughter Lena.

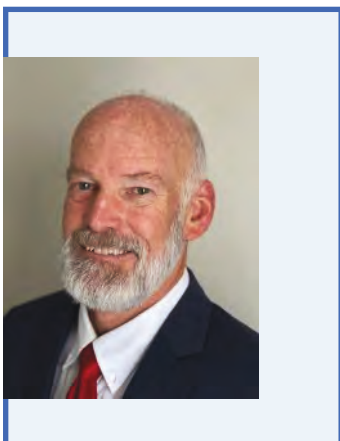


Brian Sanders, Candidate for Treasurer

BRIAN SANDERS has been a member of MURA since late 2017 and is currently serving on the MURA Finance Committee. He retired from employment as Director of Payroll in the University of Missouri System Accounting Department after 38 years of service.

Brian’s prior volunteer experiences include the role of treasurer for the Columbia chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, troop leadership for the Boy Scouts of America, and many other local activities. He has volunteered for multiple shifts at the University Store to support donations to the MU Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Fund for MURA.

Brian is an MU alum and enjoys swimming year round, as well as biking and golf in warmer weather. He and his wife Loretta attend most MURA events provided they have returned from traveling in their RV. Most RV trips wind through Nashville, TN, to enjoy a few days with grandchildren. However, the newest grandchild, born in Columbia, will likely shorten the length of future travel plans.



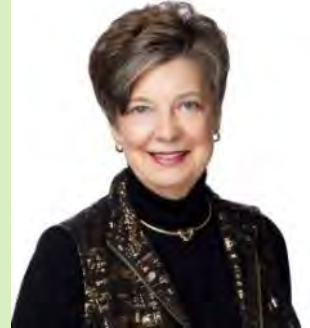
MURA Board Candidates, continued

Donna Otto, Candidate for Board Member at Large—Faculty

DONNA OTTO, emerita teaching instructor of nursing, earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in nursing at MU. She began her nursing practice at University of Missouri Hospitals & Clinics, where she held positions as staff nurse, manager, and associate director. She served over 15 years as the Chief Nursing Officer until 2001. She then transitioned to a faculty position in the Sinclair School of Nursing, served as director of alumni engagement and assisted with the aging in place operations for TigerPlace.

Donna retired in May 2012 after a 40-year career with the University. Failing retirement, she continues working part time as director of alumni engagement and faculty advisor to the Student Nurses Association. She describes her work with Sinclair as a labor of love: “Supporting our fantastic students and connecting with our amazing alumni can hardly be called ‘work,’” she said.

She and her husband Dick enjoy volunteering for Mizzou, MURA events, Boone County Historical Society activities, time with family and friends, and travel. Donna is being nominated for her second term as a Board member at large.



Janie Hamon, Candidate for Board Member at Large—Staff



JANIE HAMON retired in September 2023 after nearly 35 years of service at MU. You may recall the campus excitement and statewide support surrounding the University of Missouri’s sesquicentennial in 1989. Janie’s first MU position was coordinator of University Events, and she drove more than 10,000 miles in Missouri promoting the sesquicentennial. After that celebratory year, she moved into Advancement to lead fundraising programs for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; School of Law; Trulaske College of Business; Truman School of Public Affairs; and the College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed the Administrative Leadership Development Program in 2013. Along the way, Janie worked with outstanding University leaders through three major comprehensive campaigns. A benefit of her advancement responsibilities was meeting the most remarkable individuals, including some of the University’s most generous contributors.

As a recent retiree, Janie seeks to assist MURA members by accepting this nomination. She feels honored by the opportunity to connect with those who strengthened the University during their respective careers as faculty and staff.

Janie lives in rural Callaway County with her husband Roger. They are gearing up to cheer on their granddaughter during the Hickman girls’ soccer season.

Mark your calendar to attend the annual membership meeting on March 13 —
MURA needs you to be sure we have a quorum!

Mark Your Calendars for Learning Opportunities!



February Breakfast Program

Abdoulaye Bah, Co-founder, Pathways to Health and Development

Dr. Abdoulaye Bah, co-founder of the international nonprofit Pathways to Health and Development, will speak at our February 6 break-

fast. His presentation is entitled, “Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives.”

Dr. Bah is originally from Guinea, West Africa. He is a Mizzou alumnus (MS 1987, PhD 1993). He is a retired professor of sociology and former director of the Suicide Prevention Institute at Lincoln University. He led the team that developed several training tools for addressing issues of behavioral health within the Army in its life preservation training course and peer advising system. As a result of Dr. Bah’s work, a unique tool for raising awareness and strengthening self-efficacy, *Beyond the Front*, was created and adopted by the US Army. Dr. Bah was also instrumental in the development of the Life Preservation Index, a risk assessment tool that can be used to identify and compute the prevalence rate of at-risk individuals for suicidal behavior in a group.

Dr. Bah currently spends part of his time working in Guinea for Pathways to Health and Development, the nonprofit he founded with his wife. He is married to Dr. Carolle Silney, also a Mizzou alum (BS 1991, MD 1997). For an interesting read about his and his wife’s activities featured in *MIZZOU Magazine* see <https://showme.missouri.edu/2023/driving-change-one-fanbulance-at-a-time/>.

April Breakfast Program

Kim Dude-Lammy
President, Board of Directors
Children’s Grove



Although the World Health Organization has declared loneliness a pressing health issue, everyday acts of kindness can contribute to boosting mood, reducing stress, and possibly alleviating symptoms of depression or anxiety.

Join us on April 5 when Kim Dude-Lammy presents information about Children’s Grove, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to inspire a culture of kindness and support the mental and emotional well-being of our youth. Children’s Grove’s mission is realized in Boone County through the innovative and volunteer power of citizens working through the arts, education, and the natural environment. Its motto is, “A single act of kindness can change a life forever.”

March Breakfast Program

Mark Palmer
Project Coordinator
Voluntary Action Center



Mark Palmer, Project Coordinator with the Voluntary Action Center (VAC), will be our speaker at the March 5 breakfast. His presentation will focus on the development of Columbia’s Opportunity Campus. The project is being designed and structured to support homeless and unsheltered community members by providing safe temporary shelter, transitional housing, affordable housing, meals, basic daily needs, and wrap-around services to assist those in need. The goal of this project is to make services more efficient and cost effective. After 30+ years of service and leadership in nonprofit work, Mr. Palmer brings his expertise to this important community endeavor. Join us for breakfast on March 5th at 8:00 a.m. to hear more about Opportunity Campus.



AROHE Virtual Learning Series

MURA encourages retirees and those contemplating retirement to register for “Reimagining Retirement: Exploring Your Life Plan,” a virtual learning series designed to help attendees clarify their goals and embrace the changes that occur during life’s next chapter. The social, psychological, and emotional aspects of transitioning to and living in retirement will be explored during three webinars: “Reframing Your Identity,” by Dr. Michelle Pannor Silver from the University of Toronto on January 30; “Reimagining Your Personalized Plan,” by Dr. Stacey Gordon from New York University on February 13; and “Rebuilding Your Network,” featuring a panel of retired faculty and staff on February 27. All sessions are from 10:00-11:15 a.m. PST. Everyone is welcome to register, and there is no charge to attend.

The learning series is sponsored by the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE), of which MURA is a member, and Fidelity Investments®. “At any point in time, we are faced with changes and transitions,” said Roger Baldwin, president of AROHE. “While there is guidance and support for many life transitions—such as choosing and graduating from a college, starting a career, getting married, and having children—fewer resources are available for those navigating transitions later in life, especially when it involves changes in relationships, purpose and meaning, and feelings of relevance derived from work.”

For additional information or to register for the “Reimagining Retirement: Exploring Your Life Plan” webinar series, visit <https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement/>.

MURA Membership Strong

Upgrade to Life Option Approved

Jo Turner, Membership Committee Chair

On January 11, 2024, MURA had 890 members, including 845 life and 45 annual members. Life membership dues are a one-time fee of \$100. Annual dues are \$12.50 and are due in January each year.

MURA's Board continues to offer the "Upgrade to Life" option for persons who have been dues-paid annual members for at least one year. For those folks, life membership fees are reduced, based on the number of years as a MURA annual member. It is a real deal and means never having to worry about paying annual dues again! If you want to know more about "Upgrade to Life" and what your dues would be, contact MURA Membership Chair, Jo Turner, at turnerlj@missouri.edu.

Member Collections

Some of you with keen attention to detail will note that this issue of the Newsletter was supposed to highlight "interesting collections" that members pursue. That will be in the next Newsletter. If you have an interesting collection, please write a brief story, include photos, and submit to Kenneth Dean at Deank@missouri.edu and Mary Licklider at Licklidersm@missouri.edu not later than **March 20**. We will print as many as we can.

MURA Focus	
Member pastimes and hobbies	
Visual and performing arts	
Sports and fitness	
Outdoor activities	
Interesting collections	

Tax Changes Coming in 2024

Ernie Barbee, Tax Consultant

Missouri SB 190, passed August 28, 2023, impacts Missouri taxpayers for tax year 2024. Provisions in the bill remove the income limits used for calculating how much of a taxpayer's Social Security and public pension benefits will be subject to tax. Removing the income limits means that no Social Security benefits will be taxable in Missouri. Removing the income limits from the calculation of public pension benefits means less public pension benefits will be subject to tax, but it does not completely eliminate all tax for public pension benefits.

These changes are effective for the tax year starting January 1, 2024 (Sections 143.124, 143.125) and will likely lower 2024 Missouri tax liability for many Missouri residents who are drawing Social Security and public pension benefits. You may want to consider reducing your 2024 Missouri tax withholding now. Check with your tax consultant to see how much your tax deduction may be reduced for 2024.

MURA Awards Six Scholarships for 2024-25

Ted Tarkow, Scholarship Committee Chair

With the spring term beginning in mid-January, we will again have a crew of volunteers at the Mizzou Store. New this time and allowing an increase in the number of volunteers: directing students to basement aisles to select books.

The spring **Shakespeare's fundraiser** will be held the last week of April. We will also enlist the support of Staff Council to help spread the word since children of staff are the beneficiaries of the scholarship program.

We will fund six Dickerson Scholars in 2024-2025. Five current scholars will be continuing, and we will be able to select one new one. We will verify with parents who are employees that the continuing scholars are "making satisfactory progress." The \$10,000 received from President Choi will be used to maintain the number of awards at six through the 2025-2026 academic year if the value of each award remains at \$1,500. We will send President Choi a report on our use of his funds prior to the April 2024 social.

We continue to develop a database which will become a useful historical record of Dickerson recipients and will allow us to send periodic communications to current Dickerson scholars.

2023 Program Summary

Date	Attendees	Program
Feb. 7	69	John Kelley: Negro Baseball League
Mar. 7	65	Andrew Zumwalt, MU Extension: Protecting Your Money in 2023
Mar. 15	65 +15 via	Annual Business Meeting: Election
Apr. 4	88	Kathleen Quinn, School of Medicine: Rural Health Challenges: Improving Access & Equity
Apr. 10	98	President Choi, Host: Spring Social Honoring Scholarship & Retiree of the Year Awardees
May 2	86	Betsy Garrett: What's that Bird? Become a Birder and See (and Hear) Your World
June 6	60	Jefferson Farm and Garden Extension and Education Center
Sept. 12	101	Greg Olson: Points, Pots, Pipes, and Powwows
Oct. 3	67	John Bailey & Chris Watkins: Common Mistakes in Estate Planning
Oct. 16	113	President Choi, Host: Fall Social at the Residence on the Quad
Nov. 7	63	Jim Gann: What's Happening at the MU Research Reactor
Nov. 30	94	Holiday Social
Dec. 12	100	Desiree Reed-Francois: MU Athletics: An Update



Don't miss the informative bi-weekly MURA Update Emails!

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

Time to Submit Nominees for Chancellor's Awards for 2024

Dick Otto, Awards Committee Co-chair

Now is the time for everyone to submit a nomination for folks that are worthy of being awarded the Chancellor's Award for Volunteer Retiree of the Year. Please drop me an email at OttoR@missouri.edu or give me a call at 573-356-5636 with the name(s) of the individuals you wish to nominate. We (the committee) will take it from there. Or you can go ahead and complete the nomination form and supporting documents.

Begun in 1990, the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards focus on the accomplishments of former employees after their retirement. These accomplishments may involve volunteer service to the University, civic and welfare services, career and professional activities or other noteworthy achievements. Accomplishments prior to retirement are not considered in the selection process. Two awards will be given: one to a retired faculty member and one to a retired staff member. Each award includes a plaque and a \$1,500 check. Previous nominees not selected are kept in the pool for two more years.

Awards will be presented by Dr. Mun Choi at a MURA event. A list of past awardees and the nomination form may be found under the "About" tab on the MURA page site at <https://mura-missouri.com/chancellors-retiree-of-the-year-awards/>.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- * Retired from the University of Missouri before January 1, 2019.
- * Contributed volunteer service to the community, university or professional and civic organizations following retirement.
- * Retiree Advisory Committee members are not eligible

NOMINATION PROCESS

- * Complete the nomination form below.
- * Prepare a letter with the following information:
 - Nominee's extraordinary accomplishments since retiring.
 - Personal and background information about the nominee.
 - Summary – most important reason(s) that you believe the candidate should receive one of these awards.
- * Attach three letters of support from others who know the nominee.

NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's name: _____ | Faculty | Staff

Year of retirement: _____ MU department/position at time of retirement: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator's Name: _____ | Faculty | Staff | Student | Alum | Retiree | Community

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator's signature: _____ Date: _____

QUESTIONS?

Call 573-446-5525 • Please return the nomination materials **BY MARCH 1, 2024**, to Ashley Rhode, University of Missouri, 210 Whitten Hall, Columbia, MO 65211, RhodeA@umsystem.edu.

For questions about an individual's eligibility for this award, email Dick Otto at OttoR@missouri.edu with *Retiree Award* in the subject line.

Thanks to MURA Volunteers!

Ted Tarkow
Scholarship Committee Chair

Again this week, MURA helped MU students begin a new spring term by volunteering just under 50 hours at the University Store. Thanks to these helpful volunteers: **Jeanette Brown, Dave Dunkin, Jan and Phil Harrison, Helen Jankowski, Sylvia Jurisson, Dee Montgomery, Dick Otto, Gary Smith, Ted Tarkow, Marcia Walker, Maggie Walter, and Chris Weisbrook.** Their efforts will result in about \$675 being credited to the Dickerson Scholarship Fund. Students always appreciate the friendliness and helpfulness of MURA volunteers, who fielded a range of questions: "I've changed my major! What do I do NOW?" "Where do I pick up the textbooks for my Tailgating course?" "Are Valentines Day cards available now? I hope so!"



Welcome MURA's Newest Life Members

Marla Applebaum	Janet Krause
David Bergen	Jim Levin
Linda Kay Bradley	Kathryn Macomber
Jan Appuhn	Eric McDonald
David Clithero	Lynn McIntosh
Randy Diamond	Mark McIntosh
Larry H. Ganong	James Preston
	Jim Scott

Upcoming Events

Month	Speaker/Program	Location	Time
January 25	Boone County Legislative Forum https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1002/alumni/19/interior.aspx?sid=1002&gid=1001&pgid=14221&cid=30506	Grand Cru	5:30-7:30 p.m.
January 30	AROHE: Reframing Your Identity	https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement/	10:00-11:15 a.m. PST
February 6	Dr. Abdoulaye Bah, Co-founder, Pathways to Health and Development Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives	CCMO	8:00-9:30 a.m.
February 13	AROHE: Reimagining Your Personalized Plan	https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement/	10:00-11:15 a.m. PST
February 27	AROHE : Rebuilding Your Network	https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement/	10:00-11:15 a.m. PST
March 1	Deadline for nominations for the Chancellor's Retiree Volunteer of the Year Awards	Ashley Rhode, University of Missouri, 210 Whitten Hall, Columbia, MO 65211	
March 5	Mark Palmer, Project Coordinator with the Voluntary Action Center Columbia's Solution for the Homeless: The Opportunity Campus and Where We Are Today	CCMO	8:00-9:30 a.m.
March 13	MURA Annual Membership Meeting	CCMO	9:30 a.m. social 10:00 a.m. meeting
April 2	Kim Dude-Lammy, President, Board of Directors, Children's Grove Children's Grove: Inspiring Kindness and Supporting Mental and Emotional Well-being of Youth	CCMO	8:00-9:30 a.m.
April 8	Spring Social/Scholarship Winners \$10 donation to the Scholarship Fund suggested	Walsworth Family Columns Club, Memorial Stadium	4:30-6:30 p.m.
April 23	End-of-Life Planning Seminar Light refreshments will be served. A \$10 donation to the Scholarship Fund is suggested.	Boone Electric Coop 1413 Rangeline St.	10:00-11:30 a.m.
May 7	Greg Bier, Kelly Mattas, and Students Griggs Innovation Nexus: Creating the Next Generation of Mizzou's Student-Innovators	CCMO	8:00-9:30 a.m.
June 5	Carol Davit, Executive Director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation Why Prairie Matters: New Relevancies of a Vanishing Landscape	CCMO	8:00-9:30 a.m.

Find MURA on Facebook!



Search for MURA.

Select "MU Retirees Association-MURA."

Give us a thumbs up!



MU Retirees Association

University of Missouri

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Columbia, MO 65205-1831