



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2024

Meeting held at Boone Electric Cooperative, Columbia, and via Zoom

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by MURA President Ken Dean. Members present included president Ken Dean; past president Ina Linville; president-elect Jim Scott; secretary Suzette Heiman, and treasurer Donna Johanning; at-large members Debbie Allen, Chris Bouchard, Randy Diamond, and Sherri Helm; committee chairs and co-chairs Betsy Barbara Harris, Linda Lorenz, Dick Otto, Donna Otto, Mark Stewart, and Ted Tarkow; ex officio members Mary Licklider, Dee Montgomery, and Frank Schmidt.

Minutes

Linda Lovell moved and Randy Diamond seconded approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2024, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

President Ken Dean highlighted the following items:

- Appreciation was expressed to UM System President Mun Choi and Vice President Marsha Fischer for their support of the spring social. Awardees Jo Turner and Rick Wise were thanked for their selfless service.
- Incoming board members whose terms will begin in July 2024 were introduced: Mary Leuci, president-elect; Brian Sanders, treasurer; and Janie Harmon, member-at-large staff. Those going off the board - Donna Johanning, treasurer, and Judy Nolte, member-at-large staff – were thanked for their service.
- Congratulations were expressed to Dee Montgomery. She received the 2024 Chairman's Award by the United Way of Central Missouri at MURA's spring social for her above-and-beyond leadership and legacy of giving back to the community.
- A survey of members will be conducted in the next couple of months. It is hoped the insights will add value in light of changes to the retiree database, inform programming decisions and help with MURA's planning for the future. The survey document will be an updated version of one conducted three years ago.
- The board discussed how to manage the rising costs of meal events. It was decided that no changes be made to events now being planned, with potential modifications after the member survey. If decisions need to be made before the survey results are known, the Executive Committee can review the details.
- The board discussed various ways for members to participate in meetings via Zoom. Frank Schmidt moved and Barbara Harris seconded the motion that members receive a link to attend via Zoom at the time of registration. For those not able to attend, there will be a link to the recording in the next biweekly update. There will be no charge to attend via Zoom. The link is active for 45 days after the meeting date.

- The board approved MURA’s participation in AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education). Dick Otto moved and Chris Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. AROHE offers travel programs and other information of value to retirees.
- Information item. The University plans to implement a new tiered system of parking, with pricing depending on location. Currently retired staff and faculty can buy a generic parking pass that allows access to all lots except premium ones. More information is available on the MU website.
- The MURA Constitution and Bylaws approved at the March 13 annual meeting will be posted to the website.
- The 4-campus leadership meeting with retiree organizations and UM System leadership will be held on Thursday, May 30, on the Columbia campus.
- Updates to the Policy and Procedure Manual are in process.
- MURA still has a need for a staff liaison.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Donna Johanning reported a cash balance on April 8, 2024, of \$16,982.91 and an investment account balance of \$109,768.84. Ina Linville moved and Sherri Helm seconded a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will meet in late May to develop the 2024-25 budget. It will be ready for approval at July meeting.

Scholarship Committee. The Kitty Dickerson scholarship fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at any of the three Shakespeare’s pizza restaurants in Columbia. MURA receives 15 percent of all purchases made with the coupon (hard copy or picture on phone). (2) Volunteers are needed to help welcome students back to campus this fall. Sign-ups will begin this summer. (3) The Scholarship Committee will work with the MU Student Financial Aid office to select one new Dickerson recipient as one of the current recipients is graduating. (4) On the agenda for the 2024-25 year are efforts to “clone” the Shakespeare’s fundraiser by engaging an analogous sponsorship from another restaurant; develop a strategy for approaching President Choi for renewal of his contribution of \$10,000 for the Dickerson scholarship; and updating the Database with degree completion information of Dickerson scholars.

Special Committees and Liaisons

United Way Representative. Dee Montgomery reported that the 2023 UM Heart of Missouri United Way campaign was very successful. The total donated as of February 15 (including retirees) was **\$482,309**, well above the MU Committee’s stated goal of \$460,000. MU retirees donated an incredible **\$187,408**, well above last year’s total of \$141,301. This impressive total for retirees represents **38.8%** of the MU total.

Other

There was general discussion about how MURA can be of value to those who retire/leave the University without a pension.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Suzette Heiman, secretary