

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting---August 25, 2016
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order by President Diane Vukovich at 10:02am on August 25, 2016.

A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, June Burton, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Velma Pomrenke, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Stu Terrass, Frank Thomas, Martha Vye, and Tom Vukovich.

B. Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards and Bob Gandee.

C. An address correction on the previous Board roster was shared for Stu Terrass. (Diane will send an up-dated roster.)

D. Congratulations were offered to Laura Moss-Spitler and Stu Terass on their recent marriages over the summer.

E. Everyone was reminded to sign up for the E-mail Digest. Directions on how to do this are in the “Benefits” section of the AUAR webpage. The AUAR webpage address is always available in our Newsletter and on all communications from Diane.

F. Diane also announced that Frank Thomas has prepared membership renewal letters to be sent to those members who have not yet paid their dues for the new year (2016-2017). The Board was asked to check the list of those not yet paid after the conclusion of the meeting and write a personal note on the letters to anyone who is a personal acquaintance.

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the June 23, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

III. Treasure’s Report. Bob Blankenship reported a July 1, 2016 balance of \$7,603.60. Note: The July balance from a year ago was \$8,492.67. Recent dues payments have amounted to \$516.

IV. Commitee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported on the calendar of programs set for the coming year. All luncheons have been set now with a vegetarian option. Options will be different each month. All members are reminded that brown bagging is strictly prohibited. Tom distributed the flier which will be sent out to the membership for the September luncheon program.

B. The 2016-2017 Program Schedule

Fall 2016 Dates	Location	Topic	Time	Speaker
9/14/16	Quaker Square	Review of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Archives	11:30am-1:00pm	Victor Fleischer, Archivist, UA
10/12/16	Quaker Square	Role of Foreign Policy in Presidential Elections	11:30am-1:00pm	Dr. Walter Hixon, Professor of History, UA
11/9/16	Quaker Square	Analysis of 2016 Presidential Election	11:30am-1:00pm	Dr. Stephen Brooks, Bliss Institute, UA
12/14/16	Quaker Square	Holiday Party	11:30am-1:00pm	
Spring 2017 Dates				
2/8/17	Quaker Square	Antarctica	11:30am-1:00pm	Claire Purdy
3/8/17	Quaker Square	Maj. John Mohn & His 1200 Mile Forced March as a WWII Prisoner of War	11:30am-1:00pm	Mandy Pond, Archivist, Massillon Museum
4/12/17	Quaker Square	A Fulbright Scholarship Experience	11:30am-1:00pm	Dr. Susan Olson

C. Membership.

1. Frank Thomas reported that the rosters of paid and unpaid members were available for pick-up after the meeting.

2. We have 19 new retirees' memberships (unpaid) and 274 active memberships (including the 19) since the last e-mail was sent. Fifteen members have been dropped who have not renewed their membership since 2013.

3. Frank reminded everyone to check the unpaid list after the meeting to see if anyone we know is listed there so we can add a personal note to the letter.

4. Frank also reported that we have already collected \$2,091 for the scholarship fund. Our total for the entire year last year was \$3,815.

D. Political Action. No report.

E. Benefits.

1. Linda Sugarman reported that the retiree dependent benefits are retained in the contract between the Akron Chapter of the AAUP and The University of Akron through December 31, 2020. The benefits office has issued a memo containing the particulars of the health insurance for active employees starting in January 2017 however, this memo did not include information about retiree dependent plans. Linda will contact the benefits office after Labor Day to get some information about retiree dependent plans. She has been told that the only change will be an increase in premiums but she will verify for us.

2. The new medical plan administrator will be Anthem Inc. starting January 1, 2017. Caremark will remain the pharmacy benefits manager.

3. Open enrollment for STRS medical plans are usually the first 3 weeks of November. Other state retirement systems may be more restrictive as to enrolling in their medical benefits if someone has opted out of their medial plans upon retirement.

4. Linda encouraged everyone to analyze their own situations to decide on the best option. June Burton added that there is a medical benefits office at 30 Northwest Avenue on Tallmadge Circle that assists people with finding coverage if help is needed.

F. Faculty Senate. No report.

G. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that everything is up-to-date on our webpage. He created an article for the newsletter, but due to space constraints he will send it out to everyone via e-mail.

H. Scholarship.

1. Carl Lieberman sent an article to Pam to be included in the Newsletter.

2. He also announced the selection of scholarship recipients for the current academic year as recommended by the Scholarship Committee. The committee recommended to award two \$1500 scholarships to: Eider Chingvad, a Mechanical Engineering Technology major; Taylor Thompson, a Biology major. Carl shared a little about each student and their need. He then moved to approve the recommendations from the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Carl expects to have a full report on the scholarship endowment assets next month. Discussion followed concerning the current goal for the scholarship endowment. Hopes were to reach \$100,000 by the AUAR 20th anniversary in 2018. We appear to be very close to that goal already.

I. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that it appears that the newsletter is full and set for the upcoming issue.

1. Diane reported that since we are under the umbrella of the Human Resources Office, we are allowed to use the University's nonprofit bulk mail permit. This should save us quite a bit on our next mailing. The only concern was receiving notice of bad addresses. We will see how it goes this first time.

V. Unfinished Business.

A. The Finance Committee lead by Neal Raber finished their examination of newsletter costs. The last cost was \$1,378.14 for 450 copies ordered. The additional 50 copies cost \$100. Discussion followed concerning the purpose and use of the 50 extra copies. It was decided to keep our order number at 400. Extras available from that production will be used for university administrators and OCHER officers only.

B. The Finance Committee also explored the issue of raising dues. It was decided that as long as we maintained a balance of \$5000 in our account we should hold steady on our dues at the current level. If our balance slips below that mark, this discussion will be revisited.

C. The Committee had previously recommended the use of a 50/50 raffle at our luncheon. Neal will handle the 50/50 raffle at our next luncheon.

D. Diane asked that Frank Thomas add a place on next year's membership form where members can indicate whether they prefer getting their newsletter by e-mail or in hard copy. This could offer some savings as well.

VI. New Business. Diane Vukovich reported that she had sent an e-mail to President Wilson 2 weeks after he had accepted the position of Interim President. She explained the AUAR organization, our events and our scholarship efforts. She invited him to meet with the Board at any time in the future if he would like. President Wilson has contacted Willie Kollman and asked him to make arrangements for him to address our group. He will join us at our next board meeting.

VII. Adjournment at 11:18am.

**Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary**

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
September 22, 2016.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**