

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting—September 22, 2016
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order by President Diane Vukovich at 11:40am on September 22, 2016.

A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, June Burton, Bob Gandee, 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, and Tom Vukovich.

B. Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Martha Vye.

C. The meeting was preceded by a visit from President Matthew Wilson. Also present for the presentation with the President were guests Bill Beyer and Kim Beyer.

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 25, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected.

III. Treasurer's Report. Bob Blankenship reported that we have a balance of \$8,633.51 which shows an increase of \$43 over our balance from last year for the same period. Our September luncheon had reservations for 35 regular entries and 6 vegetarian where our proceeds were slightly over the billing rather than short. Our 50/50 raffle brought in an extra \$45 for our operating fund.

IV. Corresponding Secretary: Diane reported that Martha had sent congratulation cards to Stu and Laura on their recent marriages and a sympathy card to Jack Huggins. Martha is still looking for information to send a card to the family of Barb Jones.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported on the calendar of programs set for the coming year. Our next program is the October 12th luncheon with Dr. Walter Hixon as our speaker discussing The Role of Foreign Policy in Presidential Elections. Reservation flier will go out shortly.

Our next Special Event will be the Soup & Chili Supper on November 4, 2016. Members Martha Hakes (mild chili) and Jan Von Spiegel (soup) volunteered to provide dishes for the menu. Members of the Board will also bring selections.

Tom reported that President Wilson has accepted our request for him to be our December luncheon speaker.

B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported that our membership total is now at 302 active members indicating a good result from our mailed reminders. Year-to-date scholarship donations total approximately \$3,300.

C. Political Action. Diane Vukovich distributed handouts from the most recent OCHER meeting outlining advocacy issues as of May 2016. The possibility of changing “monitoring” to actually taking advocacy positions on some issues was discussed. She also provided a handout highlighting program changes for medical and prescription coverage. CVS and Walgreens will no longer be preferred providers. Most grocery store chains will be however. The STRS Board has initiated a pension/health care review, which will provide the basis for recommended changes beginning in 2018.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that there will be a new medical plan administrator; Anthem will replace Apex as the university’s insurance manager starting January 1, 2017.

Retiree dependents will be paying more and getting less. In 2016 retiree dependents paid 15% of the insurance premium. In 2017 their share will increase to 16%. It will continue to increase 1% each year of the union contract.

The major benefit change for retiree dependent insurance appears to be that the out-of-pocket amounts will go from \$1500 to \$2500 per year.

For active employees the out-of-pocket will be a combined drug and medical amount. According to the Benefits Office the out-of-pocket costs for retiree dependents are NOT combined. The out-of-pocket costs for retiree dependents are strictly medical costs and it appears there are no limits on out-of-pocket drug costs.

STRS offers no good news concerning the health plan. There is no longer a dedicated stream of 1% of employer contributions to the Health Care Fund. This fund will in all probability not see a resumption of this 1% contribution for possibly 20 years. Therefore the STRS Health Care Fund will not last as long as it was expected to. The STRS Board is looking for ways to extend the life of the Fund. We can expect in the future that services will be lessened and premiums will go up, perhaps considerably.

E. Faculty Senate. Bob Gandee reported that President Wilson spoke to the Senate at the last meeting. His message to faculty is to recruit students and work with students to move them toward graduation. Full minutes are available online.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that all is up-to-date.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that Sarah Chapman is in charge of our scholarship fund. In June she reported that we have a balance of \$98,010.48 in the account. It was decided to put a discussion of future goals for our scholarship on next month's agenda to consider ideas such as the following: Should we set a new goal? Should we give 3 scholarships instead of just two? Should we increase the 2 scholarships to a higher amount?

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that the AUAR Newsletter should be out in the mail. A discussion followed concerning moving the fall deadline back to July in order to be able to get the newsletter out by mid-August.

VI. Unfinished Business. None

VII. New Business. Tom Vukovich suggested that the organization reimburse Bob Gandee for his gasoline travel expense attending the OCHER meetings. Bob graciously replied that this is a voluntary donation on his part to the group.

VIII. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

**Next Executive Board Meeting
October 27, 2016
Alumni Conference Room
InfoCision Stadium**

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

Appendix

➤ 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	Long & Short Term Goals for U of A	11:30am-1:00pm	President Matthew Wilson
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