

Dates to Remember, March 6, 2024 Board Meeting

- March 8, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- March 11, 1:30 pm, Membership Meeting, Dina Maneval, Falcon Whisperer
- March 12, 1:30 pm, Military History Group special event, Michael Unsworth, "Floating Vengeance: Japan's World War II Balloon Attack on Michigan"
- March 14, Straightline Financial Planning event
- April 3, Wednesday, 10 am, Board Meeting
- April 8, 1:30 pm, Membership Meeting, Alysia Babcock, Native Plants, Restoration of Natural Areas
- April 10, Wednesday, Bus Trip to Meijer Gardens Butterfly Exhibit and Gerald R. Ford Museum
- April 12, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- April 24, Wednesday, Board Meeting
- May 7, Tuesday, 11:30 am, University Club, Annual Meeting

MSURA Board Meeting minutes: March 6, 2024, 10 am, Hybrid (In-person and Via Zoom)

In attendance: Bruce Smith, Rick Vogt, Dave Brower, Mike Gardner, John Forsyth, Dan Mackey, Chris DeFouw, Roger Baldwin, Liz Thomas, Cheryl Pell, Kate Wight, Jacqie Babcock, Angie Brown

Called to Order: 10:01 am

Review/Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting February 7, 2024

Motion to approve minutes by C. DeFouw, seconded by B. Anderson; minutes approved.

Item(s) Requiring Discussion and a Vote

See additional notes under **Nominations and Leadership for 2024-2025**. R. Vogt moved to change the by-laws to add two At-Large positions to the board. These positions are being added with the intention of filling them with individuals who are willing to be considered for officer positions in the future. C. DeFouw seconded. Motion approved.

President's Report* (Jacqueline Babcock)

See attached.

Vice President's Report* (Rick Vogt)

See attached.

Past President's Report (Roger Baldwin) Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report* (Dave Brower)

Straightline has agreed to contribute \$3,000 to help defray expenses for the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by R. Vogt; seconded by K. Wight. Treasurer's Report approved.

MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)

The RFP process for finding a replacement for Humana is in the review stage and is close to completion. D. Mackey will notify us when a decision is made, probably later this month. A goal of the RFP process was to replicate as closely as possible the services and costs that we have had with Humana's plan.

Nominations and Leadership for 2024-2025 (Jacqueline Babcock)

J. Babcock appealed to the group for ideas. Discussion followed. It is apparent that both short term and long term strategies are necessary to address the issue of filling the top leadership positions of the MSURA board.

Highlights, short term:

- A. Brown volunteered to be added to the slate as Vice President, for a one year term.
- D. Brower will contact individuals, within the next month, who may replace him as Treasurer. Provided that he finds a replacement he has volunteered to be added to the slate as President.
- Beginning in the 2024-25 year, the four At-Large Members will assume more responsibility related to programming and introduction of speakers for the monthly membership meetings. This should serve to make the role of Vice President less intimidating.
- R. Vogt will draft proposals to add two At-Large positions to the board, and present for approval at the April board meeting.
 - He will present two versions which will be voted on by the membership: versions with and without term limits for these new positions.
 - One position will be added / filled in an even year; the other will be added / filled in an odd year.
 - Anyone filling these positions will do so with the understanding that they may be considered for officer board positions in the future.
- J. Babcock will review list of candidates that were highlighted by Patrick Scheetz from retiree list as possibilities for these At-Large positions.
- If by chance anyone of us comes up with a possible candidate to fill officer positions, we should notify the board via email as soon as possible, prior to our April board meeting.

Long term we must take steps to address why bringing new individuals onto the board from the MSURA membership is such a challenge. We need to develop a system that brings potential candidates into the board. Setting up a process where the vice president moves into role as president was also suggested.

Annual Meeting, May 7, 2024 – MSU University Club (Pam Marcis, Liz Thomas)

- It is important to contact all people on the comp list, provided by J. Babcock.
- J. Babcock will send a letter inviting all past presidents of MSURA.
- L. Thomas will provide copies of the annual meeting reservation form at the March and April Membership meetings.

Events Committee* (Christina DeFouw)

- Newman Lofts and the Lugnuts' game are the only two events scheduled at this time for the 2024 – 2025 year.
- A tour of the Capitol Building will be scheduled after renovations are complete.

BYOB (Cheryl Pell, Bill Anderson)

Attendance at meetings has increased. Incentives will continue.

Scholarship Committee (Angie Brown) and Scholarship Fundraising (Roger Baldwin)

R. Baldwin and R. Vogt will work together on a paragraph that will be included in the next e-Notice, appealing for contributions to the scholarship fund on Green Day of Giving – March 12, 2024.

Volunteer of the Year Award* (Bill Anderson)

The committee will meet on April 1, to review nomination forms and select the Volunteer of the Year.

Retiree Meals on Campus (Mike Gardner)

Next lunches will be on March 8th and April 12th. M. Gardner will confirm that Brody will be open through the summer so that the lunches can continue at Brody; he will report on status in April.

Communications*/Underwriters (Jacqueline Babcock, Cheryl Pell, Rick Vogt)

Newsletter Deadlines: Friday, March 8th is the deadline for content for the April-May issue of the newsletter. Please have content to Rick Vogt and Cheryl Pell by this date.

J. Babcock, C. Pell, R. Vogt, and D. Brower will meet to create a plan for revamping the fee system for our underwriters. They will present their plan to the board at a future meeting.

Office Management (Liz Thomas) Nothing to report

MSURA Technology, website, Facebook* (John Forsyth, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Rick Vogt)

J. Forsyth will maintain the website. C. Pell will maintain Facebook.

Announcements Nothing reported

D. Brower moved to adjourn; B. Anderson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

*See attached for additional report information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight
MSURA Secretary

March 29, 2024

President's Report (Jacqueline Babcock)

1. February 14, Angela Brown, Bruce Smith and I signed in for a virtual meeting of the Big Ten Retirees Association. Notes were sent earlier to the board and when the official minutes are sent out they will be forwarded, as well (they may not be available until approved at the meeting in Columbus).

2. **The in-person meeting Big Ten Retirees Association meeting is scheduled for July 22-24 hosted by OSU and registration information is available. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please let me know.** Bill Anderson is currently designated as one attendee.

Below is a DRAFT calculation of cost/person to attend. The conference is Wed – Friday. I am calculating Tuesday arrival departing Friday. Conference registration begins Wed at 11 am and it is approximately a four hour drive. The conference ends Friday at noon.

Registration: \$300

Hotel is \$175/night + tax = \$205 (presuming three nights) total is \$615

Mileage driving is 255 miles each way @ .67/mile = \$341.79

Uncovered meals: Dinner Tu evening (if drive day ahead)- \$29, Wed, BR and LU- \$30, Friday BR - \$14 = \$73

TOTAL: \$1329.79

THE **DEADLINE** TO REGISTER FOR THE MEETING WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FEE AND THE SPECIAL HOTEL RATE IS **JUNE 9, 2024.**

3. Vice President Christine Brogdon's office reached out asking for volunteers for the Annual Recognition reception in May. Chris DeFouw will coordinate the volunteer list. MSURA has confirmation from VP Brogdon that brochures/information can be made available at the event. This was discussed as a possibility at the meeting with VP Brogdon last fall.

4. Thank you to John Forsyth, Cheryl Pell and Bruce Smith for stepping in to assume responsibility for various aspects of the technology requirements (FB, Website, posting meeting recordings, etc.). I sent a thank you note to Anders Johanson for his many years of service in various aspects of MSURA technology needs and he emailed his appreciation. Anders had asked last May to be relieved of this assignment and I'm glad we could make progress in accommodating his request. Rick Vogt and John Forsyth are meeting with representatives from MSU IT and other individuals to gather information for MSURA to move forward with managing and re-design of MSURA social media.

5. Reservations for the trip to Grand Rapids on April 10 have been coming in very slowly. We are monitoring with Diana Priebe to determine viability without losing bus deposit money. (There is a \$50 cancellation fee, however.) Another option is a smaller bus depending on number of registrations. This is a bit surprising given this location was a high priority on the membership survey and many people had expressed interest.

NOTES:

As of this writing it is unlikely I will be back in MI to chair the April 3, 2024 Board meeting. I expect to be driving back to MI on that day so Rick Vogt will chair the meeting. I will prepare the agenda and send out materials in advance. If we do arrive back in EL earlier than expected, I will let everyone know.

I do plan to be in attendance at the April 8 monthly meeting to introduce the speaker and make announcements. I will also chair the last meeting for this academic year on April 24 in person.

Vice President's Report (Rick Vogt)

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE REPORT

RFP for Health Care Insurance Provider.

Dave Brower and I represented MSURA attending a session with each of the three finalists healthcare insurance companies. The process was informative and helpful. I will leave the details to Dan Mackey to provide the Board. The process was not public, so there is not much I can say beyond this.

Issues with healthcare insurance.

Side note. I have not heard from any retiree in the past month with healthcare insurance problems.

MONTHLY INFORMAL LUNCHESES

Mike Gardner has done a great job putting these together. Thank you Mike.

We are seeing more and more retirees attend. People are socializing and making connections. I am seeing some reoccurring attendees. All good things.

I would like to suggest that we get maybe four tables of 8 seats each and have one or two Board members at each to talk with the retirees.

I would like to continue these monthly informal lunches through the summer. However, I do not know if Brody will be open during the summer. Mike, can you find out? Thank you.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Busy week next week we have a number of events.

Monday, March 11th Dina Maneval of Lansing Board of Water and Light is our presenter this month. She will be talking about the falcons which nest on BWL property.

Tuesday, March 12th Michael Unsworth is presenting on World War II events that include Japan's use of balloons to deliver bombs to the US. Some actually made it to Michigan. This is a special event being hosted by the Military History Group. They will have a meeting of the group immediately following the presentation.

Wednesday, March 13th Faculty Emerita Association is having their monthly lecture series at the MSUFCU Farm Lane branch's Community room.

Thursday, March 14th StraightLine Financial planning event. This is a virtual event using Zoom.

Speaker for Annual Luncheon, Tuesday May 7th is Michael Garland, retired MSU basketball assistant coach.

MSUFCU Community Room - MSUFCU Policy of Usage of Room

MSUFCU has a policy for use of Community room space. This is posted on their website. I am working with Angie Brown to address some changes to the usage of the room because of this policy. They are....

1. Use of the room is not allowed per the policy for monthly meetings. We have been granted an exception for MSURA for the next year.
2. Providing of coffee and related supplies, is no longer provided by MSUFCU to organizations. We are bringing in our own coffee and related supplies for each meeting.

3. Reserving the room, per the policy cannot be reserved beyond the end of the current year. We have received an exception and will be allowed to reserve the room through the end of 2025 calendar year.

Conflict with National Holidays and MSURA Monthly Membership Meetings

MSUFCU Farm Lane branch is closed for Federal Holidays. October 14th (Columbus Day) and November 11th (Veteran's Day) meeting dates occur on Federal Holidays. Therefore, the Monthly Membership meetings for these months will be held the Tuesday following the 2nd Monday of the month. We have the same issue in October 13, 2025 as well.

These dates should be reflected on the MSURA Master Calendar of event dates.

EAT-AT-STATE MEAL TICKETS, DOOR PRIZE

We have meal tickets donated by MSU Culinary Services for door prize gifts to people attending the Monthly Membership Meetings. The winner will receive two meal tickets.

COVID MASKS AVAILABLE

Masks have been provided to MSURA by MSU Healthcare and the MSU Pharmacy. These are available at the welcome table at each meeting. We have enough for other events as well. If you are chairing an event and need face masks, give Rick Vogt a call.

2027 BIG TEN RETIREE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, MSU Hosting in 2027

Detail planning for this event will begin next year.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING Effort Conclusion Article - Please review and get us your feedback by this deadline.

E-Notice DEADLINES

Thursday, March 7th deadline for content for the E-Notice email. This will be going out Thursday evening.

Tuesday, March 12th is Give Green Day. Do we want to include a special announcement in the E-Notice going out this week (March 7th) requesting donations to MSU Retirees Association and MSURA Student Scholarship?

AROHE Reimagining Retirement Exploring Your Life Plan seminar

This three part series was very good. Recordings of all three parts are available on the AROHE site.

MSURA WALKING SIG

The walking SIG has 18 members. We walk three days a week currently, Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am from Jenison Fieldhouse to Bouge Street along the campus river trail or if weather is not great, inside Munn Ice Arena. The MSU Hockey team has practices in the morning, A little bit of entertainment why we walk watching the hockey team work out. Participation has been very good and way above normal for winter months, about 8-10 people walking each day. We walk about 2 mile distance in about 50 minutes, a nice enjoyable pace for most people.

FLYING SIG

I checked on this SIG group and they are not accepting new members. They can be removed from the website. Fred Hobart the current listed coordinator is no longer a member. Steve Harsh, an MSU retiree is a member of the Flying group told me they are not looking for new members and to remove this from the MSURA website. John, can you remove this from the website.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Brower)

Treasurer's Report for February 29, 2024 MSURA Financial Statement

February 2024 revenues totaled \$82.41, including a \$20.00 donation. Expenditures for February totaled \$485.74, including \$426.03 for postage. February expenditures exceeded revenues by (\$403.33)

Note: Most Lugnut ticket revenues for our August outing were recorded last year, so this accounts for the difference between Lugnut revenues and expenses recorded this year. The Lugnut outing costs are fully covered by the attendees.

Through February 29, 2024, revenues totaled \$17,407.84 and expenditures totaled \$21,646.77.. Year-to-date expenditures exceeded revenues by (\$4,238.93). We will be in a deficit position all fiscal year, as the revised budget approved by the board had a deficit of up to \$7,000.

As noted in the footnote, as of February 29, 2024 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$199,914.16, an increase of \$120 over the prior month. The income account had a balance of \$5,186.34. All four FY23-24 scholarships have been paid in full.

As of February 29, 2024, \$83,549 has been pledged or contributed towards our MSURA Endowment initiative goal of \$60,000, an increase of \$20 over the amount reported last month.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Events Committee Report (Christina DeFouw)

Upcoming Special Events:

- 1) Regarding July 10 Newman Lofts Brunch. Pam will meet with chefs after basketball season is over.
- 2) Jeanette Robertson will be assisting with registration at the March 11 Membership Meeting.
- 3) The Special Events Committee is beginning to plan the 2024/2025 events. We will avoid the Monthly Membership Meeting dates and Homecoming. Are there any other dates of which we should be aware?

Special Events Committee Report (Jacqie Babcock, Pam Marcis, Chris DeFouw)

February 9, 2024 R. E. Olds Transportation Museum Guided Tour, 31 members RSVP'd, 29 attended.

Approximately 10 members attended lunch at Brody after the tour.

April 10, 2024 Ford Museum and Meijer Gardens bus trip. Response from members has been lower than hoped. This trip has been opened to non-MSURA members to try to fill the bus and keep the trip a go.

June 2, 2024 Meadowbrook Hall Tour, Lunch and Ella Fitzgerald Play bus trip. Reservation information for this trip available to MSURA members. This trip is in conjunction with MSU Friends of Theater.

July 10, 2024 Brunch at Newman Lofts. Location has been confirmed. Event details are in the planning phase.

August 16, 2024 Lugnuts. This event is being planned by Dave Brower. Reservation information for this event is available to MSURA members.

Volunteer of the Year Award Report (William Anderson)

The subcommittee responsible for selecting the 2024 MSURA Volunteer of the Year has completed the following activities:

- prepared and distributed a Volunteer of the Year nomination form at MSURA monthly meetings,
- prepared an announcement of the award for distribution in the MSURA newsletter and E-notices, and
- announced nominations are open at the past two MSURA membership meetings

We have identified three possible candidates. The subcommittee will meet on April 1 to select the award winner. We will then forward the name of the award winner to the CNS Trophy Shop in Lansing for them to prepare an award plaque to be presented at the May annual meeting.

Communications / Underwriters Report (Jacqie Babcock, Cheryl Pell, Rick Vogt)

Newsletter Deadlines

Friday, March 8th is the deadline for content for the April-May issue of the newsletter. Please have content to Rick Vogt and Cheryl Pell by this date.

MSURA Technology, Website, Facebook Report (John Forsyth, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Rick Vogt)

UPDATE March 6, 2024

Member data have been updated as of data received February 18, 2024 and data received on March 3.

Navigation changes have been made to the website. The home page shows details of the next upcoming membership meeting and a headline link to other scheduled events. Full descriptions of future membership meetings and other events can be reached from those headline links. The home page right column sidebar has links to certain events -- such as bus trips, Lugnuts, etc. -- that require one to sign up or take other action. Newsletters and eNotices can embed those direct links so that a reader is relieved of as many navigation steps as possible and relieved of searches for relevant links. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Contacts have been made to MSU IT Services and to other retirees with web skills with plans to develop a new design for the web site. During the redesign, the existing site will be updated as usual and edited for brevity.

Feedback indicates that some information on the page of MSURA Groups is outdated. That page needs to be reviewed and each group's contact person verified. Consider this a request to identify a person not on the Board to perform that review and verification.

UPDATE March 3, 2024

An additional change to the website provides a link to the latest eNotice in the right column on the eNotice page. Six of the latest eNotices have been uploaded and can be accessed via the eNotice archive directory which is also accessible from the right column of the eNotice page. The plan, which is one of those things the Board might want to refine, is to add new eNotices to the archive, index them, and update the "Latest eNotice" link.

UPDATE: The page on MSURA Groups has been rearranged and edited. One listing was deleted because the only known contact is deceased. Two listings have no known contact. The pages News and Calendars and Other Helpful Information should be compared with the eNotice item Other News & Events to see whether the eNotice item suggest a better approach.

The web site currently archives MSURA records of membership meetings, newsletters, eNotices, and Board minutes. This practice deserves review and direction from the Board.

Board members should access the web site regularly, especially when involved in producing an event. Send comments on events and other issues to Forsyth.

Submitted by: John Forsyth, March 1, 2024

WEBSITE (submitted by R. Vogt)

Anders Johanson has taken the lead on building and maintaining the MSURA website. He has been backed up and supported by John Forsyth. Anders asked to step down this month from this role. John Forsyth has agreed to do this role on the existing web site. Please direct any website announcements, event information, PDFs to John.

Redesign MSURA Website

We have formed a committee to look at redesigning the website. The committee at this time is: Rick Church, John Forsyth, Bruce Smith, and Rick Vogt. We will be meeting with MSU IT Services in the next few weeks to find out what services, tools and training they have available to build it. We will be proposing a budget amount for

tools and training at the April Board meeting. A more detailed plan will be developed over the summer months. While the new website is being built, the existing one will remain the main site. Once we get the new one built and it is ready for prime time, we will switch to it. (The URL retirees.msu.edu will be changed to point to the new site at that time.)

It is important while we go through the design process we get feedback from everyone on content and functionality. Please help us move this along and ensure we what we need by giving us your feedback and input in a timely manner.

History Committee Report (Cheryl Pell)

The history committee (comprised of Angie Brown, Nancy Craig, Rick Vogt and me) was created to work on the years 1998-2024 as the earlier years, from 1949 to 1997, have already been completed. We decided to do bullet points. You may read the earlier history as it is up online.

We have met three times so far. We each took a segment of the years and read through old newsletters and minutes and pulled out what we thought were significant events.

We will put a page of our findings in the program for the annual luncheon.

Our work will continue, and we will likely be writing a narrative for the website.