

Dates to Remember, December 6, 2023 Board Meeting

- December 8, Friday, 11:30 am, informal retiree lunch at Brody
- December 11, Monday, 1:30 pm, memb'p meeting, Anthony Bauer, Scheffel Memorial Toy Shop
- December 14, Thursday, 2 pm, Straightline, Financial Planning, virtual
- December 15, deadline for collecting holiday gifts for MSU Safe Place
- January 3, 2024, 10 am, next board meeting
- January 8, 2024, Monday, 1:30 pm, memb'p meeting, Stephen Terry, MSU History and Postcard Pictures
- January 12, 2024, Friday, 11:30 am, informal retiree lunch at Brody
- February 9, 2024, R.E. Olds Transportation Museum guided tour; lunch following at Brody

MSURA Board Meeting minutes: December 6, 2023, 10 am, Hybrid (In-person and Via Zoom)

In attendance: Jacqie Babcock, Bruce Smith, Rick Vogt, Dave Brower, Angie Brown, Cheryl Pell, Kate Wight, Christina DeFouw, Bill Anderson, John Forsyth, Dan Mackey, Mike Gardner, Patrick Scheetz

Called to Order: 10:09 am

Review/Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting November 8, 2023

Motion to approve by A. Brown, seconded by R. Vogt; minutes approved.

President's Report* (Jacqie Babcock)

- The new Director of Benefits, HR, plans to stop in, briefly, during our January meeting.
- The book club will meet in January, then disband through the summer, and reconvene in Fall 2024. In the interim notifications will go out, to increase the membership.
- The Williamston play followed by dinner at Zynda's on December 2, was well attended and a success.

Vice President's Report* (Rick Vogt)

We will provide the coffee for future membership meetings; MSUFCU provides filters for the coffee maker.

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

Treasurer's Report* (Dave Brower)

D. Brower will follow up with MSU Healthcare, the only underwriter still unpaid. R. Vogt will send name of MSU Healthcare accountant to D. Brower. D. Brower will also follow up with two individuals whose pledged donations are still outstanding.

K. Wight moved to approve the Treasurer's report; C. DeFouw seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

A discussion ensued regarding two issues raised by D. Brower:

- 1) A resolution is necessary to update three authorized signers. A. Brown moved to authorize Jacqueline E. Babcock (President), Frederick Vogt (Vice President), and David Brower (Treasurer); additionally, David Brower is designated as our responsible person. B. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 2) B. Anderson moved to institute a policy that any expenditure greater than \$2,000, that is paid either by check or debit card, will require a second signature. R. Vogt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)

- The new Director of Benefits, HR, is Mary Lou Morey. As mentioned above she will stop in briefly during our January board meeting.
- Though Humana is issuing new cards to Medicare Advantage retirees, there are no changes to the plans for these retirees. The non-Medicare retirees will not be receiving new cards.
- About 500 signed up for Delta Dental's new Premium Plan, effective 1/1/2024. Invoices have been mailed to approximately 400 of these, who are first time recipients.

MSU Safe Place, Adopt-A-Family* (Bill Anderson)

Gifts are coming in and most of those received have been wrapped. The gifts will be picked up December 15th, or later.

Recommendations from Membership Programming Subcommittee* (Bill Anderson)

The committee – including J. Babcock, R. Baldwin, A. Brown, and Nancy Craig – has developed nine program ideas, to be used as approaches to engage more retirees in our activities.

After discussion, it was decided that the first program idea will be implemented in January. The objective is to get more new and recent retirees to our membership meetings. As an incentive, to be given to both the inviter and a qualifying invitee (defined as a retiree who has never attended a membership meeting), a small 'reward' will be given – a gift card. Additionally, from the pool of retirees who have earned a reward, two (an inviter and his/her invitee) will receive free tickets to our annual meeting in May, 2024.

This incentive will be announced twice in the next several weeks: first, B. Anderson will share the plan at the December 11th membership meeting; second, it will be announced in the e-Notice that will be published on December 24th. C. Pell and B. Anderson will work together to create a notice that will highlight this BYOB (Bring Your Own Buddy) program.

The remaining program ideas suggested will be discussed further and implemented in future months. One of many possibilities is to put together a video presentation that would introduce new and recent retirees to the retiree association, and draw from a variety of sources to discuss special interest topics. B. Smith offered to help video the presentation.

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

M. Gardner has received NO response from Coach Izzo or his office after at least six attempts.

The registration form will first appear in an e-Notice in January, and then in the April/ May newsletter.

The menu will be decided in January. C. DeFouw will contact P. Marcis and L. Thomas; she will also follow up with R. Vogt on information and registration form for the newsletter.

Events Committee* (Jacqie Babcock, Christina DeFouw, Pam Marcis)

See attached report for events planned.

Scholarship Committee* (Angie Brown)

Angie Brown shared the application form. With the objective of receiving applications from a diverse set of students, A. Brown will reach out to university clubs via a letter, which she will share with J. Babcock.

Scholarship Fundraising (Roger Baldwin) Nothing to report

Volunteer of the Year Award, Nominations (Bill Anderson)

B. Anderson has spoken with A. Brown and C. DeFouw about helping. First request for nominees will go out in a January e-Notice.

Retiree Meals on Campus (Mike Gardner)

There was a good turn-out at November lunch. Next lunches will be on December 8th and January 12th.

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

As noted above, D. Brower will follow up with MSU Healthcare, still an unpaid underwriter.

Office Management (Liz Thomas)

MSUFCU has agreed to hold our membership meeting dates through April 2024 in the Community Room at the Mt. Hope and Farm Lane branch. L. Thomas will follow up with them to confirm.

C. DeFouw will ensure that the membership meeting bag is taken to the December memb'p meeting.

MSURA Technology, website, Facebook (John Forsyth, Anders Johanson) Nothing to report

Announcements

A special interest group for bowling may be added within the next several months.

Angie Brown moved to adjourn; B. Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.

*See attached for additional report information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight
MSURA Secretary

December 8, 2023

President's Report (Jacqie Babcock)

The December outing to Williamston Theatre has 21 people reserved for dinner at Zynda's after the play. It's possible others are attending the play but not going to dinner but I don't have that information. I think it's a good turnout and there are some names I don't recognize, so please welcome them if you are attending. Rob Roznowski has been great to work with. He will make some remarks after the performance at the theatre and will join the group for dinner at Zynda's. Dave Brower has agreed to pay for Rob's meal.

Please support the MSU Safe Place effort that Bill Anderson is heading up. Several of you have also offered to cover the MSURA office for drop offs. This is greatly appreciated. I've posted this on my FB page for anyone who might be interested as well.

I approached three individuals to chair the Membership Committee. All three were somewhat interested, but because of other pressing obligations and health issues, declined. I think for two people there might be future opportunities to engage them in activities. But, that leaves us without someone to head this up. I think we can manage for now internally and am in process of firming up details. I will update at the meeting.

Thank you to Chris DeFouw for firming up plans for an RE Olds Museum (Lansing) tour in February which will coincide with the Brody luncheon that month. Thank you, as well, to Chris and Pam Marcis for moving forward with an April bus trip to Grand Rapids. I've attached a Save the Date flyer which will appear in the January newsletter. Registration details will appear in a later newsletter.

Heads up that in January I want to form a nominations committee. I will not be continuing as President next year so please be thinking about this process, especially if you'd like to help lead the group.

Vice President's Report (Rick Vogt)

Upcoming Programs:

- Toy Project, Monday, December 11th
- StraightLine, Financial Planning Event, Thursday, December 14th 2pm, virtual only using Zoom.
- MSU Campus Infrastructure, Ron Flinn, January 8th

MSUFCU Community Room is booked for January-April monthly membership meetings. Thank you, Liz, for getting the meeting space reserved.

Thank you to MSU Health Care for donating several hundred face masks to MSURA for use at our events this year. If you are hosting an event, see Rick Vogt for face masks. We are not requiring people to wear face masks at this time, just making them available to people.

New Special Interest Group, Retirees Bowling League at East Lansing bowling alley. This will be for MSU retirees and non-MSU retirees. Kris Ostrom is coordinating this group. Details are being worked out. More information coming soon.

75th Anniversary Committee:

- We are trying to get Tom Izzo to be the guest speaker for this event, hope to confirm if he can do it soon. Mike Gardner is working on this.

2027 Big Ten Retirees Association Meeting, Planning (MSU Host Organization), July/August 2027

- At this time we are just looking to firm up Financial plans of costs and how to pay for it.
- More details planning will occur closer to the event in 2025-26 and 2026-2027.

MSURA Health Care Committee:

- Nothing new to report this month.
- MSU will be bidding out healthcare for retirees under the age of 65. We do not know when this process will begin and what role MSURA will have in it. We hope to be a part of the process along with Faculty Emeriti Association. This insurance contract expires December 31, 2024.
- MSU Humana Medicare Advantage plans for people over 65 will expire December 31, 2024. We do not know at this time if MSU will bid this out or renew with Humana at this time.
- Questions about overseas travel health care insurance coverage is a common question. We should be instructing people to contact Humana and see what coverage is included in the MSU Humana insurance for the countries people are traveling too. Also, people can contact the insurance carrier which MSU uses for its overseas travel health insurance for faculty, staff and students. Retirees are not included in that coverage, but retirees can purchase a similar coverage from the insurance carrier.

Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2023 MSURA Financial Statement

David Brower, Treasurer

Attached is the November 30, 2023 MSURA Financial Statement. November 2023 revenues totaled \$571.03, including \$525.00 in donations. (Note: unpaid underwriters include MSU Healthcare for \$2,000 and Humana for \$2,250. The Humana check has just been received and will be deposited in December).

Expenditures for November totaled \$1,671.74, including: \$571.22 for postage; \$303.18 for printing; and, \$738.00 for D&O Insurance. For the month, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,100.71.

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 November 30, 2023 revenues totaled \$11,700.54, including \$9,500 in underwriting income, out of the \$14,000 budgeted for the year. Expenditures totaled \$18,505.22. Year-to-date expenditures exceeded revenues by \$6,804.68. We will likely 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 November 30, 2023 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$191,394.16, no increase over the prior month (includes \$2,500 contributed by MSURA). The income account had a balance of \$10,015.81 (Note: account charged \$5,000 for the fall semester distribution of the 4 FY23-24 scholarships awarded).

As of November 30, 2023, \$75,679 has been pledged or contributed towards our MSURA Endowment initiative goal of \$60,000, no increase over the amount reported last month.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

MSU Safe Place, Adopt-A-Family (Bill Anderson)

The MSURA voted to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program sponsored by the MSU Safe Place. This program has been in place for over 20 years, and is designed to provide MSU families of domestic violence with Holiday items from their wish list. Without the participation of the MSURA, the family assigned to us will have little or no other Holiday gifts. All families are MSU students, faculty, staff, and their spouses/partners. We do not get to meet with the family for security reasons.

We received the wish list for our designated family on November 15. The family consists of a single parent (mother) and 5 children (3 boys ages 4, 9 and 11; and 5 year-old twin girls). With the help of John Williamson), he created a Google Docs interactive spread sheet that allowed MSURA members to select an purchase wish list items for the family and then record them on the spreadsheet to avoid duplications. We also recruited members to sign-up for office coverage and gift wrapping.

To date (11/30), we have had 11 MSURA members purchase items from the wish list and 5 members sign-up for office coverage and wrapping. We must have all our gifts wrapped and ready for Safe Place pick-up on December 15.

I would encourage MSURA members to participate in the program in some way and help provide a less fortunate Spartan family with better Holiday.

DRAFT 10/18/23

**Recommendations for programming for new and recent retirees
Subcommittee MSURA**

Bill Anderson, Jacqie Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Angela Brown, Nancy Craig

Overall Goal: MSURA Programming should be interesting, fun and useful.

Program Ideas:

1. Incentivize current MSURA members to bring a new retiree to the monthly meetings. Rewards could be coffee cards or free passes to "Eat at State". It would work for someone bringing a retiree who has never attended a monthly MSURA meeting before. Same idea, but give the "gift" goes to any member attending for the first time.
2. Host very specific small group sessions on focused topics for new or recent (18 months to two years?) retirees. Review topics used by other retiree associations in their new retiree orientations. Brief introductions to the topic and then structured discussion and Q/A from the attendees.
3. AROHE tapes – review and see if MSURA can use some topics for roundtable sessions. Tapes are in three sessions and will be debuted in January and February.
4. Review the topics used by MSU HR "Road Next Traveled." Address the topics formerly covered but cut from the current ½ day session.
5. Conduct sessions for new retirees using external speakers (HR personnel, TIAA/Fidelity representatives, physicians, police, fire, technology, etc, on:
 - the changes in MSU benefits for the active employee transitioning to retirement
 - Maximizing Social Security).
 - How to receive your retirement income
 - AARP, EL Prime Time, Age Alive, Tri County Office on Aging
 - Police, Fire, Physicians (normal aging process), Technology
6. Hold a panel/roundtable event where longer term retirees talk about retirement issues and their experience and/or answer questions from more recent retirees.
7. Host two special receptions each year – one in the fall and one in the spring. Either 1:00 pm before a monthly speaker or a separate "welcome reception." Maybe September or October and January or February and catch the last year or 18 months of retirees each time (with some overlap).
8. The 2019 survey offers some ideas for programming related to retiree interests and retiree concerns. Even though board members were given results by Roger and Bill in 2019, the pandemic interrupted use of the document to think about these issues. These ideas are possible resources for both monthly programming and extra events especially targeted to newer retirees.
9. Consider participating in campus-wide events that draw attention to the MSURA, such as student move-in, Adopt a Family Program during the holiday season, Homecoming, Benefits Fair, etc.

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

> Upcoming Special Events:

> February 9, 2024 R.E. Olds Transportation Museum guided tour. For those who are interested, after tour join group at Brody for lunch. Registration information has been provided for January Newsletter.

> April 10, 2024 Meijer Garden for butterfly display and Gerald Ford Museum (bus trip). Save the date announcement has been provided for January Newsletter. Registration information will be in February/March Newsletter.

> June 2024 Night Demonstration at the MSU Observatory

> July 2024 Newman Lofts Brunch

> Late Fall 2024/Early Winter 2025 Michigan Capitol Tour

Communications Committee (Jacqie Babcock, Cheryl Pell, Rick Vogt)

- We are looking for people to be subjects in future Spartan Spotlight articles. If you know of someone who would be a good subject, please ask them and let Rick Vogt know if they are interested. The person does not have to be a big traveler or do extraordinary things. People who are just ordinary retirees make great subjects too. So, give it some thoughts, who do you know that has an interesting story to be told?
- The next newsletter January issue will be issued late in December and be available on the MSURA website by December 20th. Printed hardcopies of the newsletter will arrive in mailboxes late December.
- We will be putting together the Feb-March newsletter in early January. It is important to get event announcements together soon in order that they are ready for publication early in January. With the holidays ahead, there is not a lot of time left.
- The next E-Notice is scheduled to go out Wednesday, December 7th evening. Please get any announcements to Rick Vogt, before 5pm on Wednesday, December 7th.
- MSURA newsletter article for scholarship fundraising effort for the January newsletter, written by Marco Schimizzie. Focus on asking for donations; scholarship selection process; and concluding the three year fundraising effort, March 31, 2024.
- We are looking at having an article in a future newsletter about living in remote areas of the country, would like to have input from a few people that we can quote in the article. If you have experience in living or vacationing in such places and have things to share about the experience, contact Rick Vogt. Thank you.