

RETIREE ASSOCIATION MINUTES  
April 11, 2017  
9:30 A.M, MAC Hall Gathering Room

Attendance: Pat Przybelski, Chris Sampson, Virginia Dell, Jim Wiersma, Ron Starkey, Roger Vanderperren, Michael Kraft, Dan Spielmann, Frank Madzarevic, Judi Pietsch.  
Guest: Jane Rank

Minutes of the January 10, 2017, meeting were approved without change.

Change in staff liaison

President Pat Przybelski shared word that the Retiree Association will have a new staff liaison from the University Advancement Office. Jessica Hopp is leaving the University. New Vice Chancellor Tony Werner has designated Jacob Depas to serve as interim liaison.

Status of Oral History Project

Jane Rank addressed the board with a report on the status of the Oral History Project. The effort is now 10 years old. Jane said she joined about seven or eight years ago and has chaired the project the last five. Jane and Roger Vanderperren have collaborated on nearly all of the interviews and videotaping, collecting stories of faculty, staff, students and community people, primarily, with a special focus on the earliest days of UWGB to capture memories and subjects that might otherwise be lost.

Jane said the next major step in the process will be to make the material more accessible and, in particular, searchable. She outlined the three leading challenges in this regard, and the progress being made:

- Server space – This is an issue that is being addressed with the University. Work remains to be done, but the outlook is positive.
- Identifying the best software choice – Historian and Prof. Emeritus Cliff Abbott has been a resource in test-driving some software possibilities, as has the lead emerging-technology specialist from the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison, and Paula Ganyard and Deb Anderson of UWGB's Cofrin Library. A system called Content DM is the apparent consensus choice. Jane noted that other UW System campuses are similarly engaged in ramping up their historical video archiving/searching functions.
- Personpower – With the next step involving a systematic review of the 150 UWGB interviews already completed, and a desire to at a minimum abstract the content for keyword searching, there's no way around the great need for dedicated staff and volunteer time. Jane mentioned that she, Abbott, Roger, Ginny Dell and Joan Thron were already on board. Ganyard and Anderson have committed library staff support. The result, Jane said, was "significant progress" and even "light at the end of the tunnel" for what will be a very time-intensive process.

### Loss of Retiree Association office space and 'home' conference room

As part of a larger game of musical chairs, UW-Green Bay has assigned UW-Extension to take over the Environmental Science Building Room 307 space formerly called home by the Retiree Association. The computer, files and desk are gone. Pat said she would talk to Advancement's Tony Werner about replacement space, if that's even available. "I'd at least like to have a file cabinet somewhere," she added. There are at least two individuals with faculty emeritus status who use the office on a semi-regular basis; emeriti access to work space varies across programs, it seems. Pat said she would investigate further. (Loss of the conference room is arguably the least problematic result of the ES 307 reassignment, as scheduling of alternative rooms shouldn't be too difficult.)

### Premier World Discovery Tours

Premier World Discovery Tours, a for-profit company that facilitates travel programs for groups including retirees, recently approached then-Retiree Association president Jim Wiersma to gauge our group's interest. It could be a portal to a larger range of travel options for UWGB people who enjoy this sort of opportunity, and it would be the sort of thing where our registrants would be part of larger traveling groups. (No expectation that UWGB would have to "own," or fill, an entire trip. Questions: Does World Discovery emphasize education trips, for example, or trips of particular interest to a college-related or academic audience? We'll find out. Pat and Jim said they would be willing to meet with a representative to learn more, and bring that info back to the board and determine whether there's a benefit to agree to advertise the company's offerings to our members.

### Retiree Arboretum Walk

The date was set for Tuesday, May 9, with a departure time of 10:30 a.m. from the Lambeau Cottage parking lot. Prof. Emeritus Paul Sager is being approached about guiding. Should be a good time for bird migration. Pat will advertise the event to the larger retiree list.

### Website

Pat and Chris Sampson are working with Pat Theyerl from CIT to schedule training soon on the University's new Kentico Content Management System, a level of software know-how necessary to update the Association's website.

### 'In Memorium' duties carried out by Bob Skorczewski

Pat noted that Bob Skorczewski has for the past seven years taken the lead in obtaining permissions and reprinting newspaper obituaries of UWGB retirees to the Association's website. Bob says he'd like to pass these duties to someone else. He has a boilerplate request message he sends to the publisher(s) and usually there's no problem in reusing the information. The board will look at staffing this duty in the near future, especially with the changes to the Retiree website and its updating procedures.

### Golf Course beautification

In the past, Retiree Association members have provided musclepower and flower-planting skills to help out the Shorwood Golf Course in beautifying the course for spring. Jim has been in touch with course manger Nate Rusch about this year's plant-in. Jim, Pat, Frank and Ron Starkey typically contribute to the project.

### Discussion of Annual Dinner speaker

Committee members compared thoughts about selecting a guest speaker to feature at the fall 2017 Retiree Association Dinner on campus. Discussion will continue at the May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted  
Chris Sampson, recording secretary