

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

September 13, 2017

ATTENDING: Miles Abernathy, Marcia Arn, Mike Arn, Martha Boyd, Liz Bozyan, Don Davis, Barbara Frock, George Frock, Karen Harrison, Mary Kay Hemenway, Corky Hilliard, Clemith Houston, Sharon Justice, Phil Kelton, Peggy Kruger, Bill Lasher, Pauline Lopez, Terry Martin, Cecil Martinez, Eleanor Moore, Peggy Mueller, Lewis Myers, Tany Norwood, Linda Peterson, Alice Reinarz, and Carol Barrett

ABSENT: John Harrison, Linda Millstone, Ruth Rubio and Carolyn Wylie

CALL TO ORDER: President Tany Norwood called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

WELCOME AND COMMENTS: Tany Norwood, President
Tany welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their continued good work on behalf of the RFSA.

The first order of business was to take a group photo.
Tany then welcomed new Board Members

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tany Norwood

University Toastmasters asked RFSA's interest in sponsoring members. No interest was expressed, however, it was suggested that it would be OK to handout their fliers at our luncheon or publish a blurb in the RFSA magazine.

The University Health Center requested nurse volunteers for flu shots. Carol sent an email to all members asking for volunteers.

The Fall Luncheon speaker is UT graduate Kevin Tuerff, a student leader who, among other things, started the student radio station. He also worked at the Ex-Students Association, and then after graduation co-founded Enviromedia, the health and environmental marketing firm. The events of September 11, 2001, changed his life forever. His story has inspired countless others, and the current NYC hit Broadway musical "Come From Away" stars a character based on Kevin. He has written a book, Channel of Peace, the story of the citizens of Gander,

Newfoundland, who took in the many stranded air travelers providing food and housing, but more importantly, telling the story of the impact of their kindness and friendship that changed many lives. It is an inspirational story of how humans need not always be divided by differences. Tany gifted each Board member with a copy of the book. Thanks, Tany!

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Corky Hilliard.

Minutes from the 4/25/17 Spring Luncheon meetings were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Clemith Houston.

Clemith reported that we are in good shape financially.

The RFSA year began in Sept 1, 2017 with a balance on hand of \$47,532.52

The treasurer's report was approved.

There was a discussion about membership and scholarship impact on the budget.

The first year members often do not renew after the first FREE year.

Scholarship contributions are tied directly to membership fees as well as sponsorships, travel revenue and magazine advertising.

Phil Kelton suggested that a scholarship matching funds program be initiated to stimulate more membership contributions.

He further suggested that RFSA develop a budget at the beginning of each year to both anticipate as well as drive financial issues and decisions.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: Eleanor Moore

Last year RFSA awarded 20 scholarships at \$2500 each.

This year she projects 15 scholarships totaling \$37500.

She has requested of Financial Aid that 2-3 more scholarships be given. Financial Aid is in the processes of selecting 2 or 3 more recipients.

The suggestion to initiate additional contributions as match will be made at the fall meeting.

There was a discussion of motivating the membership toward more contributions as well as increasing the number of scholarships and possibly the size of each scholarship.

A task team of Eleanor Moore, Phil Kelton, Clemith Houston, Peggy Kruger and Cecil Martinez were asked to meet and report back with a strategy.

The scholarship report was accepted.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Historian: Barbara Frock

Often information is lacking on obituaries to confirm deceased relationship with UT. She is striving to get more information.

Activity Calendar: George Frock

George thanked everyone for the 100% timely responses of submissions for the calendar.

Magazine: Linda Peterson

Linda alerted the group that the budget still lists the magazine as ‘newsletter’ and asked for update.

The spring issue was expanded by pages due to the submission of great Costa Rica trip photographs.

The submission deadline for the fall issue is 11/1/17.

It will contain a tribute to Dr. Peter Flawn. There will also be a feature on the Pickle Research Campus.

Please send stories about Dr. Flawn to Linda.

There were suggestions about publishing photos of the recent solar eclipse and McDonald Observatory as well as articles about the scholarship match.

Linda thanked everyone for their timeliness and cooperation.

Membership: Peggy Mueller & Peggy Kruger

Currently there are 566 members plus 309 newly retired members whose first year of membership is dues free. Membership fees are due in September.

Presentations to upcoming retirees: We continue the retiree classes; there are 1 or 2 scheduled per month. There are approximately 25 in each class. We would welcome others joining this crew.

The Health/Lifestyle Expo will be held in October at the Pickle Research Center. We need volunteers to help. A table sign for the exhibit will be ordered.

IT/Photographer: Miles Abernathy

Mike Arn (Travel) requested a place for travelers to deposit their trip photos. Miles suggested a Shutterfly account for each trip. A link could be placed on the RFSA website. Mike thanked everyone for their cooperation.

Sponsorship: Cecil Martinez

RFSA has lost Sytha Gustafson Minter/Horizon Realty as a sponsor. It is possible that Bug Masters might also drop out. Cecil will look at replacement sponsors, perhaps a hearing aid company. We will plan to keep the number of sponsors at 10.

Covert Austin has increased their scholarship donation from \$2000.00 to \$3000.00 Thank you, Covert Austin!

INTEREST GROUPS

Bridge: Mary Kay Hemenway

One meeting was held during the summer. There are 12 members. We play party bridge not duplicate. Thanks to Texas Exes for taking good care of the bridge group.

Discussion – Don Davis and Alice Reinartz

Alice reported that there will be 3 meetings in the fall and 3 in the spring.

Topics:

October: Capital City – helping people staying in their homes

November – we are blocked out of facility by the elections

December – still open.

Thanks to Miles for help with the photos.

Exercise: Carolyn Wylie (absent)

Tany read the report from Carolyn Wylie.

The group meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are currently 11 members. UT has stopped providing parking. It is now being provided by Carol Barrett at Texas Exes. Thanks Carol.

Finance & Investment: Phil Kelton, Pauline Lopez and Lewis Myers

Phil reported that there are usually about 20 participants in the meeting. Some new topics include: real estate, charitable giving, antiques and collectables.

He requested a program scheduling move from Mondays to Wednesdays due to problems caused by Monday holidays and elections.

There were no objections.

Foodies: Sharon Justice

There have been two events this fall: Jack Allen's Kitchen and Bonhomie. Striving for events twice a month. The schedule is varied to accommodate participant requirements. Stay tuned for upcoming foodie events.

Health: Cecil Martinez filled in for co-chairs Linda Millstone and Ruth Rubio.

There are two upcoming meetings - one on spinal health in September and one in October.

Travel: Marcia & Mike Arn and Karen Harrison. John Harrison was absent.

The Arns presented the RFSA with a check for \$2300 from the Ireland trip.

They also made an extensive report about the activities and delights of that trip.

Carol Barrett offered to send travel announcements for those having traveled with RFSA even though they may not have a RFSA direct affiliation.

Upcoming Trips:

- Alaska Cruise in June 2018
- Yellowstone/Grand Tetons tour in September 2018
- Karen Harrison discussed a possible Dell Medical Tour in October/November of 2018.

Handouts (or video announcements) for all travel activities will be at the October luncheon

LUNCH was served - Noon

OTHER BUSINESS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Gwen Grigsby, Governmental Affairs, UT Austin (recently retired)

Gwen gave an overview of the recently completed regular and special legislative sessions as pertained to Higher Education, UT Austin and UT Austin employee benefits.

This session had a very tight budget, nevertheless higher education revenues got a little better. UT Austin and higher education in general were pretty stable. There was erosion of support for special line items in the budget – the desire is that they be placed in the regular budget not line items, so these were reduced. There were additional moneys found for these items which reduced the impact of these legislative reductions.

The Medical School funding at UT Austin was all by formula so it was good. Employee benefits came out great – no changes!

UT Austin and TAMU are tight and work closely together during legislative sessions. They are great supporters of the Tier 2 schools as well; this cooperation pays off.

FALL LUNCHEON PROGRAM:

In general there is a need to tighten up the luncheon program.

SPEAKERS: The Speaker should be moved up in the program. It was decided that the speakers should be allocated up to 30 minutes with a portion of that time reserved for Q&A.

ACTIVITIES: Attendance awards, photos should be announced but the photos etc. moved out of the program. Speakers should speak from their seats, moving the mic around. New members are to line up near a mike for introductions. Try to seat anyone speaking near the stage. Other board member should continue to be assigned seating to interact with members, sponsors, and other guests.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Eleanor suggested setting \$10,000.00 aside for matching contributions. This matching program should be announced at the fall luncheon as well as in the magazine. The RFSA president will continue to announce recipients at the luncheon. Eleanor will assign board members to sit with these students.

Peggy Kruger and Corky Hilliard will work on identifying nametags for the scholarship recipients to wear at the luncheon.

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP, RETENTION, ENGAGEMENT

Phil suggested we work on involving those members we have. Sharon Justice suggested surveying members asking them why they stay and go. Peggy Mueller said we need to focus on becoming better known.

Sharon Justices, Miles Abernathy and Corky Hilliard were charged with developing a survey or outreach effort to determine factors that impact membership retention.

BUDGET FOR RFSA:

Phil Kelton will chair an ad hoc committee including Cecil Martinez, Peggy Kruger, Clemith Houston and Tany Norwood. They are charged with building the RFSA budget.

MISSION FOR RFSA:

Peggy Mueller, Linda Peterson and Corky Hilliard will review current materials and suggest a concise mission statement for RFSA.

FINE ARTS VACANCY:

Due to lack of response from repeated requests for leadership for the Fine Arts Committee, it was decided to let this committee sleep until spring, then see if interest forms.

HEART OF TEXAS CAMPAIGN (HOT):

RFSA contributions are falling off due to changes in the HOT campaign administration, lack of online donation options and competition from other giving opportunities. The board felt that the participation was important and beneficial. It was decided that this year we will cover the costs to mail paper forms and envelopes to our membership. Tany will do a letter; Don Davis has agreed to coordinate the solicitation with the help of Peggy Mueller

HOLIDAY PARTY:

Don Davis had expressed concerns that the RFSA Holiday Party was held in a location that was not related to UT. After discussing options, it was decided that this year's event would once again be held at the Sterling Events Center because 1) It was by far the most cost-effective location, and 2) The Center was not fully renovated at last year's party and should be complete and nicer by this year's gathering. We will continue to explore other venues as new facilities open at UT, perhaps try again to host it at the Chancellor's residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corky Hilliard, Secretary