

The University of Texas at Austin
 RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION
 Board Meeting Minutes
 Robuck Board Room, Etter Alumni Center and via TEAMS
 February 15, 2023
 10:00 A. M. – 12 Noon

Attending

Miles Abernathy	Mary Knight
Donna Bellinghausen*	Laraine Lasdon
Jim Crook	Bill Lasher
John De La Garza	Bob Lawrence
George Frock	Alba Ortiz
Joyce Harris	Keith Momii
Liz Hastings	Sybil Momii
Lael Hasty*	Tany Norwood
Martha Hilley	Peggy Mueller
Mary Kay Hemenway	Charles Roeckle*
Sharon Justice	Holly Thompson
Phil Kelton	Carolyn Wylie
Susan Kessler	
Karrol Kitt	Carol Barrett, Texas Exes

* via TEAMS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

Susan Kessler, President

1. Introductions

2. Minutes from August 23, 2022 were amended as follows:

p.2 President-Elect, Charles Roeckle, Past President, Tany Norwood, and Carol Barrett, Texas Exes also attended *all* meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

3. President's Update

Susan Kessler

- Martha Hilley and Liz Hastings will fill the Membership Chair position, effective immediately. The Advisory Panel will share input from their findings.
- A discussion about broadening the scope of RFSA service efforts resulted in consensus that UT service efforts remain the organization's focus.
- Mary Knight is working to ensure that RFSA members are receiving our emails. Let her know if you are not receiving emails from RFSA.

4. Advisory Panel Report and Recommendations

Sharon Justice

- The Advisory Panel, commissioned by Past President Tany Norwood is composed of the following members: Karrol Kitt, Karen Harrison, Bob Lawrence, Liz Hastings, Robin Fradenburgh, and John De La Garza. President, Susan Kessler. President-Elect

Charles Roeckle, Past President Tany Norwood, and Carol Barrett, Texas Exes also attended all meetings.

- The Advisory Panel's charge was to look to the future of RFSA, considering what new programs/services would interest our membership.
- The following Advisory Panel recommendations were endorsed by the Executive Committee:

Membership

*All the information about membership should be shared with the membership committee.

Communication/Technology

*Ask Miles Abernathy or Holly Thompson to educate members about how to use Facebook and the RFSA website. It could be during or after a luncheon or at a special meeting. We think one of the reasons our members don't use this technology is because they don't know how.

*Discuss ways to gather feedback from our members. Suggestions from members included having table discussions on a regular basis (bi-annually), using Facebook or our website for a "Questions & Answers" section.

*Include the RFSA website and Facebook links on all our communications.

*Explore ways we can have a presence in Alcalde and the Texas Exes website, such as an occasional article and a link to our website.

Scholarships

*In collaboration with OSFS, discuss the possibility of reducing the number of scholarships and increasing the amount of each one or, if funds are available, maintaining the number of scholarships and raising the amounts.

Service / Volunteerism

*Ask someone to volunteer to serve as the service coordinator. Members were familiar with UT Remembers and Orange Santa. Are there other on-campus events, such as commencement, serving as docents, Mooove In, UT Halloween, etc., in which we should participate?

*Contact UT's Office of Community Engagement to explore options.

Connecting with UT

*Build bridges with our community, such as OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), and share our membership list with them so our members can learn of those opportunities.

*Explore the idea of RFSA having a member on, or at least meet with, the Faculty Council Executive Committee

Activities

*Bring back UT student music ensembles (to our luncheons) and take advantage of UT's talent.

*Convene interest group chairs to discuss ways in which they can collaborate.

*Record oral histories by our members.

Program Coordinator / Project Manager

*Many of these ideas did not "fit" into our current organizational structure; therefore, we recommend appointing a member to serve as program coordinator or project manager. The responsibilities would be to follow through on determining viability and implementation of these suggestions and to assist Carol Barrett with RFSA programs and projects.

*Explore the ideas of a movie group and/or a book club.

*Coordinate a speaker day. Combine interest groups with speakers for each topic or have a speaker from one of the interest groups talk after the luncheon

*Explore the opportunities for tours in Austin and surrounding communities such as tour of the stadium, tour the new Moody Center, tour campus, a city tour of Austin. We do not think these types of tours should be the responsibility of the travel committee.

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Advisory Panel's recommendations. The motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

Bill Lasher, Treasure

Following is a summary of the RFSA's Treasurer's 2022-2023 Budget Report as of 11/30/22:

- Income \$ 4,630
- Expenditures \$ 3,275
- Beginning Balance 8/31/22 \$34,293
- Balance as of 11/30/22 \$35,648
- The RFSA Match for Scholarship donations \$20,000
- RFSA Reserve Fund \$ 1,000
- Scholarship Fund Market Value \$1,736,587
- 21 students awarded scholarships for 2022-23 @ \$2,500 ea. \$52,500
- The Treasurer provided the Board with an itemized and annotated copy of the Budget Report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

6. Historian Report

George and Barbara Frock

- Continue to report deaths, as not all notices can be obtained from Obituaries.

7. Magazine

Donna Bellinghausen and Sharon Justice

- May 1, 2023 is the deadline for the next edition.
- Send ideas the Spotlight feature.
- Magazine font size has been increased.

8. Membership

Liz Hastings and Martha Hilley

- Welcome to Liz Hastings and Martha Hilley who will co-chair the Membership Committee.

9. Special Projects

Peggy Mueller

- The following contributions have been received:
 - 40 Hours for 40 Acres \$1,575
 - Orange Santa \$490

10. Photography

Miles Abernathy

- Attends as many RFSA events as possible, takes photographs, and sends the best of them to Holly.

11. Web/IT

Holly Thompson

- Holly reviewed each email from RFSA members and added pertinent information to the website and/or Facebook.
- The latest RFSA magazine was added to the website.
- Vince Martinez Real Estate, a new sponsor, was added to the Sponsor's page.
- Photographs from Miles Abernathy were posted on the website and Facebook.
- Holly removes outdated calendar items on an almost daily basis.

12. Scholarships

Lael Hasty

- \$1,175 in donations has been received since our October 18, 2022 meeting. These donations are from 7 people of which one donor is a Board member.
- Current amount of donations since April 27, 2022 is \$16,950 of which \$11,225 has already been matched in September 2022. \$5,475 needs to be matched, and those donations began July 31 until today. Lael requested through Carol Barrett and Bill Lasher that match funds be allocated and that she be notified when that is done, so she can update the records.
- 21 scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,500, have been awarded to 19 students for the 2022-2023 school year. Total amount given is \$52,500.
- Three students attended the holiday party in December. Students have never been invited, and it was so nice to have them attend. These students are the same ones who attended our fall luncheon, and they plan to attend our spring luncheon on April 26th.
- Lael had a Zoom meeting with Bobby Gonzales last fall about connecting students with donors. He recommends we work with Amber Keith, Assistant Director for Donor Stewardship, and Nathan Langfitt, Director of Education, Texas Career Engagement.

13. Sponsorships

Jim Crook and Cecil Martinez

- Currently, we have 9 sponsors. We normally have 10, our normal self-limit of RFSA sponsors. Unable to find a 10th member, due mostly to the current economic situation. Below is the list of Sponsors for 2022-23. Will continue to work to get a 10th sponsor.

• Covert Auto Group	\$ 1,000
• FastPark and Relax	\$ 600
• Karavel Shoes	\$ 600
• Martinez Real Estate	\$ 600
• St. David's HealthCare	\$ 1,000
• Stan's Heating & Air Conditioning	\$ 600
• University Federal Credit Union	\$ 1,000
• Weed-Corley-Fish	\$ 600
• WESTMINSTER An Austin Original	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
• Total Sponsorship Funds	<u>\$ 7,000</u>

14. Interest Groups

- Arts and Culture Committee Laraine Lasdon
 - The Arts and Culture Interest Group has focused on posting performances, museum show, music, and lectures via email Facebook and the RFSA website.
 - Laraine continues to urge RFSA members to connect with her, so she can add them to the list for news about in-person tours, poetry/writing groups, and events that need members to purchase tickets. She also informs members if there is a Zoom link to an event.
- Bridge Mary Kay Hemenway
 - The bridge group met monthly from September 2022 through February 2023, with 7-12 people playing each time. A total of 17 different people participated during these six events.

- We are thankful for all the work Carol Barrett does to set up the room for our games and arranging parking.

- Exercise Carolyn Wylie
 - The exercise group continues to meet on Monday mornings. There are not very many of us, but we do have a good time, and the exercise is definitely beneficial.
 - We are very grateful to RFSA and Carol Barrett for making it possible for this group to continue.
- Foodies Bob Lawrence
 - The Foodies Group remains quite active. During this period of Daylight Saving Time, when it gets darker earlier, we are doing lunches each month.
 - There have been very good turnouts for lunch (between 12 and 19 people). We are bouncing back and forth, north to south, in order to try and cater to as many people as possible in different parts of the city.
 - Lunches have included:
 - Mighty Fine Burgers, south (November)
 - Kapatad Filipino and Chinese Food, north central (December)
 - Galaxy Café, south (January)
 - Planned Lunches include:
 - Trudy's Northern Star, north (February)
 - Rudy's BBQ, central (March)
 - Llama Kid, downtown/south (April)...weather permitting
 - All the places have been very pleasant and accommodating to our group.
- Speaker Series Phil Kelton, Alice Reinarz & Karrol Kitts
 - The Speaker Series has had the following meetings.
 - In December 2022, we had a talk titled "Webb Telescope." The January 2023 presenter was Karen Fingerman whose title was "Ups and Downs of Aging". On February 8th, Rev. Nancy McCranie spoke to the group regarding "Understanding Hospice Care Options."
 - Michael Granof's presentation for March is titled "Is the Federal Government Fiscally Sustainable."
 - The last meeting in April will feature Craig Champlin, a new retiree from the Moody College of Communication.
- Travel Sybil & Keith Momi
 - We have four 2023 RFSA trips being marketed to our members and guests. Trip highlights, prices, brochures and registration forms are posted on the RFSA calendar at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/calendar/>
 - Our travel agent, Lori Threatt from Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants, may be contacted at lori@relaxedescapes.com or phone (737) 228-3680 for questions and registration.
 - The Travel Group committee is considering 2024 travel plans now. Lori Threatt is working with several travel agencies to investigate international trips and cost/airfare. Some suggested destinations being

researched include Portugal, Greece, a Canadian Rocky Mountains train trip, Scotland/Ireland and Central America. After selecting the international trip(s), we will begin planning a 2024 domestic trip(s). The committee members make suggestions, then we research destination packages which balance cost and value with reputable travel companies.

- Iceland Land of Fire and Ice
- For Travelers already booked on the two 'sold out' Iceland trips, the Trip Document Meeting is Feb 16, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Trip A does not have a trip leader. so they will meet the tour director upon arrival in Iceland. Trip B will have trip leaders Sybil and Keith Momii, plus Lori Threatt. We are expecting 60 RFSA members and guests on the two trips.
- The Trip Document Meeting is a virtual Zoom meeting that members may attend from the comfort of home. The meeting will cover the documents and flight information for both of the Iceland departure dates. The meeting will be recorded for those who cannot attend or would like to see it again. Register in advance for this meeting at the link below:
- https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&addon=1BpC2W6_f-oTeb
- On February 28, travelers will enjoy a Meet and Greet Social at Carol Barrett's home from 1:30-3:30. We appreciate Carol's generosity hosting this activity at her lovely home!
- Nova Scotia & The Canadian Maritimes
 - Our summer trip is planned for July 22-30, 2023 and will be hosted by Premier World Discovery and Relaxed Escapes. Robin Fradenburgh is the trip leader. Spots are still available so sign up soon with Lori Threatt.
 - Highlights include visits to scenic Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, a ferry ride to Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Hopewell Rocks, Moncton and Lunenburg.
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- New York City & the Hudson River Valley
 - Our fall adventure is scheduled for September 22-28, 2023, hosted by Premier World Discovery and Relaxed Escapes. Billie Pierce is our trip leader. Spots are still available so please contact Lori Threatt to register for the trip.
 - Highlights include sightseeing in New York City (Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 911 Memorial Museum, One World Observation Deck), attending a Broadway show, then visits to the Hudson Valley, West Point, Boscobel house and gardens, Hyde Park, a maple syrup farm, New Paltz, Kingston and a Hudson River cruise.
- Covid updates
 - Due to the ever-changing Covid pandemic safety guidelines, we encourage all our travelers to be fully vaccinated and boosted and follow all current CDC guidelines during travel. Several

travelers contracted Covid at the end of each of our last three trips, but fortunately no one suffered severe illness.

- Travel Group Committee members
 - Sybil and Keith Momii (Co-Chairs), Kathleen Armenta, Robin Fradenburgh, Karen Harrison, Billie Pierce and Barbara White. We look forward to our upcoming trips! We are currently taking nominations for the 2024 Chair position.

15. Nominating Committee Report Tany Norwood

The RFSA Nominations Committee meets annually to recommend a slate of nominees for the upcoming year. This year the committee members were:

Tany Norwood, Past President and Chair of Nominations Committee

Susan Kessler, President

Charles Roeckle, President-Elect

Sharon Justice, Member-at-Large

Mary Knight, Member-at-Large

Nominees for Executive Officers will be voted on by RFSA members at the Spring Luncheon and Membership meeting. Recommendations for other vacant RFSA Board positions are approved by the Executive Officers and announced at the luncheon.

The Nominations Committee met on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, to make recommendations for the two vacant Executive Officer positions, President-Elect and Member-at-Large, 1st Year. We also hoped to fill the Membership Committee Chair position, which had been vacant. Nominees for the three positions were discussed, then the committee recessed to contact the chosen nominees. Within four days, we had received acceptance from each of the chosen nominees.

The slate of candidates to be presented to the membership for their vote on April 26, 2023 is:

Bob Lawrence, President-Elect

Hunter March, Member-at-Large 1st Year

The Nominations Committee also recommended that the Membership Committee have two members that would serve as Co-Chairs, and that those positions would become effective immediately upon approval of the RFSA Executive Committee. They were approved.

Martha Hilley, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Liz Hastings, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Brief biographies of our new Board members will be included in our April email to all members, and we will have an article in the Spring/Summer 2023 RFSA Magazine.

16. Other Business

- Mary Knight gave a brief overview of Horns Helping Horns, a student support service on the UT campus.
- Representatives from Horns Helping Horns will be invited to provide information at the Spring Luncheon and Membership Meeting.
- Mary Knight will extend the invitation, and will invite Horns Helping Horns to staff an information table.

17. Upcoming date:

The Spring Luncheon and Membership Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 12:00-2:00 PM. John Daley will be the guest speaker.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce L. Harris, RFSA Secretary