

Retirees' Association Second Annual General Meeting
November 2, 2017
The Forth
629 The Danforth, Toronto

Present: Dianne Acey, Pat Bowness, Alfred Carr, Michael Cooke, Jennifer Cooke, Bob Cox, Ken Crooke, Marcella Dib, Jane Dietrich, Dianne Diniz, Terri Dixon, Barbara Dunlop, Brian Floody, Lynne Franciose, Ed Galezowski, Rosalind Gilbert, Marion Goltz, Pat Goyette, Marilyn Grant, John Hardy, Mary Hofweller, Gillian Johnston, Rick Kelly, Maureen Komlos, Sally Layton-Roy; Shirley Lesch, Judy Lindop, Laura Lothian-Bryant, Geoffrey Lough, Anne MacKenzie-Thompson; Archie McDonald, Doug McGimpsey, Michael McKenna, Betty Megelssen, Marilou Martin, Beth O'Brien, Heinar Pillar, John Price, Marcia Pulleyblank, Georgia Quartaro, Brian Reed, Barbara Revill, Trish Robinson, Irene Ross, Jane Rotering, Bruce Schumacher, Ron Sluser, Frank Soronchinsky, Leo Spindel, Rosalie Starkey, Bob Struthers, Wendy Struthers, Margery Taylor, Diane Turner, Trinity Zhang

Regrets: Quita Stuart, Doug Todd, Hilda Zimmer

(Short Form)

Meeting:

Call to Order: Chair, Bob Cox called the meeting to order at 12:00;

Minutes of the 2016 AGM: **Motion:** Gillian Johnson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ron Sluser. All in favour; minutes accepted.

Agenda: (all the reports are attached)

1. Year in Review - Dianne & Bob
2. Slate of Officers: Sally Layton-Roy provided an update and then moved to approve two nominees to the Board: Laura Lothian-Bryant and Georgia Quartaro; **Motion** seconded by Dianne Acey. All in favour; motion approved
3. Membership Report: Jennifer Cooke reported
4. Communication Report: John Price
5. Scholarship Report: Anne MacKenzie-Thompson
6. Treasurer: **Motion:** Alfred Carr moved to approve the budget for 2017/2018; Seconded: Georgia Quartaro. All in favour; budget approved.
7. Q & A:
 - a. Inquiry related to ID numbers - one on the College card, another on our RA membership card. This is part of an ongoing discussion with the College
 - b. Trish was thanked for organizing an enjoyable wine tour
 - c. Members are encouraged to come out to events as those attended are enjoyed.
8. Membership Fee Discussion: Trish Robinson lead a discussion on the three options (\$15, \$10, 0) about which the Board wished to gain members views. No decision would be made today, and no fee would be implemented without member approval.

Presently the College is providing funds to cover operating expenses; however, there is no guarantee that this would last indefinitely. Survey discussed and distributed.

- a. Further discussion included members ability to pay for membership plus costs of events
 - b. Possibility of a two-tiered system was raised
 - c. Desire for further discussion and debate was noted.
9. **Motion** Alfred Carr moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Michael McKenna. All in favour - Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Additional Notes:

1. A delicious lunch followed the meeting
2. Michael Cooke spoke about George Brown's 50th Anniversary Celebration
3. Bob Struthers shared four humorous stories forwarded by Erna Collins, Peter Felder, Anne MacKenzie-Thompson, and himself.
 - a. Erna Collins' story: about a faculty who provided an A grade for a student who had died in an automobile accident.
 - b. Peter Felder provided his memories on the day Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau visited Kennington Campus
 - c. AMKT shared timetabling circa 1974
 - d. Bob Struthers shared his hair-cutting experience as a young hippie trying to negotiate placements for hospitality students.
 - e. All stories were enjoyed & the winning story went to Erna Collins.
4. Between the Silent Auction and the Raffle for the Culinary Basket donated by the Foundation, \$840 were raised for the RA Scholarship Fund.

Second Annual General Meeting:

Call to Order: Chair, Bob Cox called the meeting to order at 12:00;

Minutes of the 2016 AGM: **Motion:** Gillian Johnson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ron Sluser. All in favour; minutes accepted.

Agenda: Panel of Board members presented the following reports:

AGM 2017 CHAIR & VICE CHAIR REPORT: Chair, Bob Cox and Vice Chair, Dianne Diniz

Member Events:

Between October 2016 and October 2017, the Board has offered nine separate member events:

- 2016 Annual General meeting - 48 participants
- 2016 Holiday Celebration - 36 participants
- Classical Music Workshop - 10 participants
- Opera Choruses Workshop - 12 participants
- Stratford Theatre Trip - 12 participants
- Spring Luncheon - 48 participants

President's Breakfast - 22 participants
Scholarship Committee - 6 participants
Niagara Wine Tour - 7 participants

There were a total of 100 individual members (excluding guests) that participated in these 9 activities with a total of 189 registrations meaning that on average each person participated in just under two activities.

Board Activities:

- The Board met for 10 monthly meetings. Meetings are generally held at one of the campuses of George Brown College.
- The Board worked with the HR department to locate more retirees and to provide them with information about the Association. As result, over 500 invitations were sent to potential members of GBCRA.
- The Board conducted a search for and filled 2 Directors positions
- Board members met with the VP of HR three times in 2016-2017, once with the President, and three times with the Chief Information Officer resulting in the continuation of College financial support until March 31, 2018.
- In early 2017 the Board met to determine its strategic goals for the next two years and the resulting activities. The primary outcomes are that the Board wants to provide a variety of opportunities for retirees who are interested to “give back” to the College and the Board wants to provide retirees with a wide array of social activities that will promote collegial relationships amongst retirees. Specifically the GBCRA Student Scholarship Fund was established along with 3 “interest groups” and the establishment of an annual wine tour (see below)
- The Board conducted a needs assessment of GBCRA members at the Spring Luncheon to determine future directions. This resulted in the formation of 3 new interest groups and 1 new day long tour.
- The Board worked with the College in order that retirees maintain their College email addresses and receive a College Identification Card upon retirement. This is still in process.
- The Board approved a new logo, designed by John Price, for GBCRA.
- GBCRA membership cards have been designed and printed. In 2018 we will be looking at attaching specific benefits to members to this card.
- The Board has established a relationship with the College's Finance Department that ensures financial accountability both to the College and to GBCRA members.
- The Board explored potential relationships external to the College, specifically with Woodgreen Community Centre and the Seniors' Association. We decided that for 2017 we would establish a relationship with the GBC Foundation and explore other partnerships in 2018.
- 10 newsletters were published and emailed to members. 30 members have opted to receive the newsletter by Canada Post, which the College funds.
- Over the course of 2017, the issue of membership fee was discussed often and at length with the decision to take the discussion to the membership. The main issues are that: 1) the College's financial support is not secure year over year, 2) most other College Retiree Associations do charge a nominal fee to offset whatever College

funds they receive, and 3) we do not want to exclude anyone from being a member because they have not paid dues.

Looking forward to 2018

- Continue offering a wide variety of activities
- Nurture and grow the “Interest Groups”
- Nurture and Grow the GBCRA Scholarship Fund
- Attract more former support staff to join the GBCRA
- Explore potential external benefits that can attached to the GBCRA Membership card and number
- Maintain a positive relationship with the HR department specifically to allow us consistent and timely access to new retirees.
- Explore a web presence for GBCRA in the form of a separate web site
- Purchase membership software to facilitate record keeping and newsletter production
- Explore potential external relationships with other local, provincial, and national College Retiree Associations.
- Secure longer term financial stability either from College funding, membership fees, or from building a reserve fund.
- Continue to adjust strategies to meet the needs of current and new retirees.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Sally Layton-Roy

There are currently two director positions that have to be filled. Georgia Quartaro and Laura Lothian-Bryant have agreed to put their names forward. Anyone wishing to participate, please advice Sally or another Board member.

Motion: Sally Layton-Roy moved to approve the slate of directors for the Retirees’ Association for 2017/2018 to include two nominees to the Board: Laura Lothian-Bryant and Georgia Quartaro; Motion seconded by Dianne Acey. All in favour; motion approved

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Jennifer Cooke

Our young Association continues to grow in its’ membership. Since last year at this time, our numbers have increased by about 30 members. We have been accessing various avenues to publicize our Association in keeping within the privacy requirements of the College.

Though a number of members live far and wide and have difficulty attending our scheduled events, the Newsletter keeps everyone up to date and familiar with our activities and fellow retirees.

We encourage members to spread the word to fellow retirees both recent and not so recent whom they may know. In this way an awareness of the Association can be spread.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: John Price

Communications to our membership remains a primary goal for the Association and the newsletter continues to enjoy high readership and favourable reviews from those we have heard from. Over the next year we will be moving to a new system for email distribution which will allow greater flexibility in tracking membership data and readership.

At present there are two other vehicles for communication – a Facebook page and a page hosted on the George Brown College website. We are currently investigating the feasibility of hosting our own site at GBCRA.CA.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Anne MacKenzie-Thompson

As we all know, students face an enormous range of personal, social, emotional, financial, physical challenges which often become barriers to their educational progress. To help address this need The George Brown Retirees' Association Scholarship has been established thanks to the focused contribution of the Scholarship Committee: Marilyn Goltz, Ita Grant, Yosh Inouye, Anne MacKenzie-Thompson, Marilou Martin, and Ron Sluser.

We learned from Carmel Drumgoole and Trinity Yigong Zhang of the Foundation that the areas in the College that are the most under-represented by scholarships are Centres for Preparatory and Liberal Studies, Arts, Design and Information Technology, and Health Sciences. Therefore, one scholarship will be awarded to each of these areas annually, starting with the Centre for Preparatory and Liberal Studied. Following this rotation, the award, assuming it is sustained, would become College-wide.

Keeping in mind the roadblocks mentioned above, the committee unanimously agreed that 'overcoming obstacles' would be the all-encompassing criteria for the scholarship. To foster its sustainability, the proceeds - \$280 - from events such as last spring's BBQ at the Watersedge Campus and the proceeds from today's silent auction will all go to the Scholarship Fund. Possibly a portion of our membership fee, should we agree to one, will go to sustaining the scholarship. We will be getting a clearer idea of what our members would like through a survey.

The Foundation has also established a link of their website so that donations can be made privately. Of course, a tax receipt will be provided for all donations over \$20. There a number of ways to contribute to the Retirees' Association online:

Use this unique URL: <https://foundation.georgebrown.ca/NetCommunity/retirees-association>. Or, go to the Foundation's main page at <https://www.georgebrown.ca/giving/> Click "Donate Now" or "Support Student Scholarship". In the drop-down menu, select "GBC Retirees' Association Scholarship"

Michael Cooke made a generous \$1000 donation to the RA Scholarship Award. He, like many others the hopes of transitioning our award from a multi-year expendable scholarship into an endowment (minimum of \$20,000), thus creating a legacy for the Retirees Association. Proceeds from the Silent Auction and the Raffle will go towards the Scholarship Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FISCAL 2016-17: Bob Struthers

1. INCOME

The College provided a grant in the amount of \$2,500 to assist us in serving our growing membership. A number of events were held throughout the year including our AGM last fall, a Wine and Cheese Reception, a Stratford Theatre excursion, Circles of Enrichment presentations, a spring BBQ and a Winery Tour.

2. EXPENSES

Event expenses were slightly higher than event revenues by \$226 but were offset by a provision set aside in the 2016-17 budget for activity related expenses as well as proceeds from a silent auction. Non-event related expenses for the year were within the overall budget allocation.

INCOME AND EXPENSES STATEMENT: FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 (note 1*)AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017

1. INCOME

George Brown College Grant	\$2,500.00
Event income	3,013.00*
Total Income	\$5,513.00

2. EXPENSES

Event expenses	\$3,238.99*
Office supplies	272.69
Directors' liability insurance	567.00

Printing	204.89
Legal fees	46.27
Bank fees	117.00
Total expenses	\$4,446.84*

*event related income and expenses represent the Stratford Theatre event, the Circle of Enrichment presentations and the spring BBQ. All other events were financed on a “pay at the door” basis with revenues and major expenses paid directly to the provider/organizer of the event.

*note 1: a pro bono review (unaudited) of GBCRA’s financial records was performed by Ric Ho, CPA, CGA

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION BUDGET* 2017 - 18

Events/Activities support	\$1,000
Office supplies	300
Directors’ liability insurance	580
Printing	250
Membership cards	160
Membership communication software	300
Bank Fees	120
Total	\$2,710*

Motion: Alfred Carr; moved that the 2017 budget be approved. Motion seconded: Georgia Quartaro. All in favour; budget approved.

Q & A:

- a. Inquiry related to ID numbers - one on the College card, another on our RA membership card. This is part of an ongoing discussion with the College
- b. Trish was thanked for organizing an enjoyable wine tour
- c. Members are encouraged to come out to events as those attended are enjoyed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Bridge Club Update: Sally Layton-Roy: At the Spring luncheon on May 15, 2017 seven retirees signed up for the Bridge Club. Subsequent to that event one person signed up in response to the newsletter. We now have six retirees who would like to play beginner bridge and two who are at the intermediate level.
 - a. The beginners group will be meeting at the AGM to pick the date for the first meeting of the Bridge Club. Sally circulated date options.
 - b. If you are interested in playing bridge, please contact Sally Roy at sallyroy@rogers.com or 416-218-8806.

MEMBERSHIP FEES DISCUSSION: Trish Robinson

The GBCRA executive has been discussing membership fees for several months. At our last meeting we decided that this matter should be brought to the membership to solicit your opinion about this; so we have prepared an initial survey. No decision would be made today, and no fee would be implemented without member approval.

We have learned that it is common for college Retiree Associations to receive some form of financial support from their college and also have a nominal membership fee. We have been fortunate enough to have received a grant of \$2,500 from George Brown College for fiscal 2016-17 and again for 2017-18. There is no guarantee of continuance of this grant.

Our annual operating expenses for 2017-18 are projected to be \$1,710 which covers basic costs such as printing, insurance, office supplies, welcoming packages for new members, membership cards communications software and bank fees. Our budget also includes \$1,000 to help offset some of the costs associated with key events provided to our members.

We must also ensure that we have access to funds set aside to address any unanticipated expenses.

Please circle your preferred option and deposit this page in the box at the registration desk. We will use this confidential information to determine the preferences of the members in attendance. A full-membership survey will be completed in the near future.

Option 1 - An annual membership fee of \$15.00 which includes:

- monthly newsletter
- membership card
- discounts on GBCRA events
- contribution to the GBCRA Scholarship Fund

- discounts the GBCRA is able to negotiate in the future
- voting privileges
- allows for increased flexibility in planning

Option 2 - An annual membership fee of \$10.00 which includes:

- monthly newsletter
- discounts to events when possible
- membership card
- future discounts
- voting privileges
- increased flexibility in planning

Option 3 - No annual membership fee which includes:

- monthly newsletter
- membership card
- voting privileges

Membership Fee Discussion: Further discussion included members differing abilities to pay a membership fee as well as costs of events.

Possibility of a two-tiered system was raised.

Possibility of first year being free to new members.

Desire for further discussion and debate was noted.

The survey was distributed. Survey results will be made public and provide information for further discussion. Discussion tabled.

Alfred Carr moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Michael McKenna. All in favour - Meeting adjourned at 12:30.