
George Brown Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

Present: Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Laura Lothian-Bryant, Barb Dunlop, Trish Robinson, Jennifer Cooke, Joan Reynolds, Anne Mackenzie-Thompson, Denise Pontone,

Regrets: Debbie Plested

Motion to approve the Agenda

Moved by Trish Robinson

Seconded by Georgia Quartaro with the addition of scholarship criteria

Carried

Motion to approve the Minutes

Moved by Anne Mackenzie-Thompson

Seconded by Trish Robinson

Carried

Business arising from the Minutes

Winter events

Picasso Circle of Enrichment – 29 registered and 24 attended

Pete Seiger and Bob Dylan Feb. 1, 24 registered

Rogers and Hammerstein – Feb. 25

March – Symphony Mystique

Tour suggested – Sea turtles in Australia

Game – will be scheduled

Issue – some members registered for an event but have not paid their fees

Project with Luigi – on hold and therefore will be taken off the agenda for now

Meeting with President – Jan. 13, with Emily Bain – Executive Director (background is with Ontario Colleges and Sheridan College), Dianne, Georgia, Bob and Joan.

Emily will be our liaison with the President's Office

At the meeting Georgia discussed our ongoing issues with the college including retirees using our previous GBC emails, having a reduction for retirees for course fees, \$2500 stipend from GBC which has been increased to \$4000 which will be allocated from President's Office and not HR. All in all it was a positive meeting. Dr. Fearon appears to be a good listener, organized and detail oriented.

He discussed organizational changes in the College including the fact that Cindy Gouveia will be in charge of the Foundation and Alumni Relations which will include students and former employees. GBCRA will meet with the President 4 x each year.

Thank you to Joan and Bob who drafted the background and rationale for President Fearon requesting an increase to the annual \$2500 grant from GBC to support GBCRA's scholarship fundraising, new retiree events and mail out service to members who are without computer access.

Student Placement – Graphic Design student – It was discussed that what we have to offer a student is not at the level of a senior student but at the level of a junior student coming in September. What the student would need to work on includes logo, website, newsletter, print material and branding activity. The stipend might be \$1500. An idea was suggested to hire a student to do the technical part of what Bob does. Another idea was to get in touch with an alumnus and have them volunteer to do this.

Scholarship Criteria

Criteria includes: 1. Overcomes obstacles (financial need), 2. Maintains academic standing, 3. Gives back to the community, 4. Openness to learning

Endowment Criteria - it needs to be established how much this will be each year and this will be decided by the Foundation. Ann will check with the Foundation and Myrna to get the totals of both the scholarship and endowment accounts and check on any discrepancy that we may have. We need to have \$1500 in the scholarship so we will have \$1000 available for the scholarship. These amounts were created by the Foundation.

There was some discussion re income tax receipts for the scholarship but the Foundation will manage this. When we establish the amounts available for the scholarship and endowment we can look again at the criteria – should it be the same or do we want to differentiate.

Membership

Lifetime membership has risen to 22 and there are 4 members who have brought forth their eligibility for free membership since they are over 85. There are 3 new annual members. Debbie will send us each a list of unpaid members. If we know them please contact them about their fees. Please let Debbie know who you have contacted and any comments. Laura will contact bridge members and Georgia and Dianne will contact book club members who have not paid their fees. Another notice will be sent out at the end of February to those who have still not paid their fees.

The membership seems to enjoy both in person and zoom events but zoom events take less of our time and there is more participation with zoom events.

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance is \$11,000 and we are only \$75 short of meeting our membership budgeted amount

Secretary – no report

Communications - For the year 24 people unsubscribed themselves and we unsubscribed 7 people, 5988 emails were sent out and 68% were opened but we were 3% down on our opened rate from last year. The growth for our communication contacts is positive. We added 60 new contacts and 10 new contacts added us. The newsletter was the most popular communication tool and the event ads were the least popular but the event ads are included in the newsletter. 1420 people visited the website with the event page, upcoming events, clubs, student project and college news being the most visited areas.

Because we need college email addresses to open the GBC employee newsletter and we do not have this email it was thought that the GBC employee newsletter could be sent to GBCRA and then Bob could send it with the GBCRA newsletter as a link. This could be the same for the public College News.

Bob will send a list to all Board Members consisting of members who should be interviewed for the newsletter. Please let Bob know who you be willing to interview.

Bridge club – all good

Book Club – Jo Sorochinsky's April book presentation will be advertised in the newsletter.

Theatre Club – no report but Shaw and Stratford are both planning stage performances for the upcoming theatre season. Perhaps a trip could be offered for September.

New Business – no new business

Next Meeting Tuesday March 1 12-2 pm

Moved to adjourn - Trish