
George Brown Retirees' Association Meeting

March 16, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Dianne Diniz

Present: Dianne Diniz, Bob Cox, Georgia Quartaro, Joan Reynolds, Trish Robinson, Jennifer Cooke, Barb Dunlop, Denise Pontone

Regrets: Debbie Plested, Anne Mackenzie -Thompson, Laura Lothian-Bryant

Motion: That the agenda be accepted as proposed

Moved by: Joan Reynolds, seconded by Trish Robinson,

Carried Unanimously

Motion: That the Feb. 17 minutes be approved as amended

Moved by Bob Cox, seconded by Trish Robinson,

Carried Unanimously

Business Arising from the Minutes

Student Placement: Joan reported that the placement is going well. The students have posted their final 2 bulletins in the newsletter. The next step is the more extensive survey that will be needed no later than March 26 so they can prepare their presentation. They need feedback about the effectiveness of their project for their course credit. The placement is connected to their community nursing course. Board members are asked to complete the survey, as past survey responses have not been high in number.

Joan contacted Steve Ciric, the Chair for the Activation Gerontology program about connecting with Chatting to Wellness as a potential placement. Steve was receptive and Joan will follow up to link them. Bob suggested that if we are continuing to host student placements, it is helpful for us to have concrete ideas about what we would like them to do, as it is hard for them to come up with their own ideas in the limited time they are with us.

Calls to members: Barb has been calling members that paid fees or were first year members in 2020 but have not paid for 2021. The members do like to chat and do appreciate the phone calls. Barb will continue this and will send a report to Debbie.

Wine tasting: Georgia and Trish will follow up with Leo from Richmond Station.

Soma will provide a virtual chocolate tasting for \$75 per person. Once we have more details, poll needs to be taken as to how many members would like the wine and/or chocolate tasting.

Potential Post-Covid fundraiser are on hold .

Reports

Co-Chairs

The 2 co-chairs reached out to both unions, (JP – faculty and Meaghan – support) and both were interested in assisting us in encouraging their members that have retired or will retire to join GBCRA.

It was noted that neither union receives much information from the college re new retirees. The unions along with our association are disappointed that new retirees are not recognized or acknowledged as they retire, not even with a card. The support union will post a note in their newsletter re GBCRA membership. It will be noted during the forthcoming meeting with Anne Sado that staff are looking for a small acknowledgement concerning their retirement. GBCRA wants to encourage the new retirees to join us but our problem is getting their personal contact information. Trish will write promotional piece re GBCRA for the faculty union. This will be sent to Diane, Bob and Georgia Denise will be asked to do the same for the support union with Marilou's help

Dianne will contact Meaghan to ask for email addresses for our members whose emails have bounced because we only have their GBC email.

Membership

Current statistics: new members 5, annual members 92, lifetime members 18, unpaid 146

Treasurer

Bank balance is \$10390. Income from membership fees has increased due to lifetime memberships. Last month we considered putting \$6000 into a separate account but this has possible complications. Joan agreed to speak to Max from the Foundation as to what to do with this money and potential tax filing implications.

Recording Secretary – no report

Communications

From data collected it is noted that 68% of all communication pieces are read. The open rate of the newsletter that went out only 2 days before the March Board meeting was already 58%. Members do not respond well to polls and surveys unfortunately. The website has approximately 175 hits per month, so that is doing well.

There are 21 people signed up for the Fashion in the 50's on March 18. The number of attendees for each presentation is similar but we don't get the same people for each presentation. Since January there have been 100 people involved with these Zoom presentations. A monthly movie presentation will start next month.

Bob suggested that we have a rebranding for GBCRA with new printed material. Perhaps a Graphic Design student could become involved with this project.

Senior Association – no contact with this organization until the college opens.

New Business

The appointment with Anne and Leslie has not been made as yet. The posting for the President's position is out.

Newsletter

Joan and Bob will write a note to go into the college newsletter re: GBCRA, alerting people who are considering retiring. This could become a standard item there.

Clubs

Bridge – 4-8 participate each Monday from 1-3 pm.

Book – March meeting – see newsletter. Approximately 8 people at each book club meeting.

Music and Theater – on hold

Bob contacted Sylvia re the \$2500 from the college for GBCRA. Apparently this year we need to call or write to Lesley requesting the money once the new fiscal year has begun.

Next Meeting – Tuesday April 13, 2021 12-2 PM

Adjournment- motion to adjourn made by Barb Dunlop

Submitted by Barb Dunlop