

UMRA Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 23, 2022

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Join the meeting on Zoom: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/97420278151>

Proposed Agenda:

1. Greetings and announcements
2. Approve April minutes (attachments)--Julie Sweitzer
3. Treasurer's report (attachments)--Greg Hestness
4. Luncheon/Annual Meeting/Forum on May 24, update (attachment)
 - a. Election outcome
5. Provisional program planning for next Fall (attachment)--Ron Matross
6. Website related: Forum reservations, sponsorship mentions (attachment)--Cathy Lee Gierke
7. Resolution affirming UMRA and URVC reaffiliation (attachment)
8. Social Activities, Travel reports--Cherie Hamilton
9. Civil Service Committee representative report--Bev Moe
10. Appointment of representatives to SCFA and related; report from Ken Larson on SCFA Retirement Subcommittee (attachments)--Morlock
11. Meetings with first-year regents, update--Wambach
12. President's notes--Jan Morlock (see attached)
13. Other business
14. Adjourn

Other attached materials: UMRA Communications and Outreach Committee report

For your calendar:

- **Tuesday, May 24, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** UMRA lunch, annual meeting, and forum, Campus Club, with Provost Rachel Croson and CLA Dean John Coleman
- **Tuesday, May 31**, hold the date for meeting(s) with first-year regents
- **Monday, June 20, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Age Friendly University Day, McNamara Alumni Center; UMRA and URVC have a table
- **Tuesday, August 9, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** UMRA Summer Social, Como Lakeside Pavilion

UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
Monday, April 25, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Draft Minutes

In attendance (virtual): John Bantle, Vernon Cardwell, Will Craig, Frank Cerra, Bill Donohue, Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Laurie Koch, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Jerry Rinehart, Barb Shiels, Julie Sweitzer, Cathrine Wambach, Diane Young
Regrets: Eric Hockert

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked for any changes for the agenda. There were none. Julie offered the March minutes, and it was noted that on page two, in the discussion of the professional development grants, the maximum grant should be \$15,000. Will moved approval, Laurie seconded, and all voted in favor. (The change was made in the minutes.)

Treasurer's Report: Greg reported moderate revenue and expenses in March. He has started but not yet completed the quarterly report and noted that expenses outran revenues each month. He is going to look for any patterns or concerns regarding expenses. Bill wanted to know if the newsletter costs were consistently as noted in the report (around \$1,071) but Greg and Kris noted there are other expenses such as mailing that are not reflected. Vern moved and Frank seconded approval of the report, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

Annual Meeting: Jan shared what she understands as the agenda for the day, and asked Ron to explain. Ron said Jan's agenda is correct and it will be a buffet because the Campus Club is not doing plated meals. The elections would be conducted in advance, with the ballot sent approximately May 16th. The May newsletter article on the election asked for any additional nominations. Cherie said that the nomination slate did not include the president and she thinks it should because new members and others don't know we have a president. Kris pointed out the article in the newsletter includes Ron's bio and explains that he was elected a year ago. Frank said Cherie had a cogent point and it was a good idea. Ron said he will add a statement to the ballot indicating he will be president and the president-elect on the ballot will serve the following year.

Ron turned it over to Diane, who explained that the host team has been planning the food, table setup, flowers, cards with the agenda, balloons for the Special Interest Groups' table, and nametags. She will check with Campus Club regarding having a sanitizer station. There is a reserved table in front for the invited guests, who will be hosted by board members. Jan noted that the invited guests were speakers and administrators in important roles regarding UMRA, including Bernie Gulachek from OIT and Matt Kramer of U Relations. Jerry volunteered to host Matt Kramer and Barb offered to host Deb Cran. Bill and Laurie offered to host. Cherie asked about inviting the new OLLI director, Kate Schaefer, which was met with general approval, and

Cherie will host her. Kris suggested Lynn Praska of UM Foundation should be invited. Bill said she had been honored at a previous meeting and agreed she should be included.

Jan summarized the business meeting, which she said would be an efficient 30 minutes. It will cover the reaffiliation agreement, MOU, Provost Croson's comments, election results, new president's comments, and finally recognitions. Bill suggested the MOU and Croson's comments go first, and Jan agreed. Jan will close the loop about the length of Croson's comments and whether Dean Coleman will have slides (she thinks yes).

Kris presented the Zoom/Hybrid team's work. There will be one camera, focused on the podium area. A Zoom team member will need to sit at the reserved table to help guide speakers to stay in camera range. She encouraged UMRA speakers to be descriptive of the setting to help online viewers. Someone will field local questions with microphones (Julie agreed to ask Char Greenwald). Bill asked about capacity and masks, and Kris answered 200 and optional. Kris then said Julie and Ron will need to be near podium at the reserved table, but it was later decided that Julie did not need to be. Registration will go live April 28th, and Cathy asked that online and in person registrations always be mentioned together. Kris said she placed the parking QR code on her phone, but Ron expressed concern that could lead to sharing it beyond UMRA membership.

Reaffiliation with URVC: Jerry reported the Implementation Team (Cathy, Will, Deanne Magnuson, Eric and Jerry) has met to identify areas needing change. He reminded us that nothing actually changes this year, which is intended for planning. They will look at bylaws, board membership and size, and how nominations occur, among other things. Jerry looks forward to being able to discuss ideas such as potential new volunteer partnerships, particularly with health care, that could help increase UMRA and URVC's presence on campus. Ron talked about increasing liaisons with colleges, and a potential Silver Service Corps. Diane said the UM Women's Club historically had a medical auxiliary. Kris asked if Vet Med used volunteers, and Jan encouraged us to look beyond the Twin Cities.

Mission Statement: Ron offered the language that he, Jerry and Julie had drafted, based in part on the need to include travel in the statement for coverage. They consulted with the board and the Communications and Outreach committee and made changes based on those comments. Will said he did not like it and it was too long. Bill said he supported it. He thinks the title should be centered and bolded. Barb asked whether the use of informational instead of educational was intentional, and Ron explained that it was. There was a motion for approval, which Frank seconded, and all but one voted in favor. There was one abstention.

Regents: Cathrine said that she, Bill, Jan and Ron had discussed plans to meet with the 4 first year Regents, as UMRA has done before. They proposed meeting with two at a time, in person, in late May, open to all UMRA members. They have contacted Brian Steeves to see if May 27 and/or 31 would work for the first session. They have the questions used in previous meetings and will review them and provide them in advance to the Regents. Laurie asked what we expect from these meetings? Cathrine said the goal is to get the Regents acquainted with UMRA and its value, and also to get to know them. Bill said that when this was done two years ago 20-30

people attended. He suggested that UMRA may want to propose a Regent's Policy on Retirees at some point and building relationships will be valuable. Cathy said we could use a free registration system if we are concerned about crowds.

Expenditures: Jan reported the Executive Committee had proposed and endorsed paying Sadie Brendalen and Kris Magnuson an additional \$100 each for the extra work involved in the April and May newsletters. Frank moved approval, Bill seconded, and all voted in favor.

President's Report: Jan reported that the Big Ten Retirees Association is meeting at Northwestern in August. She asked Julie and Kris to attend (Eric and Ron have conflicts, Jan has a tight schedule and doesn't know if she could fit it in.) She said UMRA traditionally covers the hotel, \$225 registration fee, and airfare or equivalent. Will moved approval of the expenses, and Gary seconded. Bill then encouraged the current president to attend and made a new motion to approve expenses for up to three people. Laurie seconded, and all voted in favor.

Jan said she will represent UMRA at a meeting of CLA emeriti May 4. Gary noted that the Campus Club annual meeting is at 4:30 in the West Wing the same day as UMRA's meeting and wondered about timing. Ron said we have the room until 3, and expect to be out by 2, so he's confident the Campus Club can handle it. Frank noted that the Campus Club board meeting is this Wednesday, and they should know by then whether the UM will provide support next year.

Jerry reminded the board about the May 12 social event celebrating the reaffiliation and reported that URVC will cover half of the anticipated \$400 to 500 in expenses. Bill and Laurie moved approval of expenses up to \$250 and Cherie and others seconded. All voted in favor.

Jan asked for any other business, and Kris encouraged board members to participate in the Forum on Tuesday. Jan **adjourned** the meeting at approximately 2:37 p.m.

UMRA Executive Committee (Zoom)

Monday, May 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Draft Minutes

Attendees: Frank Cerra, Bill Donohue, Cathy Lee Gierke, Greg Hestness, Eric Hockert, Virgil Larson, Ron Matross, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Jerry Rinehart, Julie Sweitzer, Cathrine Wambach, Diane Young

Jan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Julie said she had learned that the previous secretary sent the draft minutes to all attendees as soon as they were ready, rather than wait for the next meeting, and she offered to do that if members wanted it. Several people were interested so she will send minutes out to meeting participants in the future. Jerry moved approval of the minutes, Frank seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Annual Meeting: Jan began the discussion asking to confirm the current registration numbers, which are 89 in person and 26 for online. Diane invited all to lean into the name tag system, which will indicate new members with yellow, leadership with green, membership in special interest groups with blue, and volunteer center members with red. Kris noted that there will be a photographer, so we need to inform attendees and provide an opportunity to opt out of photos.

Ron said the elections were proceeding and he will send out the ballots Tuesday, Frank confirmed there were no additional nominations. The ballot will include approval of the 2019 and 2021 annual meeting minutes. After discussion it was agreed that Jan should send out the ballots to the all-member list, and the message will include a May 23 deadline for voting. Jan then reviewed the meeting agenda and noted she will include recognitions of the Zoom team.

Provisional Program Plan: Ron reviewed the tentative program plan for next year. Forums will be held live in the Campus Club except January and February, when they will be online. The Zoom hybrid option being used for the annual meeting is too expensive to be used regularly, in part due to the setup cost. Jan later noted that there is OWL technology in other smaller Coffman rooms that is built-in and could be an option for the future. Ron continued noting that parking reservations are not anticipated but could be arranged if needed. Workshops will be online, accommodating those who cannot or don't want to come in person. The summer social will be August 9 at Como Pavilion. A boat trip on the Jonathan Paddleford will be arranged for fall, and Ron likes the idea of the December holiday party but no planning has begun yet.

Bill noted that the charge for the annual meeting only covered food, and said he thought we had added the room cost into the luncheon price. Ron didn't think we had, Jerry noted the room charge had previously been much lower, and Bill thought the Campus Club had changed their billing practices. Jerry noted the buffet instead of sit-down service as a price constraint. Ron said there was a psychological price as well, and this was a sensitive time as the cost-of-living rises. Kris agreed that prices are rising and

suggested that perhaps we look at membership fees first. Bill emphasized he was just suggesting an analysis of costs so that events don't eat away UMRA reserves. Accessibility for all is important. Ron and the new treasurer will look at this issue.

Web and Database: Cathy said that the software for the annual registration and payment option will need to be redone to reflect six events versus eight. She wanted to confirm whether we should still provide that option, which is usually included with membership renewals in July. Ron said he likes the Amazon principle of making things as easy as possible. The fewer registrations, the more likely people will do it. The only concern is refunds if we have to cancel. This led to some discussion about the Campus Club's viability and COVID. Frank is confident that vaccinations and boosters protect individuals well and based on Monday's reports he thinks it is unlikely we will revert to lockdowns. The conclusion was that we should book for 2022-23, although the Campus Club's future beyond that is yet to be determined.

Cathy offered the option of keeping the registration system open instead of offering a defined window to buy all of the Forum luncheons, and then reopening it one month before each event for single event registrations. She and Virgil could not think of a downside to keeping it open. Julie asked if you could register for multiple events but not necessarily all. Jerry noted that UMRA did not offer refunds in the past, but Virgil said the new system is much easier to adjust and do refunds by credit card. There would still be deadlines for registration and cancellation. There was agreement to do so.

Cathy then asked whether we should list sponsors on the new website, and if so, should we include a disclaimer noting that UMRA is not endorsing the sponsors or their products. The concern is to avoid treating sponsors as advertisers, which has tax consequences. Bill said he was in favor of listing sponsors, and that if we call them sponsors there is probably little risk of any tax problems. Frank likes the PBS model of name and logo only. Jan asked to clarify whether the sponsors are for particular events or the newsletter, not the organization. Kris explained the sponsorships started with Earl Nolting and are currently managed by Bev Moe, under UMRA's policy for sponsors. There are a limited number for each newsletter. Once there were too many for the newsletter, so the sponsor was offered a Forum to sponsor. The sponsors have recurring relationships and Bev arranges all of them at the start of the year. If they are listed on the website, only that year's sponsors would be listed. Bill and Jerry did not think a disclaimer should be used. Cathy moved that the new website list current sponsors with their logos and links to their general (not product/sales) websites, along with a statement thanking the sponsors. Bill seconded, and all voted in favor.

Resolution on URVC Reaffiliation: Jan said that she and others thought we needed a more formal resolution on the URVC and reaffiliation and displayed a draft resolution. Bill suggested the names of the committee members who worked on the reaffiliation be more prominent, such as in a bulleted list. There were no other edits. Bill moved approved, Frank seconded, and all voted in favor.

Meetings with Regents: Cathrine reported she had submitted a request to meet with the new Regents on May 31 but there was no formal acceptance yet. She asked whether UMRA would approve \$150 for a meeting room in McNamara or the neighboring hotel because no entity will provide a free room. Jerry said the Foundation has provided rooms in the past but will only do so if Lynn is present, and her schedule is busy. Cathrine noted that the event may well be rescheduled and perhaps Lynn's schedule will be more open. Kris suggested Pillars at Prospect Park and will send the contact info to Cathrine. Cathy suggested the Bakken Center in May and will send info to Cathrine. Bill thought McNamara is easier for Regents due to familiarity and suggested he could contact a Foundation board member to introduce the Regents and serve as our access to the Foundation meeting rooms. Diane liked that. Cathrine said the meeting request form asked if we were recording the meeting. She had checked no but wondered if that was correct. Several people, including Julie, said that was the right decision.

Retirement Committee Report: Jan presented Ken Larson's report on the Senate retirement committee. She noted his term was ending and we needed to submit a replacement, ideally this month. She is looking for volunteers.

SIG Membership: After an earlier Executive Committee discussion about whether non-UMRA members could join SIGs, Bev Moe had been asked to think of parameters (since she had raised the question.) Bev is no longer concerned as the issue has resolved itself and wants to withdraw her request. Jan asked if we should just let each group work it out. Diane said her experience with the University Women's Club suggests we require affiliation with the overarching organization or the subgroup takes off on its own. Jerry suggested the SIGs could decide. Julie said the occasional spouse/partner/guest attending with a member is not a problem. Several others noted that we already allow guests at luncheons, so it would be hard to say no in SIGs. Jan will write up the discussion for future review.

President's Report: Jan noted that she, Julie and Kris had registered for the Big Ten retirees' organization conference and will report back in September. She noted the URVC celebration event attendees did not wear masks, and she is unaware of any COVID cases. Jan attended a CLA retired faculty event, which was a good opportunity to connect with the college and its retirees. She also attended the UM Women's Club lunch to build connections there.

Meeting adjourned by Jan around 2:30 p.m.

UMRA
February 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>2/1/22</u>	<u>2/28/22</u>
Savings Account	\$6,973	\$6,973
Savings Certificate	10,243	10,243
Checking Account	<u>10,747</u>	<u>7,466</u>
Total Checking and Savings	\$27,963	\$24,682

REVENUE:

Sponsorship Bakken	\$ 1,000
Sponsorship Bookstores	250
Membership Renewal	<u>80</u>
 Total Revenue	 \$ 1,330

EXPENSES:

Memorials	\$ 124	
Newsletter Regents	907	(print, labor, mail, includes late invoices)
Newsletter	450	(gather news, write, and edit)
Newsletter	450	(layout/design, print and electronic)
Cincinnati Insurance	579	(general liability-new)
Cincinnati Insurance	855	(board and officer coverage)
Johnson, Lewis, & Mount	85	(Preparation of 1099 forms)
U.S. Bank	35	(stop payment on missing check)
Newsletter Regents	<u>1,075</u>	(Pre-print stock, re-issue lost check)
 Total Expense	 \$ 4,560	

GAIN/(LOSS) (\$3,230)

- Checking balanced as of 3/1/2022.
- An unusual number of expenses, but includes annual insurance and 1099 preparation.

Greg Hestness, Treasurer

UMRA
January 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>1/1/22</u>	<u>1/31/22</u>
Savings Account	\$6,973	\$6,973
Savings Certificate	10,243	10,243
Checking Account	<u>12,963</u>	<u>10,747</u>
Total Checking and Savings	\$30,179	\$27,963

REVENUE:

 Total Revenue \$ 0

EXPENSES:

 Memorials \$ 54 (condolence cards)
 Newsletter 163 (delayed October printing invoice)
 Newsletter 1,350 (write, edit, layout, Nov and January)

Total Expense \$ 1,567

GAIN/(LOSS) (\$1,567)

- Checking balanced as of 2/1/2022.
- 2nd attachment, FY 22 YTD Sponsorship record.

Greg Hestness, Treasurer

UMRA
March 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>2/1/22</u>	<u>2/28/22</u>
Savings Account	\$6,973	\$6,973
Savings Certificate	10,243	10,243
Checking Account	<u>\$7,466</u>	<u>7,141</u>
Total Checking and Savings	\$24,682	\$24,357

REVENUE:

Sponsorship UMF	\$ 500
Pillars of Prospect Park	500
Bookstores	<u>250</u>

Total Revenue \$ 1,250

EXPENSES:

Memorials	\$ 60
Newsletter Regents	171 (print, labor)
Newsletter	450 (gather news, write, and edit)
Newsletter	<u>450</u> (layout/design, print and electronic)

Total Expense \$ 1,131

GAIN/(LOSS) \$ 119

- Checking balanced as of 4/1/2022.

Greg Hestness, Treasurer

UMRA
Q3 FY 2022
FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>1/1/22</u>	<u>3/31/2022</u>
Savings Account	\$6,973	\$6,973
Savings Certificate	10,243	10,249
Checking Account	<u>12,963</u>	<u>7,141</u>
Total Checking and Savings	\$30,179	\$24,363

REVENUE

Sponsorship-Pillars	\$500
Sponsorship-UMF	500
Sponsorship Bakken	1,000
Bookstores	500
Membership Renewals	<u>80</u>

Total Revenue \$ 2,580

EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$ 5,466 (includes pre-print of newsletter stock)
Memorials	238
General Liability Insurance	579
Board & Officer Insurance	855
Preparation of 1099 Forms	85
Stop payment of missing check	<u>35</u>

Total Expense \$7,258

GAIN/(LOSS) (\$4,678)

Greg Hestness, Treasurer

(Version 2022.5.19)

University of Minnesota Retirees Association Elections 2022, conducted online

Ballots sent to members: 5/18; return deadline: 5/23

**University of Minnesota Retirees Association Luncheon, Annual Meeting, and Forum
Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Campus Club, 4th Floor, Coffman Memorial Union

- 10:45 a.m. Welcome table is open
- 11:00 a.m. Members and guests arrive
- 11:15 a.m. Members and guests to tables and buffet lunch is called, by table
- 11:55 a.m. Zoom event begins with welcoming slideshow
- 12:00 noon Welcome to virtual and live audience; business meeting called to order—Morlock
- Announce and celebrate election results
 - Announcement of MOA with the University; introduction of Provost Croson; Provost Croson remarks
 - Announcement of reaffiliation agreement, UMRA and URVC
 - Announcement of election results; board members and officers for 2022 - 2023
 - Recognitions
 - Introduction of President for 2022 - 2023 Ron Matross
- 12:30 p.m. Business meeting adjourns; president introduces forum speaker John Coleman; presentation by John Coleman
- 1:00 p.m. Q&A with John Coleman, moderated by Julie Sweitzer
- 1:30 p.m. Closing remarks; forum ends—Matross

Confirmed guests:

- Rachel Croson, Executive Vice President and Provost (welcomer: Bill Donohue)
- Deb Cran, Office of the Provost (welcomer: Barbara Shiels)
- John Coleman, Dean, College of Liberal Arts (welcomer: Ron Matross)
- Louis Clark, Chief Development Officer, College of Liberal Arts (welcomer: Lynn Anderson)
- Kate Schaefers, Executive Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Center at the University of Minnesota (welcomer: Cherie Hamilton)
- Bernie Gulachek, UMN Vice President and Chief Information Officer (welcomer: Laurie Koch)
- Matt Kramer, UMN Vice President for University Relations (welcomer: Jerry Rinehart)

- Lynn Praska, Senior Planned Giving Officer (welcomer: Eric Hockert)

Provisional Program Plan for 2022-2023

05/11/22

Luncheons/Forums and Workshops

- Six in-person luncheon forums, Sept.-Nov. and March-May
- Held in Campus Club West Wing, contingent on Campus Club status
- Also broadcast via Zoom or livestreaming and or recorded (to be determined)
- Cost to attendees is what the venue charges for the meal itself (currently \$25). Room and other costs will be subsidized from UMRA budget.
- January and February forums will be Zoom only, without a luncheon
- Parking reservations not currently planned, but will be if demand warrants
- All-year payment plan not currently planned, at least until venue status is known

Living Well Workshops

- Eight Zoom workshops, Sept.-Nov. and Jan.-May

Social Events

- August Summer Social at Como Dockside
- Fall boat ride on Jonathon Paddleford (not planned yet)
- In-person December holiday party (not planned yet)
- Other programming as planned by the Social Committee

Web and database issues

Do we want Annual Forum & luncheon sign ups for luncheons in 2022-2023?

People are normally invited to sign up for a year of luncheons (8) when the membership renewal goes out in the summer – often in late June or early July. This allows members to sign up once for all luncheons for the year. No discount is offered for buying early -- or any chance for a refund in case the member must cancel. It's an opportunity to do it once and be done.

Another option would be to open registration for all luncheons as soon as we know what they will be, and the cost.

Or we could do both – have the one-and-done option, and have all luncheons open as soon as we know what they are.

Either way we need to know so we can adjust the functionality, in particular, there will only be 6 luncheons if Jan/Feb are virtual, and that requires a change to the software if we will have the one-and-done option.

PayPal problems:

The board should be aware that PayPal seems to have a new policy where they sometimes don't offer the Guest Checkout option. Here is what it says:

About Guest Checkout

Buyers don't always have the option to complete their purchases without using or creating a PayPal account. This option is presented based on several risk factors, including but not limited to the buyer's PayPal purchase history, PayPal cookies stored on the buyer's computer, the buyer's location, and/or a credit assessment.

Its been causing our members some difficulty this month when they try to sign up and pay for the luncheons.

Max looked at it, and things look correct still. So we may need to change vendors over the summer.

I am not asking for anything from the board. Just making you aware of this change in how PayPal is working for us, and the need for reworking our payment software. I'll keep you updated.

Listing sponsors on the website

A suggestion has been made that we list sponsors on the website. We don't now, and wanted to run the idea by the board. I know sometimes charities will list major contributors on their websites. But I'm a little concerned it may look like we are promoting or endorsing a commercial endeavor, and wanted the board to weigh in.

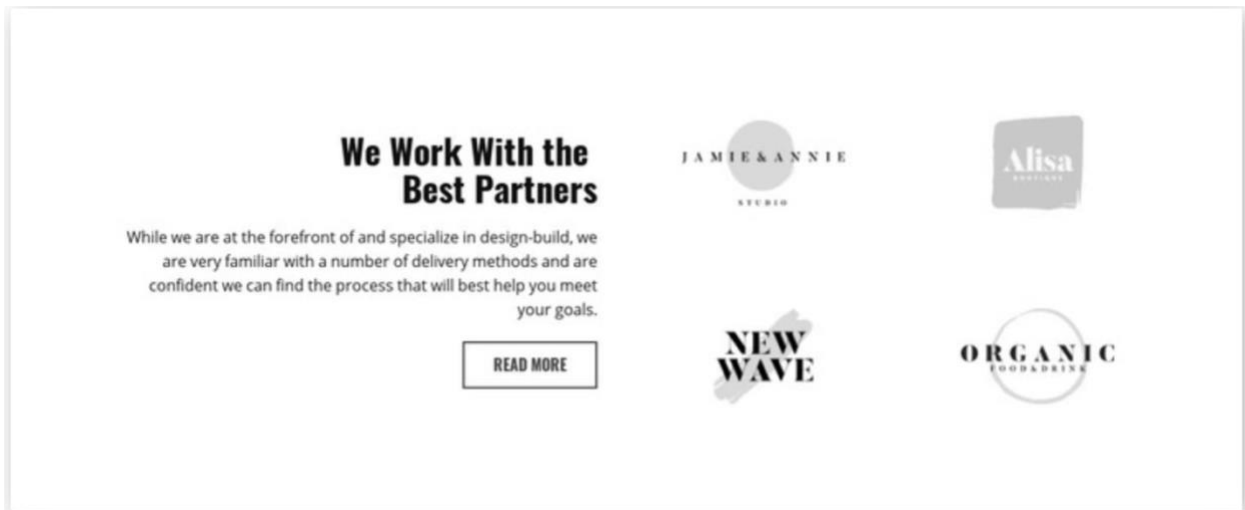
For tax purposes, there is a line between acknowledgement and advertising that we must be aware of. We can acknowledge, but if we advertise for a sponsor, the income is taxable. [Legal details here.](#)

If we decide to do this, we would clearly state how the sponsors might support us – through money to help fund forums, or newsletters (are there any certain earmarks on these funds?). We may want to thank them for their generous support, with a caveat that we are not endorsing these commercial enterprises.

Sample caveat and thank you:

“UMRA does not endorse, warrant or recommend any of these companies or products. We are grateful for the support they provide for the publication of our monthly newsletter.”

On the About Us pages we could list the sponsors with a link to their site. Depending on how deeply we want to commit to these sponsors, we could also include a logo of 1” wide with the name, and/or a brief description of the business. The following example shows some text where we could put the caveat and thank you, along with logos (no button needed).



Here is an [example of policies](#) for sponsors from a Parent Teacher Association in CA.

UMRA has a policy on [evaluating sponsorship opportunities](#).

Cathy Lee Gierke
5/12/2022

May 23, 2022

To: UMRA Board Members
From: Jan Morlock
Subject: A Resolution to Affirm the Reunification of UMRA and URVC

Whereas, a working group of representatives from the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) and the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URV) have studied the merits and challenges of reuniting the two organizations; and

Whereas the working group has recommended that the organizations reunite, with specific recommendations regarding governance and implementation; and

Whereas the boards of directors of both URVC and UMRA have considered the findings and recommendations of the working group and have voted to proceed with reuniting; and

Whereas the President of UMRA and the Chair of URVC have signed a Statement of Reaffiliation:

Therefore, the University of Minnesota Retirees Association hereby affirms and celebrates reunification with the University Retirees Volunteer Center and expresses its thanks to working group members:

- Will Craig
- Cathy Lee Gierke
- Eric Hockert
- Deanne Magnusson
- And to Jerry Rinehart, chair, for leadership in pointing a way forward to a strong unified organization with a shared mission that brings greater combined value to retirees and to the community.

May 19, 2022

TO: UMRA Board Members
FROM: Jan Morlock
SUBJECT: Appointment of UMRA Representatives to SCFA and Related

1. UMRA has an ex-officio representative to the University Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. UMRA member **Terry Roe**, retired Professor in Applied Economics, is currently serving. I asked Terry to consider serving another term, and he would like to do so. The term on SCFA is from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.
2. The SCFA Retirement Subcommittee is advisory to the University on the administration of the retirement savings funds of University employees. The Subcommittee has representatives from each of the active employee groups, and one retiree representative, appointed by UMRA, each of whom serve three-year terms. UMRA member Ken Larson is finishing a term, having served UMRA well. Ken would like to step back from this position and is not interested in being reappointed. I would like to appoint Andy Whitman for this role on behalf of UMRA, to serve the term from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. Andy is a retired faculty member from the Carlson School of Management and is the founder and organizer of UMRA's Financial and Legal Special Interest Group.

I ask for your confirmation of these appointments.

May 13, 2022

TO: UMRA Executive Committee Members

FROM: Jan Morlock

RE: Items from the President

Big Ten Retiree Organizations 2022 Conference. The conference will be in-person at Northwestern University, August 1 - 3 this year. As was authorized at the last board meeting, three UMRA representatives have registered to attend: Kris Mortensen, Julie Sweitzer, and Jan Morlock. (Both incoming president Ron Matross and presumed pres-elect Eric Hockert will be traveling at this time and unable to attend.) Estimated expenses per attendee include conference fee \$225; lodging \$600; plus airfare or other transportation, for total cost/attendee of ~\$1300

<https://emeriti.northwestern.edu/btra-conference-august-1-3-2022/>

Age-Friendly University Day June 20. UMRA will have a presence at this event at the McNamara Alumni Center. Thanks to Lynn Anderson, UMRA's representative to the Age-Friendly University Council, and to John Anderson and Eric Hockert of the Membership and Communications and Outreach Committees who are coordinating our participation that day. For more information and to register, <https://umra.umn.edu/news/2022-04-afu-day-day>

UMRA/URVC joint board event. The May 12 social with UMRA and URVC board members was a good celebration of the reaffiliation, with eighteen board members from the two organizations introducing themselves to each other at the Campus Club Bar. Jerry Rinehart gave an overview of how the affiliation agreement came to be, and of the work before us to implement the agreement. I'll attach a photo from the event, with Ron Matross, Jerry Rinehart, and Leslie Koidahl in full summer glory.

CLA Faculty Emeriti dinner. The College of Liberal Arts invited UMRA to be represented on the program at their dinner celebrating Faculty Emeriti and retiring faculty on May 4. I gave greetings to the 40-or-so new and veteran retirees and invited them to join UMRA. There were at least 12 people in the room who are already members, a good representation.

University of Minnesota Women's Club annual meeting and lunch. I attended this event on May 10 as a guest of UMWC outgoing president, Susan Hopp. The UMWC has a long and distinguished history since the early days of the University, and raises significant funds each year for women students in need of financial assistance in order to begin or continue their studies. The Club also has many vigorous special interest groups engaging hundreds of women, including retirees, in social and volunteer activities.

Requirements for Special Interest Group memberships? An item for consideration in the Fall. A question was raised to the board this year from one of the Special Interest Group

leaders of whether there should be a requirement that SIG participants be UMRA members. Ultimately, the question was withdrawn from consideration, but from the preliminary discussions that took place with the SIG leaders and with board members, there are a range of opinions on whether the organization needs a more clear policy on this, and if so, what it should be. The board may wish to take this up again in the Fall, perhaps with a small group to include SIG leaders, to consider it and bring forward recommendations.



Communications and Outreach Committee

TO: UMRA Executive Committee and UMRA Board
FROM: Eric Hockert, Chair, C&O Committee
DATE: May 16, 2022
SUBJECT: Communications and Outreach Committee Update

Website – Cathy Lee Gierke, UMRA webmaster

The web migration and design team, under C&O, continued its work to plan the redesign and migration of the website from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9. Migration to Drupal 9 needs to be completed by November 2022.

Team and Timeline

There is a great collection of talented and willing volunteers, including Kathy Jenson, Mike Austin, Eric Hockert, Kris Mortensen, Will Craig and Cathy Gierke. We will bring a design to the C&O committee for their feedback, and for their approval of a final design, hopefully by early summer, before we begin the build (June-Sept) and migration (Sept-Oct).

URVC

URVC and UMRA have cross-linked their respective websites per the recent Re-Affiliation agreement. See the top right corner of each site – UMRA.umn.edu and URVC.umn.edu. UMRA redesign and migration is a separate effort from URVC to allow both to focus their efforts on the Drupal 7 to 9 transition. We plan to revisit integrations after the migration is completed this coming Fall (2022).

Board input: Any further input on website content that should or should not be migrated to new website? Please contact [Cathy Lee Gierke](#) or [Eric Hockert](#).

Membership communications – John Anderson, Membership Committee chair

UMRA will have a table at the upcoming Age Friendly University event (June 20, McNamara) and will distribute materials to interested visitors and soon-to-be retirees. John Anderson is leading the C&O and Membership Committees' involvement.

Relationship Outreach

Kris Mortensen is working to update the UMRA Fact Sheet. URVC also has a one-page Snapshot document.

The C&O Committee has identified several communication channels to share the UMRA story throughout the university and community to raise awareness, to attract new retiree members, and to identify service opportunities (e.g. with URVC). The primary channels include UMRA Newsletter (Kris Mortensen), UMRA News/eNews mailings, UMRA Facebook, UMN Brief, Minnesota Daily, direct emails to UMRA members, UMAA (Will Craig), invitation letter sent to new retirees through UMN HR (per the recent MOU, John Anderson), and UMN department/unit in-person visits. There are many other potential channels but the listed ones are primary.

Although each channel and each interaction (e.g. department visits) may require a customized message, we are pursuing two approaches to establish a consistent message and brand – UMRA Snapshot (updated) and a presentation slide deck (starting with Jan Morlock’s recent CLA presentation as a foundation).

URVC

We continue a cooperation between the current UMRA and URVC communication committee’s efforts (Deanne Magnusson, URVC Project Director). For example, a communication with CSE departments has resulted in an initial expression of interest for volunteers from Mechanical Engineering. We are also in the final stages of establishing a mentoring program for advanced students and medical doctors in Neurology (Eric Maurer). This effort would assist them organizing and writing scientific papers and especially for students where English is not their primary language. We believe this will include a substantial intellectual component beyond the language matter. The Neurology connection resulted from an in-person visit with them prior to Covid – several years ago!

Board input: Feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions with me, [Eric Hockert](#), for additional topics, directions, audience, channels, and overall motivation for this communication.