

**UMRA Membership Committee Annual Report  
June 30, 2023**

A Zoom New Member Welcome event arranged by the Membership Committee took place on September 15, 2022. About a dozen new members got acquainted with eight event facilitators. Ron Matross welcomed the new members and encouraged their involvement in UMRA activities. Two breakout sessions each with five groups meant that all breakout groups had no more than four persons which allowed everyone to have a significant interaction.

The Membership Committee met via Zoom on April 26, 2023 ([meeting minutes attached](#)). After much discussion the committee voted to recommend to the UMRA Board that the single/couple dues rate be changed from \$30/\$40 to \$30/50.

The membership year changed from September 1-August 31 to July 1-June 30 to coincide with the term of office for board members and officers. Vigil Larson maintained the membership database and handled the annual membership renewal process.

On June 26, 2023 UMRA/URVC hosted a table at the Age-Friendly University Day at the McNamara Alumni Center. It was a busy session as many people stopped by to learn about UMRA and the volunteer opportunities available through URVC.

The UMRA-Members listserv continues to be an important means of communicating with members. It is regularly updated as new members are received. Non-renewing former members are removed from the listserv after one year of failure to pay dues. The UMRA-Board listserv is updated annually when new officers and board members are elected.

A paper copy of each UMRA-Newsletter (September 2022 – May 2023) was deposited in the UMRA files in the office located in Suite 250 of McNamara Alumni Center. A similar set of the eight UMRA-Newsletters was delivered to the UMRA Archivist for delivery to the University Archives. This annual report and the minutes of the April 26 meeting of the Membership Committee were included in the material made available for the Archives.

Report submitted by  
John S. Anderson  
Chair, UMRA Membership Committee  
June 30, 2023

## UMRA Membership Committee Meeting

2:00 pm, 26 April 2023

Via Zoom

**Present:** John Anderson, chair, Joyce Guelich, Nancy Helmich, Eric Hockert (guest), Leslie Koidal, Virgil Larson, Ron Matross (guest), Bev Moe, Diane Young.

**Membership Information:** Virgil reported on membership status (see table).

April 18, 2023	New	Renewed	Total
2021 expired June 22	29	79	108
2022 expires June 23	128	476	604
2023 expires June 24	72	77	149
All years	229	632	861

April 7, 2022	New	Renewed	Total
2020 expired June 21	27	67	94
2021 expires June 22	102	536	638
2022 expires June 23	20	11	32
All years	149	614	763

April 7, 2021	New	Renewed	Total
2019 expired June 20	39	81	118
2020 expires June 21	66	503	569
2021 expires June 22	93	6	99
All years	196	590	786

As of April 18 the membership roll includes 861 members. Of these 229 are new members received over the past three years. Since UMRA By-Laws require persons who fail to renew their membership be maintained on the membership rolls for one year there are 108 who will likely be dropped from the roll at the end of June of 2023.

Bev inquired about the distribution of members between major employment categories. A perception is that UMRA is largely an organization of retired faculty, but analysis from several years ago showed proportion of faculty to be about 50%. New members received in the past few years has increased the proportion of retired staff-civil service. Accurate data are not immediately available but can be obtained. A communication about the composition of the membership might be included in the Newsletter to dispel any misunderstanding.

Virgil pointed out that there are about 50 different categories that identify prior employment type. This scattering of category data is the consequence of an open ended question rather than a choice of a few pre-entered categories. This should be fixed.

Ron indicated that we should track renewal rates of both new and longer term members so we have an indication of the effectiveness of the host committee's efforts to welcome new members and encourage their engagement in UMRA activities

**Dues for Singles and Couples:** Feedback received indicated disapproval of the differential dues rate for singles vs. couples (\$30 vs. \$40). This matter was discussed at our last meeting (June 2022) at which time the committee suggested that the differential rate be discontinued. Although the UMRA Board had extensive discussion of this issue there was no consensus and no action has been taken. Today two options were considered.

- One - increase the basic annual dues rate for singles to \$40 and for couples to \$50.
- Two - a compromise to minimize the supposed subsidization of couples by singles by retaining the annual dues for singles at \$30 and increasing the couples rate to \$50.

Much discussion ensued. In response to a question Virgil reported that 58% of our members are singles according to dues paid. Concern about the financial impact of dues vs. the cost of luncheons emphasized that since only a subset of members attend luncheons the dues should not be used to subsidize the luncheons. It is more appropriate to keep dues low and raise luncheon prices. The notation of "couples" is considered limiting and so the designation should instead be that of a "household" which is more inclusive.

Bev moved option one. The motion was seconded. After discussion there was a sense that option two was preferred. A call for a friendly amendment to alter the motion from option one to option two was declared too significant a change to be handled as an amendment so a vote was called on the motion of option one and all voted against the motion. A new motion to adopt option two, was seconded and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration of implementing a 3- or 5-year membership rate was deferred to a future meeting.

**Request for Membership from non-U of M retiree:** UMRA By-Laws state that members are retirees from the University of Minnesota. However, exceptions can be made by the Board of Directors. A request received from Barry Baines, MD, was distributed to this committee with the meeting notice. Leslie moved that he be approved for membership and that his application be forwarded to the Board. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.