

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting August 26, 2021 Minutes**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on August 26, 2021 at 10:04 am by President Rita Klein.

II. Welcome & Announcements: Rita read a gracious thank you note from Dan Sheffer for the gift from members of the AUAR Executive Board acknowledging his service in support of the mission of the organization.

Members attending: Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Laura Moss-Spitler, Dan Sheffer, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, and Diane Vukovich

Excused: Tom Nichols, Tim Lillie, Richard Steiner, Tom Vukovich, Carl Lieberman

The meeting had been described as available by phone (no video) and the connection did not work. Members who had indicated they would attend remotely were not able to access the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the June 24 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

IV. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported:

June 2021

UA Account income: dues \$0.00
 UA Account expenses: postage \$275.06; duplicating \$51.21.
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$8,438.57	\$79.40	\$8,517.97
Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$326.27	\$0.00	\$326.27
Final balance	\$8,112.30	\$79.40	\$8,191.70
June 2020			
Final balance	\$9,030.78	\$79.40	\$9,110.18

July 2021

UA Account income: dues \$2148.00; UA Foundation \$12.00.
 UA Account expenses: \$0.00
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$8,112.30	\$79.40	\$8,191.70
Income	\$2,160.00	\$0.00	\$2,160.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Final balance	\$10,272.30	\$79.40	\$10,351.70
July 2020			
Final balance	\$10,554.78	\$79.40	\$10,634.18

The treasurer's report was approved subject to audit.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman had no report. It was noted that board member Tom Nichols is not present today because his mother passed away.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Diane Vukovich reported : It is assumed that the Fall programs will be presented in-person at Quaker Depot. Speakers will be asked to present in a remote format if necessary.

September 15 Dr. Sheldon Wrice, Vice President for Inclusion and Equity

October 13 Derek Dailey, UA Dept of Career Services
Former contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire"

November 17 Dr. Gary Miller, President

December 15 Tuba Christmas with Mel Vye and group of 8 tuba players

The annual Soup and Chili Supper event is scheduled at Goodyear Park, Friday, November 5. There has been no confirmation at this time.

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B. Membership: Mel Vye reported member totals as: 68 new members; 244 active members; and 312 members on the books. Forms for renewal of memberships with dues payment and requests for scholarship donations were snail mailed to all members.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee said there is nothing new to report. Dan hosts the Zoom meetings of OCHER and there will be two Fall meetings, both virtual. The lawsuit by ORTA requesting financial records of STRS has been filed. A new retiree board member has been appointed to replace Bob Stein. There is no new news regarding reinstatement of the COLA.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman said there is no new local news to report. A campus parking permit is still available as a benefit. If you do not have a permit that goes to 2022 contact the parking office.

STRS – Reported a 29.26% return for fiscal year 2021. There is a group of STRS members who are working to restore the COLA and bring more transparency to the members. They are also concerned about the high fees paid to hedge fund manager and the large bonuses given to internal investors. The group hired a forensic audit. The attorney conducting the audit felt he wasn't being given the information he needed. We do not have information regarding whether STRS is financially able to pay a COLA. There are reasonable questions about the transparency of STRS financial operations especially in regard to large investment losses and the benchmarks used to award bonuses. There will be an official audit of STRS in the future.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar had no report.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported the website is up to date except for actions taken today which will be posted quickly.

G. Scholarship. Chair position is open. June Burton is the Acting Chair. Information about the dollar amounts available has been received and three students will receive \$2500 each, half in Fall and half in Spring. The three students are 1) Kayla Haag, 2) Kurt Ekensten, and 3) Morgan Cadmus. Award notice letters have been sent requesting their acceptance of the award and possible presence at one of our luncheons. An eloquent letter of acceptance from Kayla Haag was read by Rita.

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H. Newsletter. Editor Martha Vye reported the Fall newsletter is ready except for news received today. She received a question from Print Services about the number of newsletters to be printed and to whom they should be sent. It was noted that the newsletter is both a recruiting tool because it contains the membership brochure and important information about campus resources and contact information. Mel Vye made a motion, seconded by Harvey Sterns that the newsletter be sent to all members on the membership list, paid-up or not. Motion was approved without dissent. Additional copies are routinely printed to be sent to various offices around campus to keep them informed of AUAR activities. Martha also asked that we express appreciation to Diane Lazzerini for contributing to the memorial section of the newsletter. Linda Sugarman will send a thank you from the board. The initial review of photo disks that Ed Lasher had made is underway by Martha and Jo Ann. There is a video montage of images from at least ten years of AUAR events coupled with a music soundtrack. It may be suitable for a future luncheon presentation.

VII. Old Business.

Changes in Executive Board membership and leadership of the Scholarship Committee: Tim Lillie has moved out of state and is unable to remain as chair of the Scholarship Committee. He is willing to continue as a member-at-large of the Executive Board and attend meetings virtually. The term expires June 2022. June Burton, a member of the Scholarship Committee, agreed to be Acting Chair until a board member is named to the position.

Mary Schaedel, a recent retiree, has volunteered to be a member of the Scholarship Committee.

VIII. New Business.

AUAR contributions to the Campus Cupboard. Rita asked if the board would like to invite contributions to the Campus Cupboard. There are multiple ways to contribute. It was suggested that donations could be requested for the November luncheon program presentation when President Gary Miller is speaking. The invitation sent to members will include information about the request and items most needed.

IX. Good of the Order

Harvey Sterns expressed his gratitude for being elected to the President Elect position. He identified several ways that retired faculty might contribute to lifelong learning with present day students and the elderly. The Institute for Lifespan Development and Gerontology to be a collaborative partner with multiple entities on campus, in the community, across the state and beyond.

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X. Adjournment There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

**Respectfully submitted:
JoAnn Collier, Recording Secretary**

Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022:

2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2.

2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
(Photos of the board will be taken at the June meeting)