

Cares, Communication and Outreach, Special Social Events, Travel Tours, PDGR (Jean Kinsey)

Cares Committee: (Chair, Jean Markell) This report identified its purpose, members, its protocol, committee activity and expenses. It also listed 17 deceased retirees acknowledged by UMRA with cards, donations, and announcements in the Newsletter. A very concise and useful report. This committee function is primarily service and connection to UMRA families. It builds loyalty and good relations with the UMF.

The listing of the deceased served is an archival record.

Communications and Outreach: (Chair, Jean Kinsey) The report articulates the committee's mission, members, policy decisions, meeting activities, and member's activities. Suggestions for future actions are included. Since critical functions of communication are under this committee, the report of the Newsletter editor and the Web Master are included. Specific outreach activities are also included.

Special Social Events: (Lead: Jan Morlock) This report clearly articulates events organized by the past president. It is not clear if this is a committee or individual initiative. The events report was thorough, in table form, included "learnings" and should be most helpful to future event planners. This activity clearly builds member comradery, loyalty, and fulfills one of UMRA's main missions.

Travel Tours: (Chair, Cherie Hamilton) This report listed the trips taken in 2022-23 with the number of participants. Trips planned for 2023-24 are listed without much detail. This activity serves the mission of providing opportunities to learn and meet other members. Apparently not a committee.

PDRG: (Chair, John Bantle)

This report listed the nine funded grants in 2023, the committee members and some suggestions about using the grantees in UMRA programming. The PDRG program provides retirees with opportunities to continue learning and producing knowledge. It may increase membership and loyalty as it keeps retirees engaged.

Board Leadership (Julie Schweitzer)

Nominating Committee: (Chair, Jan Morlock) This submission is the same report submitted to the board at the completion of the committee's work. That seems perfectly appropriate but raises the question of why we ask for a separate annual report when the information was already submitted?

Secretary: (Julie Schweitzer) Admittedly this was my report, and I was not at all sure what to include since my work was reflected in the many sets of minutes I prepared. I simply described

the status of all minutes (posted or pending approval) and noted the two documents I updated (toolkit and operating manual.) I'm not at all sure the annual report has any value for any purpose.

JOIE: (Chair, Kris Bettin) This was a short and useful summary of the year's work and a few issues the committee is facing. It was useful in that I would not have known what they are discussing had I not read it, and I doubt it exists in any written form elsewhere.

Treasurer: (Kristy Frost-Kriep) Kristy presented a clear description of the changes she has made to the budget reports. While this has and will be described elsewhere, I don't think it is or will be recorded in such detail and it is valuable to have it in writing, especially if there is reason to question it in the future. I think an annual treasurer's report is a good idea.

Big Ten Conference (BTRA): This was a good summary and pointed out several recommendations but it is being presented to the board (as it should be) and I'm not sure it needs a separate annual report.

Program Report: (Chair, Eric Hockert) A good summary of process and changes in programs with some analysis. I think it is probably a good idea to summarize the year and any challenges, changes or issues.

President's Report: (Ron Matross) A nicely done summary that is probably a valuable annual report. Content is mostly found elsewhere but his recommendations are useful, especially about the need for developing the next round of leaders across all UMRA volunteer functions.

Special Interest Groups (Julia Wallace)

Armchair Traveler sponsors programs where members show photos and describe travel. These are both learning opportunities and chances for members to socialize around the issue of travel. In 2022-23 the three programs, on Zoom, attracted an average of 30 participants each. Their reach was broadened by posting the presentations on the UMRA web.

Book Clubs provide a popular opportunity for both learning and connections. The original book club has 14 members who share responsibility for leading the monthly discussions. (Second book club report not yet received.)

The **Family History** group has been meeting via Zoom, with 15 to 40 participants participating. This is a topic of interest to many retirees, and the sharing of ideas and projects provides members with new ideas and techniques to apply to their own work.

The **Photo Club** meets monthly. One outdoor photo shoot was held in 2022-23. The group has a large following, with almost 60 members on its notification list. Photographers share their

photos (which are posted on the UMRA web), providing the chance for discussion and also advice on photographic tools and techniques. Members often lunch together after meetings, expanding the opportunities for connections.

The **Hiking Club** meets monthly in the colder months and twice monthly from April through October. Up to 15 members join the hike each time, with plenty of time for conversations as new parks and trails are explored. It is a way to exercise and make friends at the same time. The leaders plan to include some lunches in the coming year, adding even more time for building connections.

The **Finance and Legal Issues** group focuses its programs on issues that are especially important to retirees, with an open invitation to all UMRA members to attend in-person or Zoom sessions. (Annual report not yet received.)

Membership, Communications, Web Support (Cathy Gierke)

(I have structured each of my summaries to include:

- *a description of the committees' responsibilities or tasks;*
- *any notable changes during the year;*
- *key strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats*
- *information that would be helpful to include in the future)*

Membership: (John Anderson, Chair) The membership committee manages issues around membership, and occasionally holds meet & greets for new and existing members.

Key Meetings:

September-- New Member Welcome event. About a dozen new members got acquainted with eight event facilitators.

April--Committee meeting held to discuss dues. Recommendation was not voted only by the Board. This recommendation was not voted on by the board.

June--Hosted a table for UMRA/URVC 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.

Board approved change in membership year, which now September 1-August 3.

Membership Committee maintains the two email lists for UMRA: **UMRA-Members**, and **UMRA-Board**.

This report would benefit from information including:

- Total members as of report date & comparison to last year
- % of renewing members & how that compares to last year
- % of new members (free membership) renewed & how that compares to last year

- Any challenges or concerns the board should know about?

Host Team: Established by Program Chair Ron Matross in January 2022 (post-Pandemic) the Host team's charge, in addition to logistics, is to find ways to help attendees feel welcome and connected. He encouraged the Host Team to be creative in fostering a warm and positive atmosphere. (The 12 items in its purview as listed at the end of the summary document.)

The Host Team has learned to work with our online member database, creating and managing the monthly Forum roster; adding manual records for those who do not do it online; and creating labels. These technology tasks are key to the Host Team work, but were not included in the original charge. They are still looking for someone to take on these tasks longer term.

Suggestions for the UMRA Board or Host committee to consider in the coming year.

- a. UMRA Board: Pricing of events. Stripe platform fee take a 3% or so bite out of income from Program fees. Refunds when people cancel, mean we pay the fee, as the full program charge is returned to the member. Solution: 1) Board discussion regarding pricing of events; 2) Short newsletter articles that address:
 - a) what goes into the cost of an event.
- b. Host Team: Welcoming traditional members ala "new members" initiative. (A "traditional" member commented that he would like to be welcomed like "new" members. Another member commented that she had been away from UMRA for a while but is reintegrating and would benefit from a "new member" type welcome. Solution: FY24 Agenda item for Host Team discussion.
- c. Host Team: Track reservations made vs members who show up.

This report would benefit from information including:

- Average number of members at each Forum
- Total number of members attending Forums over the year (unique count)
- How this has changed from the previous years
- Average number of no-shows each time, and reasons

News Editor (Kris Mortensen)

Creation of *UMRA News* and the *UMRA eNews*, and the post of articles on the website are accomplished by a team of volunteers and two paid members: the production editor, Sadie Brendalen; and the editor, Kris Mortensen. These publications, in conjunction with other UMRA communication media, help UMRA build and foster community by showing who we are, telling what we do, and inviting people to participate.

Last spring it was decided that beginning in September 2023, publication of the print *UMRA News* will change from monthly to quarterly. This change reduces the time and labor required for contributors, editors, and mailing list maintenance; and it creates an opportunity to shift the

focus of the newsletter to a more magazine-type publication. The website and email will be the delivery media for time-sensitive information.

A paper newsletter will now be delivered automatically to all UMRA member households, instead of using an automatic online system of opting-in to the paper subscription, as was previously done. Members will now need to contact someone directly to opt-out of the paper edition.

This report would benefit from information including:

- Average number of newsletters printed/mailed per issue
- Total mailing costs
- Mailing cost per newsletter

Discounts & Sponsorships (Bev Moe)

Bev Moe solicits member discounts from UMN departments. The great news is that all departments that provided membership discounts in 2021-2022 extended their discounts to 2022-2023. Discounts can be viewed here: <https://umra.umn.edu/member-benefits#discounts>

She also solicits sponsorships from UMN departments, and non-UMN entities to support newsletter and forum. 2022-23 Sponsorships:

UMF \$ 2500	Bookstores \$ 1200
Pillars \$ 3000	Bakken \$ 1000
TOTAL \$7700	

This report would benefit from information including:

- Were there potential sponsors that seemed promising, that might be pursued further?
- What do we communicate to sponsors about how these funds are used? Could they be used for membership purposes, or other purposes?
- Any difficulties the board should know about?

Website (Cathy Gierke)

The webmaster develops and manages the UMRA website (Drupal) and the membership application website (Symphony) and database (MySQL) at retirees.umn.edu. Highlights follow:

Jan 2023: The UMRA website conversion from Drupal 7 to 9 was completed. Annual updates of online archives happen each summer, including a review/update of all web pages. Over 350 views were built, and over 900 articles migrated from the old site to preserve historic articles.

A number of updates were made to the member application and database, detailed in the full report.

Summer: Collection of annual reports & toolboxes and updating of all web pages occurs each summer.

Photo Library: A photo library has been implemented, engaging photographers to take photos at major events, and collect them in a Google Drive. These photos are available to any UMRA member who needs them for media.

New member database application: We should consider using a 3rd party application that can manage members, dues payment, event payments, emailings, building eNews, etc. Max has been great, but I don't think he wants to hang around forever. A period of research will be required to establish priorities for such an application. We may want to look at something that will work for both URVC as well as full UMRA. Assessment of both current systems can help us identify what we need in a new system.

Representatives, Liaisons, and additional UMRA Committees (Jerry Rinehart)

Benefits Advisory Committee (Representatives: Nancy Fulton, Dale Swanson)

Overview: UMRA has formal representation on BAC which advises the University administration on benefit offerings common to non-represented employee groups.

Synopsis: UMRA rep Dale Swanson chaired the committee in FY23. The committee reviewed various medical plan offerings and participated in three RFP's in conjunction with other key administrative units associated with Human Resources.

Senate Committee of Faculty Affairs: (Representative: Terry Roe)

Overview: UMRA has formal representation on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs which is concerned with policies and procedures that influence the personal and professional welfare of the faculty and postdoctoral fellows/associates. (Terry Roe)

Synopsis: Comprehensive listing of monthly SCFA agendas. Reference to official minutes associated with SCFA. [While some editing of agenda items and the listing of presenters indicate committee's activity, identification of issues with particular relevance to UMRA would have been helpful.

Aging Friendly University: (Representative: Lynn Anderson)

Overview: AFU is a Council within the "Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation."

Synopsis: Council' work includes discussing contributions participating UM units are making toward helping the U expand its ability to be an even better AFU.

Key activity is mounting the "Aging Friendly University Day" which included several UMRA members in leadership roles.

Board of Regents (Liaison: Cathrine Wambaugh)

Overview: The Board of Regents works to fulfill the mission of the University in education, research, and outreach.

Synopsis: Liaison report focused on process in serving as rep to Regents to assist new person taking this position (useful for Tool Kit.) Succinct summary of Board meetings this year: “many reports because of the controversy over the plan by Fairview to be acquired by Sanford Health. There were also reports on the Regent selection process and the qualifications of candidates. Finally, the press covered the resignation of the U of M president and appointment of an interim president.”

U of M Alumni Association: (Liaison: Will Craig)

Overview: UMRA maintains a partnership with UMAA –two-year renewal cycle with next renewal in 2024.

Synopsis:

- UMRA videos submitted to UMAA Gold Mine website: 17 (62 over past 3 years)]
- Participation in UMAA Day of Service: 78 volunteers contributed 983 hours (April 2023
- Coming repeat of UM Game Day to see Twins at Target Field in July 2023
- The Partnership Agreement is on a 2-year renewal cycle. Both sides agreed the partnership is going well and it was renewed September 2022.

PA Senate: (Liaison: Will Craig)

Overview: Advocate for P&A views on University planning, governance, resource allocation, and all other University of Minnesota policies and practices .

Synopsis: With no formal role in the organization, the UMRA liaison seeks to:

- Make P&A employees aware of UMRA – both our programs and our advocacy efforts
- Bring historical information and perspective to current P&A discussions

Attended most meetings of both the P&A Senate and its Consultative Committee. The minutes of those organizations document the issues discussed and actions taken. The P&A Senate meeting minutes and resolutions are filed with UMN Digital Conservancy Archive. In addition, the P&A Consultative Committee files an [annual report](#) with the Board of Regents. See additional Tool Kit for more information.

Organizational Continuity Committee (Chair: Rinehart)

Overview: Facilitates UMRA continuity from one cohort of leaders and members to another, and archives material documenting UMRA activities, leadership, policies, and procedures.

Report synopsis: Oversaw Implementation of UMRA’s new [annual reporting policy](#) and currently embarking on review of this process.

University Retirees Volunteer Center (Chair: Rinehart)

Overview: Seeks meaningful volunteer opportunities on campus and in the broader community and to identify UMRA and other retirees to pursue them.

Synopsis Development of the Silver Gopher initiatives; increased number of projects on UM campus; continued strong offering of community-based projects [URVC Annual Report is required by Bylaws]