

UMRA Membership Committee
Annual Report for 2020-2021
July 22, 2021

Membership Committee Members: John Anderson, Chair, Joyce Guelich, Ginny Hanson, Nancy Helmich, Virgil Larson, Beverly Moe, Jerry Rinehart, John Sullivan

The UMRA Membership Database was skillfully managed by Virgil Larson. Memberships were subject to renewal in the summer and continued into the fall for stragglers. Membership at the conclusion of the year (June 30, 2021) included 448 singles and 177 couples for a total of 802 members.

Discounts available to UMRA members were verified by Beverly Moe who also arranged for sponsorships of the UMRA Newsletter (summary of discounts attached).

The schedule of activities for 2020-2021 was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. There were no in-person meetings. The annual Pre-retirement Seminars sponsored by the Office of Human Resources (OHR) were cancelled eliminating one of the ways the Membership Committee interacted with potential retirees in previous years to inform them about UMRA. Even so an unusually large number of retirees elected to become UMRA members. The University established a Retirement Incentive Opportunity which stimulated a surge of retirees in December and January. As in the past several years a letter of invitation from the UMRA President was distributed monthly to new retirees by OHR. During this year OHR reported sending the letter to 994 new retirees and of these 151 joined UMRA.

New Member Welcome Events were held via Zoom on October 27, February 11 and April 8. At each event about a dozen new members were welcomed and informed about UMRA activities by organizational leaders who served as facilitators. Breakout rooms were employed to promote a more personal interaction between new members and facilitators. Breakout rooms seemed to work best with about six participants. Breakout rooms which lasted 20-25 minutes allowed adequate time for all individuals to introduce themselves and for promotion of UMRA activities by facilitators. Following each event an online interest survey (Interest Survey screen shot attached) was made available to all new members and in the October iteration to all UMRA members. A total of 127 responses were recorded. Survey responses were tabulated and distributed to UMRA Officers, Board Members and leaders of activities who were encouraged to facilitate the integration of the respondents into the activities for which they had expressed an interest.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Anderson, Chair, Membership Committee

Attachments:

1. Summary of Discounts for UMRA Members
2. Screen Shot of UMRA Interest Survey

UMRA Member Discounts 2020-2021

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION: Parking discount coupons provide a *reduced* all day rate of \$7 at all public ramps/garages and surface lots using automated pay machines. You must have an UMRA member parking coupon when leaving in order to receive the discounted rate. **NOTE** that the UMRA rate will not be available when “*event*” charges apply. Get parking coupons at UMRA luncheons or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to John S. Anderson, 1332 Como Blvd. East, St. Paul, MN 55117. One Forever stamp on a #10 envelope is sufficient to obtain up to 21 parking discount coupons. Additional postage is necessary if more coupons are requested. **NOTE:** *A new parking system, with new machinery, will be implemented in the coming academic year. Discounts will continue for UMRA but coupons won't be necessary. More information will be provided as it becomes available.*

CAMPUS CLUB: UMRA members will receive a **20%** discount (from \$120 to \$96) on the campus Club annual membership fee. Campus Club is conducting a membership drive this year from September 1 to December 31, offering first year memberships for just \$88. (612-624-6626, www.campusclubumn.org)

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY & HEALING: The center offers a **10%** discount on many (though NOT all) of their programs. Enrich your health and wellbeing by exploring these innovative programs. (612-626-9459, www.csh.umn.edu)

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES(C-CAPS) / LEARNING LIFE: The Learning Life program has been **DISCONTINUED** for academic year 2020-2021.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS: UMRA members will receive additional benefits at University of Minnesota Faculty and Staff Appreciation Athletics Events. Show your membership card at the time of purchase to receive exclusive discounts beyond those offered to exiting University employees and non UMRA members! Also, watch for notice of group events offered exclusively for UMRA members. These events will be announced throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. (612-624-8080, www.gophersports.com)

MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM: The Arboretum will provide a **10%** discount on the annual membership fee, along with free admission on University Employee Day (not held every year). The Arboretum also provides discounts for groups of 15 or more. (952-443-1400, www.arboretum.umn.edu)

NORTHROP: Northrop Presents offers UMRA a **12-22%** discount on series packages and **\$5** per single tickets for the 2019-2020 Northrop Dance Season, which runs October 2019 through April 2020. (612-624-2345, northrop.umn.edu)

OLLI: The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will provide a \$20 discount to UMRA members for the initial year of membership (\$240 – \$20=\$220). Over 300 courses (all included in cost of membership) are offered each year. Join by September 9, 2019 and be first in line in requesting courses. To receive your UMRA discount and for course schedules call OLLI at 612-624-7847 or go to the OLLI website (www.oli.umn.edu).

SCHOOL OF MUSIC: NO EVENTS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED IN 2020-2021. UMRA members are welcome to attend School of Music events, many of which are open to the public without charge. Ticket prices for University Opera Theatre performances in fall and spring will be \$15 for UMRA members (regularly \$20- \$25). (612-624-2345, www.music.umn.edu)

THEATRE ARTS AND DANCE: NO EVENTS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED IN 2020-2021. UMRA members will pay \$12 per ticket to all mainstage performances at the Rarig Center. When ordering tickets by phone, call 612-624-2345 or purchase online at www.theatre.umn.edu.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE: UMRA members receive a **20%** discount at all Twin Cities Bookstore locations on apparel, insignia gift items, general books and supplies. This discount **excludes** textbooks, computer hardware and software, consumer technology products, graduation items, college jewelry medical supplies sale and clearance items, and gift cards. **NOTE** that there is no additional savings for UMRA members for general books which are priced at an everyday discount. UMRA members, with proof of membership, are eligible to purchase Apple products and other technology at the same special educational pricing available to the University of Minnesota campus community. (612-625-6000, www.bookstores.umn.edu)

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM: [Linked here](#) is information about our new membership model, which is now free to join. Its simple web address is z.umn.edu/WAMMember. (612-625-9494, www.weisman.umn.edu)

Use of these discount programs is limited to UMRA members. These discount programs are valid through August 31, 2021. See also: umra.umn.edu

[Rev: August 12, 2020]



University of Minnesota Retirees Association Member Interest Survey

Dear Members: Whether you are a new or continuing member of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association, we'd love to hear from you about your interests, and how you'd like to connect with UMRA. When you're finished, don't forget to click on the "Submit" button at the bottom of the survey. Your response to this survey by APRIL 15, 2021 would be appreciated.

Email address *

Valid email address

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

Your given (first) name:

Short answer text

Your preferred first name (if different from above):

Short answer text

Your last name: *

Short answer text

Your phone number *

Short answer text

I am interested in the following UMRA activities (check all that apply) *

- Applying for a Professional Development Grant for Retirees (annual competition)
- Armchair Traveler (photos and talks about travel experiences)
- Photo Club (meets monthly for sharing and learning activities)
- Financial & Legal Issues Group
- Family History Interest Group
- Book Club
- Volunteering with the University Retirees Volunteer Center
- Submitting an article to the Journal of Opinions, Ideas, and Essays (JOIE)
- Zoom Users and Learners Interest Group (to increase skills to attend and host virtual meetings)
- Attending monthly forums and workshops

Other ways that I would like to be involved with UMRA:

Long answer text

I would like to help with:

- Writing, editing, or proofreading UMRA's newsletter and/or web pages
- Web site updates and maintenance
- Researching and writing history of UMRA
- Local or international travel programs
- Using virtual meeting and/or video technology
- Other--add a note in the "Other comments" question below.

I'd like to learn more about getting involved in UMRA leadership and committee work:

- UMRA Cares working group (reaching out to UMRA members)
- Program and workshop planning committees (help to create and produce UMRA's programs)
- UMRA Membership Committee (help to recruit, welcome, and retain members)
- Understudy to membership database manager
- Professional Development Grants for Retirees committee
- Committee to assist retirees' connections with the University
- Social Activities Committee
- I'm interested in serving on the UMRA board
- Other--please add a note below.

My skills or competencies that I would enjoy sharing as I participate in UMRA:

Long answer text

I am still active in research:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

I would like to mentor an undergraduate student in a research project:

- Yes
- No
- Maybe at another time

Other comments?

Long answer text

Thanks for letting us know about your interests! --John Anderson, UMRA Membership Committee Chair

Description (optional)