

To: UMRA Board

From: Nominations Committee

Re: Nominations for Board and Officers

The nominations committee was approved by the Board at its February meeting. The members are:

Jan Morlock

John Romano

Peggy Mann Rinehart

Barbara Shiels

Jeanne Markell

Bill Donohue, Past President and Chair

We began our work by seeking nominations and suggestions from the membership both on the website and in the Newsletter. We met on March 2, 2021 to discuss those who had been nominated or suggested regardless of source. We also determined to nominate the current Treasurer and the Secretary. They had just turned over last year and appear to be doing a fine job. We then contacted those who had been nominated for the Board to determine their level of interest.

On March 10 we met again to discuss the candidates and how to proceed. In our view we found a fair level of interest in the positions and we spent a good deal of time discussing the candidates. Happily, all the candidates were found to be well suited for the Board and the position of President Elect respectively.

There was a fair debate about whether the nominations committee should nominate more than one person for each of the available positions. Since we had more qualified candidates than positions available the thought was that we should nominate more than one person and let the election decide who got the position. It was argued that this often occurs in professional societies with no ill effect.

On the other hand, many felt that it was the job of the nominations committee to exercise judgement and select a person to be nominated for each position. Moreover, the Bylaws already provide that individuals can be nominated from the floor with the consent of the individual. In practice there have not been nominations from the floor and the slate is elected by acclimation.

We resolved this debate by following the past practice and agreeing to raise the issue for future elections with Board. The majority of the committee supports the idea that the nominations committee recommend one nominee for each position.

Accordingly, the Nominations Committee will nominate the following at the May 25 annual meeting for the term set forth(John Bantle will be nominated to serve the remainder of the Matross term):

Ron Matross, President Elect (2021-22)

Greg Hestness, Treasurer (2021-22)

Gary Engstrand, Secretary (2021-22)

Laurie Koch, Board Member (2021-24)

Diane Young, Board Member (2021-24)

John Bantle, Board Member (2021-22)

KaiMay Terry, Board Member (2021-24)

The Nominations Committee thanks all those people who participated in our nomination process and particularly their cooperation and good will. We believe that each of these nominees will be great assets to help the Retiree Association continue to be a vital force for our members and the University.

To: UMRA Members

From: President Frank Cerra

Past President Bill Donohue

Re: Amendment of UMRA By laws

Date: May 2021

In October 2020 the membership voted to approve amendments to our Bylaws. You did so in overwhelming numbers. However, since our Bylaws require that changes be voted on at a meeting of the Association we are again presenting the changes. The only difference between the to be voted on amendments and the October amendments is the correction of typos and a phrase that was dropped in the making of the PDF. We encourage you to vote in favor of the amendments.

The amendments were developed over the summer by a group composed of Frank Cerra, Jan Morlock, Jerry Rinehart, Chip Peterson and Bill Donohue. They have been presented to and discussed by the Executive Committee and the Board of UMRA. Both bodies have approved the changes and authorized us to submit them to the members of UMRA for adoption.

The major changes in the proposed bylaws are the following:

1. Changing the terms of officers and Board members to coincide with our fiscal year. That is the term of all officers would be from July 1 through June 30. Currently the officers and board members serve through the end of the summer with appointments ending on September 1. The change would not only follow our fiscal year but would comport with the practical reality that our activity

usually ends in May with our annual celebration and election of officers and board members.

2. Providing more authority to the president of the organization to run the operation of the Association. It became obvious during the pandemic that there needed to be clear authority to cancel or reschedule meetings, to conduct meetings remotely through Zoom and other technologies and to control our finances and expenditures.
3. There are also other proposed changes of somewhat less significance. For example, we propose eliminating the council of past presidents. We have added several past presidents to the Board and the council of past presidents has been largely inactive for the last couple of years. We have also added the president elect to the nominating committee so she can have a more direct voice in helping to select her successor. As a practical matter the president elect has been very involved in this selection in the last few years.

Thank you for your cooperation in considering the proposed amendments. If you have concerns or questions please contact either of us by email. [Cerra001@umn.edu](mailto:Cerra001@umn.edu) or [Donohue@umn.edu](mailto:Donohue@umn.edu).