

# **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

Engaging the Future

## **UMRA Board of Directors meeting**

### **AGENDA**

Monday, November 27, 2023 1:00pm-2:30pm

Zoom link – <https://umn.zoom.us/j/98456764606?pwd=ZEhRVZTVi82Q3B0R1hDdHFyM1E4Zz09>

12:45pm - Zoom will open 15 minutes before start of meeting for social time.

1. Regular Items
  - a. Opening remarks - Eric
  - b. Agenda – review and approve
  - c. Minutes (BOD Oct. 2023) – review and approve (attachment 1) - Laurie
2. Action Items
  - a. Membership and Communications – dues change proposal (Att. 2) - Ron
3. Updates
  - a. UMN IT services - changes for retirees – Wendy (Att. 3)
  - b. Program update -Julie
    - i. Winter party – Jan and Will
  - c. Nominating Committee - Ron
  - d. URVC (Att. 4) – Jerry
  - e. Campus Club – Ron
  - f. Financial update (Att. 5) – Kristy
  - g. President’s report – Eric
    1. Organizational items
      - a. Plan to reduce dependencies on the university.
    2. What else ...
      - a. Should I be doing? Should we (BOD) be doing?
      - b. Should UMRA do to support our members, the university, and the community.

#### **Next BOD meeting**

1. January 22, 2024 1:00pm-2:30pm
  - a. No meeting in December per the By-Laws
2. Agenda items for January BOD meeting?

#### **Attachments (Supporting Documents)**

1. BOD Minutes October 2023

UMRA

# **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

Engaging the Future

2. Dues change proposal (Docs 2A and 2B)
3. UMN IT update (Docs 3A, 3B, 3C and link to Wendy's "OIT Proposal: Status Report to UMRA 11/20/23" - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1INv1T0uNikGKQ5clPcybpg-3tEGbB9eWA7Z7d2at2LM/edit?usp=sharing> )
4. URVC update
5. Financial Report

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

**UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)**

**Monday, October 23, 2023**

**1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Draft Minutes**

In attendance (virtual): Board members: Will Craig, Kristy Frost-Griep, Eric Hockert, Laurie Koch, Russell Luepker, Kate Maple, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Jerry Rinehart, Barbara Shiels, Julie Sweitzer, Diane Young, KaiMay Terry, Brad Clary, Michael Hancher, Frank Cerra, Wendy Lougee, Jan Morlock, John Bantle

Guests: Cathy Lee Gierke, Kris Mortensen

Eric Hockert opened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

He welcomed and thanked everyone for their continuing engagement on the Board and for their broader participation in UMRA's activities. We had 100% response where everyone provided additional ways they are supporting UMRA. Eric gave a special thank you to Julie for all that she has been doing for UMRA and especially during his absence.

**ACTION:** Eric - send out the compiled list of Board members and their activities to the Board members.

**Opening remarks – Eric**

**Approvals**

Agenda - Jerry moved to accept the agenda as presented and Wendy seconded it.

Minutes (September 2023) – With no additional corrections, the minutes are approved.

**Reports**

**Organizational Continuity Committee – Jerry**

This is the first time we have done an extensive review of the annual reports so we didn't know what we would find. We did discover lots of things about the reports that should improve the process. The Organizational Continuity Committee members are Jerry Rinehart, Chair; Jean Kinsey; Cathy Gierke; Julie Sweitzer; and Julia Wallace. Jerry recognized the work of Chip Peterson who started this committee to make sure we pay attention to processes, keep track of changes, and record things. One key component is institutional memory. One of the key drivers was finding we were repeating debates about a policy that had been decided three or four years ago that wasn't recorded or no one knew about it. Historical records in the archives are the bigger picture. Paper records are important especially when systems go down. Cathy downloaded all the reports and printed them out. These will be going to the archives. The third factor was mission tracking – are we doing what we say we are doing. We had a 90% (36 out of 40) return rate, previous years has been less than 50%. The committee divided up the reports

and made thumbnail reports of each of the reports for discussion. Full reports are on the UMRA drive in the documents area. Please read them. This year, leaders/chairs thought that something would be done with them, so they were more willing to complete them. There have been concerns about what to put in the reports, why they are required and the value of doing these. Some felt that there is enough work leading their groups, why should they have to write them up. These are reasonable issues and one of our considerations is to ask if these are worthwhile. This is up to the Board to decide. There is an amazing amount of activity going on in UMRA. These reports provide a window on what we actually do within our organization. We don't do everything. For example, we aren't a money-raising group. Our mission can help define what activities are mission aligned. The mission of UMRA is to support the interests of retirees, provide opportunities to learn, serve and connect. How well are we doing in supporting retirees and advocating for them? For example, it is clearly in our mission to be advocating for our members such as we are doing with the email issue. The quality and usefulness of the reports did vary which led us to put together templates to help the leaders do these reports and make the reports easier to complete. The idea of the templates was to provide prompts to help completion easier and make the information more useful. This year is just the beginning for us to see what we find. The UMRA president should write a letter of introduction to the groups and their leaders as to why this is important to the organization. For special interest groups, it should clarify the differences between activities/outcomes and those things that are processes and procedures. Writing these reports should be an expectation of taking on leadership roles. Finally, there was a recommendation for an orientation for the leaders. Cathy jumped on this began writing a document that could be shared with new people when they come on board. It includes how to do things, notify members, how to do various things, how to do the reports, where the toolkit is located, about newsletter articles, etc. It should also include a calendar that can be shared with Board members when they come on board. Those were the major issues and outcomes.

Barbara noted that she could tell a lot of work went into this and thanked the group for a job well done.

Wendy wanted to know about the archiving. Was this going to be in the "Drive"? Julia Wallace will take care of the hard copies. We want to make sure we have the digital copies. Wendy said both should be taken to the University archives and the Digital Conservancy where they can be easily accessed in case we are all cut off from Google drive.

Cathy mentioned that they are all stored on our Drupal site. We have talked of storing things in our UMN Digital Conservancy.

Jean Kinsey had asked Jerry who was going to get out this information each year. Jerry thought that this needed to be discussed at the EC committee. Eric suggested that for the items in section 4, we should identify a person/group to get these done. Jerry noted that we have completed most of them already. For Item 4e, we have created the packet but haven't identified who will get that to the chairs of the committees. We used to have a leadership retreat. It might be useful to host them again.

Eric wanted to know what the next steps would be. Jerry would like feedback from the Board on the templates and toolkit, provide other ideas that people might need to make sure that we really are an efficient organization and to stay on track. The only other part to figure out how we are going to get this information to the leaders/chairs. Jerry assumes that we have a list of these leaders and chairs.

**ACTION:** Eric and Jerry – communicate about the specific things we would like to do.

**ACTION:** All Board members – provide feedback to Jerry on this report.

### **Program Committee– Julie**

Julie sent out the list of programs for January through May, and two additional programs for fall. It is a good set of presenters. We had two extra programs this fall with the Regents. The first one (on October 4 via Zoom) went well, although the UMRA turnout was lower than expected and only two Regents were able to attend, Regents Wheeler and Turner. On October 20 we had an in-person session with Regent Davenport (who chairs the presidential search advisory process) regarding the presidential search. Regent Mayeron was unable to attend. The group from UMRA asked Regent Davenport, what UMRA can do to help. She suggested that we reach out to our presidential candidate friends and nominate them as potential candidates. Later, Julie was informed that Regent Davenport will be in touch with us later about how we could participate. Julie said she appreciates those who have attended and participated in these two sessions. Information regarding these two events is available on the MRA web site.

<https://umra.umn.edu/news/meet-newest-u-m-regents>

<https://umra.umn.edu/news/help-guide-regents-search-new-university-president>

Jan Morlock has been working on the Special Social Events planning group. Their mission is to offer experiences of delight to UMRA members that would strengthen and build the UMRA community and keep us connected at times of the year when we are not offering other programming. This year we had a summer picnic, a river cruise, and are planning a winter event. We need to break even as much as possible. We would like to have an additional member for the group. If you are interested or know someone else who might be, please contact Jan Morlock. Will is in charge of the winter event, which is tentatively scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>, during the darkest day of the year, possibly at Midland Hills Country Club, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This will not include a meal but will have appetizers and a cash bar. The cost we are aiming for is \$45/person. Will said we would like to have Dan Chouinard. Dan Chouinard and Dane Stauffer are the musician pair that Cathy has heard them and contacted Dan. They are available on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Jan Morlock also brought up 2024 events. We are recommending that UMRA have a summer picnic and a late summer event, either a cruise or something equivalent. We received a lot of good feedback on both events. Como did a great job in 2023 so that is where we are going in 2024. The host committee is doing a wonderful job to make sure these events are welcoming and as well-organized as possible.

Julie wondered whether people would be willing to pay \$45. Jan Morlock noted that we need 70 people to break even. Does that seem reasonable? Kris thinks that \$45 with a cash bar on the longest night of the year may be real sticker shock. Jerry added that we are having quality entertainment that are unique and unusual to us. Will noted that there may be a sing-along. Diane reminded us that the lunch event is subsidized by UMRA by about \$3-4 per person. For some of us, appetizers are as sufficient for dinner. Jan McCulloch thought that we should tell people in advertising this event what they are getting for their money. And Julie added that the point being is that \$45 is the actual cost of the event. Barbara said that we might not want to spend a lot of time on the sing-along as they are talented musicians, and she would rather hear them. Jan Morlock wanted a clear signal that we can go ahead with this and that we should begin our work on the summer events.

Jan Morlock made a motion that the UMRA board give approval to the Special Social Events group to go ahead with the winter social event, provided we can do it at the price mentioned today and authorize them to make initial commitments for the summer event, as long as commitments and revenues cover the costs. Barbara seconded. The motion was approved.

#### **Membership and Communications Committee – Ron**

Ron has heard from all the potential members of this new committee, and some have agreed to serve on the committee and others have decided it was time to move on. He will set up a meeting this week. If there are people here who are interested in serving on the committee, please let Ron know.

Ron thanked members of the Board who have served so long on these committees.

#### **PDGR – John**

The group began accepting grant applications on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications will be accepted until December 31<sup>st</sup> with grants beginning April 2024. PDRG grant applications and accounting was successfully moved from the Office of the Vice President of Research to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. We have a total of \$57,234. The committee will probably not spend the entire amount. We usually spend about half the amount. The maximum grant is \$5,000 and most people apply for the maximum, which means we will award about 5 or 6 grants unless we raise more money. We hope to do that through an UMRA Zoom workshop on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am. There will be a brief overview of the program and three of this year's recipients will present. At the close of the workshop, we will have an appeal for support. There is an anonymous donor (a member of the committee) who will donate \$20,000 as a matching grant. Kris Mortensen will produce the event as it is one of our regular workshops. Eric asked how many of our PDGR recipients are faculty or are not emeritus. John thinks that a vast majority are faculty. Will has some old data which he could dig out and pass forward. PDGR is through the U Foundation and contributions would be tax deductible. Eric would like Will or John to try to find out how many recipients are not emeriti.

Jan Morlock asked John how he wanted us to promote the matching grant to our members. John noted that it would be mentioned in announcements to our program, and it will be played up in the workshop. Jan said we should all promote it.

Kate noted that many groups have a notation on their forms for events that indicate a person can add an additional amount to support aspects of the group. We could ask somewhere “do you want to contribute to the grant fund”? We could do this on programs and on the website.

Kris mentioned that this is a good suggestion for Ron’s new committee to take up. Kris also thought of talking to the Foundation and ask their advice in promoting the match so we can give people the most accurate information. She could also put a clickable line in the email news that goes out.

### **Financial – Kristy**

Overall, our financial status is in good shape. We collected \$13,000 in dues against a budgeted amount of \$14,000.

PDGR financials show that we have a total of \$57,234 available.

Kristy is doing event tracking this year. The river cruise is close to breaking evening as it the September lunch. We are working hard to get the tee shirts sold. Jerry said we have we about 25 shirts left to sell. If we sell 13 more, we will then break even. If we sell all the remaining shirts, we would make money.

We have a very tight budget. Last year we used money from our reserves to balance the budget. We have a CD at about \$10,000 and about \$7,000 in our savings account, but \$4,000 of that is reserved for the Big10 conference in 2026, leaving only about \$3,000 available to us.

Checking account looks good, but it is due to the timing of cash flows.

We need to look at additional ways to raise funds either through dues or other opportunities. Eric mentioned that at the Executive Committee meeting last week, he had asked Ron and his new committee, in consultation with Kristy, to develop a proposal related to increasing the dues.

### **President’s Report – Eric**

Eric gave the Board an update on the recent discussion of the University’s plan to eliminate email addresses from retirees and alumni. Eric and Julie had talked with the provost regarding this earlier this year. Bernie Gulachek met with the Executive Committee last week. There is a planned announcement going out in November to all retirees telling them that their email will go away in a year or so. Eric put together a small group tasked with putting together a plan that includes a conversation with Provost Croson to be followed by a letter to Provost Croson, Interim President Ettinger and Myron Frans. It was noted that if Provost Croson doesn’t support

our appeal, it will go nowhere. Right after this meeting Eric is meeting with Julie, Wendy, Ron, and Bill Donohue.

Wendy said that it is important that people understand what has been proposed. The website is obscure as to what the issue is. The University is creating another domain (alumni.umn.edu). OIT is offering retirees and alumni, except emeriti, an opportunity to join this one domain that is not affiliated with the University. Once you lose your umn.edu email, you lose Zoom, Google Workspace, the University Libraries, eduroam, etc. It has a substantial impact. This is important for all retirees. Most of us remain active and we use those kinds of resources, and we contribute to the University.

Jan McCulloch when we think about the other Big10, is there something we can draw from. Eric noted that he and Ron attended the Big10 meeting this summer and there weren't other institutions in this same position.

Barbara thought that OIT agreed that UMRA would be safe. Eric said that that was a lower level of OIT.

Wendy noted that is worth pointing out that it is cost and risk. What we need to ask is how do we mitigate any risk and if there are ways to reduce cost. For example, if we are willing to take a compromise such as a reduced space within the Google workspace, or if you don't use it for a year, you are cut off.

Eric recalled that the provost said that the University isn't worried about UMRA folks, which is why we were surprised when Bernie told us that we would not be able to keep our emails, etc.

Michael asked if there wasn't a letter of agreement that covered UMRA members.

Ron noted that he has been circulating to the small group an email chain he had with an Identity team last year. The Identity team set up a series of listening sessions.

We then made a strong and compelling case for emails and workspace. We received back a letter from OIT and they agreed that we did have a special case for maintaining our Google workspaces. We did not receive communications for several months from anyone. Then Ron connected with OIT this fall to work out the details. That is when Bernie jumped in and wanted to meet with us. We do have a commitment from the Identity team which we assumed had Bernie's approval. However, we assumed incorrectly. Wendy noted that the letter only mentioned email workspace and not services requiring a umn.edu identity. They could argue that they didn't promise we could remain associated with the University's identity.

Eric asked the Board about the Agenda for the year. He is seeking to increase UMRA support of the university and the community. He has asked Frank Cerra for thoughts on the wisdom of doing this and how we might go about doing it.



Eric mentioned the Reports (based on Yearly Calendar) for November, URVC (Jerry), Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC) (Nancy Fulton), Campus Club (Ron), JOIE (Kris Bettin), Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (Terry Roe died and we need a replacement). If any of you are interested in this position, send me an email. Eric also wanted to know if there was anything that we needed to be paying more attention to, please let Eric know.

Eric asked the members for final thoughts.

Michael wanted to be sure that UMRA is engaged with the presidential search. It should be high on our agenda.

Jan McCulloch asked that we might consider a fee, say of \$5.00, for people belonging to a special interest group. Ron thought that it might be better to consider raising the dues since they have not been raised since 2018 and his preference would be to go for a dues increase rather than small fees for some people.

Kris mentioned that we carry members for up to 2 years even if they haven't paid their dues.

Ron is looking for metrics for our major functions. For example, he wants to know if our efforts to improve our communications has made a difference by looking at data from year to year. Eric said that the numbers are in September BOD minutes.

Kate asked if people could easily check to see if they have paid their dues. Kris said that this was in the last Newsletter and told us that if we want to renew our membership, we can go online, [umra.umn.edu](http://umra.umn.edu) > Member Portal > Renew Membership. Review and update (if necessary) our information and then click on "Save Changes & Renew" to proceed to the payment page. The payment page will show the date when you last renewed your membership. If you still have questions, you can email membership manager Virgil Larson at [virgil.larson1@gmail.com](mailto:virgil.larson1@gmail.com).

Kris suggested that when people make a reservation and haven't yet paid their dues, we should ask them to also pay their dues.

Jerry noted that last year we lost the Campus Club and now we are losing email. This doesn't seem very supportive of its retirees.

Jan Morlock, in response to Michael's comment, suggested that if we do anything with the presidential search, we should do it openly and make sure the UMRA's name is attached.

Frank wanted to know if emeriti were safe from losing email. Yes, they are. It's Regents policy.

Jerry moved to adjourn and KaiMai seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next Board meeting: November 27, 2023, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

## **Proposal to Increase UMRA Dues**

Membership and Communication Committee

11/16/23

### **Background**

With the concurrence of the UMRA Board, UMRA President Eric Hockert asked the Membership and Communication Committee to prepare a proposal for increasing UMRA dues for 2024-25. In order to meet the requirements of the dues communication cycle, this proposal must be presented to the Board at its November meeting.

As of October 7, we have received renewals from 323 singles and 296 members of couples for a total of 619 individuals. We appear to be on track for record dues revenue. However, we still need more revenue.

UMRA is preparing to host the 2026 Conference of Big 10 Retiree Organizations, an event which will cost over \$20,000. While we hope to obtain some external funding for a portion of the expense, UMRA will still have to pay a substantial amount.

For the last two years, UMRA has set aside \$2000 each year for the event, with the money coming from our reserves. We cannot continue to eat into our reserves, so we need to raise dues to cover saving for the event. Additionally, expenses are increasing in all areas of operations.

UMRA last raised its dues in 2018, when we raised individual dues by \$5 from \$25 to \$30, and couples dues from \$35 to \$40 (meaning each member of a couple paid \$20). Just to keep up with inflation since 2018, our \$30 rate would be \$37.24 and our \$40 rate would be \$49.65.

([https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm))

### **Proposal**

- Change the “couples” rate to “dual” rate to be more inclusive.
- Raise the 2024-25 dues to \$40 for single and \$60 for dual membership (meaning each member of a couple would pay \$30 per person).

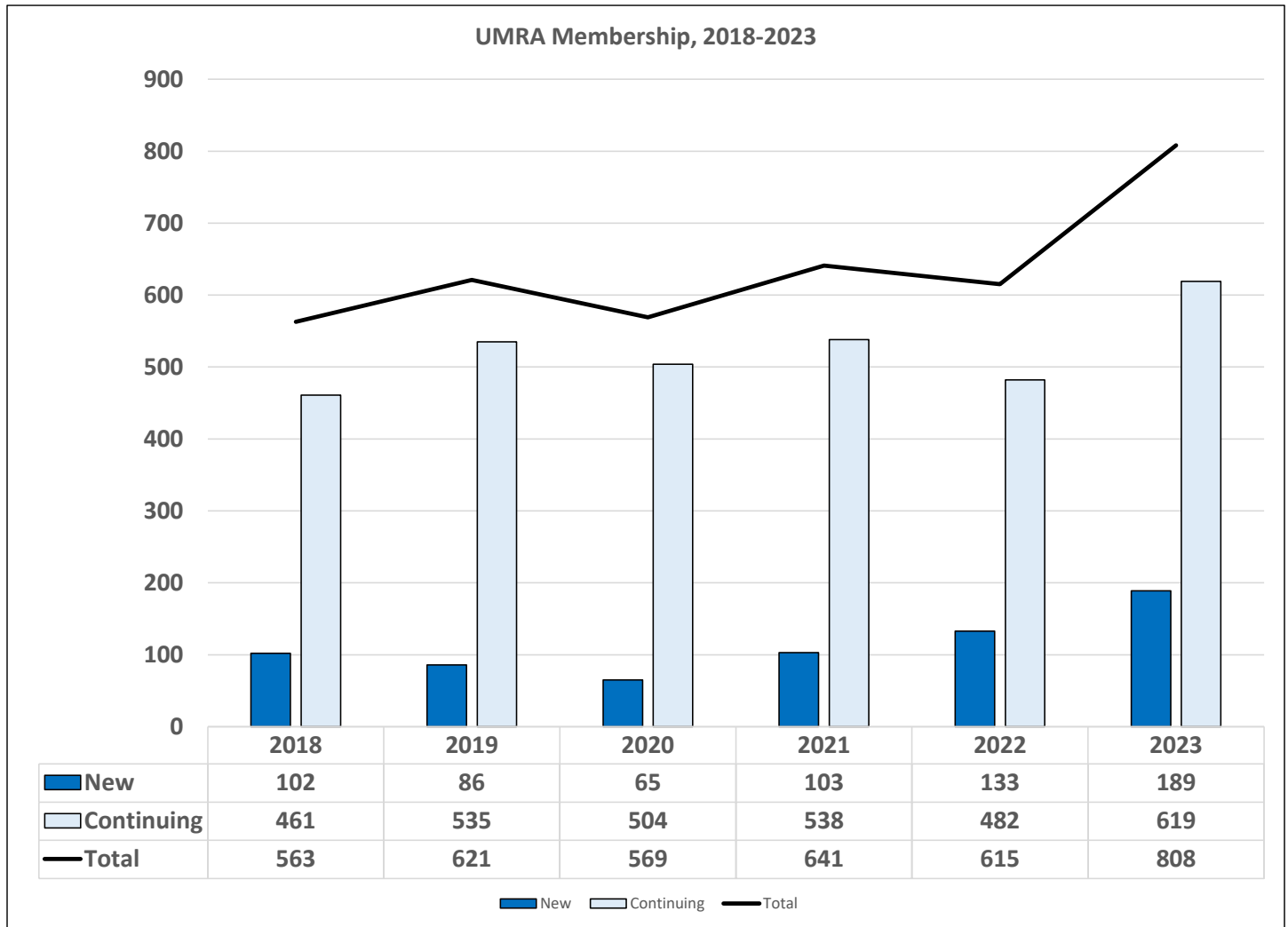
Besides keeping up with current and future inflation, the rationale for this increase is that it is better to make infrequent large raises rather than more frequent smaller raises. The rates also more apply the same \$10 increase to both singles and each member of a couple.

Using the current figures of 619 dues-paying members this \$10 per person increase would net us an additional \$6190, assuming the higher rates did not depress renewals or did not drive previous couple memberships to convert to singles.

- New memberships, both individual and household, would still be free for the first year.

**UMRA Membership Report, Fall 2023**  
**Membership and Communications Committee**  
**11/16/23**

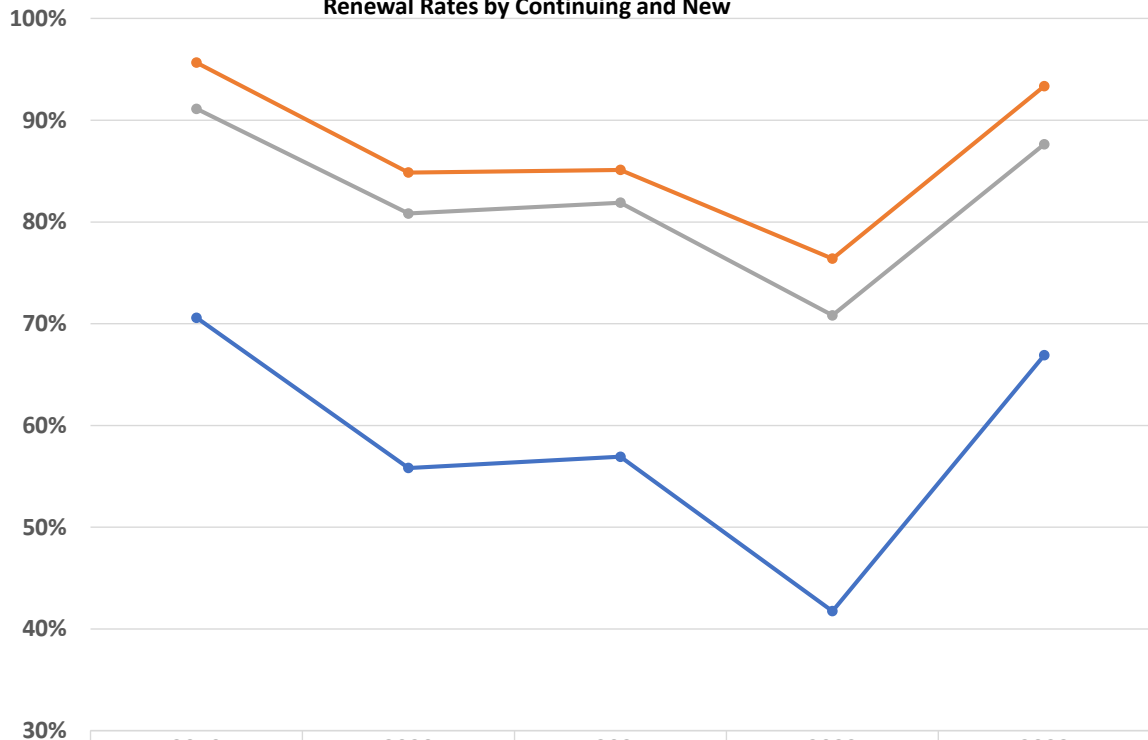
So far, 2023 has been a very positive year for UMRA membership. Through October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, UMRA total membership has reached a six-year high of 808, including 189 new members and 619 continuing members. Compared to final figures for 2022, total membership has increased by 31%, continuing membership by 28%, and new membership by 42%%.



**Renewal Rates**

An important measure of interest in the organization are the renewal rates of members from the previous year. Of particular interest are the renewal rates of members who were new the previous year, since their first-year membership was free. As the chart below shows, renewal rates peaked before the pandemic in 2019, and then plunged during the pandemic years, reaching a nadir of only 76% for continuing members and only 42% for new members. In 2023, rates rebounded to nearly the 2019 levels, with 93% of continuing members and 67% of new members renewing.

**Renewal Rates by Continuing and New**



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
● New	71%	56%	57%	42%	67%
● Continuing	96%	85%	85%	76%	93%
● Total	91%	81%	82%	71%	88%

Colleagues,

Many of you have inquired about a proposal being advanced by the University related to email for individuals who have retired from the University. There are details that are still emergent, but this communication provides a summary of what is known.

The University proposes to eliminate [@umn.edu](mailto:@umn.edu) email addresses for retirees and alumni. A new service option via a new address ([@alumni.umn.edu](mailto:@alumni.umn.edu)) would provide basic email and contacts for these two communities. This plan would include UMRA members who are retirees and has implications that go beyond email. The [@umn.edu](mailto:@umn.edu) Internet ID is used to provide access to many other University services --e.g., email, the Google Workspace (calendar/Drive/Docs, etc.), Zoom, the University Directory, and Libraries access. There may be other impacts as well if a campus service uses an [@umn.edu](mailto:@umn.edu) Identity for authorized access.

Note this does not affect retired faculty with emeritus status. They will retain their current UMN email per Regents Policy (<https://policy.umn.edu/hr/emeriti>).

UMN OIT's public announcement is available here: <https://it.umn.edu/services-technologies/resources/proposed-changes-email-google-workspace>. The announcement invites input, sent to [iam@umn.edu](mailto:iam@umn.edu). I would welcome your input as well and invite your stories about the impact of this proposal (send to [ehockert@umn.edu](mailto:ehockert@umn.edu)).

I'd like you to know that UMRA leadership is in conversation with UMN OIT as well as other UMN leaders to determine a path forward. Our goal is to ensure a sustained close relationship between UMRA and the University. This includes a continuation of access to University services that are enabled by the affiliated [@umn.edu](mailto:@umn.edu) Internet ID.

Our success in this is not guaranteed.

### **Some background information**

UMRA provides a distinct community with significant and enduring contributions to the University:

- UMRA provides thousands of hours of volunteer service to the University and to the community each year through UMRA's volunteer center ([URVC.umn.edu](http://URVC.umn.edu)). We established the Silver Gophers Volunteer Corps to emphasize our collective efforts in support of the university.
- UMRA members have contributed over \$30 million to the University Foundation during the most recent campaign with current and planned giving.
- UMRA has representatives and liaisons to several University groups including a number of Senate governance committees.

- UMRA members have ongoing research through PDGR grants (<https://umra.umn.edu/grants-retirees>).
- UMRA members advocate for the University via letters to the editor, input to Regents, and to the legislature.

One of my goals this year is to increase UMRA's engagement with the university (see my President's article in a recent UMRA Newsletter - [https://umra.umn.edu/sites/umra.umn.edu/files/2023-10/2311\\_news.pdf](https://umra.umn.edu/sites/umra.umn.edu/files/2023-10/2311_news.pdf)).

I want to see us increase our connections with the U and believe the continuation of these long-provided – and expected – retiree benefits are important and beneficial for both the University and for UMRA and its members.

Eric

Date: 11/14/2023

To: Eric Hockert, President, UMRA

From: Jerry Rinehart, Chair, URVC Leadership Council (LC)  
Deanne Magnusson, LC Vice Chair and Projects Director  
Sally Schakel, URVC Database Manager

Since its inception in 1983 as an outgrowth of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA), the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) has served the UMN campus extensively. During past five years alone, over 400 volunteers have been matched with 59 University-related endeavors, ranging from research projects to science fairs, from new student recruitment to post-doctoral mentoring. The attached [below] document lists these and many other University projects in which URVC volunteers have contributed over 38,600 hours of service.

Of course, the URVC (now, once again a component of UMRA) also extends the University's reach into the surrounding community with an even greater number of projects and volunteers. The recent URVC SNAPSHOT provides an overview of recent activity.

With a small number of volunteer staff and minor financial support\* from University Relations, we believe the URVC certainly "performs above its weight" in responding to the needs of the University and surrounding areas.

\*\$4000 supports a Work-Study Student and leasing of a data management software system.

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## **URVC Assistance to University Units 2018-2023**

### **UMN Research Studies**

Aging and Cognitive Health Evaluation in Elders (ACHIEVE)  
Dynamic Effects in Peripheral Auditory Processing  
Exergame Study-Alzheimer's Prevention Study  
Movement Disorders Studies  
READY- -> STEADY Health Study  
Sensory Cueing and Parkinson's Disease  
Spatial Localization Study  
The Human Connectome Project  
Gravitational Insecurity Project (M.Potegal)  
UMN Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science: Self-Adjusting Hearing Aid  
UMN Center for Magnetic Resonance Research: MRI Research Study  
UMN Department of Biomedical Engineering: Tinnitus Study  
UMN Department of Kinesiology: Ankle & Wrist Joint Proprioceptive Research Study  
UMN Department of Medicine - Diet and Diabetes Study  
UMN Department of Neurology: Parkinson's Disease Study  
UMN Department of Psychology: Effects of Age on the Processing of Temporal  
UMN Department of Psychology: Evaluating Auditory Abilities  
UMN Department of Psychology: Low Vision and Hearing Impairment Spatial UMN  
Department of Psychology: Low Vision and Hearing Impairment Spatial UMN

Department of Rehabilitation Medicine: Healthy Subjects for Spinal Cord Injury UMN  
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Hearing Aid and Dementia Study UMN  
Dept of Kinesiology: Ankle Proprioception in Older Adults

### **University Projects - Unit Assistance**

Bell Museum - greeters  
College of Biological Sciences Conservatory  
ECE Design Show Judges  
Ethical Eating Study Interviews  
Geriatrics Case Competition  
Masonic Cancer Center MHealth Day  
Masonic Cancer Center Summer Sun Safety Events  
Minnesota English Language Program (MELP)  
Minnesota History Days (cosponsored by University of Minnesota) Northrop Auditorium ushers  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute -Instructors  
Partners-in-English - facilitators  
Project for Advancing Healthcare Stewardship  
Rarig Theater - ushers  
Ted Mann Concert Hall - ushers  
Twin Cities Regional Science Fair (cosponsored by University of Minnesota)  
UMN Office of Admissions: Experience Minnesota  
UMN Office of Admissions: Future Gopher - New Student Admit Day  
UMN Office of Admissions: Sneak Preview Days  
UMN School of Social Work: Gift Card Scam Study  
UMN State Fair event to Register Participants for 10,000 Families Study  
UMN Student Fall Welcome Week, August 28-31, 2023  
UMN Undergraduate Physiology Society - Volunteer Photographer UMRA Service  
Day Team Activity: Food Packing at "Every Meal" Weekend Food Gap University of Minnesota Day of Service  
University Of Minnesota Extension Cooking Matters - Course Assistance

### **University Projects—Student Mentor**

Integrity Matters (AIM) - Community Member  
Community Teachers for Health Professional Students  
Institute for Advanced Studies - greeters  
CEHD Mandela Washington Fellowship - Project Coach  
Office of Undergraduate Research -Retired Faculty Mentorship Project  
UMN Department of Neurology Academic Writing Mentor  
UMN Division of Physical Therapy: Online Evaluation by PT Students  
UMN Mentoring Medical Students-Interviews on Aging  
UMN Law School- Standardized Client Law in Practice Program



**University of Minnesota Retirees Association**

**Financial Report**

**October 2023**

Fiscal year July 1 through June 30

**OVERALL STATUS: GOOD**

UMRA		
	6.30.23	10.31.23
Savings Certificate	\$ 10,256	\$ 10,258
Savings Account	\$ 6,974	\$ 6,976
Checking Account	\$ 10,813	\$ 12,125
<b>Total Checking and Savings</b>	<b>\$ 28,043</b>	<b>\$ 29,359</b>

URVC	
Carryforward	\$ 4,213
<b>Total Available 10/31/23</b>	<b>\$ 7,132</b>

	UMRA		
	Budget FY24	Oct	YTD
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Sponsorships	\$ 8,550	\$ 850	\$ 850
Summer Social			\$ -
Summer 2023 Como			\$ -
Summer 2023 River cruise	\$ 1,550		\$ 1,152
Annual Dues	\$ 5,700	\$ 1,215	\$ 5,875
Annual Dues - next year	\$ 8,000		\$ -
Luncheons/Events	\$ 17,280	\$ 870	\$ 5,670
Future Luncheons		\$ 210	\$ 1,920
Silver Gophers		\$ 70	\$ 345
Donations	\$ 1,000		\$ -
Transfer out of Savings	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 44,080</b>	<b>\$ 3,215</b>	<b>\$ 17,812</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Cares Committee (memorials and expenses)	\$ 900		\$ 295
Newsletter printing/ mailing	\$ 4,100	\$ 1,118	\$ 1,118
Newsletter personnel contracts	\$ 7,200	\$ 550	\$ 2,250
Membership committee costs	\$ 500		\$ -
Other Annual Meeting costs			\$ -
Luncheons/Events	\$ 21,500	\$ 2,477	\$ 5,552
Summer 2023 River Cruise	\$ 2,800		\$ 2,380
Summer 2023 Como	\$ 2,300		\$ 2,325
Host Committee	\$ 400		\$ 36
Square / Stripe fees	\$ 940	\$ 38	\$ 358
Big 10 Conference costs	\$ 2,000		\$ -
Big 10 Conference 2026 reserve	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
Insurance	\$ 1,500		\$ -
AROHE	\$ 240		\$ -
Other	\$ 1,000	\$ 51	\$ 186
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 47,380</b>	<b>\$ 4,234</b>	<b>\$ 16,500</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (3,300)</b>	<b>\$ (1,019)</b>	<b>\$ 1,312</b>

	Budget FY24	Oct	YTD
	<b>Revenue:</b>		
Allocation	\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Student workers	\$ 2,305		\$ 816
Parking	\$ 500		\$ 265
Crash Plan License	\$ 43		\$ -
Food			\$ -
Dues: Better Impacts	\$ 732		\$ -
Office supplies	\$ 150		
Comm/Mktg suppl	\$ 100		
Volunteer Recog	\$ 75		
Postage/Mailing	\$ 55		
Other		\$ -	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 3,960</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,081</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,919</b>

Notes:

Approx \$9.5k of cash activity in FY23 relates to FY24, also FY24 \$2K exp that relates to FY23

Sponsorships receivable \$1,850

Net event expense - see next tab, we appear to be doing very well with Midland Hills

Total FY24 dues collected so far: \$ 14,195 total budgeted \$ 14,020

Oct =

spending YTD =

33.333% of year

0.27025 %



# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

November 1, 2023

**President**

Eric Hockert  
ehockert@umn.edu  
651-528-8099

Interim President Jeffrey Ettinger  
Provost Rachel Croson  
Vice President Myron Frans

**President-Elect**

Julie Sweitzer  
sweitz001@umn.edu  
952-938-4634

**RE: Loss of UMN Internet ID for Retirees**

Dear President Ettinger, Provost Croson and Vice President Frans:

**Secretary**

Laurie Coffin Koch  
koch@umn.edu  
612-281-8098

Recent discussions between leadership of the UM Retirees Association (UMRA), Provost Croson, and VP Gulachek highlighted the sustained vital contributions of retirees within the University Community. **Indeed, our MOU with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost is framed to acknowledge the mutual interest in support of the strategic mission of the University.** We write to express significant concern about OIT's proposed service changes that would have serious impact for the UMRA community.

**Treasurer**

Kristy Frost-Griep  
frost016@umn.edu  
651-262-8670

We understand that communications about these changes will begin in late November and, therefore, urgently request that alternative solutions be pursued that respect and support the identity and ongoing activities of UMRA members by sustaining their current Internet IDs and associated services.

**URVC Council Chair**

Jerry Rinehart  
g-rine@umn.edu  
612-802-5627

OIT has [announced plans](#) to discontinue provision of the Google Workspace for alumni and retirees. In order to provide an alternative service for these products, OIT is proposing to establish a separate, collective domain identity for alumni and retirees: **alumni.umn.edu** vs. the current **umn.edu** identity. While this plan respects the "pledge" to alumni for lifelong email, it does not address the distinct identification, needs, and expectations of University retirees.

**Past President**

Ron Matross  
r-matr@umn.edu  
651-646-5755

The implications for this proposed change go beyond email and Google Workspace since the University-affiliated domain identity (**umn.edu**) is used to provide access to a variety of University services that retirees have long received and expect. UMRA members (from all job families) remain engaged members of the University community, continue research/professional/civic activities and collaborations, advocate for and contribute financially to the University. Suspension of services such as Google Workspace, access to the Libraries (including licensed online resources), Zoom, and eduroam WIFI would significantly constrain continued engagement and impact UMRA operations. We plan to communicate with our members to ensure they understand the full impacts of the proposed changes.

**Board of Directors**

John Bantle  
Frank Cerra  
Bradley G. Clary  
Will Craig  
Diane Gihl  
Michael Hancher  
Wendy Pradt Lougee  
Russell Luepker  
Kate Maple  
B. Jan McCulloch  
Jan Morlock  
Barbara Shiels  
KaiMay Yuen Terry  
Diane Young

Sustaining UMRA members' access to these critical services will ensure continued retiree engagement. As a membership organization that provides ongoing communication and education, UMRA could provide a vehicle to address issues of costs and risks by limiting access to a defined and managed group. We welcome an opportunity to discuss the full implications of these proposed changes and an opportunity to contribute to alternative solutions.

Sincerely,  
Eric Hockert, UMRA President  
Julie Sweitzer, President Elect

Cc Vice President Bernard Gulachek