

## **UMRA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, April 25, 2022**

**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Join the meeting on Zoom: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/97420278151>

### Proposed Agenda:

1. Greetings and announcements
2. Approval of March minutes--Julie Sweitzer
3. Treasurer's report--Greg Hestness
4. Luncheon/Annual Meeting/Forum on May 24--Matross and others
  - a. Election
  - b. Schedule for May 24
  - c. Host arrangements
  - d. Annual meeting agenda
  - e. Forum
  - f. Logistics/technology
5. Update on UMRA/URVC reaffiliation--Rinehart and work team
  - a. Reaffiliation agreement
  - b. Implementation
  - c. New volunteer relationships
6. Mission statement update, for action--Matross, Sweitzer, Rinehart
7. Meetings with first-year regents--Wambach
8. Request for approvals on expenditures--Communications Committee
9. President's notes--Jan Morlock (see attached)
  - a. Big 10 Retirees Association annual meeting August 1 - 3, 2022, Northwestern University
10. Other business
11. Adjourn

### **For your calendar:**

- For your calendar:
- **Monday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.** UMRA board meeting by zoom
- **Tuesday, April 26, 12:00 noon** UMRA forum with Tiim Marx, by zoom
- **Saturday, May 7, 1:00 p.m.** University of Minnesota Day at Target Field, Twins v. Oakland Athletics, [UMRA block of tickets here](#).
- **Thursday, May 12, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** joint meeting and social for UMRA and URVC board members at the Campus Club bar; please note this is for UMRA and URVC board members only due to capacity limitations at the venue.
- **Tuesday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.** UMRA workshop on the MN State Parks, by zoom
- **Monday, May 23, 1:00 p.m.** UMRA board meeting by zoom.
- **Tuesday, May 24, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** UMRA lunch, annual meeting, and forum, Campus Club, with Provost Rachel Croson and CLA Dean John Coleman

- **Monday, June 20, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Age Friendly University Day, McNamara Alumni Center; UMRA and URVC have a table
- **Tuesday, August 9, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** UMRA Summer Social

**UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)**  
**Monday, March 28, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Draft Minutes**

**In attendance (virtual):** John Bantle, Will Craig, Frank Cerra, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Eric Hockert, Laurie Koch, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Jerry Rinehart, Julie Sweitzer, Diane Young  
Regrets: Bill Donohue, Gary Engstrand, Cathrine Wambach

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked for approval of the March minutes. Julie expressed appreciation for Ron filling in as secretary and moved approval, Frank seconded, and all voted in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg reported sponsorships of \$500 from the UM Foundation and Bakken, as well as \$250 from the UM Bookstores. These were offset by expenses for memorials and the newsletter, as well as annual insurance premiums, resulting in a net reduction in assets. The combined savings and checking account balance is \$24,682. Laurie moved and Diane seconded approval of the report, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

**Nominations:** Frank reported that the committee had finished its work and that the Executive Committee had endorsed the slate of Eric Hockert, President-elect, Julie Sweitzer, secretary, Kristy Frost-Griep, Treasurer, Will Craig, Kate Maple and Russell Luepker, board members. There were many nominations which is a good sign for the organization. Several board members expressed support of the slate. Frank moved endorsement, Jerry seconded, and all voted in favor. Frank will contact nominees and Kris requested a photo from each.

**URVC:** Jerry reported that the work team, along with the UMRA Executive Committee and boards of both URVC and UMRA had developed a strong consensus that this reaffiliation was a good proposal. The main difference in the two organizations is that URVC recruits volunteers beyond the UMRA membership. URVC will easily fold into UMRA as a center, keeping its budget separate (although overseen by UMRA.) The financial contribution by U Relations and protection for volunteers were incorporated in the recent MOU between UMRA and UMN. Jerry thanked Will for finding several previous agreements in the archives. He is asking the board for approval, and URVC will vote the first week in April. Eric clarified that the votes will be included by April 11 and reported in the May UMRA newsletter. He thanked Jerry for the tremendous job he and the work team completed.

Frank said he supports this but wanted to be sure the UMRA treasurer oversees the budget, and the URVC finances will be reported through the UMRA treasurer. Jerry agreed and said URVC will be a subcomponent to the UMRA budget. He added that URVC board members will be appointed through the UMRA nominating committee. Cathy Lee asked when the website links should be updated and ready and Jerry said they already exist but could be made more

prominent by the time membership is notified. Kris said the newsletter would go out the week of April 11 and Dee Anne Magnuson should be pulled in as she manages the URVC site.

Jan agreed with the vision of unitary treasury, and noted there is implementation work to be done, specifically reviewing documents of both organizations to make necessary changes, with a final vote in May 2023. She asked Jerry and team to continue as the implementation work group. Jerry agreed and said he would ask the team to continue. Jerry moved and Will seconded to approve the reaffiliation and charge the Implementation Group (there were 3 votes, all unanimous, as the motion was modified to become as stated in this sentence.)

**May Annual Meeting:** Ron reported that two teams are working on the event. The Zoom/hybrid team proposes that the election occur online in advance of the meeting. It will include an invitation for nominations from the 'floor', as required by UMRA's bylaws. The meeting will be a 'true hybrid' with two cameras (aimed at speaker and audience.) The broadcast will start with the business meeting, followed by the provost's remarks, main speaker Dean Coleman and a moderated Q and A. They have identified an expert to help prepare and present this first event but don't expect to need him in the future. There is a tech rehearsal Wednesday, and estimated costs should be under \$1,000. Frank moved approval of the costs, Laurie, Jan and Jerry seconded.

Diane reported on the host committee. There are two main functions, registration and welcome/engagement at the event. Char Greenwald and Diane Young are working on registration, Diane Gihl is the lead with the Campus Club, and Nancy Helm is leading communications and parking. They are working on how to provide the Special Interest Groups with visibility for sign-ups. The theme is "Ask Me" with dots on nametags indicating different aspects of involvement (SIGs, board, etc.) which are meant to prompt conversation. They anticipate some costs for nametags and printing, dots, flowers for the registration table, and clipboards for SIG signups. There was a discussion about whether UMRA has a printer, and the conclusion was no but URVC has one. Cherie asked about the SIG signups, and Diane said Diane Gihl was talking to the Campus Club that day (Monday) about several items including setting up a table inside where leaders of SIGs could recruit members if they wish. Diane G is also checking to see if the capacity limit of 86 has been lifted. Laurie asked about activities for those participating online, and Frank suggested you could flash info about the SIGs online. He amended his motion to authorize up to \$100 in host committee expenses, and the seconds agreed. There was some discussion of \$100 being insufficient and Jan said she would bring a floral arrangement. Cathy Lee was concerned about costs in the future for conducting hybrid events. Kris reminded all about the tradition of candy bars. Jan asked for a vote which was unanimous in favor.

**PDGR:** John Bantle reported that UMN agreed to fund professional development grants at \$15,00 per year, so there are applications for the next round available on the website. The committee voted to increase the maximum grant to \$5,000, hoping to increase applications. There were two resignations from the committee so they added Nancy Carpenter, retired

chemistry professor from Morris. Grants are open to any retired faculty or staff, not just UMRA members, and they are working on publicity.

**UMAA:** Will said the formal partnership agreement with UMAA was good for two years and would need to be renewed or modified as of September 2022. Activities include sharing videos of forums and participating in the Day of Service. He encourages member to report their volunteer activities in April on the UMAA site.

**Mission Statement:** Ron shared the current working draft of a new mission statement that he, Jerry and Julie developed. The revision was motivated by a need to include travel for financial reasons. Laurie said the draft was nice and short. Jan McCulloch asked about the goals in the previous (perhaps never adopted) version. Julie said they tried to keep the statement short and general, and to leave specifics, which will change more often, out. That said, the drafters looked at the previously stated goals in developing the draft and think they are incorporated in “learn, serve and connect.” Cherie thought the specific activities connect up through the mission statement. Will suggested using the first sentence only and wanted to see more on the benefits of UMRA activities to the University and community. Frank suggested combining the two sentences and said the draft meets all of his standards for a mission statement, although he agrees with Will’s desire for more about the benefits. Ron, Julie and Jerry will revise the draft after considering these comments.

**President’s Report:** Jan shared information on the Age-Friendly University event and said there will be need for more people to table on behalf of UMRA. She asked approval to invite Susan Hopp, president of the University Women’s Club, to join UMRA because of the overlapping membership and interests. The invitation was moved and seconded, with a unanimous vote in favor. Jan asked board members to look at the list of new members and reach out to anyone they know to welcome them. She invited board members to a celebratory event with URVC board members on May 12 (assuming the URVC vote is in favor.) Finally, Jan requested all board members plan to be at the annual meeting by 11:00 a.m. for the social time prior to the meal beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Jan **adjourned** the meeting at approximately 2:34 p.m.

**UMRA Executive Committee (Zoom)**  
**Monday, April 18, 2022, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Attendees:** Will Craig, Frank Cerra, Bill Donohue, Greg Hestness, Eric Hockert, Ron Matross, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Jerry Rinehart, Julie Sweitzer

**Jan called the meeting to order** at 1:00 p.m. She added a new item 7 to the agenda on UMRA's mission statement. She also requested a clarification to the March minutes about the nomination of a new treasurer. Jerry found two typos in the URVC segment and wanted clarification that the affiliation agreement included more provisions than noted in the minutes. Bill moved approval of the March 2022 minutes subject to the corrections, Frank seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor. (The secretary has subsequently made those corrections and provided the corrected version to the president, as well as for posting on the website.)

**Annual Meeting:** Jan and Ron described the tentative agenda for May 24. Ron will manage the online election process prior to the event, which will include approval of the 2019 and 2021 annual meeting minutes. Communications will include a request for any additional nominations to be provided to Frank by May 13. At the actual event the lunch buffet will start at 11:15, as it may take 45 minutes to get everyone through. Campus Club staff will send people to the buffet by tables and assist guests as needed. The formal meeting will begin at noon and will be broadcast on Zoom. Frank was concerned that buffets increase the risk of transmitting COVID, and it was agreed that alcohol wipes would be provided at the beginning of the buffet lines. The Host Committee has been working with Campus Club to assure a welcoming atmosphere. There will be name tags, flowers, and tables for the special interest groups.

Regarding the program content, Jerry reminded us that the URVC reaffiliation needs to be celebrated, and Jan will add it to the initial section along with the MOU. Frank reported that the Campus Club discussions with UMN leadership about continuing the financial subsidy critical for the club's survival are not going well. Bill suggested and all agreed that there should not be a Q and A time for the provost regardless, which will avoid the risk of embarrassing her publicly with awkward questions about the Campus Club. However, Jerry noted that UMRA grew out of the Campus Club, and we should express support for it. Bill offered to contact Julie Tonneson and arrange a meeting with her for Bill, Jan, Ron and perhaps Frank.

Frank reminded Jan to give Ron the gavel, and Ron promised to write an ode to Jan. The Zoom meeting will start with the usual video, which will play in the meeting room as well. Jan will emcee the meeting and introduce Dean Coleman. Julie will field questions from Zoom and the in-person guests, with Host Committee members carrying microphones around the room. Vaccines are required, masks optional. Ron will ask board members to host our guests. Finally, we learned in this process that retirees do not have access to Eduroam, the high speed, secure internet connection the UMN adopted several years ago. Kris is going to explore further but based on her initial

research she does not think it is a cost issue. This may be something UMRA wants to advocate for once Kris reports back.

**URVC Reaffiliation:** Jan noted the celebration set for May 12 at 4 p.m. at the Campus Club. Jerry reported the Implementation Team has met once and is starting to look at the bylaws of both organizations to identify issues that need addressing. There are separate websites for now, which reference the other organization. They will bring back any issues that need to be addressed.

**Regents Meetings:** Cathrine Wambach is recommending meeting with the four new Regents, probably in pairs, so they can learn more about the role of retirees in the university. Bill, Cathrine and Jan have a scheduled meeting to discuss this on Tuesday, April 19, and Ron agreed to join them as incoming president.

**Expenditures:** Eric asked for an additional \$50 payment to Sadie Brendalen, production editor for the newsletters, because of the length of the April newsletter. He amended that to include an additional \$50 payment for May as well after Kris stated that May would also be two pages longer than usual. Frank moved approval. Bill said that we ought to do the same for Kris, and Frank accepted that friendly amendment. Ron seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Jerry then moved approval of up to \$500 for expenses for the URVC celebration (approximately \$100 for the room, \$350 for food.) Eric seconded, and all voted in favor.

**Mission Statement:** Ron said he, Jerry and Julie had considered the various comments and came up with the following draft statement,

UMRA's Mission: To support the interests of U of M retirees and provide opportunities to learn, serve, and connect. UMRA seeks to benefit members, the University and the community through an array of informational, social, travel, volunteer, and support activities.

The hope is that the statement is short yet inclusive. Bill said it was short and well done, Frank thought it was great, and Jan said it accurately reflects who we are and why we exist. Bill moved endorsement of the statement, and Frank seconded. All voted in favor. Bill recommended it be put in the policy section on the website, and Eric said that will be part of the web redesign committee discussions.

**Big Ten Annual Meeting:** Jan shared the agenda and invitation from the Big Ten Retiree Association for the annual meeting August 1-3 on the Northwestern campus. UMRA has two voting seats. Many of the current, past and future UMRA presidents are not available those dates. There is a communication theme, so Kris was invited to attend, and Julie was invited because the secretarial role covers all of UMRA's functions. They are interested and checking calendars. UMRA has defrayed travel expenses for this in the past.

**Other Issues:** Jan asked for any other issues that needed addressing now or on the board agenda for next week. There was nothing for the board, but Bill suggested Kris contact Bernie Gulachek directly on the Eduroam issue.

**Meeting adjourned** by Jan at 2:27 p.m.

(Version 2022.4.16)

**University of Minnesota Retirees Association Elections 2022, conducted online**

Ballots sent to members: (date)

Members vote on board member and officer nominees; and to approve minutes from prior years

Ballots return deadline: (date)

**University of Minnesota Retirees Association Luncheon, Annual Meeting, and Forum  
Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

**10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Campus Club, 4th Floor, Coffman Memorial Union**

- 10:45 a.m. Welcome table is open
- 11:00 a.m. Members and guests arrive
- 11:15 a.m. Members and guests to tables and buffet lunch is called, by table
- 11:55 a.m. Zoom event begins with welcoming slideshow
- 12:00 noon Welcome to virtual audience; business meeting called to order
- Announcement of reaffiliation agreement, UMRA and URVC
  - Announcement of MOA with the University; introduction of Provost Croson; Provost Croson remarks
  - Announcement of election results; board members and officers for 2022 - 2023
  - Introduction of President for 2022 - 2023 Ron Matross
  - Recognitions
- 12:30 p.m. Business meeting adjourns; president introduces forum speaker John Coleman; presentation by John Coleman
- 1:00 p.m. Q&A with John Coleman, moderated by Julie Sweitzer
- 1:30 p.m. Closing remarks; forum ends

**Confirmed guests:**

- Rachel Croson, Executive Vice President and Provost
- Deb Cran, Office of the Provost
- John Coleman, Dean, College of Liberal Arts
- Louis Clark, Chief Development Officer, College of Liberal Arts
- Bernie Gulachek, UMN Vice President and Chief Information Officer
- Matt Kramer, UMN Vice President for University Relations

UPDATES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE  
AUGUST 1 TO 3, 2022 BTRA MEETING AT  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Dear friends,

This memo contains important information regarding the Big Ten Retiree Association Conference to be held from August 1 to August 3, 2022, on the Evanston Campus of Northwestern University.

Before turning to Conference details, we want to ask for your help on being sure this mailing goes to the correct persons. In addition to the names and university affiliations of previous conference attendees, this message is being sent to the generic email addresses of each retiree/emeriti association/organization. If you have received this email but are not coming to the Conference, would you please do two things: 1) write back to tell us you are not the correct addressee, and 2) please forward this message to the correct person(s) and tell us who that individual or those individuals are. We will appreciate a response before May 1.

Below you will find some general comments about attending the meeting, the hotel where we have arranged for a block of rooms to be held, registration information, a summary of the meeting program, some comments about the annual business meeting, and information about an optional post conference boat trip tour of downtown Chicago on the Chicago River.

**General Comments:**

One of the differences in this year's Conference from previous conferences is that we will be meeting at four different on-campus locations. The hotel where we have obtained a special rate is in downtown Evanston, not far from our meeting and dinner locations. There will be regular bus shuttles to each meeting site and the hotel throughout the meeting. By having the sessions at a variety of campus locations, from older, more classic buildings, to one of our newest buildings, there will be an opportunity to see the campus.

A couple of the rooms where sessions will be held accommodate 35 - 40 participants seated at tables/desks. The other rooms are larger. The two dinner locations accommodate 100 or more persons. Please recall that each association/organization has only two voting delegates, but each may have additional participants at all sessions. Generally speaking, we don't expect guest registrants to attend the working sessions. Guests will join everyone for the two dinners and the North Shore Tour on Tuesday afternoon.

For ease in getting to and from the venues, we encourage all conference attendees to stay at the conference hotel, so they can use the shuttle. Furthermore, parking is not available near the meeting sites.

**The Official Meeting Hotel:**

The hotel is the Hyatt House Chicago/Evanston. The address is 1515 Chicago Ave., Evanston IL, 60201. The hotel includes a breakfast for guests; also, there will be a light continental breakfast available at the meeting room each morning. There are a number of good restaurants in downtown Evanston. There is also an excellent French Patisserie (Patisserie Coralie) just across the street and a bit north of the hotel.

**Register for the Conference:**

We will send another memo before the end of this month to the individuals who will be attending the

conference. It will contain detailed information conference registration, and making hotel reservations, and links for each. *Online registration for the meeting will open on May 1.* If you have problems with anything on the registration site, please contact our administrative assistant, Gina Prokopeak, at: [gina.prokopeak@northwestern.edu](mailto:gina.prokopeak@northwestern.edu). You may also call Gina at 847-467-0432, where you will either reach her or her voice mail. She will return your call as promptly as possible.

The registration fee for voting delegates is \$225.00.  
 The registration fee for additional participants is \$225.00.  
 The guest registration fee is \$200.00.

**Below is a Conference Program Summary:**

Monday, August 1

- ◆ Box lunch
- ◆ Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Discussion
- ◆ Newsletters and Other Communication Tools
- ◆ Walking Tour of South Campus
- ◆ Reception and Dinner
- ◆ Remarks by Provost Kathleen Hagerty

**The Annual Business Meeting**

Tuesday, August 2

- ◆ Continental breakfast
- ◆ Faculty presentation on Nanotechnology and Medical Devices
- ◆ Town-Gown Relations
- ◆ Buffet Lunch
- ◆ North Shore Tour: Baha'i Temple and Chicago Botanic

Garden

- ◆ Reception and Dinner
- ◆ Faculty presentation on the Arts in a Research University

Wednesday, August 3

- ◆ Continental breakfast
- ◆ BTRA Business Meeting
- ◆ The Modern University and Global Affairs
- ◆ Box Lunch
- ◆ Optional Add-On Tour

This meeting will be held at the opening of the last session of the Conference. Apart from the usual business, there will be two items of importance this year. The BTRA bylaws have been revised and a proposed conference booklet has been prepared for future meetings. Attendees will be receiving these materials in advance of the Conference. A vote will be taken on whether or not these items will be adopted by the BTRA membership. Each member association/organization has two voting delegates per the current bylaws.

**Optional Post-Conference Boat Tour of Downtown Chicago on the Chicago River** For those wishing to stay Wednesday afternoon, we have a very attractive add-on option: a 90- minute tour of downtown Chicago architecture by riverboat, sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Center. A discounted price of \$65.00 per person will include the tour and transportation to and from the Hyatt House hotel and the boat dock.

*This option will be offered only if at least 20 people sign up. Payment must be made by June 15 and will be made at the same time as you register. The cost of the tour is non-refundable (unless the tour is canceled because fewer than 20 people register). If more than 25 people sign up for the tour, some*

*of the fee will be refunded to each person. We are mindful of the cost and want to point out that the individual cost and transportation/parking is more than \$65.*

Best Regards,

Al Telser [agt@northwestern.edu](mailto:agt@northwestern.edu)

David Zarefsky [d-zarefsky@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-zarefsky@northwestern.edu)

April 21, 2022

TO: UMRA Board Members  
FROM: Jan Morlock  
SUBJECT: President's notes for April 25, 2022

The Big 10 Retirees Associations (BTRA), of which UMRA is a member, will hold an in-person conference this year, August 1 - 3 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. UMRA members who have attended BTRA conferences in the past have reported that they are worthwhile for sharing ideas and best practices among the peer organizations. UMRA and the other members have two voting seats on the association, and it's useful to have at least two representatives at the conferences to take part in the sessions and pick up ideas. It's been UMRA's practice to pay the travel expenses and registration fees for those who attend to represent us. Neither Ron, our President for 2022 - 2023 nor Eric, our nominee for President-Elect, are able to attend this year. I have asked UMRA Secretary Julie Sweitzer and UMRA Editor Kris Mortensen to consider attending and each will confirm if they are able to attend. Chairing the board and hosting the annual conference rotates among the member organizations, and UMRA's turn to lead and host at UMTC will come up next in 2026. (See the invitation in the board packet from our counterpart Al Telser at Northwestern University.)

You will recall that Kathleen O'Brien will retire as chair of the UMRA Cares Committee at the end of this program year. I am talking with some suggested candidates but I don't yet have a replacement to name. If you have suggestions of members who may be interested or whom you'd recommend for this role, I'd like to hear from you.

Age Friendly University Day will be celebrated on June 20 at McNamara Alumni Center, <https://www.sph.umn.edu/events-calendar/age-friendly-university-day/>. UMRA and URVC will share a table at the event, and it will be good to have a number of UMRA ambassadors there to meet University community members and the public. I hope you will consider attending and representing UMRA at this event.

Ron has reserved the Como Park Pavilion on Tuesday, August 9 for the second annual UMRA Summer Social. Please keep that date on your calendar and watch for more information to follow.

UMRA's Mission: To support the interests of U of M retirees and provide opportunities to learn, serve, and connect. UMRA seeks to benefit members, the University, and the community through an array of informational, social, travel, volunteer, and support activities.

Proposed as of 2022.4.18