

USRA News



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University of Saskatchewan

August, 2007

USRA EXECUTIVE 2006-2007

President - Bob Woods
(Acting) Vice-President - Peter Cribb
Secretary - Yvonne Cuttle
Treasurer - Ken Smith
Past President - Peter Cribb

Members at Large

Jim Blackburn [Editor]
Norah Carey
Les Coleman
Doris Hasell
Faye Kernan
Mohindar Sachdev [USRA Internet Site]
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Duff Spafford

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President's Report

This will be my final 'President's Report' at a time when we traditionally review and report on the past year and plan for the start of a new year of activities. With the Association's Annual Meeting coming up in September, one of the most important activities is to nominate a new Executive to guide the Association forward for another year. The current Executive appointed a Nominations Committee made up of several past presidents of the Association under the very capable chairmanship of Pat Lawson. Pat and her committee have proposed a slate of candidates that is reported in another part of this newsletter. However, if members wish to nominate other candidates this is still possible if the candidates are properly nominated and seconded and the nominations are received by the Secretary at least

PRESIDENTS REPORT CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

A POINT OF VIEW JIM BLACKBURN (EDITOR)

Howard Klein – Many Thanks

For the past four years, we have been most fortunate to have Howard as USRA Newsletter Editor.

During that time, he has kept USRA members up to date on activities of the Association as well as providing short articles on items of interest to retirees. In addition, he has injected humour into each newsletter. It is a very time consuming task convincing contributors to meet deadlines, preparing the material submitted, proofreading, approving the printing of the final document and finally distributing each issue.

Howard and Betty, we greatly appreciate all your efforts on behalf of the USRA!

You are Invited to:

The USRA 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BANQUET MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 FACULTY CLUB

Celebrating the University's Centennial

AGM – 4:30 pm
REFRESHMENTS – 5:30 pm
BANQUET – 6:00 pm
COST - \$ 35.00 per person

RSVP – 966-6618 OR e-mail ss.usra@usask.ca
We need your response by Thursday, September 6 to determine the number attending!

Please invite your friends and consider car-pooling to the event
PAC (R) Lot is available to public after 5:00 P.M. with a flat \$2.00 charge.

**Please bring a photo or artifact reminiscent of your days
on campus.**

President's Report continued from page one

fifteen days before the date of the Annual Meeting – the details are given below with the report of the Nominations Committee.

Overall, it has been a reasonably successful year, though academics are trained to dissect, discuss, and dispute, and retirees have the time to do all three, so other opinions (tongue-in-cheek sometimes) are certainly possible. The Annual Meeting is a forum where opinions can be expressed and we expect and welcome constructive suggestions for change. Naturally, those proposing new directions should be prepared to be co-opted onto the Executive to put them into effect.

The Executive had two significant resignations during the year, Joel Gajadharsingh and Doug Knott. Joel resigned early in the year for health reasons but not before organizing a comprehensive and successful social and educational program for the Association. Joel's contributions over the years are very much appreciated by the Executive and his good sense and good humour will be sadly missed. The other members of the social and education committee, in particular Doris Hasell and Norah Carey, carried through Joel's plans and also deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

For many years Doug Knott chaired the Executive's Pension Committee and represented us whenever pension matters were under discussion. When the Association was formed pensions were a critical and much debated concern of retirees. In recent years pensions have occupied less of our time as matters were either settled or have become the concern of more appropriate groups of current and future pensioners. Several proposed amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-laws listed below reflect this changing emphasis. The Executive would like to express their sincere appreciation and thanks to Doug Knott for his years of expert service as chair of the pension committee.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws listed below will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting. Inclusion of the amendments in this newsletter is intended to meet the requirement that changes to the Constitution and By-laws be circulated to members at least thirty days prior to the General Meeting at which they will be presented. The changes are essentially housekeeping matters and the reasons for making them are described below and on the Association's web site. A limited number of paper copies of the Constitution and By-laws will be available at the Annual Meeting but are also available on the Associations web site at <http://usra.usask.ca>.

The annual BBQ was held on Monday, June 4, at the Willows Golf Club. This was an opportunity to meet old friends in an unstructured and informal setting and was enjoyed by some sixty members and friends. The more formal Annual Meeting and Banquet of the USRA will be held at the Faculty Club on September 10. This will be an opportunity to meet the U. of S. President, Peter MacKinnon, and the newly elected Chancellor, Vera Pezer.

Bob Woods, President

Should, I have ever thought about that?

Trivia

I don't know how true some of these are, but I don't think that's the point. Isn't it really handy to have something witty to say when the conversation is dragging? For instance, if someone sneezes, you will now be able to tell them that water just came screaming out of their mouth at 60mph instead of giving them the boring old "Gesundheit!" What more could you ask for?

1. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes...when you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase, "good night, sleep tight" came from.
2. The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, GP
3. The first toilet ever seen on television was on "Leave It To Beaver."
4. Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
5. The world's termites outweigh the world's humans ten to one.
6. On average, 100 people choke to death on ball point pens every year, so be careful.
7. One of the longest one-syllable words in the English language is screeched. (Strengths is another one.)
8. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
9. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
10. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
11. 'Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

Please help us to update our records:

The addresses for the following have been lost:

James Beamer
David Bond
Harold Bronson
Elsie Docking
Louise Forsyth
Mary Matiko
David Parsons
Frederick Reekie
Douglas Smith

Also, we would appreciate corrections to our E-mail

addresses for:

Earl Newton
Thomas MacLachlan

Proposed changes to the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association Constitution and By-Laws

The amendments to the USRA Constitution and By-Laws proposed below are housekeeping changes needed to reflect our current activities and interests. They have been discussed with our authority in these matters, Doug Schmeiser, and were approved by the Association’s Executive Committee on June 11, 2007. The current Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the Associations web site at <http://usra.usask.ca>.

CONSTITUTION

Article 3.1 ADD

j. to cooperate with, assist and join together with other university retiree associations in areas of mutual concern. *This is being added to our objectives to cover our cooperation with organizations outside the University of Saskatchewan such as CURAC (the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada).*

Article 7.1 AMEND to read

7.1 There shall be a standing committee on Benefits and such other standing committees as the Executive Committee shall, from time to time, decide. *The amendment changes the name of the standing committee from “Pensions and Benefits” to “Benefits.” Pensions were an important issue at the time the Association was formed. However, the role of the Association in any continuing pension discussions has been marginal in recent years and our attention has turned to retiree benefits as a greater concern of our current members.*

BY-LAWS

By-Law 11

A. Pension and Benefits Committee (This will be renamed the Benefits Committee under Article 7.1)

By-Laws A.1 and A.2: REPLACE by-laws A.1 and A.2 with a new by-law to read

A.1 The Committee shall be responsible for safeguarding, optimizing and reviewing retiree benefits available to members.

The original by-laws were drafted when pension issues and their timely presentation to Association members were a major concern of the USRA.

B.1 AMEND to read

B.1 This Committee shall serve as the administrative group from which the daily affairs of the Association are conducted. *The amendment deletes the words “and shall be chaired by the Vice-President.” The Office Services Committee has not been chaired by the Vice-President for a number of years.*

Constitution Changes continues on page four



Greetings:

The USRA web site has been operational for more than six months. A web site is a living document; changes become necessary for several reasons, such as including new information, up-dating information already posted and fine tuning the presentation of the information. The USRA web site has been modified since its status was reported in the News Letter published in March 2007. The following changes and additions have taken place.

- USRA News Letter of March 2007 has been posted.
 - Details of the arrangement for the Annual General Meeting to be held in September have been added.
 - Report of the Nominations Committee has been posted
 - The index of the web site has been updated
- PDF copy of the News Letters can be viewed and can be downloaded by opening the “News Letter” page and then selecting the New Letter of interest from the list in the frame on the left-hand side of the page.
- Details of the upcoming Annual General Meeting are given on the “Upcoming Events” page. The report of the Nominations Committee can be accessed either by using the “Nominations Committee Report” button provided on the “Home Page” or by using a similar button near the bottom of the table of details of the upcoming event.

The posting of additional information depends on suggestions received from the visitors and approved by the Executive Committee of the USRA. Please send your suggestions to sachdev@sasktel.net

Mohindar Sachdev

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE USRA EXECUTIVE 2007-2008

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Murray Scharf – President | Faye Kernan |
| Jim Blackburn – Vice President | Barry McLennan |
| Bob Woods – Past President | Dale Miquelon |
| Ken Smith – Treasurer | Mohindar Sachdev |
| Yvonne Cuttle – Secretary | Bob Sanche |
| Norah Carey | Nancy Senior |
| Les Coleman | George Sofko |
| Peter Cribb | Duff Spafford |

Constitution Changes (continues from page 3)

B.2 AMEND to read

B.2. The Committee shall be responsible for compiling and managing the data base, files, correspondence, records and archives of the Association, and attending to the upkeep of equipment.

The amendment deletes the words "and implementing a system of recruiting office hosts." With the move of the Association office from the Toxicology Centre to the Williams Building we no longer have the facilities to offer routine personal service to our members from the office.

By-laws E and F: REPLACE By-laws E and F with a new By-law E to read

E. Education, Social and Recreation Committee

E.1 This Committee shall conduct social and recreational activities that foster a continuing and enjoyable association among members in appropriate settings, and that enhance self-assistance in areas of intellectual growth, health and fitness.

E.2 The Committee shall organize an Annual Dinner, one fall and one spring event, and any other events or workshops if desired and with support ensured.

The change combines the roles of the Social-Recreational and Education committees into a single "Education, Social and Recreation Committee," recognizing practice in recent years.

By-law G: AMEND designation and name of By-law G
By-law G will become By-law F with a name change to "Prime of Life Achievement Awards Committee"

The name change from "Achievement Awards Committee" better describes the awards recommended to the Executive by this committee.

NOTE

One of the reasons for revisiting the Constitution and By-laws at this time was the suggestion that the Association President be eligible for re-election for a second consecutive one-year term. Practice has been that the President serve for one year but be eligible for re-election one year, or longer, after leaving that office. It is the view of the sub-committee that reviewed this matter (Doug Schmeiser, Peter Cribb, Bob Woods) that the Constitution and By-laws do not preclude the President serving a second consecutive term, though the Association may continue the practice of a one-year Presidential term renewable after one year should it wish to do so.

**DON'T MISS THE AGM AT 1630 ON SEPT
10TH**

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK AND BUILD THE
PROGRAM FROM THE OUTSIDE IN**

In 2006-07 the USRA put on first monday of the month small seminars at the faculty club. The first dealt with the U of S centennial celebration plans, another with birds and native plants. As well, there was a tour of the antiquities museum preceded by an slide shor introduction. Some think this a meeting type worth pursuing again.

What do you think and how can you help us create a program you will attend? Below are some ideas that may appeal to you, but also you have ideas that we might bring to fruition, so let us have an e-mail conversation leading to the choosing of the top four to be scheduled during 2007-08. If you respond we may be able to announce plans at the annual banquet on September 10th filling in details on our site and subsequent issues of the USRA News.

IDEAS

- About Elder Hostel

- Exercise recreation programs provided by the City
- Travel talks – China, France; South Africa, countless cruises and more to come
- Garden secrets
- Tour of campus concentrating on the building stone used
- Environment, is it at risk?
- Heavy metals in our bodies
- Museum and Art display tours
- Focus on an artist's painting or a composer's composition worth hearing again and again
- Alternative therapies to achieve health and well being
- Drug research problems
 - A debate about religion (something controversial)
 - French for the timid
 - You and the computer
 - GIVE US YOUR IDEAS

Here is how you can help plan the year's program:

Write me: jblackburn@sasktel.net or

Leave a note on <http://usra.usask.ca>

For instant updates about USRA events

**SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS
TO**

ss.usra@usask.ca

Receive the News on the net.

**If you also wish the News to arrive at your
door, just tell us.**