

**University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Monday, September 21, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.**  
**Zoom Videoconference**

Present: Merry Beazely (Chair), Jim Blackburn, Stella Blackshaw, Rick Bunt, Bob Card, Hank Classen, John Courtney, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, Mel Hosain, Jacqueline Huck (Recorder), Dean Jones, Tonya Kaye, Henry Kloppenburg, Gord McCalla, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Fred Remillard, Asit Sarkar, Ken Smith, Brad Steeves, Jim Thornhill, Tom Wilson, Robert Woods and Barry Ziola.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. A review of the meeting protocols took place – motions require a mover and seconder; raise blue hand to pose a question and Dean Jones will acknowledge questions in order; when voting on a motion, members will be asked to raise their real hands to oppose or abstain. Abstentions are counted and noted, but not as a “yes” or “no” vote. If no one is opposed, the motion will be considered approved unanimously. Otherwise, votes for and against will be counted with the majority determining if the motion is approved.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Bryan Harvey and seconded by Mel Hosain that the agenda be approved. Unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2019**

Moved by Yannis Pahatouroglou and seconded by John Courtney that the minutes of September 23, 2019 be approved. Unanimous.

**4. President’s Report**

Merry Beazely noted that she was honored to serve as President this year and presented her attached report briefly reviewing the USRA projects currently being undertaken –

- Memorandum of Understanding with the University
- Surveys of Current and Future Members
- Presence on the USask Website
- Welcoming 2020 Retirees and Other Eligible Individuals to USRA
- Awards and Awards Banquet

Additional Programs and Projects Underway

- Programs for Members
- AGM scheduled for Monday, September 21
- Congratulatory Message to 2020 Graduates
- Minister Responsible for Seniors
- CURAC – Tom Wilson will be representing USRA as a voting member at the September 30, 2020 AGM

- Heritage Buildings on Campus – USRA Board has been invited to participate in Stage 4 discussions.
- Membership Updates – currently trying to locate life members with whom we have lost contact with
- Honorary Degrees - two nominations were forwarded to the University Secretary in the fall of 2019 and a third will be submitted in the coming months
- Nominations for the 2020-2021 Board - Merry welcomed Mary Dykes back to the Board and thanked retiring Board members, Ken Smith and Hank Classen, for their service to the Board and to USRA.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Brad Steeves that the President's Report be accepted. Unanimous.

John Courtney thanked Merry for her report and noted that it is important to recognize and celebrate campus historical sites and cornerstones.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Ken Smith presented his attached report which included a balance sheet and income statement noting the following –

- USRA is in good financial standing and we are awaiting finalization of the MOU
- unexpected revenue of \$271 was received as a patronage reward from Collette Travel when USRA members booked travel through the agency
- ticket sales for the Awards Banquet were slightly lower than in the previous year; the Spring BBQ was not held due to the pandemic
- life membership fees account is considered a liability in that it represents the Association's commitment to provide future service.

Moved by Ken Smith and seconded by Rick Bunt that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Unanimous.

Moved by Bryan Harvey and seconded by Barry Ziola that no financial audit be conducted. Unanimous.

## 6. Standing Committee Reports

### (a) Awards

Dean Jones presented the attached Awards Committee report noting the following –

- no awards will be presented this year as our Annual Banquet cannot be held due to the pandemic
- Continuing Contribution Award – qualifications for this award have been reworded to make it more applicable to retirees who did not fill academic roles; continue to discuss with alumni and friends at the University how we might reach a larger audience of nominators.

### (b) College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC)

Bryan Harvey presented his attached report on CURAC activities noting -

- the cancellation of the 2020 AGM due to COVID-19; plans are now underway to cancel the 2021 AGM at McGill and reschedule the 2022 meeting in Vancouver
- Health Policy Committee looked into whether we should put out information or a paper on the pandemic but decided that there were many organizations better placed to do this; committee will focus on putting together a paper on elder care
- continue to keep up relationships with our benefit affiliates; negotiating with Economical to renew an agreement and working with Hearing Life to establish an agreement.

(c) Communication

Dean Jones presented the attached Communication Committee report noting the following –

- three newsletters were produced; more members are accepting their newsletter in electronic form which is assisting in a reduction in mailing costs
- website - the University has set up a framework to allow us to redevelop our website under the University umbrella which will enable USRA to appear 'first' in the search results; new website will be operational in October
- material of interest to our members from CURAC and other organizations has been distributed as it becomes available but only to members with e-mail addresses
- digitization of USRA documents continues to take place.

(d) Education, Social and Recreation

Brad Steeves presented the attached committee report noting that as a result of COVID-19, USRA has stopped all in-person programming. The Board continues to meet virtually through Zoom videoconferencing. Two educational programs have been held via Zoom and feedback has been very positive.

- 4 presentations held during October 2019 to March 2020 at Manos
- 2 presentations held during March to August 2020 via Zoom
- 3 presentations have been scheduled between September to November 2020 via Zoom
- social events cancelled due to pandemic – President's Holiday Reception, Spring 2020 BBQ, Awards Banquet and Merlis Belsher Place tour.

(e) Membership and Tribute to Members No Longer With Us

Judith Henderson presented the attached committee report and noted the following –

- reluctant to ask those members whose membership has expired to pay dues because of the pandemic
- searching for members whom we have lost contact with due to returned mail or undelivered e-mail
- found obituaries or other records of death for 13 members
- total members – 419, including 354 life members.

Judith Henderson read out the names of members who have passed away during the past year. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance.

(f) Retirees Engagement

Rick Bunt presented the committee report (attached) noting the following –

- looking forward to working with our new liaison, Danielle Dunbar (Associate Vice-President Advancement and Chief Development Officer), on formalizing the MOU between the University and USRA
- reinstatement of the annual Retirement Banquet or another kind of event to recognize retirees – working with President Stoicheff and hopefully USRA will be able to assist in the planning
- simplifying the process by which the University reimburses the Association for operating expenses.

(g) Ad Hoc Committee on Future Priorities of the USRA

Jim presented the committee report (attached) and noted the following –

- working with Christy Miller (Director, Alumni and Donor Engagement and Executive Director, Alumni Association) to finalize the survey to be distributed to current retirees with e-mail addresses by the end of October
- the second survey to future retirees is being completed and will be sent out in the near future.

(h) Honorary Degrees

Tom Wilson presented the attached committee report noting that two nominations have been forwarded to the University Secretary. Information has been updated on two previous nominations.

Moved by Mel Hosain and seconded by Tom Wilson that the committee reports be accepted. Unanimous.

**7. New Business**

No items were discussed under this section

**8. Report of Nominations Committee**

Tom Wilson presented the attached Nomination Report. New member nominated to the Board is Mary Dykes.

**9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2020-2021**

President	Brad Steeves
Vice-President	Jim Thornhill
Secretary	Jacqueline Huck
Treasurer	Tom Wilson
Immediate Past President	Merry Beazely
Members-at-Large	Rick Bunt, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson,

Dean Jones, Yannis Pahatouroglou and Beryl Radcliffe.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Ken Smith that the slate of officers for 2020-2021 be elected. Unanimous.

**10. Other Business**

Congratulations to Bryan Harvey on being inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Rick Bunt, on behalf of the current Board, thanked the outgoing President, Merry Beazely, for her leadership.

Mel Hosain thanked Dean Jones and Brad Steeves for scheduling the Zoom presentations.

**11. Adjournment**

Bryan Harvey moved the meeting be adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

# University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association Annual Report of the Treasurer for 2019-2020

[September 2020]

A balance sheet and an income statement for fiscal year 2019-20 are attached.

Turning first to the income statement, net income reached an unexpected high of \$1,598. Total revenue equaled \$7,631. Membership fees are the primary determinants of general revenue. Compared to last year, annual membership dues are higher by \$120 and the allocation from the lifetime membership fund is lower by \$55. The allocation from that fund is set at 10% of the dollar value of that account as of December 31 of the year. The Association therefore remains on solid ground in that its primary funding comfortably covers its yearly financial position. For this year there was unexpected extra revenue. Reported as miscellaneous income was a donation of \$70 and a patronage reward from Collette Travel of \$271. Patronage rewards are received when any USRA member books travel through that agency. Ticket sales for the September 2019 banquet were just slightly lower than in the previous year. Normally there would have been ticket sales for a Spring BBQ, but it couldn't be held due to the pandemic. Interest revenue is done slightly because interest rates on the GIC's continue to be very low.

Turning now to the expense side of the income statement, Newsletter costs rose compared to 2018-19 due to the publication of lengthier editions. Printing costs rose by about \$250 to \$726 and mailing costs by about \$455 to \$1,104.70. Currently, the full cost of mailings is recovered from the University, but this may change for 2020-21 as the Association and the University negotiate a memorandum of agreement. As consequences of the pandemic, promotion costs were zero because the U of S annual picnic for employees could not be held. The USRA normally staffs a booth. Also luncheon costs are down because it was not able to treat the guest speakers to lunch, and office expenses were up slightly to stage Zoom meetings. Totally, expenses were \$6,213. Therefore given that the University covers the mailing costs, the lower than expected expenses and the higher than expected revenues resulted in a higher than expected net income of \$1,598.

Since no bank charges are incurred with a balance of \$5,000 in the chequing account, the cash balance is high at \$9,024. Therefore about \$4,000 is immediately available should it be necessary at a time when the money is not available from a GIC. Currently there are five, one-year GIC's held at TCU Financial each with a different maturity date. The life membership fees account is considered a liability in that it represents the Association's commitment to provide future service. The account has shrunk slightly from \$24,214 to \$23,745. With as few as 3 or 4 new life members in the first half of the 2020-21 fiscal year, the fund will generate the same annual revenue in 2020-21 as it did in 2019-20.

Once again and at the direction of the last Annual General Meeting, these accounts were not audited. Given that most of the transactions are recorded in the monthly bank statements and that these agree with the reported cash and investment amounts, an audit seems unnecessary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Smith, Ph.D., Treasurer

## University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association Balance Sheet As at 06/30/2020

### ASSET

#### Current Assets

Chequing Bank Account	9,024.44	
Investments	<u>32,400.24</u>	
Total Cash		41,424.68
Accrued Interest Receivable	685.98	
Postage Receivable	1,104.70	
TCU Member Deposit	<u>15.00</u>	
Total Receivable		
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>1,805.68</u>
		<u>43,230.36</u>

### TOTAL ASSET

43,230.36

### LIABILITY

#### Current Liabilities

Lifetime Membership Fees	23,745.50	
Tax Payable	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Liabilities		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>23,745.50</u>
		<u>23,745.50</u>

### TOTAL LIABILITY

23,745.50

### EQUITY

#### Owners Equity

Retained Earnings - Previous Year		
Current Earnings	17,886.80	
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>		<u>1,598.06</u>
		<u>19,484.86</u>

### TOTAL EQUITY

19,484.86

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

43,230.36

## University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association Income Statement 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

### REVENUE

#### Revenue

Annual Membership Fees	280.00
Lifetime Membership Allocation	2,588.39
Fall Banquet Tickets	2,805.00
Spring BBQ Tickets	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net Sales</b>	<b><u>5,673.39</u></b>

#### Other Revenue

Postage Transfer	1,104.70
Interest Revenue	497.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>356.66</u>
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b><u>1,958.36</u></b>

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>7,631.75</u></b>
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### EXPENSE

#### General & Administrative Expenses

Annual General Meeting	375.48
Awards Costs	1,165.13
Fall Banquet	2,056.32
Spring BBQ	0.00
Promotion	0.00
Newsletter	726.92
CURAC Dues	300.00
Luncheon Series	20.16
Remembrance Day Wreath	75.00
Postage Paid	1,104.70
Office Supplies	209.98
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Expenses</b>	<b><u>6,213.69</u></b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>6,213.69</u></b>
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<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b><u>1,598.06</u></b>
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## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2020**

It has been an honour to serve as your President this year, and work with the wonderful and dedicated Officers of our Board. It was great to see so many of you, our members, at events in the fall and winter, and lately in the little Zoom squares!

Half-way through the year, we all were faced with the presence of COVID-19. It has been heartbreaking to see the toll of the virus, most sadly in mortalities and in health, and the impact on all aspects of life. We continue to appreciate everyone who has stepped forward to help.

There have been some positives: governments aiming to work together to give the best advice available to us at the time, and new programs and financial resources to provide needed support. This has also been a time that we reached out to family and friends we hadn't seen in a long time. Separation has brought many closer together!

We trust that steps our Board has taken through website postings, educational links, Newsletters and Zoom events have helped, and we will continue these until we can resume former activities. We hope that you, your families and friends have been doing well through these challenging months.

The year has been a busy one for the USRA Board. Unfortunately, work on some of our projects has stalled, partly a result of the change to our designated liaison at the University. We hope to get back on track soon.

#### **USRA Projects Underway in Conjunction with University Relations (Advancement)**

In recent years, the Alumni Relations unit of University Relations was designated by President Peter Stoicheff and Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President University Relations, as the USRA's prime link with the University. This team, led by then Associate VP Guy Larocque, provided enthusiastic support in enhancing the relationship between the USRA and the institution. University Relations has recently re-structured, and we are pleased to report that Danielle Dunbar, Associate VP Advancement, and her colleagues will now be our key contacts. Danielle and Christy Miller, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, met (virtually) with the Board in August to discuss ongoing initiatives.

- **Memorandum of Understanding** – The USRA Engagement Committee, led by Rick Bunt, with Bryan Harvey, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Jim Thornhill and Tom Wilson, has been working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USRA and the University. The aim is to ensure an ongoing beneficial relationship. Danielle advised that Rick should receive feedback from the University soon and we look forward to finalizing the MOU.
- **Surveys of Current USRA Members and Future USRA Members** – Jim Thornhill, and the Ad Hoc Committee Determining Future Priorities of USRA, including Rick Bunt, Hank Classen, Brad Steeves, Mary Dykes and Merry Beazely, have been working with Advancement to finalize two surveys to engage current retirees and future retirees with the goal of ensuring a vibrant and responsive retirees' organization. Jim and the Ad Hoc Committee, Christy and her team hope to get the survey of current retirees to you in the next month or two.
- **USRA Presence on the USask Website** – Dean Jones, Communication Chair, is redesigning the USRA website on a new server to ensure that when a user types 'retirees' into the search box, the USRA comes up first. We will also work to link with the University Advancement and

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Faculty and Staff sites. In addition, Dean, Judith Henderson, Jackie Huck and Hank Classen work to keep us all informed.

- **Welcoming 2020 Retirees/Other Eligible Individuals to the USRA** – Advancement has been most helpful in sending upcoming retirees a letter on our behalf, inviting them to join the USRA. We also want to contact and invite to join us all those individuals who left the University in 2019-20 and who meet USRA eligibility for membership. Our joint welcome BBQ for new retirees could not happen this year. We will pursue hosting a ‘virtual’ event. We have also spoken with President Stoicheff about re-instating a University-wide event to celebrate retirees.
- **USRA Awards and Annual Banquet** – Awards Chair Dean Jones, and members Bryan Harvey and Jim Thornhill, recently reviewed terms of our awards to ensure they encompass all our members. Dean is facilitated contacting the University community to submit nominations. We will go ahead with nominations for 2020, but recipients will be honored at a joint 2020 and 2021 Banquet in September 2021.

### Additional USRA Programs and Projects Underway

- **Programs for Members** – Brad Steeves, Chair, and the Education, Social and Recreation Committee members Hank Classen and Beryl Radcliffe, with valuable IT assistance from Dean Jones and Rick Bunt, have organized virtual sessions via Zoom. Additional virtual events are planned.
- **Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 21 at 2:00 via Zoom Videoconference** – The agenda for the AGM and slate of officers for the coming year has been sent to members. We will send information about signing in to the AGM to members who have indicated they would like to attend.
- **USRA Congratulatory Message to 2020 Graduates** – A USRA Board member normally attends each of the Spring and Fall Convocation ceremonies to recognize the achievements of new graduates. With Convocation ceremonies cancelled, we have provided a virtual [message from the USRA](#) to 2020 graduates.
- **Minister Responsible for Seniors** – Tom Wilson, USRA Past-President, has contacted the Honorable Warren Kaeding, Minister for Rural and Remote Health and for Seniors, to meet to discuss seniors’ issues. Bryan Harvey, currently President of CURAC, and Tom recently participated in preparing a comprehensive CURAC draft *Strategies for an Aging Population: Maintaining Independence*. We have shared this document with our membership and provincial leaders.
- **College and University Retiree Associations of Canada** – Bryan will be presiding over the CURAC/ARUCC 2020 AGM that will be held virtually on September 30. Tom has kindly agreed to be our voting delegate.
- **Heritage Buildings on Campus** – Board member Hank Classen has been involved with a group addressing concerns about the status of heritage buildings on campus. Hank brought this issue to the Board, and he and Merry have written to Greg Fowler, VP Finances and Resources, to urge maintaining ‘respect for heritage’ and ‘preservation of cherished built form’ of our campus as outlined in the draft *Campus Plan*.

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- **Membership Updates** – Judith Henderson, Chair of the Membership Committee, colleagues Jackie Huck, Dean Jones, Ken Smith, the entire Board, former members Mary Dykes and Murray Scharf, and others have worked diligently to locate Life Members with whom we have lost contact. Judith has sent Life Member Cards to those who had not previously received them (former Associate Members who inherited Life Membership from their deceased spouses). Life Member cards will enable them and perhaps their descendants to apply for benefits through USRA and CURAC. We are pleased to report that nearly all missing Life Members have been found.
- **Honorary Degrees** – Tom Wilson, Chair, and Committee members Beryl Radcliffe and Asit Sarkar facilitated two nominations to the University Secretary in fall 2019 and a third will be submitted in the coming months.
- **Nominations and Thanks** – Tom, Judith and Bryan have arranged for a first-rate slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 Board. We are most pleased to welcome Mary Dykes (former USNARA member) back to the Board. Sincere thanks to ‘retiring’ Board members Ken Smith, our long time and excellent Treasurer, and Hank Classen, who brought to us important issues and ideas. We will miss you!

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Beazely

### **REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

Members: Dean Jones (Chair), Bryan Harvey and Jim Thornhill

The COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to reach a wider community for nominations affected the work of the Committee.

#### 1. Effect of COVID-19

The Committee recommended that awards not be presented this year as our awards banquet cannot be held. Some nominations have been received, and nominations will continue to be solicited throughout the coming year in anticipation of presentations being possible in the fall of 2021.

#### 2. Continuing Contribution Award

The qualifications for this award were reworded to make it more applicable to retirees who did not fill academic roles.

#### 3. Initiative to Reach Larger Audience of Nominators

We are continuing to discuss with the Alumni and Friends at the University how we might reach a larger audience of nominators.

I want to thank the committee members Bryan Harvey and Jim Thornhill for all their efforts and

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time this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Jones

### **REPORT OF THE CURAC REPRESENTATIVE 2019-2020**

It will come as no surprise to anyone that COVID-19 had a major impact on CURAC activities in 2019-2020. We were looking forward to a really good program at the Conference and AGM in Vancouver. The LOC with members from each of the three sponsoring organizations University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria, had done a great job of putting it together. At the first hint of the coming pandemic we thought that it might run its course in a few months and we could hold the meeting in the Autumn. It soon became evident, despite assurances from President Trump, that it was not going away any time soon. Therefore, the Committee supported by the Board decided to cancel the 2020 meeting. Plans are now to also cancel the 2021 meeting at McGill in Montreal and to have the rescheduled meeting in Vancouver in 2022. There may be a one hour presentation by a distinguished speaker in its place. Plans for this are yet to be finalized. The University of Prince Edward Island graciously agreed to move their planned meeting to 2023 to accommodate that. We are, of course, keeping our fingers crossed that conditions will allow us to proceed with that schedule. This left CURAC with the question of how to manage the Annual General Meeting. The Canada Not for Profit Act specifies that the meeting must be held within the specified time frame relative to the fiscal year end. We did attempt to contact the Federal Government to see if any special considerations were contemplated but got no response. One of the spin offs of the COVID-19 lockdown was that many people became familiar with Zoom conferencing. The Board had been contemplating moving to this or a similar service for its regular meetings and this speeded up our move to that alternative in place of telephone conference calls. Thus, it was decided that we will hold the AGM electronically in September. A subcommittee chaired by Kent Percival is working out the specific details. It also, of course, had a similar impact on our member associations who have had to cancel their regular face to face meetings and operate virtually. It will be interesting to see how things will differ in the post COVID-19 world.

Our Health Policy Committee looked into whether we should put out information or a paper on the virus but decided that there were many organizations better placed than us to do this. Instead their focus had been on putting together something on Elder care. The pandemic has put the spotlight on the appalling conditions at some of our Canadian Elder Care Facilities. This paper is in the final stages of preparation.

We had planned to have a presence and information booth at the CAUT annual meeting, however, it was cancelled and we have settled for providing information for their newsletter. We plan to do something similar with Universities Canada.

We did establish an ad hoc committee on Active Aging chaired by Carole-Lynne Navenec. We also joined a network on Active Aging headquartered in the University of Malibar, Slovenia, headed by Professor Joze Gricar.

We conducted our periodic canvas of nonmedical benefits in our member associations and the results are just now available. There is some interesting reading there and an indication of the

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diversity across our country. I think that there is also some ammunition for those of our members who are attempting to enhance the relationship between their members and their institution.

Our Communications Committee has done its usual excellent job of putting together newsletters and regular email bursts on specific items. In addition, Kent Percival has done a great job of updating our website.

We continue to keep up relationships with our benefit affiliates and in this vein we are negotiating with Economical to renew an agreement with them and we continue to work with Hearing Life to establish an agreement in that area.

Reported by,

Bryan Harvey  
President CURAC

### **REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

Members: Dean Jones (Chair), Judith Henderson and Jacqueline Huck

The committee engaged in a number of activities in the last year.

#### 1. Publications

Three issues of the USRA newsletter were published. There was an exceptional amount and quality of content collected by our editor, Judith Henderson, and contributed by various Board members. Our very active Board yielded lots of material about the USRA and the University and of general interest to our members.

More and more members are accepting their newsletters in electronic form, which is assisting us in reducing our mailing costs. Electronic versions are in colour, which adds a dimension to the material. (Colour printing is costly, so we use black and white for printed versions.)

#### 2. Website

Our website was maintained as needed.

We discovered that it does not turn up in search results conducted with the search on the University website because it is hosted on a server not intended for official University information. The University has set up the framework to allow us to redevelop our website under the University's umbrella with a look and feel similar to the University's and to appear in search results. Our new website will likely appear in October.

#### 3. Other Material of Interest

Material of interest to our members from CURAC and other organizations was distributed as it became available, but only to members with e-mail addresses. Paper mail is deemed too costly.

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### 4. Digitization of Documents

Not specifically an aspect of communications but needs mentioning that our secretary, Jackie Huck, has been digitizing minutes that are not available in electronic form.

I want to thank the hardworking committee members Judith Henderson and Jackie Huck for all their efforts and time this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Jones

## **REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

Members: Brad Steeves (Chair), Hank Classen and Beryl Radcliffe

This year has seen significant challenges in presenting our educational sessions in person but it also has created new opportunities. While several educational sessions were held in person prior to mid-March, the adherence to public health mandated regulations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic put an abrupt stop to our in-person programming. Soon after the provincial guidelines were released, the USRA Executive began to meet virtually using the videoconference/presentation software "Zoom". Discussions led to piloting our educational presentations also using Zoom. At the time of writing this report, we have held 2 presentations using Zoom and the feedback from participants has been very positive. This virtual meeting software has allowed us to accommodate as many participants as wish to attend. It also allows members located outside the Saskatoon area and the province to attend the presentations. Depending on the topic, the existing in-person sessions were reaching or exceeding capacity at Manos.

The committee continues to keep the membership informed by way of newsletter articles and the posting of events on the website.

Below you will find a summary of the activities since October 2019 and those planned until the end of 2020.

### **Educational Sessions October 2019 to March 2020**

Please find below the monthly noon-hour presentations that were held at Manos Restaurant on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019  
Dr. Bill Waiser, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, "In Search of Almighty Voice."
- Wednesday, November 20, 2019  
Jean Goerzen, Executive Director, CHEP Good Food, Inc., "CHEP Good Food Inc."
- Wednesday, January 22, 2020

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Morag Whorton, Trained Professional Organizer, “Decluttering and Downsizing for Seniors”

- Monday, February 10, 2020  
Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote, Black Fox Farm and Distillery “A Spirited Experience: Black Fox Farm and Distillery”

### **Educational Sessions March 2020 to August 2020**

Over several weeks, the USRA Executive discussed and explored opportunities to continue the programming while respecting the national, provincial and civic pandemic regulations. A decision was made to pilot educational sessions using Zoom. It was also decided that pertinent presentations on aspects of the pandemic might be of particular interest to our members. Below are the 2 presentations that were presented using Zoom.

- Wednesday, May 13, 2020  
Dr. Joseph Blondeau, Clinical Microbiologist and Head of Clinical Microbiology at Royal University Hospital, “Coronavirus: COVID-19”
- Wednesday, July 8, 2020  
Dr. Asit Sarkar, Professor Emeritus, Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan, “Shape of the Post COVID-19 Economy: A Not-so-Speculative View”.

### **Educational Sessions September 2020 to December 2020**

Below are the scheduled presentations for the remainder of the year. These presentations will be presented using Zoom. Individual notices will be sent prior to the dates of the presentations so that members can indicate if they wish to participate.

#### **September 16, 2020 11:45 A.M. Sask. Time**

Erika Dyck, Department of History, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

Erika is a Professor in the Department of History and is a Canada Research Chair in the History of Medicine

Title of Presentation: “‘To Fall in Hell or Soar Angelic’: Psychedelic Trials in Saskatchewan in the 1950s”

#### **October 28, 2020, 11:45 A.M. Sask. Time**

Lilian Thorpe MD PhD FRCP, Departments of Psychiatry and Community Health & Epidemiology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Title of Presentation: “Medical Assistance in Dying: Taking a Balanced Approach to a Challenging Addition to End of Life Care”

#### **November 23, 2020, 11:45 A.M. Sask. Time**

Alanna Bailod MD FRCP, Geriatric Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

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Title of Presentation: "Mental Wellness Issues Facing Older Adults"

### **Social Events**

#### **President's Holiday Reception**

On December 13, 2019, President Peter Stoicheff hosted the annual Holiday Reception at the President's Residence. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, as expected, the 2020 Holiday Reception has been cancelled. We look forward to this event in 2021. However, President Stoicheff has agreed to present to the USRA about the impacts of the pandemic on the University of Saskatchewan. Date and time is still being scheduled.

#### **Spring 2020 Barbeque**

Adherence to the public health regulations did not allow us to hold our annual barbeque where we take the opportunity to recognize new retirees and welcome them to join the USRA. We have preliminarily discussed holding a Virtual Welcome session in the upcoming months for the 2020 retirees. Details will be announced at a later date.

#### **Fall Banquet and Awards Celebration 2020**

We have had to cancel this event, which usually coincides with our annual general meeting. While the AGM will proceed via Zoom on September 21, 2020 at 2:00 P.M., the banquet and awards celebration has been cancelled for this year. Plans are underway for the 2021 event where we will recognize awardees for the past 2 years.

### **Other Events**

A tour of Merlis Belsher Place had been scheduled for April 29, 2020 but as for all in-person gatherings this too had to be cancelled. A tour will be rescheduled sometime in the future once it is reopened. As you may know, it is currently being prepared as a Field Hospital in case our city and provincial hospitals reach an over capacity situation due to COVID-19 patients requiring hospitalization.

Collette Travel was planning on presenting to our members the benefits of booking through their travel company. Once it appears travel is safe again and we can meet in person we will invite the group to come to the city to present their travel opportunities.

We have an extensive list of potential speakers for the upcoming year but always welcome suggestions from our members. We always welcome suggestions for tours and other activities or links to information that may be of interest to our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Steeves



## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

### **REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

Members: Judith Henderson (Chair), Dean Jones and Jacqueline Huck

#### **Report on Committee Activities, 2019-2020**

The Membership Committee is responsible for contacting USRA retirees and keeping records of members in an ongoing effort to recruit and retain them. These tasks require timely correspondence about membership dues and updating contact information when necessary for members and for their spouses who inherit their Life Memberships, overseeing payment of annual dues for those who do not take out Life Memberships and, after appropriate reminders, deleting the names of those who continue not to pay or who express a wish to discontinue their memberships. We also make an effort to keep up with obituaries published in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* and with other reports of the deaths of members and to remember them in our USRA Newsletter and at our Annual General Meeting.

The COVID-19 pandemic that closed down the University campus, local businesses, recreational activities, and social events, has had several effects on our Committee's work and no doubt will continue to do so for some time.

#### **Recruitment and Retention of Members**

The cancellation from mid-March of USRA's customary educational, recreational, and social activities and at least temporary closure of our usual venues (Manos Restaurant and the University Club), as well as cancellation of such University celebrations as Convocations and the upcoming President's reception of retirees, have been retarding our recruitment of members through the winter, spring, and summer of 2020. We also were not able to recruit new members through our own June Barbecue and the University's summer picnic in the Bowl for employees. However, the University administration has now circulated to recent retirees our annual letter inviting them to join USRA.

We have also been reluctant to ask those whose memberships have expired to pay dues in these uncertain times. But now that the Communications Committee has published substantial USRA Newsletters in April and September 2020 to keep our members informed and entertained, and USRA's Education, Recreation, and Social Committee has successfully hosted through Zoom two summer talks on health and the economy in the COVID-19 pandemic, and has planned an ongoing "virtual" series of interesting presentations that can be accessed even by members who live far away, we will be contacting our annual members asking them to renew.

At the September 8, 2020, meeting, however, the Board agreed with our proposal to make a concession to recent retirees who joined USRA at some point in 2019 and whose "first free year" memberships therefore expired June 30, 2020, before they had much opportunity to experience USRA's traditional programming.

#### **USRA Annual Dues for 2020-21**

The Board has agreed to the Membership Committee's request not only to offer as usual a "free first year" (to June 30, 2021) to USask employees who retire in the calendar year 2020, but also to extend by one year the truncated "free first year" of our members who retired in 2019. (We have 23 annual 2019-20 memberships and, so far, 3 annual 2020-21.) Neither group will be required to

## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

pay dues before June 30, 2021. This concession is in line with the responses to COVID-19 of many other community and professional organizations that offer annual programming for their members or subscribers but who were forced in 2020 to cancel events. I shall nevertheless provide information to our members who have had the 2019-20 year free that, depending on their age, it may not cost them more to take out a Life Membership now than it would a year from now, as the cost of our Life Memberships decreases not with each additional year of life but in increments of several years.

The same concessions will not be given, however, to our 5 members who have still not paid their dues after their memberships lapsed in June 30, 2018, or our large cohort (34 members, many of them staff laid off or retired in 2018 budget cuts) who have not paid dues since at least June 30, 2019. Those who have annual memberships only up to 2018 or 2019 have already had three or two years free respectively (2017-20 and 2018-2020 counting what may have been their “free first year”).

The 2018 delinquents will be warned one last time that we shall have to remove them from our membership list if they do not pay, and we’ll follow through soon. This has been our customary policy with those who have not renewed annual memberships for at least two years. The 2019 delinquents will now receive a firm reminder, as the 2018 cohort did last year, that they owe and are expected to pay annual dues for 2020-2021 or to purchase a Life Membership now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has actually had one good result for our membership lists in giving the Membership Committee, with enthusiastic help from others, the free time from correspondence with members to search for members with whom over many years we have lost contact as our means of correspondence with them by post, telephone, and email became “undeliverable” or went “out of service.” Our September 2020 USRA Newsletter has described the efforts of the Membership/Communication Committee members (the same three musketeers: Dean, Jacqueline, and Judith) to find members that had gone “missing.” The result is that we were able to find contact information (sometimes, for the most elderly, through a family member) for all but two of these “lost” members who are still living, and we believe through organizations in which they have been active that they are still in the Saskatoon area, so we hope make contact with them: Marigold Cribb and Orest Fosty. We have also found obituaries or other records of the deaths of 13 of these “lost members.” Although we do have a few new members, our membership count has gone down in 2020 rather than up as a result of impediments to recruitment during the pandemic and our systematic revision of our membership database. But it is more comfortable now to have a firm number of 419 USRA members, including 354 Life Members, than to see many blank spaces on our Excel membership database in the columns where our members’ contact information is normally recorded.

After answering any questions that the meeting raises about membership, I shall conclude this report by reading the names of those about whose deaths we have learned since the 2019 Annual General Meeting. Then I shall call for a moment of silence to remember them.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Henderson

## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

### MEMBERS NO LONGER WITH US

We have learned of the deaths of the following members since our report at the 2019 Annual General Meeting. The memorial list of 33 names below includes 13 whose obituaries or other evidence of death we discovered in our search for members with whom we had lost contact, most of whom were listed without a current address, telephone number, or email address on our membership database. For additional information about these deceased members, please consult our November 2019, April 2020 and September 2020 newsletters, which are accessible under Publications on our website (<https://usra.usask.ca>).

**Helen Edith (née Perkin) Card** (March 3, 1939 – May 5, 2020)

**Garry Drabble** (September 10, 1940 – July 8, 2019)

**James G. C. Ellis** (April 19, 1925 – June 13, 2014)

**Leila Maud Ewing** (March 24, 1927 – January 23, 2020)

**Norma Joy Fulton** (October 30, 1931 – August 7, 2020)

**Joyce (née Greenhalgh) Gibson** (July 27, 1921 – April 2, 2014)

**Dudley A. Goddard** (May 9, 1926 – June 12, 2016)

**Dolores (née Glop) Gradish Hayden** (June 13, 1935 - November 23, 2019)

**Dale Hills** (d. August 27, 2019, age 75)

**Elizabeth (née Harvey) Holmes** (d. December 26, 2016, age 92)

**Harold Kelm** (May 13, 1933 – June 4, 2012)

**Frederick F. Langford** (d. January 24, 2015)

**Patricia A. Lawson** (November 18, 1929 – October 10, 2019)

**John McLeod** (February 26, 1925 – August 20, 2020)

**Rita McMurray** (March 31, 1924 – January 3, 2015)

**Zorica Milin** (September 26, 1926 – February 24, 2020)

**Patsy (née Quinn) Mills** (September 15, 1925 – December 19, 2017)

**Earl Ostlund** (December 1, 1920 – February 15, 2020)

**Jacqueline M. E. (née Dauban) Owen** (April 1, 1928 – June 20, 2020)

**Sultana Qureshi** (April 4, 1951 – July 2, 2020)

**Vernon James Racz** (September 23, 1945 – October 19, 2019)

**William Bernard Reed** (d. March 16, 2004, age 74)

## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

**Violet (née Newton) Reynolds** (May 20, 1930 - April 16, 2020)

**Gerald Sankey** (October 28, 1918 – January 31, 2016)

**Gladys Maud Sankey** (April 6, 1920 – July 24, 2017)

**H. Bruno Schiefer** (August 25, 1929 – July 21, 2020)

**Edward H. Scissons** (August 29, 1946 – October 5, 2019)

**William Edward Sinnett** (June 21, 1939 – April 20, 2020)

**Edward Stanek** (October 13, 1927 – March 24, 2013)

**Michael Evan Stoneham** (February 2, 1933 – February 6, 2020)

**Anna Tresher** (December 3, 1922 – July 6, 2020)

**Edward Wesley Underhill** (January 28, 1931 – November 22, 2019)

**Avra Peter Ginieres Watson** (1922 – May 2014)

### **REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

Members: Rick Bunt (Chair), Bryan Harvey, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Jim Thornhill and Tom Wilson

The work of the Engagement Committee over this past year was frustrated by two significant events: the onset of COVID-19 and the departure of our prime contact with the University. Through February we had been making good progress on a number of fronts. Since then there has been little or no progress at all.

Our discussions over the past year focused primarily on three projects:

1. The reinstatement of the annual Retirement Banquet (last held in 2015);
2. Simplifying the process by which the University reimburses the Association for its operating expenses; and
3. The development of a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the University.

It is my intention to present an oral update on the progress of each of these at the Annual General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Bunt

## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

### **REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FUTURE PRIORITIES OF THE USRA 2019-2020**

Members: Jim Thornhill (Chair), Rick Bunt, Hank Classen, Brad Steeves, Mary Dykes and Merry Beazely

The USRA Ad Hoc Planning Committee was established to determine the future priorities of the USRA. Members of the committee include Jim Thornhill, Chair, Rick Bunt, Brad Steeves, Mary Dykes, Hank Classen and Merry Beazely (ex officio). As the membership of USRA is becoming larger and more diverse over the last several years, it was decided that a survey questionnaire be established for both current and future retirees to determine how the USRA could best serve the needs and aspirations of the whole membership. The USRA, through the survey, is asking the membership how it can improve its service through changes in its existing variety of social and educational programs and events or through other suggestions they have. The University of Saskatchewan Alumni Relations Office is USRA's primary link with the University and is enthusiastic to support the relationship of USRA members with the institution. The Alumni Relations team has provided enthusiastic support to the Ad Hoc Committee to help us in establishing two survey questionnaires for current and future retirees and with their future analysis and presentation. The Ad Hoc Committee along with the alumni relations team has developed the first questionnaire for the current retirees and will be sending that first survey out to the whole membership within the next month. The data from this voluntary survey will be kept confidential. The results of the survey will help the USRA tremendously in planning the future priorities of USRA. The second survey for future members is being completed and will be sent out in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

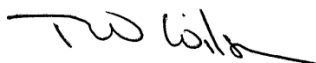
Jim Thornhill

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES 2019-2020**

Members: Thomas Wilson (Chair), Beryl Radcliffe and Asit Sarkar

We sent two new names to the University Secretary by February 1, 2020. We hope to submit one name in September. We updated information on our two previously suggested names. We understand that they will remain possible awardees for three years.

Respectfully submitted,



### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2019-2020**

Members: Tom Wilson (Chair), Judith Henderson and Bryan Harvey

USRA's Annual General Meeting is planned for Monday, September 21, via Zoom videoconference.

## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

In preparation for the election at this AGM, the Nomination Committee here presents to the membership the following slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for the 2020-2021 academic year (one-year terms). The current members of the Nominations Committee are Past Presidents Tom Wilson (Chair), Judith Henderson and Bryan Harvey.

### **Election Slate:**

President	Brad Steeves
Vice-President	Jim Thornhill
Secretary	Jacqueline Huck
Treasurer	Tom Wilson
Immediate Past President	Merry Beazely
Members-at-Large:	Rick Bunt, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, Dean Jones, Ioannis (Yannis) Pahatourogrou, Beryl Radcliffe.

Brad Steeves has served in 2019-20 as Vice-President and has been a model of good sense and efficiency in chairing the Education, Social and Recreation Committee. Customarily, the Vice-President becomes the next President of the Association. Our current President, Merry Beazely, will become in 2020-21, ex officio, the Immediate Past President. Jacqueline Huck has agreed to stand for re-election as our very capable Secretary, a key role in our Executive meetings and our communications with members. Our current Immediate Past President, Tom Wilson, has agreed to stand for Treasurer, a position to which Registrar Emeritus Ken Smith agreed to return as a temporary replacement when Michael Brockbank resigned recently. We thank Michael for his service as Treasurer and his stalwart and well-informed efforts to reactivate the representation of USask retirees by observers on pension committees after USNARA dissolved and its members joined USRA. The continuation by USRA of the USNARA Pension Committee unfortunately has proved to be impossible in the current University climate. We are most grateful to Ken (who has previously served 12 years as USRA Treasurer) for shouldering that workload yet again when we needed his help after Michael's mid-term resignation.

The nominees for Offices and Members-at Large have all served on the USRA Board for at least one year. Mary Dykes, a former USNARA Board member and newsletter editor, in 2017 joined the USRA Board as well to help guide the amalgamation of the two USask Retirees Associations that was officially accomplished in 2018. We are delighted that she has agreed to return to the USRA Board.

For more information about the history of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association and its predecessors, including USNARA (University of Saskatchewan Nonacademic Retirees Association), see the April 2020 newsletter "USRA Past and Present" by President Merry Beazely.

Please note that the election at the AGM will be by acclamation unless further nominations, each signed by three members of the Association, are received by the USRA Secretary at least 15 days prior to that meeting. See USRA's By-Laws (Section 10) on the USRA website (under About-USRA/Bylaws) for procedures allowing Ordinary Members of the Association to submit nominations of additional candidate(s) to the USRA Secretary. Contact information for the USRA can be found on the back of the April 2020 newsletter.

## 2020 USRA Annual General Meeting Committee Reports

The Nominations Committee hopes to see a good turn-out of USRA Members at the Annual General Meeting on September 21. Details of the AGM and Banquet or, if necessary, alternative arrangements, will be announced closer to the planned meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilson