

**University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.
Western Development Museum**

Present: Ordinary Members: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill (Co-Chairs), Denise Beaulieu, Jim Blackburn, Stella Blackshaw, Rick Bunt, Bob Card, Sandra Cey, Susan Cook, Caroline Cottrell, Alan Deschner, Mary Dykes, Freda Elash, Fern Fitzharris, Bryan Harvey, Eileen Harvey, Doris Hasell, Judith Henderson, Mel Hosain, Jacqueline Huck (Recorder), Gordon Johnson, Earle Newton, Bev Pain, Jeff Park, Vera Pezer, Beryl Radcliffe, Nigel Rawson, Fred Rémillard, Joan Sawatzky, Murray Scharf, Rick Schwier, Ken Smith, Doug Thorpe, Kathryn Warden, Tom Wilson and Carla Zorn.

Associate Members: Karin Schwier, Karen Smith, Susan Whiting and Merne Wilson.

Guest: Ana Maldonado.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. Jim Thornhill stated that he will chair items 1 through 6 and Merry Beazely will chair items 7 through 11. Guidelines for the meeting were reviewed – motions require a mover and seconder (when moving or seconding a motion, please provide your name), with discussion, the vote call and all votes are recorded (e.g., in favor, against, abstained).

Bryan Harvey will serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Mel Hosain and seconded by Murray Scharf that the agenda be approved. Unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2022

Fred Rémillard requested an update on any discussion regarding the USRA mandate and review of the number of committees USRA Board members are involved in. Jim Thornhill reported this will be discussed at a strategic planning review to be scheduled and will also be brought up with ongoing discussions with Marcy Hildebrand, who is our primary conduit to the University.

Moved by Jim Blackburn and seconded by Rick Schwier that the minutes of November 16, 2022 be approved. Unanimous.

4. Co-President's Report

Jim Thornhill presented the attached Co-President's Report and highlighted the following –

- welcomed new Board members, Kathryn Warden and Dennis Lanigan
- participated in the following activities over the past year -Employee Appreciation Picnic and year-end windup in June; Remembrance Day Service and laying a wreath on behalf of the membership; the prospective faculty retiree event; and the President's Holiday Reception hosted by President Stoicheff and Kathryn Warden in December

- CURAC Conference was held in May 31-June 2 with USRA hosting the event; thanked David Mandeville for serving as photographer
- members were invited to the official launch of the USask “Be What the World Needs” event at Merlis Belsher Place
- Ana Maldonado, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator hired by University Relations and will provide .40 FTE administrative support
- started work on the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 18 and hopefully the write-up of the document will be completed by December
- encouraged members to submit ideas for newsletter articles, nominations for USRA Board and Honorary Degree awards
- thanked Board members for their input and support, notably Caroline Cottrell and the Education, Social and Recreation Committee for their work over the past year.

Moved by Ken Smith and seconded by Doris Hasell that the President’s Report be accepted. Unanimous.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Tom Wilson presented his 2022-2023 report (attached) noting the following –

- financial position continues to be stable; total assets \$53,325.99 with no cash liabilities
- reviewed revenue and expenses for fiscal years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and projections for 2023-2024
- budget projections for 2023-2024
 - 2024 CURAC Conference to be hosted by University of Waterloo and have allowed \$2,500 for USRA representative’s travel and expenses
 - new retirees’ attendance factored in for June BBQ.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Alan Deschner that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. Unanimous.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Caroline Cottrell that no financial audit be conducted. Unanimous.

6. Standing Committee Reports

(a) Awards

Merry Beazely presented the attached committee report noting the following –

- Celebration Banquet held in June 2022 acknowledging the achievements of the 2020 and 2021 award recipients
- USRA awards deadline has been extended to early spring 2024 with an event to be planned for the spring or fall; announcement of awards to USask departments and units was placed in the YOU|Sask Faculty and Staff Newsletter
- a new award entitled “ohpahotân/oohpahootaan - let’s fly up together” was approved by the Board in June 2023.

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

Bryan Harvey presented his report (attached) on CURAC activities –

- CURAC's prime activity was the face-to-face conference hosted by the USRA
- acknowledged Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and volunteers who supported the conference
- 2024 CURAC Conference will be hosted by the University of Waterloo.

(c) Communication

Mary Dykes presented the committee report (attached) noting the following –

- Newsletters and Flyers
 - three newsletters and one spring tour flyer were published this past year
 - thanked the authors who contributed to the newsletter and Board members who helped review our newsletter and flyers before distribution
 - Ana Maldonado will assist the committee with the newsletter and flyer communications to members.
- Website
 - continue to use USask Cascade to maintain and update our website
 - Ana successfully completed the online training course and will be updating the website.
- University Communications
 - thanks to Kathryn Warden, all members have access to two USask publications - Discovery Digest and YOU|Sask Faculty and Staff newsletter.
- Policy Update
 - changes to the Communication Committee's role were approved by the Board in May; included in the Policies and Procedures document on the website; this will draw attention to events of interest to retirees.

(d) Education, Social and Recreation

Caroline Cottrell presented the attached committee report and noted the following –

- Educational Presentations
 - 8 presentations were given during the 2022-2023 period and held at the Western Development Museum
 - presentations in the fall of 2023 will be held on September 12 and November 14; no presentation in October but members are encouraged to attend the SCOA Spotlight on Seniors Tradeshow on October 11.
- Social Events
 - the Year-end event was held on June 22 at Louis' Loft and welcomed new USask retirees.

Caroline encouraged members to submit ideas to her (csc124@mail.usask.ca) for any learning opportunities, social events or speakers.

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

Beryl Radcliffe presented the attached committee report and noted the following –

- Report on Committee Activities
 - outlined the responsibilities of the Membership Committee
 - continue to keep up with obituaries of members published in newspapers and reports, and to remember them in our newsletters and at the AGM
 - USRA had an information table at the Employee Appreciation Picnic held in June and will be participating in the SCOA Spotlight on Seniors Tradeshow in October 2023
 - membership renewals were sent out in June by Ana Maldonado with a good response received
 - at the time of writing the report, our membership was 403 members, of which 372 are life members.

Judith Henderson read out the 12 names of members who have passed away during the past year and a moment of silence was observed in remembrance.

(f) Engagement

Rick Bunt presented the attached report and noted the following –

- current MOU is in the final year; writing of the new MOU should be completed by December 2023
- Rick, along with Jim Thornhill, held productive meetings with the University's senior leadership, including Dr. Airini, Ms. Cheryl Hamelin and Dr. Mary Buhr; part-time administrative support was secured (Ana Maldonado) and a well-attended information session for faculty members who are looking ahead to retirement; Rick, Jim and Merry attended and spoke about retirement and the USRA
- committee worked with campus units "to make them more aware that retirees are part of the community they serve and to adjust practices that affect our community."

(g) Honorary Degrees

Tom Wilson presented the attached report and noted the following –

- no new names were submitted to the University Secretary this year
- USRA nominee, Dr. André Poilievre, will be awarded a Doctor of Laws degree on November 8, 2023 for his lifetime of contributions to the community.

(h) Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Heritage

In the absence of Yannis Pahatouroglou, Kathryn presented the attached committee report and noted the following –

- thanked Yannis for his tireless leadership of the committee
- there is an interest by the University in heritage buildings on campus but finances are a challenge
- looking at "orphan collections of artifacts and samples on campus in order to solicit input and identify needs that USask could potentially choose to respond to"

- a meeting is being planned in the fall for a working group to further discuss the future of the Stone Barn; Yannis or a committee member will be invited to attend.

Moved by Judith Henderson and seconded by Fred Rémillard that the committee reports be accepted. Unanimous.

7. New Business

(a) Administrative Support for USRA

Merry Beazely thanked Ana Maldonado for her support at the CURAC Conference held May 31 to June 2 on the University of Saskatchewan campus. Currently look at priorities for Ana to be involved in. Caroline Cottrell is the USRA point person for requests for Ana's time.

(b) New USRA Award

See item 6a. report for information on the new award.

(c) Engagement Plan Development with University Relations

See item 6f. report for information on the above. An ad hoc group has been formed to look at this.

8. Report of Nominations Committee

Jim Thornhill presented the attached Nomination Report. New members nominated to the Board for 2023-2024 are Bob Card, David Mandeville and Vera Pezer. Write-ups on Bob, David and Vera are included in the report.

Jim noted that Merry Beazely and himself have agreed to share the presidential duties for one final year.

He expressed thanks to Rick Bunt, Mary Dykes and Dennis Lanigan for their contributions to USRA during their terms on the Board.

Moved by Mel Hosain and seconded by Judith Henderson that the committee report be accepted. Unanimous.

9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2023-2024

Co-Presidents	Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill
Vice-President	Caroline Cottrell
Secretary	Jacqueline Huck
Treasurer	Tom Wilson
Immediate Past President	Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely, Co-Presidents
Members-at-Large	Bob Card, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, David Mandeville, Yannis Pahatouoglou, Vera Pezer, Beryl Radcliffe and Kathryn Warden.

Moved by Fred Rémillard and seconded by Ken Smith that the slate of officers for 2023-2024 be elected. Unanimous.

10. Other Business

Mel Hosain raised the question of pension funds being depleted. Jim reported that this had been discussed at the Board level and Yannis Pahatouroglou has contacted the Pension Office regarding this. If you have questions regarding your pension plan, please contact the Pension Office (306-966-6633, e-mail pension@usask.ca).

Jim raised the question regarding whether there are any other activities that the Board should consider being involved in. Please let us know via ss.usra@usask.ca.

11. Adjournment

Murray Scharf moved the meeting be adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

DRAFT

**University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association
Treasurer's Report for 2022-2023**

ASSETS:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023
Cash	\$ 7,008.82	\$ 3,605.75	\$ 8,534.67
TDs	\$ 39,477.78	\$ 43,054.71	\$ 44,786.32
membership	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
TOTAL	\$ 46,491.60	\$ 46,665.46	\$ 53,325.99

The table to the left shows our assets for 2022-2023. We had no financial liabilities as of June 30. The significant increase in 2022-2023 was due to a grant from USask (\$5,000) and sponsorships (\$3,500) for CURAC 2023. We

will have bills to pay in July and August, but we hope to achieve a small profit.

Revenue and expenses for the fiscal year are summarized on the following page.

REVENUE:

Total revenue is much higher than expected due to the infusion of cash for CURAC 2023, from President Peter's Office and our share of sponsorship donations. These funds will be depleted when we have all the invoices for CURAC 2023, the Annual Meeting we hosted May 31-June 2. We expensed most purchases, as well as registration and banquet revenue, to our CFOAPAL account. We're working with the President's office to complete these transactions. We expect a modest profit which we will share 50/50 with CURAC.

This year I added a line for luncheon ticket revenue and a line to **Expenses** for luncheon costs. In previous years when we met at Mano's, these lines were unnecessary. We now charge attendees a set fee, and then pay the bill of the Western Development Museum. We order a "middle of the road" valued meal, but must add tip, taxes and room rental. Our organization absorbs a deficit of \$100-200 for each lunch.

Our interest income appears much higher than expected. This reflects a change in accounting. I have elected to show the interest at term for our 9 Term Deposits. These are all 1 year, non-redeemable at an average interest rate of 3.47%, much higher than previous years. As long as our investment income does not exceed \$10,000 Canada Revenue will not charge income tax. I believe that USRA has never filed a tax return, as we are an "informal" not-for-profit entity.

Both Annual and Lifetime memberships exceeded our expectations. Kudos to our Membership Committee.

Note that USask has not yet paid for new retirees and guests attending the Spring event BBQ. Previously, we did receive funding for new retirees (in lieu of the Retirees Banquet). Our Engagement Committee is negotiating this plus a modest increase in our annual grant.

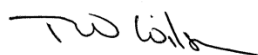
EXPENSES:

Our biggest expense is luncheon costs which is offset largely by revenue. Printing and postage of the newsletter remain significant costs. We are working on the final tally for CURAC 2023 and will likely recoup expenses.

REVENUE	2021-2022 actual	Budget 2022-2023	2022-2023 actual	Budget 2023-2024
Usask Grant	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Usask New Retirees Event	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Annual memberships	\$ 140.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 460.00	\$ 300.00
Lifetime memberships	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,830.00	\$ 950.00
luncheon tickets		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00
CURAC rebate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 296.77	\$ 200.00
Interest	\$ 187.50	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,733.22	\$ 1,500.00
Spring event tickets	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 1,400.00
Fall event tickets	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 885.00	\$ 900.00
Miscellaneous revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CURAC sponsors			\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
Usask grant for CURAC 2023			\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 8,677.50	\$ 13,530.00	\$ 24,469.99	\$ 15,250.00
EXPENSES				
Spring event total	\$ 3,859.57	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,042.88	\$ 2,300.00
Fall event total	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,177.38	\$ 1,800.00
Award costs and meals	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,014.70	\$ 1,100.00
Luncheon costs		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,094.32	\$ 6,100.00
Promotion	\$ 49.01	\$ 300.00	\$ 156.93	\$ 200.00
Printing	\$ 1,295.59	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 982.13	\$ 1,000.00
CURAC dues	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Speakers gifts	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 346.29	\$ 600.00
Remembrance day	\$ 75.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
CURAC travel	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Postage	\$ 1,164.38	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,022.19	\$ 1,100.00
Office supplies (computer,)	\$ 1,076.97	\$ 50.00	\$ 202.17	\$ 200.00
Bank fees	\$ 26.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 70.00
Miscellaneous expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,211.70	\$ 1,000.00
CURAC 2023 expenses			\$ 1,437.29	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 8,806.52	\$ 17,240.00	\$ 16,145.98	\$ 18,360.00
NET	\$ (129.02)	\$ (3,710.00)	\$ 8,324.01	\$ (3,110.00)

BUDGET 2023-2024:

This column reflects my "best guesses" for revenue and expenses. The 2024 CURAC convention is in Waterloo, ON. I presume one member may be attending.



Respectfully submitted,
T.W. Wilson, MD, FRCPC
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS 2022-2023

At the November 16, 2022 AGM, Board members and committees reported on their activities and initiatives during the past year. We bid farewell to **Rick Schwier**, who lent his expertise and good humour to our 2021-2022 team. We extended a warm welcome to **Kathryn Warden and Dennis Lanigan**, who have shared their knowledge and skills with the Board this past year. Both former Presidents, Jim and Merry agreed to share the **President's position** for the coming year. Thank you to all the **USRA members** for attending the AGM and asking excellent, and some probing, questions. We look forward to seeing you on September 12!

In November, as we have for years, we were honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the USRA at the University's **Remembrance Day Service**. Our social season began in December, with the **President's Holiday Reception**, hosted by President Peter Stoicheff and his partner Kathryn Warden, at the President's Residence. Many thanks to Peter and Kathryn for hosting and to the University staff, who always serve good cheer. In the months to come, we enjoyed hearing from **excellent speakers** combined with tasty lunches at the Western Development Museum.

Late last fall, the national association of retiree associations, CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada), was searching for a home for its national annual conference – to be the first in-person event in three years. With Bryan Harvey's dedication to CURAC and his excellent leadership, a generous grant from the President's Office and support of University Relations, the USRA agreed to host the **2023 CURAC/ARUCC Conference**. A Local Organizing Committee was formed with Bryan as Chair, Merry, Eileen Harvey, Tom Wilson, Murray Scharf and Rick Schwier. A very successful event was held May 31-June 2, 2023, with first-rate speakers, CURAC's 20th Anniversary celebration and delegates from across the country. We had much appreciated help from volunteers on the Board and USRA members attending. Our thanks to new member David Mandeville, who served as our "official photographer."

In April, USRA members were invited to a very festive Merlis Belsher Place, to be a part of the official launch of the **Be What the World Needs** campaign for the University of Saskatchewan – an initiative to enhance USask's impact locally, nationally and globally, addressing the world's most complex issues. For more information, see <http://give.usask.ca>.

Starting in May, the work of Board members has been both reduced and enhanced, through the assistance of **Ana Maldonado, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator** from the Alumni and External Relations team. This new position was created following productive discussions that Jim and Rick Bunt had with Provost Airini. She enabled the creation of this position to provide administrative support to the USRA .4FTE and .6FTE to the Alumni and External Relations team, for a two-year term with the possibility of renewal.

This support resulted directly from the work of USRA representatives Rick Bunt and Jim Thornhill on the Coordinating Committee for the USRA's **Memorandum of Understanding** with the University, signed in 2021 for a three-year term. This 'over-arching' agreement acknowledges the University "welcomes the continued participation of retirees and agrees to promote and support their continued scholarly, creative, professional or volunteer activities." Jim and Rick, and Marcy Hildebrand and Dara Hrytzak representing the University, are in the process of renewing the MOU for another three years. There continues to be questions that we need to sort out, notably benefits for retirees from the University (e.g., IT support), reinstating the University retirees' celebration and University promotional support of our activities for current and future retirees.

We take all the opportunities we can to participate in University activities. This past year, Jim, Rick and Merry were invited to speak about the USRA at a presentation for **prospective faculty retirees**. We hope that the University will continue such events and expand the reach to support staff. At this summer's **Employee Appreciation Picnic**, we talked to many young employees but also close-to-retirement folks and answered their questions about the Association. Speaking of new retirees, we were pleased to invite them to our **June Summer Solstice BBQ**. We took the opportunity to survey the group, asking new retirees to name one thing

they would like our Association to do for them. We asked current members how best the USRA can engage with them. We received excellent feedback that the Board will review/pursue in the year ahead.

We have a special section in our newsletters congratulating USRA members who have received provincial and international awards, including USRA awards. We encourage you to submit nominations for our **USRA awards** and we welcome suggestions for **Honorary Doctorate** degrees. The Alumni and External Engagement team is most willing to provide support nominating USask alumni for **Alumni Achievement Awards**. Please also see the **Members No Longer With Us** articles that enable us to read and reflect fondly on departed friends and colleagues.

Our/your committee members work hard to achieve USRA goals, and we extend sincere thanks to them. And as always, please send us your ideas, comments and questions by e-mail to ss.usra@usask.ca, phone 306-966-6618 or post. We wish you a healthy and happy autumn, and new year ahead.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely, Co-Presidents

REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Members: Merry Beazely (Chair), Bryan Harvey and Judith Henderson

New USRA Award Created

- **New award:** at a Special meeting in June 2023, the Board unanimously agreed to create the “*ohpahotân/oohpaahotaan - let’s fly up together*” **USRA Award**. The award celebrates a USask individual retiree, or pair or group that includes one or more of our retirees, whose meaningful and significant efforts significantly advance one or more commitments of the *ohpahotân/oohpaahotaan - let’s fly up together Indigenous Strategy*. The strategy was gifted to the University in 2020, on behalf of Indigenous Peoples, and is now companion to the *University Plan 2025*.
- **History:** the award came about due to the insight and foresight of USRA Vice President Caroline Cottrell and the Ad Hoc Committee, including Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Kathryn Warden and Jim Thornhill, and with input from Beryl Radcliffe and former Board member Rick Schwier. There was consultation with Indigenous leadership on campus, and reflection on valuable readings and resources, including *Indigenizing Academia* from *USask Teaching and Learning*.
- **Nominations:** we plan to announce the award to the University community in September and call for nominations in the New Year.
- **Selection:** an ad hoc selection panel, made up of the USRA Awards Committee plus members of the Indigenous community, who are determined in consultation with Indigenous campus leaders, will advise the USRA Awards Committee on selection of the recipient(s). We are looking forward to presenting the first award at the fall 2024 Awards Ceremony.

USRA Awards

We encourage USRA members and friends to nominate worthy candidates who have retired from the University. It is not required that nominees be USRA members. The Awards Committee will be happy to assist in the nomination process. For full information, please see <https://usra.usask.ca/awards.php>.

- **The Continuing Contribution Award** recognizes retirees who continue to make research, scholarly, artistic or service contributions at an exceptional level.
- **The Prime of Life Achievement Award** honours those who, after their retirement, have been recognized for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions by international, national, provincial or local bodies.
- **The “ohpahotân/oohpaahotaan - let’s fly up together” USRA Award** is described above.

- **The Duff Spafford Award** recognizes a USask retiree based on total contribution made to the University community over the retiree's employment with the University, including those during student years if the candidate is an alumnus.
- **The Honorary Life Award** recognizes USRA members who have made a significant contribution over a long period to the USRA and USask community, as nominated by the Board.

USRA Award Ceremonies

- USRA Awards ceremonies have traditionally been held in the fall, in conjunction with the AGM, and with the awards nomination deadline being June 30.
- In June 2022, rather than Fall 2022, the USRA celebrated the award recipients for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22, as it was not possible to congratulate them in person during the pandemic.
- The Awards Ceremony will be planned again for Spring 2024 in conjunction with another USRA event. The nomination deadline will be early in the new year. No awards were made in 2022-23.

Promotion of USRA Awards

- Opportunities to promote our awards include requests to you, the membership, submissions in the YOUSask weekly newsletter for employees, e-mail distribution to department and unit heads on campus and, for the new award, with Indigenous organizations associated with USask as well.

Thanks are extended to Bryan and Judy for their work and wise guidance on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Beazely, Chair

REPORT OF THE CURAC REPRESENTATIVE 2022-2023

The biggest news from CURAC this year was the holding of the annual conference in Saskatoon. This was the first face-to-face conference post COVID. Delegates from across Canada were well housed, well fed, well entertained and well informed. This was due to the sterling efforts of the LOC Merry Beazely, Eileen Harvey, Murray Scharf, Tom Wilson and Ana Maldonado. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who assisted with a number of vital chores. Details of the program can be accessed either on the USRA or CURAC websites.

Reported by,

Bryan Harvey

REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Members: Mary Dykes (Chair), Judith Henderson, Jacqueline Huck and Kathryn Warden

Newsletters and Flyers

Three newsletters were distributed to members in December 2022, March 2023, and August 2023. A spring flyer was distributed in May inviting members to the June 22nd Wind-up Event where we also welcomed new retirees.

The August newsletter was compiled by Ana Maldonado who will now assist the Committee with newsletter and flyer communications to members.

The Committee thanks the authors who have contributed interesting and informative articles and the Board members who have helped review our newsletters and flyers before distribution.

Website

USRA continues to use the USask Cascade system to maintain and update our website at <https://usra.usask.ca/>. After her successful completion in July of the online training course to become a Cascade web editor, Ana Maldonado began updating the website.

University Communications

All retirees were allowed access through PAWS to the Retirement Channel in 2022. This year, Kathryn Warden initiated and facilitated access and distribution of two USask publications for USRA members:

- Discovery Digest, a compilation of research and news stories
- YOUSask, a newsletter distributed to current employees including news and events

Policy Update

The USRA Board approved in May additions to the Policies and Procedures for the Communication Committee to address the following:

- Events sponsored by sister retiree organizations
- Events involving USRA members
- Communications about non-member University retirees

See Policies and Procedures in our [Governance Documents](#).

Farewell from Mary

As I step down from the Board, I wish to thank Jackie, Kathryn and Judith for all your hard work on this committee. It is not a small task we do communicating with our four audiences: current members, future retirees, the University community, and our sister organizations. While the bulk of our communications is online, we continue to use print in order to reach many of our older members who don't have home access to the Internet. I wish the incoming committee, with the able assistance of Ana Maldonado, every success in continuing this important work.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Dykes, Chair

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Members: Caroline Cottrell (Chair), Merry Beazely, Mary Dykes, Beryl Radcliffe and Jim Thornhill

From the fall of 2022 to the late spring of 2023 the USRA hosted a variety of very well-received presentations from an eclectic group of engaging speakers including Jeff O'Brien (City Archivist), Shannon Chinn (Husky Athletics), Jennifer Bond (CURAC's Collette Travel representative), Tom Wilson (retired, College of Medicine), Joseph Naytowhow (Indigenous Knowledge Keeper), John Courtney (retired, Department of Political Studies), Alec Aitken (Department of Geography) and Dean McNeill (Department of Music). All presentations occurred at the Western Development Museum which provides us with a very tasty lunch and has ample free parking. We capped off the year with a bash at the Loft in the Memorial Union Building by way of welcoming new members and wishing everyone who attended a very happy summer.

Coming up in the fall of 2023, on September 12th, we will once again have Jeff O'Brien come to talk about Saskatoon during the hard years of World War One and on November 14th Patrick Hayes (retired, University Archives) will join us to talk about heritage buildings on our lovely campus. On October 11th, we are invited to attend Spotlight on Seniors at TCU place, put on by the Saskatoon Council on Aging.

The USRA remains deeply committed to the social well-being of its members and encourages anyone with an idea for a learning opportunity, social event, or speaker to get in touch.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Cottrell, Chair, on behalf of the Committee

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Members: Beryl Radcliffe (Chair), Judith Henderson and Jacqueline Huck

Report on Committee Activities

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 Star Phoenix and with other reports of the deaths of members and to remember them in our USRA Newsletter and at our Annual General Meeting.

All receptions and meetings were resumed in person. We had an information table at the University Employee Appreciation Picnic where the USRA members had recruitment information, pens and of course, Timbits. We also enjoyed a good meal and turnout for the June Barbeque where recent retirees were provided a complementary meal and new members were recruited. A few USRA members attended the Saskatoon Council on Aging Symposium at the TCU Place and we have plans to have a USRA information table at the Symposium in 2023.

The University administration has agreed again this year to circulate our annual letter inviting recent retirees to join USRA.

This year the USRA was happy to have the addition of the administrative support of Ana Maldonado. Ana sent out the reminder letters and there was a good response. Early renewals are welcome and the membership will be extended accordingly. At present we have 403 members, of which 372 are Life members. Two years ago we added the convenience of e-transfer for payment of fees and we will continue that this year. Transfers can be sent to wilsontw1985@gmail.com.

USRA Annual Dues for 2023-2024

The USRA continues to offer retirees a free one-year membership in their first year of retirement. After that year the membership fees are as follows:

Annual Membership: \$20

Life Membership:

<60 years \$200

60-64 \$180

65-69 \$160

70-74 \$130

75-79 \$100

80+ \$ 70

After answering any questions that the meeting raises about membership, I shall conclude this report by having the names read of those about whose deaths we have learned since the 2022 Annual General Meeting. Then we shall call for a moment of silence to remember them.

Respectfully submitted,

Beryl Radcliffe, Chair

MEMBERS NO LONGER WITH US

We have learned of the deaths of the following members since our report at the November 16, 2022 Annual General Meeting. For additional information about these deceased members, please consult our December 2022, March 2023 and August 2023 newsletters, which are accessible under Publications on our website: ss.usra@usask.ca

Moishe Black (January 23, 1931-November 24, 2022)

Dennis John Dibski (July 8, 1932-August 14, 2023)

Leonard (Len) Murray Findlay (December 14, 1944-May 25, 2023)

Lawrence (Larry) Fowke (June 6, 1941-December 13, 2022)

Ishwar Chand Gupta (December 29, 1930-April 1, 2023)

Kathleen (Kay) Lillian Johnstone (April 27, 1927-November 20, 2022)

William (Bill) Phillip Lampman (February 18, 1920-December 1, 2022)

Victor Allan Laxdal (passed away on May 7, 2023)

Carol Morrell (December 11, 1944-November 30, 2022)

Verna Nettie Rielkoff (July 1, 1944-February 28, 2023)

Carol Teed (December 23, 1927-April 17, 2023)

Guy Tourigny (August 22, 1936-February 7, 2023)

REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Members: Rick Bunt (Chair), Bryan Harvey, Yannis Pahatouoglou and Jim Thornhill

The Engagement Committee's mandate is to strengthen the USRA's relationship with the University in order to benefit both the University and USRA members. This is facilitated through the implementation and ongoing continuance of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University and other initiatives as appropriate. This past year's work focused on addressing various provisions in the MOU, now in its third year, and preparing for its renewal.

Co-President Jim Thornhill and Committee Chair Rick Bunt represented both the Engagement Committee and the USRA at a series of very productive meetings with representatives of the University's senior leadership, including Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Cheryl Hamelin, Vice-President University Relations, and Mary Buhr, Acting Vice-Provost Faculty Relations. Through these meetings the University continued to demonstrate that it values the participation of retirees in campus life and that it appreciates the work of the USRA as the official liaison between the University and its retirees. Among the initiatives that resulted from these meetings were University funding for a part-time USRA support person and a well-attended information session for faculty members who are looking ahead to retirement.

The Engagement Committee also works with campus units to make them more aware that retirees are part of the community they serve and to adjust practices that affect our community. Culture has a big impact on practice and this continues to affect how we are served. Changing culture is challenging but we are confident that we are seeing progress. This year much attention was focused on ICT, a unit that has been going through a number of significant changes that impact services to retirees. We are optimistic that we can look forward to exciting new developments in the months ahead.

We will be meeting with the University representatives on a regular basis throughout the fall to develop the next MOU, which we anticipate will be ready for signing by year's end. Since the MOU has had the full support of President Stoicheff from the outset we are optimistic that we can look forward to positive outcomes in the months ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

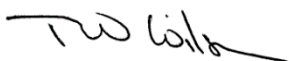
Rick Bunt, Chair

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES 2022-2023

Members: Thomas Wilson (Chair), Merry Beazely, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson and Asit Sarkar

No new names were submitted to the University Secretary this year. We depend on our members to suggest worthy recipients of the University's highest honor. Please see the Guidelines <https://governance.usask.ca/documents/senate/GuidelinesForHonoraryDegrees.pdf> and consider sending a suggestion to our committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Wilson, Chair

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CAMPUS HERITAGE 2022-2023

Members: Yannis Pahatouroglou (Chair), Patrick Hayes, Kathryn Warden and Dennis Lanigan

In the year since the last AGM in 2022, Merry Beazely left the Committee in order to concentrate more on the demands of being a Co-President of USRA. Subsequently, we were fortunate to acquire two more members in addition to Patrick Hayes who continued to be a member - Dennis Lanigan and Kathryn Warden.

During the period of this report, the Committee met six times. In addition to this, the Committee organized a forum discussion with the stewards of six local ("orphan") collections of artifacts and samples on campus, in order to solicit input and identify needs that USask could potentially choose to respond to. Certain patterns arose out of this meeting that made very clear the need for action in the direction of providing university-led support to these and other local collections on campus. In one of the other meetings of the Committee, we

had a discussion with Dr. Murray Fulton who was the Chair of the 2012 Task Force on University of Saskatchewan Cultural Assets. The Committee also solicited valuable input, a number of times, from Cheryl Avery, Associate Librarian and Archivist.

Of special note is the help the Committee received from Dr. David Pantalony, Curator at Ingenium, Ottawa. Dr. Pantalony has a good knowledge of the artifact situation at USask but also in the rest of Canada, the USA and the UK. He has provided valuable information, suggestions and context so that the Committee could understand better the artifact care scene across the country and abroad and draw valuable conclusions.

Based on all of the above and pending on one other pivotal meeting we would like to have with some other members of the University, we feel that we are quite close to the culmination of our purpose on the issue of proposing a practical way for USask to move forward regarding all unsupported local collections. This would attain a heritage policy that spans the entire campus and would aim to achieve our University's cultural asset goals.

On the issue of preserving University buildings, cornerstones, etc. of heritage value, the major ongoing concern is what will happen with the Stone Barn building. Two of our members went to the Community Visioning Event organized by USask on May 24, 2023 and discussed some ideas regarding the possible future of the building. This is a University-driven process mainly and we will have to wait to find out which way the University decides to go.

In the meantime, one of us had an informal discussion in June with James Cook, Manager with Campus Planning and Real Estate Infrastructure, about the Rugby Chapel and also the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad buildings, in the list of the unused heritage USask buildings. The present condition of these buildings was discussed, as well as the prospects of any present or future use for them. There is some hope that promising, viable, repurposing ideas may gain some financial support from the University in terms of upgrading these buildings to acceptable standards to make them usable again. However, it was also well understood that this could not be a definitive statement.

As an aside, outside the formal duties of the Committee but still related to its subject matter, one of us got involved with the preservation of some of the original Linear Accelerator equipment, responsible for producing the electrons which in turn produce the high intensity light at the Canadian Light Source. This is an effort that is presently ongoing and an example of how the USRA members can still contribute in a meaningful way to the affairs of USask.

Looking forward to continuing our work in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Yannis Pahatouroglou, Chair

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Members: Jim Thornhill (Chair), Merry Beazely and Tom Wilson

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present to the membership the following slate of Officers (four Executive positions) and Directors for the 2023-2024 year, for one-year terms.

Election Slate:

Co-Presidents:	Merry Beazely* and Jim Thornhill*
Vice President:	Caroline Cottrell*
Secretary:	Jacqueline Huck*

Treasurer: Tom Wilson*
Immediate Past President: Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely
Directors: Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Beryl Radcliffe, Kathryn Warden, David Mandeville, Vera Pezer and Bob Card

*Members of USRA Executive

Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely have agreed to share the many presidential duties again this year as it was felt to have worked well last year.

We are very appreciative that Tom Wilson and Jacqueline Huck have agreed to continue in their respective roles as Treasurer and Secretary again this year.

We are pleased that Bryan Harvey, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Caroline Cottrell, Beryl Radcliffe, Kathryn Warden and Judith Henderson are staying on the Board to share their many talents and enthusiasm.

Rick Bunt, Mary Dykes and Dennis Lanigan are stepping away from the Board and will thank them for all their time and effort in growing the USRA mandate. Their expertise will be missed. We wish them well with their future endeavours.

We are pleased to announce that David Mandeville, Vera Pezer and Bob Card have agreed to let their names stand to join the USRA Board.

David Mandeville was a medical photographer at the University of Saskatchewan before retirement. David is a gifted photographer whose talents are wanted at many social and educational events. He continues to teach photography classes to young and older enthusiasts.

Vera Pezer was former Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan for two terms. Vera was a gifted Canadian athlete (baseball, curling) and has done tireless community work within the city and abroad. She was a senior administrator at the University working in student affairs.

Bob Card, MD, hematologist, worked in the College of Medicine starting in 1973. He was a clinical teacher, researcher and administrator in the College and was the former Director of the Bleeding Disorders Program within the Saskatoon Health Region.

Please let us know if you have any questions by contacting Jim Thornhill at jim.thornhill@usask.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Thornhill, Chair, on behalf of the Nominations Committee

