

**University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association  
Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.  
Western Development Museum**

Present: Ordinary Members: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill (Co-Chairs), Joe Angel, Jim Basinger, Jim Blackburn, Hope Bilinski, Bob Card, Sandra Cey, Caroline Cottrell, Larry Custead, Alanna Danilkewich, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Eileen Harvey, Jacqueline Huck (Recorder), Donald Johnson, Chris Kent, Mildred Kerr, Suren Kulshreshtha, David Mandeville, Garnet Packota, Bev Pain, Vera Pezer, Beryl Radcliffe, Fred Rémillard, Murray Scharf, Rick Schwier, Ken Smith, Lin Whitworth, and Tom Wilson.

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

**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.

Jim thanked former Board members Rick Bunt and Mary Dykes. Rick was instrumental in negotiating the new MOU and advising on ICT matter, and Mary for assisting with the newsletter and keeping our website up to date.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Murray Scharf and seconded by Ken Smith that the agenda be approved. Unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2023**

Moved by David Mandeville and seconded by Bob Card that the minutes of September 12, 2023 be approved. Unanimous.

**4. Co-President's Report**

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

- reviewed the award recipients honored at the Awards and Wrap-Up Celebration held on May 30; a list of recipients is included in the Awards Committee Report
- the second MOU between the university and USRA was signed on March 27, 2024; thanked Rick Bunt, Dara Hrytzak and Marcy Hildebrand for their guidance
- the President's Reception for New Retirees was held on June 19; Board members were in attendance and had an opportunity to speak with new retirees about our activities and benefits, answered questions on what we do; thanked President Stoicheff for reinstating the event which acknowledges the service of USask employees
- David Mandeville has agreed to serve as USRA representative on the University Senate

- Caroline Cottrell, Judith Henderson and Yannis Pahatouroglou, who are leaving the Board, were thanked for their exemplary service
- welcomed new members Joe Angel and Peggy Proctor to the Board.

Moved by Jim Blackburn and seconded by Donald Johnson that the Co-President's Report be accepted. Unanimous.

## 5. **Treasurer's Report**

Tom Wilson presented his 2023-2024 report noting the following –

- financial position continues to be stable; assets continue to grow during the fiscal year with no cash liabilities; total assets of \$54,661.59
- TCU Financial found a term deposit valued at \$5,608.45 which had not shown up previously; enjoyed increased interest in our deposits; currently have 11 one-year term deposits at 4.15% to 4.3%
- reviewed revenue and expenses for fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and projections for 2024-2025.

There were questions about whether a financial review or audit of USRA finances should be conducted. Tom explained that this has not been considered necessary for our association but he will look into it.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Joe Angel that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Unanimous.

Moved by Tom Wilson and seconded by Lin Whitworth that no financial audit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year be conducted. Unanimous.

## 6. **Standing Committee Reports**

### (a) Awards

Merry Beazely presented the attached committee report noting the following –

- reviewed award recipients listed in the report and congratulated them on their awards
- encouraged members to nominate worthy candidates who have retired from the university, and
- the committee will be looking at the possibility of holding an awards ceremony every two years.

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

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

- the 2024 CURAC Conference was hosted by the University of Waterloo; elements of the program can be accessed on the University of Waterloo Retirees Association and the CURAC websites
- the 2025 CURAC Conference will be held in Montreal in May
- thanked Tom Wilson, Merry Beazely and Beryl Radcliffe for their service on their respective committees, namely, Healthcare Policy Committee, Conference Committee and Later Life Learning Committee (LLLC).

## (c) Communication

Jacqueline Huck presented the committee report (attached) noting the following –

**Newsletter**

- three newsletters published in November of 2023, and April and September of 2024
- thanked the authors who contributed to the newsletters and Board members who helped review before distribution
- thanked Ana Maldonaldo who assisted the committee with the November newsletter.

**Website**

- we continue to use the USask Cascade system to maintain and update our website
- thanked Mary Dykes who posted information and maintained the website following Ana's departure in March 2024.

**Communication**

- three USask publications (News Releases, On Campus News and Green & White Alumni monthly newsletter) and one Retirement Channel were listed in the report and are available to members
- the committee worked with University Communications to promote the newest USRA award – Let's Fly Up Together (ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan).

**Farewell to Judith Henderson**

As this is Judith's last year on the committee and the Board, we would like to thank her for her dedicated service to the Communication Committee and her many other contributions to the USRA.

## (d) Education, Social and Recreation

Caroline Cottrell presented the attached committee report and reviewed presentations given during the 2023-2024 period which were held at the Western Development Museum. Members were encouraged to submit ideas for any learning opportunities, social events or speakers.

Caroline has decided not to continue on the Board and Jim thanked her for work as Chair on this committee and as member of the Board.

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

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

- 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 on June 26 and will be participating in the SCOA Spotlight on Seniors Tradeshow on October 8
- membership renewals were sent out in June by Marcy Hildebrand with a good response received
- Ana Maldonaldo, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator, who provided 0.40 FTE administrative support to USRA, has accepted a position with the College of Nursing; USask will be recruiting to replace Ana.
- at the time of writing the report, our membership was 419 members, of which 372 are life members.

Beryl thanked Judith for her work on the committee and her service to the Board and USRA.

Merry Beazely read out the 20 names of members who have passed away during the past year and a moment of silence was observed in remembrance.

(f) Engagement

Jim Thornhill presented an oral report on committee activities.

- thanked members for their work on the committee
- formed as a standing committee when there was no MOU and was tasked on how to engage with USask; this will be renamed the MOU Committee

(g) Honorary Degrees

Tom Wilson presented the attached report and noted the following –

- on our recommendation, Father André Poilièvre received an Honorary Doctor of Laws on November 22, 2023
- two worthy candidates were recommended in 2024 and are working on a third candidate's name to submit
- thanked the committee for their work.

(h) Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Heritage

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

- addition of a newsletter column entitled “Spotlight on USask History” with the first article on *Herzberg Experimental Hall* published in the November 2023 issue and a second article on *Creating a Future for USask's Iconic Stone Barn* published in the April 2024 issue
- USRA Board member, Vera Pezer, sits on the USask Stone Barn Fundraising Committee
- a *Proposal for Asset Management of USask Heritage Artifacts* has been submitted to the Provost and Vice-President Academic Dr. Airini for consideration. The proposal recommends the university undertake a process to manage the valuable artifacts and memorabilia that exist across campus
- name of the committee has been changed to Campus Heritage
- thanked the committee for all their hard work.

(i) Ad Hoc Committee on USRA Documents

Merry presented the attached committee report and noted the following –

- governance documents were reviewed and approved at the 2021 AGM; another review will take place in the near future.

Moved by David Mandeville and seconded by Donald Johnson that the committee reports be accepted. Unanimous.

## 7. New Business

### (a) USRA Involvement in USask Activities

It was reported that there are a number of ways that USRA interacts with the university through the MOU Coordinating Committee and the Co-Presidents meet with the Provost and Vice-President of University Relations approximately four times per year.

### (b) Administrative Support for USRA

The Provost has allocated funding to continue the position of Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator in the University of Relations portfolio. The position, previously held by Ana Maldonado, has been posted and Vera Pezer will sit on the search committee.

The search committee has been struck, applications have been received and it is hoped that the position will be filled shortly.

### (c) Benefits Update

Members were reminded of the benefits through the university and CURAC.

USask – Retirement Channel does a comparison of benefits from Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO), Blue Cross and Sun Life; please visit [Retirement Channel](#) (NSID login required)

Alumni Association – benefits and travel; please visit [Alumni Association](#)

CURAC – offers travel planning/insurance/health benefits; please visit the [CURAC website](#).

## 8. Report of the Nominations Committee

Jim Thornhill presented the attached Nomination Report.

Jim noted that Merry Beazely and himself have agreed to share the presidential duties again this year and thanked Tom Wilson and Jacqueline Huck for continuation of their roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, for another year. He noted that Bryan Harvey, Beryl Radcliffe, Kathryn Warden, Bob Card, Vera Pezer and David Mandeville will be continuing to serve on the Board.

The new members nominated for the Board for 2024-2025 are Joe Angel and Peggy Proctor. Jim reviewed their backgrounds and expertise. Write-ups on Joe and Peggy can be found in the Nominations Report.

He thanked Yannis Pahatouroglou, Judith Henderson and Caroline Cottrell as Chair of the Education, Social and Recreation Committee, who are stepping down from the Board, for their time and effort in growing the USRA mandate.

Moved by Jim Thornhill and seconded by Donald Johnson that the committee report be accepted. Unanimous.

## 9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2024-2025

Co-Presidents	Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill
Vice-President	TBA
Secretary	Jacqueline Huck

Treasurer	Tom Wilson
Immediate Past President	Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely, Co-Presidents
Members-at-Large	Joe Angel, Bob Card, Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville, Vera Pezer, Peggy Proctor, Beryl Radcliffe, and Kathryn Warden.

Merry noted that there is no set number of Board members but it works well with 12 or 13 individuals. Following the AGM, the Board will meet to discuss committee membership.

Moved by Bev Pain and seconded by Fred Rémillard that the slate of officers for 2024-2025 be elected. Unanimous.

#### **10. Other Business**

The Co-Chairs thanked all the members and Board Chairs for attending the AGM.

Caroline Cottrell thanked Co-Presidents Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill for all their work on the Board to further USRA interests.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Ken Smith moved the meeting be adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

**University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association  
Treasurer's Report for 2023-2024**

**ASSETS:**

Our assets continued to grow during the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. TCU Financial found a term deposit of \$5,608.46 which had not shown up previously! We also enjoyed increased interest in our Term Deposits (TDs). We have eleven 1-year TDs at 4.15 to 4.3% that mature in August, September, October, November, January, March, May and June. I indicate their total value at maturity.

	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Cash	\$ 7,008.82	\$ 3,605.75	\$ 8,534.67	\$ 2,664.78
TDs	\$ 39,477.78	\$ 43,054.71	\$ 44,786.32	\$ 54,661.59
membership	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,491.60</b>	<b>\$ 46,665.46</b>	<b>\$ 53,325.99</b>	<b>\$ 57,331.37</b>

The table on the next page is a summary of our revenue and expenses.

**REVENUE:**

We received our grant from USask. Lifetime memberships were greater than expected as was the final payment to us from CURAC 2023. Note the \$2,000 of "miscellaneous revenue". In June we redeemed our "found TD." We added \$2,000 to our current account and bought another TD for \$3,608.46. The "CURAC rebate" includes \$680 for the August "surprise invoice" (see below), the CURAC travel rebate, and the final accounting for CURAC 2023.

**EXPENSES:**

The New Retirees Event on June 19<sup>th</sup> was entirely subsidized by USask.

Our Awards Banquet, held in May, cost \$2,261.88 (meals plus award costs) while ticket sales were \$1,685. Our loss was \$568.88.

Total cost for our monthly lunch meetings was \$9,925.35 while ticket sales were \$8,458. This deficit was \$1,467.35.

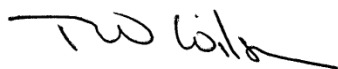
Office supplies came in at \$689.43; more than expected. We pay an annual license fee for our software.

Travel costs for our CURAC 2024 (Waterloo ON) representative were under budget: \$2,218 vs. \$2,500. In August 2023 we received an invoice from USask for \$1,360. This was for CURAC 2023 expenses which had been mistakenly charged to another account than ours. We split this debt 50/50 with CURAC. Their half appears in Revenue as "CURAC rebate."

I present our budget estimate for 2024-2025.

REVENUE	2022-2023 actual	2023-2024 actual	Budget 2024-2025
Usask Grant	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Usask New Retirees Event	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual memberships	\$ 120.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Lifetime memberships	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,940.00	\$ 1,000.00
luncheon tickets	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 8,460.00	\$ 7,500.00
CURAC rebate+2023	\$ 296.77	\$ 1,484.72	\$ 200.00
Interest	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.50
Award Banquet tickets	\$ 885.00	\$ 1,685.00	\$ 1,500.00
AGM expenses	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,200.00
CURAC 2023	\$ 16,202.54	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous revenue	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 29,330.91</b>	<b>\$ 21,130.95</b>	<b>\$ 15,701.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Award banquet meals	\$ 1,177.38	\$ 2,042.88	\$ 2,100.00
Award costs	\$ 360.00	\$ 219.00	\$ 300.00
AGM Total	\$ 2,495.40	\$ 1,177.38	\$ 2,000.00
Luncheon costs	\$ 8,069.32	\$ 9,925.35	\$ 9,000.00
Promotion	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Printing	\$ 982.13	\$ 747.38	\$ 800.00
CURAC dues	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Speakers gifts	\$ 346.29	\$ 563.88	\$ 550.00
Remembrance day	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
CURAC travel	\$ -	\$ 2,218.00	\$ 2,500.00
CURAC 2023	\$ 12,473.19	\$ 1,360.00	\$ -
Postage	\$ 1,022.19	\$ 590.69	\$ 800.00
Office supplies (computer, s	\$ 202.17	\$ 689.43	\$ 300.00
Bank fees	\$ 68.00	\$ 56.50	\$ 60.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 27,786.07</b>	<b>\$ 20,180.49</b>	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 1,544.84</b>	<b>\$ 950.46</b>	<b>\$ (3,298.50)</b>

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Wilson  
Treasurer



## REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS 2023-2024

At our September 2023 AGM it was great to see so many of you there, and many thanks for your interest and good questions! We were pleased to welcome **Bob Card, David Mandeville and Vera Pezer** to the Board, and we met in October to set up the standing committees to enable us to deliver for you. Please see their reports to follow.

As in past years, members enjoyed a wonderful **USRA Holiday Reception at the President's Residence** on December 12. Many thanks to President Peter Stoicheff and Kathryn Warden for hosting us and for the wonderful visiting, music and refreshments!

We are pleased to report that the **Memorandum of Understanding** with the University for the next three years was signed on March 27, 2024. The Memorandum reinforces our shared goals, and the benefits and support provided by the University to both the USRA and individual retirees. Added in this *Memorandum*, the University will help us promote our goals and activities to current members, retirees who have not yet joined, and those planning to retire.

Caroline and the **Education, Social and Recreation Committee** have delivered an excellent series of noon hour lunches and speaker this past year plus a very enjoyable tour of Merlis Belsher.

We bid a fond farewell to Ana Maldonado. Ana has taken on the post of Director of Globalization with the College of Nursing. Through generous support of Provost Airini and University Relations, Ana was seconded to the USRA for .4 FTE. She contributed much this past year. We hope the post will be filled soon.

**Survive in retirement? No, thrive in retirement!** was the theme of the annual CURAC/ARUCC National Conference to be held in May and hosted by the University of Waterloo Retirees Association. Our CURAC Representative Bryan Harvey, as always, represented us well.

Our **Campus Heritage Committee**, chaired by Yannis, has been working diligently on the issue of how to recognize local, valued historical collections that are mostly in storage in colleges and departments across campus. Vera also represents USRA on a newly formed USask group addressing fundraising for preservation and repurposing of the celebrated "Stone Barn."

This May, our *Intensely Vigorous USask Retirees* enthusiastically represented us at the annual **Globe Walk Celebration Luncheon** hosted by the Saskatoon Council on Aging. This year's excellent event at the WDM featured 34 teams, with such catchy names (in addition to ours) as the Martensville Movers, Happy Soles, Keenagers Regina and Strasbourg Pace Makers! Many thanks to SCOA and our USRA team leaders, Mary Dykes and Lea Pennock.

May 30th saw a wonderful **USRA Awards and Wrap-up Celebration** at the WDM. It was a time to celebrate the bestowing of USRA awards on five deserving USask retirees, including and notably the first awarding of ohpahotân/oohpaahotaan – "Let's Fly Up Together." That night, we also celebrated you, the members, and USRA initiatives over the past year. Please see the Awards Committee annual report for more details and Tom's Honorary Degrees Committee Report. We are pleased that our Honorary Degree nominees have been granted this high honour.

In June, representing the USRA, Merry and Jim were invited by Scott Walsworth, Vice-Provost of Faculty Relations, to participate in the **2024 Retirement Information Session**. It was led by that Office and the Pension Office, for faculty who are thinking of retiring in the next few years. We related the mandate and activities of the USRA and encouraged faculty to join us upon retirement. We hope to be invited to similar events in the future and are pursuing with People and Resources that a comparable event be provided with other employee groups.

President Stoicheff and Kathryn Warden kindly invited USRA Board members to attend the **President's Reception for New Retirees** on June 19th at Marquis Hall. It was great to interact with the newest retirees and their family and friends. We had the opportunity to let them know of the many activities and benefits of the USRA, and answer questions on what we do for retirees. The President re-instated this celebratory event, and the USRA thanks him and his Office for acknowledging the service of USask employees through this much-appreciated reception.

USRA Board members were happy to represent the USRA at the annual **Employee Appreciation Picnic** on June 26. We didn't blow away this year and enjoyed speaking to employees from all parts of campus, even asking the young ones to keep us in mind in the future. Thank you to Jackie for organizing our participation again this year.

This October and last, the USRA had a promotional booth at the Saskatoon Council on Aging's **Spotlight on Seniors** exhibition. This was a great experience for the USRA to be part of the SCOA annual event and to learn of the many sources of help (health, recreation, counseling, housing) that are available to our elderly population in Saskatoon and area. Many thanks to Tom for organizing and Mary Dykes for her help coordinating our booth.

The USRA Board is proud to announce that the University has agreed that we may have a representative sit on the University Senate starting this fall. Moreover, we are very pleased that David Mandeville from our Board has kindly agreed to be our **USRA representative on University Senate**. Having a representative from the USRA on Senate is important as the University will have retirees' perspective on important University issues and the USRA will be better informed of all the current academic issues and activities facing the University.

We extend **sincere thanks** all Board members and their committees that work on our behalf: Bob Card, Caroline Cottrell, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, Jacqueline Huck, David Mandeville, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Vera Pezer, Beryl Radcliffe, Kathryn Warden, and Tom Wilson. Special thanks go to Caroline, Judith and Yannis, who are leaving the Board following years of exemplary service. Our thanks as well to former Board members Rick Bunt and Mary Dykes. Rick was instrumental in negotiating the new MOU, and advising on ICT matters, and Mary is keeping our website up to date and looking great. Jim and Merry thank Provost Airini and Cheryl Hamelin, Vice-President University Relations for the good discussions during the year and Marcy Hildebrand, Director of Alumni Relations and External Engagement, for her valuable support.

We look forward to seeing you at our **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday, October 16 at 2:00, following lunch, an award presentation, and seminar with the always engaging Jeff O'Brien, City Archivist. We send you all our best regards.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Thornhill and Merry Beazely  
Co-Presidents

## REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Members: Merry Beazely (Chair), Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson, David Mandeville, and Jim Thornhill

### New USRA Award Presented

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 2021, on behalf of Indigenous Peoples, and is now companion to the *University Plan 2025*.

We extend thanks to Caroline Cottrell, who brought forward the creation of this award, and her ad hoc committee, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Kathryn Warden and Jim Thornhill, with input from Beryl Radcliffe and former Board member Rick Schwier for their work in consulting with Indigenous leadership on campus to establish the award. Many thanks to Dr. Angela Jaime, Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement and Carson Magnusson, Project Manager in the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, for assisting us in the nomination and selection of our first recipient, Dr. Verna St. Denis.

### **USRA Awards**

At our USRA Awards and Wrap-up Celebration in May, we were pleased to make the following awards to very deserving retirees. Please read more about our honoured recipients in the September 2024 USRA newsletter.

**The Continuing Contribution Award** recognizes retirees who continue to make research, scholarly, artistic or service contributions at an exceptional level. This year's recipients are:

**Dr. F. Barry Brown**, Professor Emeritus of Curriculum Studies, presented by Dr. Dirk Morrison.

**Dr. James (Jim) A. Dosman**, Professor Emeritus of Medicine. Jim couldn't attend our Celebration Banquet, so we will present this award to him prior to our AGM on October 16, 2024.

**Dr. William (Bill) P. McKay**, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, presented by Dr. Jim Thornhill.

**The "Ohpahotân/Oohpaahotaan - Let's Fly Up Together" USRA Award** is described above. Our first recipient is:

**Dr. Verna St. Denis**, Professor Emerita of Curriculum Studies, presented by Caroline Cottrell.

**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. Our 2024 recipient is:

**Dr. Richard (Rick) Schwier**, Professor Emerita of Curriculum Studies, presented by Dr. Dirk Morrison. We were delighted that Mrs. Shirley Spafford was able to join us and meet Rick and his family.

**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. We were delighted to make this award to:

**Dr. Judith Rice Henderson**, Professor Emerita of English, presented by Dr. Tom Wilson. Judith was not able to be with us, and so we were very pleased that her sons, Paul and Ian, could accept the award on her behalf.

### **Promotion of 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 [USRA's Awards page](#). We thank the University for publicizing our call for nominations through the YOU|Sask weekly newsletter for employees, e-mail distribution to department and unit heads on campus and, for our new award, Indigenous leaders associated with USask as well.

### **Additional Awards to Meritorious Retirees**

While not part of our Awards Committee mandate, we extend sincere congratulations to USask retirees who have received awards this past year from other organizations:

**Dr. C. Lesley Biggs**, Lifetime Achievement Award, YWCA Graham Women of Distinction.

**Dr. Bruce E. Coulman**, Professor Emeritus of Agriculture and Bioresources, inducted into the Canadian and Saskatchewan Agricultural Halls of Fame.

**Dr. Judith Henderson**, College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC/ARUCC) Tribute Award.

**Dr. Vera Pezer**, Huskie Athletics Woman of Distinction.

Many thanks to Bryan, Judith, David and Jim for their work and wise guidance on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Beazely, Chair

## **REPORT OF THE CURAC REPRESENTATIVE 2023-2024**

The annual CURAC conference was hosted by the University of Waterloo, May 22-24, 2024. It was a highly successful event with excellent attendance and an outstanding program. The content of these annual meetings is priceless and we do not do a good enough job of promoting them. The University of Waterloo Retirees Association is to be congratulated for a job well done especially their success in getting local members to participate. Elements of the program can be accessed on the University of Waterloo Retirees Association website and the CURAC website. At the AGM there was considerable turnover in the Board membership and a new president was elected. Thanks to Kent for his service in that office for the last several years. We look forward to continuing to work with the new Board.

Reported by,

Bryan Harvey

## **REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

Members: Jacqueline Huck (Chair), Bob Card, Judith Henderson, and Kathryn Warden

### **Newsletters**

Newsletters were distributed to members in November of 2023 and in April and September of 2024.

The November newsletter was compiled by University Relations staff member Ana Maldonado who assisted the committee with the newsletter and communications to members until March of 2024 when she took another position on campus. We thank Ana for all her work and look forward to working with her successor who is expected to be appointed soon. In the intervening time, USRA member Mary Dykes has stepped in to help the committee compile the April and September issues. Thank you, Mary.

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

### **Website**

USRA continues to use the USask Cascade system to maintain and update our website at <https://usra.usask.ca/>. During the period May 20-27, the university provided a technical upgrade to the Cascade web templates.

Following Ana's departure, Mary Dykes has posted information on the website and maintained the site. Again, thank you Mary.

### University Communications

All retirees have access through PAWS to the Retirement Channel, as well as access through email to Discovery Digest (a compilation of research and news stories) and to YOU|Sask Faculty and Staff Newsletter (includes news and events). If you do not have access to these publications and wish to receive them, please let us know.

News releases: Any retiree can get on the list to receive USask news releases but you have to opt in by contacting Daniel Hallen: [daniel.hallen@usask.ca](mailto:daniel.hallen@usask.ca).

On Campus News: This publication is available only to USRA members who use usask.ca email addresses (because the PAWS distribution tool requires a USask address).

Green & White Alumni monthly newsletter: Retirees can sign up to receive this monthly newsletter by completing this short form: <https://greenandwhite.usask.ca/updates/subscribe-to-green-white-monthly.php>. Note: While the form asks for a USask degree, this is not a mandatory field.

The Communication Committee also worked with University Communications to promote, with both internal and external audiences, the newest USRA award—the “ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan - Let’s Fly Up Together” award which went to USask Professor Emerita Vera St. Denis:

<https://news.usask.ca/articles/community/2024/usask-professor-emerita-honoured-for-work-with-indigenous-strategy.php>.

### Policy Update

The Communication Committee’s role in disseminating information to our members is posted on the website. See Policies and Procedures in our [Governance Documents](#).

### Farewell to Judith Henderson

This is Judith’s last year on the Communication Committee and the Board. Thank you, Judith, for your dedicated service to the committee and to USRA.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Huck, Chair, on behalf of the Communication Committee

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Members: Caroline Cottrell (Chair), Bob Card, David Mandeville, Beryl Radcliffe and Jim Thornhill

Very few things in life are certain. One thing that is, however, is that social interaction and engagement is of crucial importance to everyone, and especially to older folk who have left the world of work and who may have challenges with mobility and access to the larger world. Often, too, in our highly mobile society we are separated from our families, sometimes by great distances. Thus, the social connections provided by the USRA’s Education, Social, and Recreation Committee are intended to keep community alive among those who served the University of Saskatchewan and to provide social connectedness for all retirees who can and wish to partake.

From the fall of 2023 to the late spring of 2024 the USRA hosted a variety of very well-received presentations from an eclectic group of engaging speakers. In September 2023 we had the second in our series of presentations from Jeff O’Brien, City Archivist who will continue the story of our city again this year. In October we had a change of venue and put our energies to the SCOA Spotlight on Seniors, scoring a booth next to the Saskatoon City Police which seemed to guarantee a lot of people stopping by to us, if only

serendipitously. November saw us touring Merlis Belsher Place, an interesting experience indeed and, of course, in December we were welcomed by the President and Mrs. Stoicheff to a reception at the residence. February saw us back at the Western Development Museum's Saskatchewan Hall for a very interesting and often nostalgic presentation from Shelly Loeffler on the history of jazz in Saskatoon while in February we received a challenging and sometimes troubling talk from Nance Turner on AI in the academy. In March University Archivist Cheryl Avery talked about and showed slides of the early days of the university, while in April Brooke Milne, the (relatively) new Dean of Arts and Science attended. In May Bill Waiser introduced us to his new children's book *Gordie's Skate*, a different literary offering from his usual work. We capped off the year with our Awards Night which followed an earlier welcome event hosted by the university in Marquis Hall.

In September Lea Pennock, who has now walked over 5,000 km of pilgrimage trails in Europe will provide a presentation on her and her husband Dan's adventures. Also coming up is a presentation by Jeff O'Brien at the AGM in October, by way of continuing to educate us on the history of Saskatchewan. In November we will welcome Dr. Airini, not to talk about her role as Provost and VP Academic, but rather to regale us with the story of her epic kayak trip in Canada's north. In December we will be back at the President's house for drinks and nibbles (we hope) and in January 2025 Zeba Ahmad from the Saskatoon Public School Foundation will present on the critical importance of supporting early learning for all children, their social and economic position notwithstanding. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming programming in 2025.

My great thanks to all the committee members for the help in getting this programming up and running and to the WDM for their hospitality and in accommodating our needs. 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 2023-2024**

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.

We had an information table at the University Employee Appreciation Picnic where the USRA members had recruitment information, pens and the ever-popular Timbits. The President's Reception for USask Retirees was held on June 19 where the USRA Co-Presidents presented the benefits of becoming a member of the USRA.

The USRA once again had an information table at the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) Spotlight on Seniors event at TCU Place to provide pens and information about our Retirees Association.

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

The USRA administrative support Ana Maldonado accepted a new position at the College of Nursing and we miss her but wish her the very best. The Office of University Relations assisted in sending out the renewal reminder letters and there was a good response. Early renewals are welcome and the membership will be extended accordingly. At present we have 419 members, of which 372 are Life members. Three years ago we added the convenience of e-transfer for payment of fees and we will continue that this year. E-transfers can be sent to [wilsontw1985@gmail.com](mailto:wilsontw1985@gmail.com).

### **USRA Annual Dues for 2024-2025**

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 2023 Annual General Meeting. Then we shall call for a moment of silence to remember them.

### **Thank You to Judith Henderson**

Judith will not be returning to the USRA Board for the upcoming year. Thank you, Judith, for your service and commitment to the Board and to USRA.

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 September 12, 2023 Annual General Meeting. For additional information about these deceased members, please consult our November 2023, April 2024 and September 2024 newsletters, which are accessible under Publications on our website: <https://usra.usask.ca>.

**Margaret May Bartz** (September 19, 1927-October 29, 2023)

**John** (1936-November 30, 2023) **and Helen Courtney** (1937-November 30, 2023)

**Violet Evelyn Ehman** (November 4, 1928-November 1, 2023)

**Walter Gantner** (December 5, 1932-December 16, 2023)

**Hilda Marie Hackett** (November 9, 1932-March 17, 2024)

**James Leslie (Les) Henry** (July 7, 1940-June 14, 2024)

**M.U. (Mel) Hosain** (February 4, 1938-May 23, 2024)

**Linda Carol Hodgson** (September 1948-June 23, 2023)

**Winnifred Kelm** (May 25, 1935-August 6, 2022)

**John King** (November 4, 1938-December 27, 2023)

**Jose F. (Pepe) Lopez** (January 19, 1930-March 1, 2024)

**John William MacEdward** (June 21, 1939-January 21, 2024)

**Alice F. McAuley** (died May 21, 2023)

**Donald James McEwen** (1930-November 5, 2023)

**Robert Barrie McKercher** (1931-January 1, 2024)

**Julie Muir** (1930-January 7, 2024)

**Dorothy Bell Peake** (November 4, 1930-November 5, 2023)

**John Wilson Quail** (March 19, 1936-October 14, 2023)

**Dorothy Riemer** (November 1, 1933-March 6, 2024)

## **REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

Members: Jim Thornhill (Chair), Bryan Harvey and Yannis Pahatouroglou

An oral report will be presented at the AGM on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES 2023-2024**

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

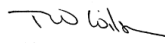
Father André Poilièvre, our recommendation to the Senate, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws on November 22, 2023. He co-founded STR8 UP, a program that helps people withdraw from gangs. Over 500 young persons have taken advantage. Thanks to Dr. Frank Vella for the suggestion and for working on the nomination.

We recommended two other worthy candidates and await the Senate's decision. We are working on a third.



As always the Committee welcomes suggestions from members.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tom Wilson, Chair

## REPORT OF THE CAMPUS HERITAGE COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Members: Yannis Pahatouroglou (Chair), Bob Card, Patrick Hayes, Vera Pezer and Kathryn Warden

The Campus Heritage Committee met a number of times this past year, and I extend my thanks to members for all for their hard work. Please find below highlights:

### Spotlight on USask History

We look forward to making this a regular feature in our USRA newsletters. In November, Kathryn wrote about the **Herzberg Experimental Hall** being officially named at the Canadian Light Source, in honour of Gerhard Herzberg who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1971. This affirmed that Canada and USask are world leaders in spectroscopy—the science of using light to understand the structure of molecules. In April's edition, Vera contributed "**Creating a Future for USask's Iconic Stone Barn.**" Vera is also USRA's representative on the Stone Barn Fundraising Group. If you have a piece of USask history you would like us to feature, please send to [ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca).

### Meetings with University Colleagues

- President Stoicheff invited the committee to meet with him about the USRA's interest in preserving heritage on campus, including built heritage. The discussion focused on the Stone Barn, which has been identified as the highest priority to preserve.
- Meeting with Library leaders Charlene Sorensen and Tim Hutchinson to explore the issue of support for all local artifact collections on campus (outside of already established museums) as well as possible suitability of the University Library as a home for this support.
- Meetings with several colleges and departments to review what inventories are already in place. The committee also toured the extensive collections held at Chemistry and Physics.

### Proposal for Asset Management of USask Heritage Artifacts

Based on the discussions above, the committee developed a proposal for the university to undertake a process to manage the valuable artifacts and memorabilia that exist across campus. The proposal was discussed by the Board, with Co-President Jim noting that the role of the USRA will be to advise and support such an initiative. The proposal was submitted to Provost and VP Academic Dr. Airini, and in June, Yannis and Co-President Merry met with the Provost and Charlene Sorensen, Interim Dean of the Library to discuss. Their response to the first step in the proposal – to undertake an inventory of valued assets – was positive. This will involve pursuing and obtaining strategic funding; determining where a 'central managing position' could be located; developing terms of reference; and employing an individual with appropriate expertise. We are looking forward to hearing more from the Provost later this fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Yannis Pahatouroglou, Chair

## **REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW USRA DOCUMENTS 2023-2024**

Members: Merry Beazely (Chair), Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville, and Jim Thornhill

This past year was an exceptionally busy one, such that our committee did not have a chance to work on this ad hoc review. We look forward to addressing this in the year to come. If members have any questions or recommendations regarding our various documents (i.e., Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures or promotional materials), please contact [merry.beazely@usask.ca](mailto:merry.beazely@usask.ca).

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Beazely, Chair, on behalf of Bryan, David and Jim

## **REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

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

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present to the membership the following list of Officers (4 Executive positions) and Directors for the 2024-2025 year, for one-year terms.

Election Slate:

Co-Presidents: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Vice President: TBD

Secretary: Jacqueline Huck

Treasurer: Tom Wilson

Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill

Directors: Joe Angel, Bob Card, Bryan Harvey, David Mandeville, Vera Pezer, Peggy Proctor, Beryl Radcliffe, and Kathryn Warden

Merry Beazely and Jim Thornhill have agreed to share the presidential duties again this year. We are most appreciative that Tom Wilson and Jacqueline Huck have agreed to continue in their important roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, again this year.

We are pleased that Bryan Harvey, Beryl Radcliffe, Kathryn Warden, Bob Card, Vera Pezer, and David Mandeville are continuing on the Board to share their time and talents with us.

Yannis Pahatouroglou, Judith Henderson and Caroline Cottrell are stepping away from the Board and we thank them for all their time and effort in growing the USRA mandate.

We are very pleased that Peggy Proctor has agreed to let her name stand to join the USRA Board. Peggy was a Clinical Associate Professor in the Master of Physical Therapy Program in the School of Rehabilitation Science at the University of Saskatchewan. Joining the University in 1998, she held the position of Academic Lead for Clinical Education and Community Affairs for the School. Prior to coming to Saskatoon, she worked as a physiotherapist in many clinical areas and geographic locations within Canada and abroad. In 2021 she received the Canadian Physiotherapy Association Centenary Medal of Distinction for making impactful contributions to the profession of physiotherapy during her career. Peggy was actively involved in responding to Calls to Action for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and has had a special and continued interest in the professional and ethical issues surrounding the practice of physical therapy. Upon her retirement this year, Peggy was honored by the indigenous community for her many years of work towards Aboriginal recruitment and engagement within the School of Rehabilitative Science and her sustained involvement in Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation.

We are also pleased that Dr. Joe Angel, former Head of the Department of Biochemistry (now the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology) has agreed to join the USRA Board. Dr. Angel received his Ph.D. in Nutrition in 1971 from the University of Toronto and then worked as an Assistant Professor of Human Nutrition at UBC from 1969 until 1975 before coming to the U of S. He developed one of the earliest nutrition courses for medical students, when nutrition was first shown as an essential determinant of healthy living. Dr. Angel's research interests included the metabolic responses to Vitamin B-6 deficiency, development of lipid metabolism during weaning and mathematical models of metabolism. Joe served as Department Head of Biochemistry for 11 years (1987-1998) and was very active as an administrator at the departmental, college and university level, where he served on numerous committees, including Chair of University Council for 2 years. Dr. Angel was also an associate member of the Department of Computer Science and assisted in developing and teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in Bioinformatics. Since his retirement from the University in 2009, Joe has served on the Board of Directors for Fairview Court (housing unit for low-income retirees) and Board of Directors for the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation. Dr. Angel has a vast interest in and knowledge of the university, its history and management. This experience will be helpful to retirees as we continue to build our strong relationship with the university.

Note that the election of new Board members at the AGM will be by acclamation unless further nominations, each signed by three members of the Association, are received by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the meeting. Please see USRA's By-Laws (Section 10) on the USRA website.

If you have any questions or you are interested in serving with us on the Board, please contact Jim Thornhill at [jim.thornhill@usask.ca](mailto:jim.thornhill@usask.ca).

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Thornhill, Chair, on behalf of the Nominations Committee