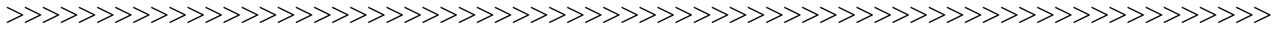


RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWS

August 2009

Number 79

www.usra.usask.ca



USRA Annual General Meeting and Banquet

We hope to see you:

Monday, September 21 – USRA Annual General Meeting, Faculty Club

4:30 pm – Annual General Meeting (agenda – see page 4?)

5:30 pm – Refreshments

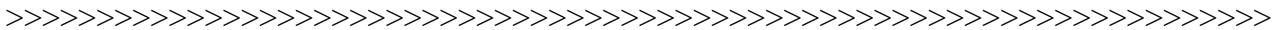
6:00 pm – Banquet

\$25.00 per person

Please reply by Thursday, Sept 17 to determine the number attending;

e-mail: ss.usra@usask.ca or telephone: 966-6618

PAC (R) Lot is available to public after 5:00 pm with a flat \$2.00 charge



Message From President Murray Scharf



PRESIDENT'S REPORT August, 2009

Two years ago the Executive Committee of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association (USRA) conducted a strategic planning exercise that results in refocusing the primary objective of the Association from "representing members on

issues arising from pension and other benefits extended

to retirees from the University of Saskatchewan" to "enhancing the quality of life of our members by providing services and activities that address retirees' needs and desires," and "providing support and services to the University of Saskatchewan." Thus, during the past two years there has been a focus on providing opportunities for members to engage in educational, social and recreational activities. In my opinion, there is a need to continue to expand the number and types of activities, plus the need to improve our communications

and to enhance the engagement and involvement of our membership. Given the current economic situation

facing older faculty and retirees, whether or not the Association reassumes its advocacy role needs to be reviewed.

Given the above, it is extremely important that members increase their involvement in the governance and operations of the USRA. The USRA Annual General Meeting and Banquet will be held on Monday, September 8th, at the Faculty Club. The Annual General Meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. At this meeting the activities of USRA in 2008-2009 will be reviewed and the Executive for 2009-2010 elected. For organizational renewal and expansion of our purview, we need to expand our active membership

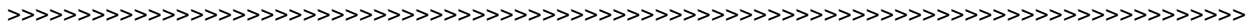
beyond those involved over the past few years. Given the low retirement rate arising from the pension concerns among senior faculty and administrative members, this increase in active membership must be derived largely from the existing membership. Please consider this the 'clarion call to appear in the field of glory.'

Programme planning for the 2009-2010 year is well advanced. It appears we will have a *speaker series* with monthly sessions beginning in October, and an *activity series* also starting in October. The

speaker series will include such topics as "The Nuclear Industry and the University of Saskatchewan," "Planning: The Academic Future of the University of Saskatchewan," "The School of Public Policy: Governance and Public Policy Issues," "Saskatchewan's Economy and International Trade," and "The Fine Arts Scene in Saskatoon." The activity series will include computer applications, photography, gardening, birding, home economics for seniors, and a series of tours. We would be most receptive to suggestions for other addresses and activities.

Since this is the end of my term as President of the USRA, I would like to thank the members for providing me with this opportunity to serve, and to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their cooperation and contributions to the activities and services of the Association over the past two years. I wish the new Executive much success with the governance and administration of USRA. The cause is worthy and the efforts much appreciated.

Murray Scharf



Non-credit courses for seniors at the U of S

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning (SSCL), in cooperation with the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education (CCDE), offers non-credit courses to people aged 55 and better. These popular courses deal with a wide range of literary, political, religious, and artistic subjects. Classes meet on campus for 2 hours once a week for 8 weeks. Fall courses begin the week of September 21, 2009.

The registration deadline is September 15th, 2009.

For more information, contact: SSCL, P. O. Box 8695, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 6S5, or call (306) 343-6773, or visit the website at <http://ccde.usask.ca/ExtensionDivision/noncredit/Adults/>

The following courses will be offered for Fall, 2009:

The World's Most Influential Languages

Considering What Constitutes "Healing Authentic Stories"

The Jane Goodall Life Story

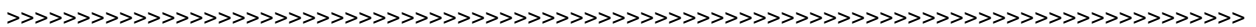
Fair Trade and Sustainability

Introduction to Criminology

An Introduction To General Entomology

A Passionate Look at Percussion Instruments and their History

Political Thinking: The Perennial Questions



USRA Speaker Series 2009/10
(Please mark your calendars for these events)!

USRA Speaker Series sessions are held at Mano's Restaurant on 8th Street, beginning with lunch at 12 noon, followed by a half-

hour presentation and question and response session.

The Speaker Series for the **Fall of 2009** consists of the following:

Thursday October 15,
Richard Florizone
Vice-President Finance and Resources
Topic: The nuclear industry and the University of Saskatchewan
12:00, Mano's Restaurant, 200 1820 8th Street E.

Thursday November 19
Brett Fairbairn
Provost and Vice-President Academic
Topic: *TBA*
12:00, Mano's Restaurant, 200 1820 8th Street E.

Monday 7 December or Monday 14 December
Michael Atkinson
Executive Director, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
Topic: The School of Public Policy: governance and public policy issues
12:00, Mano's Restaurant, 200 1820 8th Street E.

If you plan to attend, please contact Jim Blackburn (374-9751 - jblackburn@sasktel.net)

IN MEMORY

DOUGLAS RONALD KNOTT
Deceased: June 5, 2009
Faculty: College of Agriculture
1952 - 1993

William E. Howell.
Deceased: May 30, 2009

Faculty: Animal & Poultry Science (Agriculture)
1952 - 1987

USRA EXECUTIVE – 2008 - 2009

President: Murray Scharf
Past President: Bob Woods
Vice President: Jim Blackburn
Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle
Treasurer: Ken Smith
Members at Large:
Les Coleman
Eileen Harvey
Faye Kernan
Dale Miquelon
Bob Sanche
Nancy Senior
George Sofko
Duff Spafford
Kurt Tischler

MEMBERSHIP

The date on the envelope (ie 2008, 2009) indicates when your membership expires. Currently the annual membership fee is \$15. If you wish to obtain a life membership, it is dependent on age according to the following schedule:

<60	\$ 180
60 - 64	\$ 160
65 - 69	\$ 140
70 - 74	\$ 110
75 - 79	\$ 80
80 +	\$ 50

Payment of fees should be sent to:

*Ken Smith, Treasurer, RJD Williams,
Univ. of Sask. Retirees Association
221 Cumberland Ave
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3*

E-Mail Addresses Requested

In addition to the distribution of the USRA Newsletter to some members via e-mail, we also distribute reminders just before our upcoming USRA programs to those living in or near Saskatoon. We

request that you send us your e-mail address in order to keep up to date with our activities. Please send us an e-mail to – ss.usra@usask.ca requesting to be added to our e-mail distribution list and, if you wish, for the Newsletter. We send these emails as “blind carbon copies” so that the email addresses of members will remain confidential.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2009-2010

The Nominations committee proposes the following slate of candidates for the 2009-2010 year.

President: Jim Blackburn
Past President: Murray Scharf
Vice President: (to be filled later)
Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle
Treasurer: Ken Smith
Members at Large:
Yvonne Brown
Eileen Harvey
Michael Hayden
Dale Miquelon
Robert Sanche
Nancy Senior
Duff Spafford
Kurt Tischler

NOTICE OF MOTION – CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

In accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the Constitution, the Executive Committee recommends approval to the Annual General Meeting of the following motions amending the Constitution and Bylaws of the USRA:

i. *Abolition of Benefits Standing Committee*

Motion: Given the reduced role of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association in the negotiation and administration of the pension plan and other fringe benefits for faculty and administration, and given the ability of the Executive Committee to initiate advocacy actions and to strike special committees on such matters, it is moved that the Constitution and the Bylaws of the USRA be modified in the following manner:

Constitution:

Amend Article 7.1 by deleting the wording "a Standing Committee on Benefits and such other." The Article would now read:

7.1 There shall be Standing Committees as the Executive Committee shall, from time to time, decide.

Bylaws:

Amend Article 11.3 of the Bylaws by deleting Paragraph A, entitled Benefits Committee, and sub-paragraphs A.1 and A.3; and by relisting the following Paragraphs and sub-paragraphs on the "Office Services", "Newsletter", "Membership", "Education, Social and Recreation" and "Prime of Life Achievement Awards" Committees as Paragraphs A, B, C, D, and E, respectively.

ii. *Changing the name of the Newsletter Committee to the Communications Committee and expanding the role for this new committee.*

Motion: In order to reflect the expanded functional role assumed by the Newsletter Committee, the Bylaws be amended in the following manner:

- Change the name of the Newsletter Committee, in Article 11, Paragraph B of the amended Bylaws, to the Communications Committee; and,
- Amend the sub-paragraphs to read:
 - B.1 This Committee shall be responsible for the development and distribution of communications to inform the membership of events and issues affecting them.
 - B.2 This Committee shall develop and distribute a publication. A minimum of four (4) issues shall be published each year encompassing committee reports, notices, messages, special recognitions, information about members and such other material deemed helpful to the membership. For such a purpose, an Editor and an Assistant editor and others as may be required shall be appointed.

iii. *Modifying the criteria for the Prime of Life Awards*

Motion: In order to enlarge the criteria for the Prime of Life Award, the Bylaws be amended in the following manner:

Amend the last sentence of Article 11.3.F.1 by removing "or" before "provincial", and adding after "provincial" the words "or local", so that the sentence reads:

Such contributions should have been recognized by international, national, provincial or local bodies.