

UMMRA APRIL LUNCHEON AND QUARTERLY MEETING

University of Minnesota, Morris

April 2, 2015

The April meeting was held at the Cougar Room at the Prairie Inn. Lunch was ordered from the menu.

Chancellor Jacquie Johnson gave a presentation on the latest developments at UMM.

- We had our largest number of applications ever (over 3000) and the number of offers was also the highest. Applicants are well qualified with an average ACT of 25.5. Deposits are up over last year but not as much as the year before. These are challenging times and we need to keep working on retention.
- We continue to be an award winning campus in several areas including academics, sustainability, and community involvement. We have the highest percentage of faculty who are Horace T. Morse Award recipients, and we have many other faculty and students who have won prestigious awards.
- UMM received two gifts of land from people not directly associated with us, because they are aware of our mission and respect what we do.
- New regent, Tom Anderson, of Alexandria will be on campus today for the State of the U address. We are hoping for a tuition freeze and that the legislature will give us money in lieu of that. Facility funding is needed for interior renovations.
- Campus housing is maxed out. More students would choose to live on campus, if space was available. It is incredibly challenging to find housing for anyone...faculty, staff, and students.
- First to second year retention was 82% in 2012-13 and 79% last year. If students stay from the sophomore to junior years, they are more likely to stay to graduation.

The meeting was called to order by Andy Lopez. Minutes of the February 5, 2015, meeting were approved as written.

Elections for UMMRA treasurer and member-at-large took place. Lynn Schulz was elected treasurer; Roger Boleman was elected member-at-large. Ron Kubik and Dennis Johnson were thanked for their service in those positions.

New retirees Rick Reimers (Grounds) and Donna Chollett (Anthropology) were introduced and welcomed.

Ron Kubik reported that we have \$2932.87 as of April 2. We spent \$18.60 for guest lunches at the February meeting; there were no deposits. The treasurer's report was approved as stated.

Upcoming events:

- Maggie Larson said members should get in touch with David Swenson in Student Activities if they want to volunteer for commencement.
- The Recognition Dinner will be April 30 at 6 p.m. in Oyate Hall. The dinner is preceded by the UMMRA reception at 4 p.m. at the LaFave House. It was mentioned that the number of people attending the reception has decreased since we no longer serve alcohol. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer to share.
- On June 4, there will be a trip to the Maritime Museum in Alexandria followed by a potluck get-together at Lopez's.

Judy Riley said the newsletter went out yesterday, and she thanked Kubik for helping with that.

The membership renewal form will be included in the next issue.

Dave Aronson announced that the documentary "Chasing Ice" will be shown at 2 p.m. on April 11 at the Morris Theatre. Admission is free. He added that the theatre was to close in 2007 until a group of people created a cooperative to run it. They are in need of more members. It is an important asset to the community. A lifetime membership is \$250. The cooperative works with lots of organizations and puts on several free events. They try to keep their website up-to-date and list activities under Special Events. They are also on "Friday Facts."

Lopez handed the president's binder over to Maggie Larson. We thanked Andy for his service as president. He will continue in the role of webmaster.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Bonnie Tipcke