

UMMRA FALL LUNCHEON AND QUARTERLY MEETING

University of Minnesota, Morris

October 2, 2014

There were 22 members present at the fall meeting held at the Prairie Inn Gazebo Room. Meals were ordered from the menu. Introductions were made with everyone stating their dates of employment at UMM, their favorite experience while working, and their favorite experience since retiring.

Following lunch, Andy Lopez, president, opened the meeting. Minutes of the April quarterly meeting were read and approved.

Ken Hodgson announced that the Rose Ensemble was going to perform at Assumption Catholic Church that evening at 7 p.m. He asked for volunteers to help with ushering and asked them to arrive by 6 p.m. Andy and Dian Lopez and Tip and Bonnie Tipcke volunteered.

Hodgson said it can be difficult to communicate events for the town and campus and thinks there is a need to find innovative ways to reach people. Some of the current avenues to advertise events include local radio and newspapers, posters, and publications put out by the Chamber of Commerce ("Friday Facts") and the PRCA. Various other ideas were discussed including having more contact with the Chamber staff as well as with members of both the town and campus communities and posting weekly lists of events outside certain buildings. Hodgson suggested that UMM should have an office to coordinate all this type of information, because individuals don't always know where to go to find it. It would be a sort of clearinghouse where information could be collected and then dispersed to various places. Judy Riley offered to be a liaison between UMMRA and the local newspaper, if needed.

Ferolyn Angell will present her project at the November meeting. She received a grant from UMMRA to have some of her mother's papers translated from German to English. Ideas for future meetings include presentations from students working with the Center for Small Towns and the PRCA.

Riley said she is enjoying her work on the UMMRA newsletter but that she is always looking for input. Roger Boleman will have an article about the 70s in the next issue.

In lieu of a program, Ron Kubik reported on his trip to Washington D.C. for a Friends of the Wetlands Convention this summer. He thinks that much of the information he learned there could be relevant to UMMRA and keeping it sustainable. He said that we currently have only 89 members, which is way down from previous years. We have \$2857.25 in our account, and that amount hasn't changed much for 5 years. There is some confusion about who can join UMMRA. Membership is open to all retirees from one of the UM units, anyone close to retiring, and spouses of retirees. Kubik said there is a need to discuss dues (should they be raised? should couples continue to pay less?). He would like to have us become more active and more visible. One way would be to have fundraisers. Basically, he thinks we need to increase our funds so that we are able to do more things such as supporting someone from the community to attend UMM with a scholarship. We also need to encourage more retirees to join, and one way to do this would be to get more benefits added to our UMMRA membership card. Currently, we can get a UMM parking permit, which we all appreciate, but other ideas would be to get discounts at

the campus bookstore and TMC and at some downtown businesses. Everyone agrees that low membership is an issue, and we need to try to find new ways of increasing interest in our organization.

Kubik would like to look into becoming a 501C3 so we can be tax exempt and then donations could be tax deductible. Lopez mentioned that Joan Reicosky had checked into that before and didn't find it feasible. Kubik disagrees and will pursue the possibility.

Kubik gave the treasurer report and said that we haven't been spending money on anything but supplies. Karla Klinger noted that we need to always have enough money to be able to give out 3 mini grants of \$350 each, in case people apply. We also give money every year to a UMM scholarship fund in honor of deceased UMMRA members. The amount has been \$500, but that can vary from year to year.

Kubik is working on a new database in Google docs that he believes will be much more useable than Excel. It will help us keep better track of our membership. It is a very time-consuming process, but when it is done, he says it will be worth it. He will do a presentation to the group to show everyone how to use it at that time.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
Bonnie Tipcke, secretary