

UMMRA FEBRUARY LUNCHEON AND QUARTERLY MEETING

University of Minnesota, Morris

February 5, 2015

There were 12 members present at the February meeting held at the LaFave House. The lunch was provided, but free will donations were accepted.

Following lunch, Kelly Fischer, a student from UMM's Center for Small Towns, gave a presentation on the indoor observation beehive project she did this past summer. Bees are immensely important, but their numbers are decreasing at a rapid pace. Colony collapse disorder increased from 30% in 2006 to 90% in 2012. Pesticides are blamed for much of this problem. Fischer is continuing her work with bees and is in the process of trying to raise funds to get a beehive at UMM. We look forward to hearing more on her progress.

Maggie Larson called the meeting to order. Bonnie Tipcke read an email from Sue Gooch suggesting we try to find ways to have more visible exposure. She thinks we have been forgotten. This issue is something that has been discussed a lot, particularly in the board meetings. Some thoughts/ideas on increasing visibility and interest:

- We do have a website, but only the quarterly minutes are posted on it. Should we consider posting board meeting minutes also?
- Renewal notices will go out with the summer newsletter. Dave Aronson said it would be interesting to include a survey for people who have been retired 4 or 5 years to see why they don't join UMMRA.
- It was noted that active membership has gone from more faculty to now more staff.
- Lynn Schulz thinks people used to pull together more in the past than they do today and that UMM has grown to be more class conscious.
- People, both active and retired, are less willing to take on obligations.
- Tip Tipcke talked about Pheasants Forever and how its membership waned to the point of near collapse. They found some success with personal phone calls to individuals.
- Ron Kubik suggested that participation in events such as Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and Relay for Life would give us visibility. Arden Granger and Joan Reicosky noted that previous events at Terrace Mills and Superior Manufacturing were successful.

Aronson moved to include a survey in the summer newsletter to try to find out what would motivate retirees who aren't active in UMMRA. Kubik seconded the motion and suggested that we include a stamped form in the hopes of getting a better return. Aronson volunteered to come up with some questions for the survey.

Our June 4th event will be held in the Alexandria area. We plan to visit the museum and winery, followed by a picnic at the Andy and Diane Lopez home.

The October 2, 2014, minutes from the fall quarterly meeting were approved as written.

Kubik gave the treasurer's report. There were no expenses and only one membership was deposited. The current balance is \$2889.02. Bernice Erdahl moved and Granger seconded a motion to approve the report.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
Bonnie Tipcke, secretary