

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME IV, NUMBER 3, SPRING, 2002

SPRING IN MINNESOTA - 2002

Minnesota weather behaved superbly during the 2001-2002 winter, unless you were a snowmobile enthusiast. It was one of the warmest winters on record with only one night below zero. However, starting on March 1 the weather was full of mischief and misbehaviors. On the first day of spring the wind chill was below zero all day and night. It looks like March 2002 will be recorded as the coldest in history.

NEW OFFICE FOR UMMRA

Our office is located in the Center for Small Towns complex (former post office area). It is the last cubicle on the right hand side. We have a Macintosh computer donated by Judy Korn in External Relations and a printer donated by Mike Korth in Science and Math. We still need a copier. Sam Schuman has been subsidizing our quarterly newsletter. We are most grateful for these gifts. Extra costs and needs for the office are explained in ACTION ITEMS below.

APRIL LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION

The Spring Luncheon/Annual Meeting will be the start of the Annual Retirees Reunion on Wednesday, April 17, 2002. The schedule is as follows: (particulars will be given at meeting)

11:45 a.m. Luncheon in the Cougar Room at Prairie Inn (pay your own way). The annual meeting with election of officers will follow. The nominating committee (full board) proposes the following slate of officers for 2002-2003:

Secretary/Treasurer – Ellen Ordway

Member at Large – Harold Fahl

Newsletter/Historian – Dolores Lammers

The terms of Fred Farrell, Bettina Blake, Laird Barber, and Avis Brandt continue. Nominations from the floor will be accepted with the nominee's consent. Tip Tipcke has completed his 2 yr. term. "Thanks, Tip, for a great job." Please consider volunteering to join the board next spring. As you can tell each board member has a particular job to perform so no one person is overburdened.

As the featured luncheon speaker, Chancellor Sam Schuman will bring us up-to-date on present and future activities at UMM. Remember to thank him for meeting with us.

1:30 p.m. Tour of the LaFave House (drive yourself)

2:30 p.m. A walk through the newly remodeled "old" science and math building with Lowell Rasmuson

3:30 p.m. If desired, you can go through the new tunnel to Turtle Mountain Café for a cup of specialty coffee

4:30-6:00 p.m. UMMRA Reception for current faculty, staff and retirees at the home of Fred Farrell, 100 Columbia Avenue, Morris (park on Circle Pines or Columbia Avenue)

6:30 p.m. Faculty/Staff Recognition Dinner, Oyate Hall, Student Center (Make reservations by sending \$15 per person

to Maggie Larson, LeFave House, Morris, MN, 56267.)

Overnight accommodations are available at: Morris Motel, 320-589-1212; Super 8 Motel, 320-589-8888 (800-800-8000); Best Western Prairie Inn, 320-589-3030 (800-535-3035).

ACTION ITEMS AT ANNUAL MEETING

1. Election of Officers (as above).

2. Proposal to change by-laws to add the position of president-elect to the UMMRA Board of Directors. (This gives the person a year to observe how the board works instead of starting cold.)

3. Proposal to increase yearly dues to \$10 per person. This will help cover expenses for the new office:

-telephone (cost of service = \$204 a year, plus voice mail)

since our office is not continuously staffed this will enable members to leave messages or questions

-e-mail service (\$100 setup fee plus \$100 a year)

-all these need paper, ink and repairs

-postal rates will go up later this year

-other ongoing expenses we have paid in the past include the usual office supplies, fees and luncheons for speakers, and the Annual Reception (the biggest expense)

(Ed. Note: We have observed that no one in the University has the job description of being the advocate for retirees. We need board members to monitor our particular out-state needs, especially health insurance. UMMRA supposedly represents all of us, but an out-state voice on committees seems essential.) Former Chancellor David Johnson has agreed to attend the Benefits Advisory Committee's retiree subcommittee meetings in the Twin Cities and report back to Fred Farrell. See UMMRA update below for present status of insurance proposals.

REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

The Second Annual Health Awareness Day is Thursday, April 11 at the RFC from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be 25 booths from area health and wellness providers.

An extra arthritis aquatic class has been added at 6:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday. Pre-registration is required.

Senior Health and Fitness Day is Wednesday, May 29. It is free and includes a free arthritis aquatic class at 9:00 a.m., and a seminar at 10:30-11:15 a.m., "Active Adults Get Results".

LEARNING UNLIMITED/HERITAGE PRESERVERS

The first four sessions of "Watersheds, West Central Minnesota, and the World" have been completed. Two out of four presenters were ill the day of the third session, but Bettina Blake and Rosemarie Abbott took over like it had been planned that way. The remaining meetings are:

Session 5: Songs of Americas Waterways – Presentation by Charlie Maguire, entertainer, as part of the Morris Senior Citizen Heritage Days for Morris area sixth graders.

Friday, April 19, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

Session 6: Water, Rivers, and Lakes: The Stories They Inspire -- Presentation by storyteller Julie Goldstein, introduced by Laird Barber, Professor Emeritus of English.

Wed., May 1, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center.

The programs are free and open to everyone. The Morris Senior Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue, Morris. Bettina Blake is project director of Learning Unlimited and Heritage Preservers.

WCROC

The West Central Research and Outreach Center published their 36th "Annual Farm Progress Report" as a special supplement to the March 14, 2002 Morris Sun Tribune. It was full of interesting information, whether you have an agricultural background or not. If you know a young person who likes animals you could suggest that they read about the work being done by swine scientist Rebecca Morrison on hog farrowing in the outdoors. It could be a fascinating career.

CAMPAIGN MINNESOTA—RETIREE PHONATHON

UMM retirees have been generous in their support of Campaign Minnesota, the multi-year fund raising effort of the entire University. In both dollars donated and numbers of donors, the retirees have outdone all other groups on the Morris campus, with over half of all retirees participating so far. With about a year to go in the Campaign, the UMMRA representatives on the UMM Campaign Minnesota Committee, Doris Benson and Bettina Blake, decided to follow up a recent appeal letter with a Retiree Phonathon, to try especially to reach retirees who had not responded earlier. On the afternoon of St. Patrick's Day, six intrepid retiree volunteers assembled at the UMM Development Office and made 72 telephone calls in 2 hours, reaching retirees all over the country. Not only did many of those contacted agree to make a gift to UMM but there was an exchange of news and lots of enjoyable conversation. People seemed pleased to be called and to have the chance to reconnect, even briefly, with the Morris campus. Many thanks to Development Associate Judy Korn, who set up the Phonathon, and to callers Ray Lammers, Dolores Lammers, Arlene Beseman, Pearl Johnson, Doris Benson, and Bettina Blake. If you did not receive a call, don't be too disappointed – you'll be on the next calling list! And of course, if you want to make a gift to UMM, just call the Fund Development Office, at 320-589-6066 at any time. (The above is taken from a full report written by Bettina Blake which is in the UMMRA file.)

SAD NEWS

Bernice Lund died on February 18 in Redfield, South Dakota. Bernice taught mathematics at UMM until her retirement in 1978. Colleagues remember her as a true scholar and one of the great pioneers of UMM.

Harriet Brownlee Johnson of San Antonio, Texas died on December 10, 2001. She taught at UMM in the sixties.

Chester Norby died on Tuesday, March 20. He was a part-time faculty member for many years in the Economics and Management discipline and husband of Lois Norby, who retired in 1991 from the Business Office.

Our sympathy to the families of Bernice, Harriet, and Chester.

ONE DAY CAR TRIPS

The trip last September was so enjoyable that we're planning a car trip in June and one in September. Have you ever visited the Terrace Mill? We will tour the mill, have lunch on the porch overlooking the lake, look at the sculpture and art works, and go back in time visiting a house built in 1800. The tentative date is Wed., June 12. Call Avis Brandt at 320-589-3304 or talk to her at the luncheon if interested.

In September, a good fall trip could be to Milan, MN. They have the Tolk Heim pottery plus many other artisans in the area. More information in the summer UMMRA INFO.

NEWS FROM UMRA (TWIN CITIES)

Excerpted from the University of Minnesota weekly publication, brief, dated February 6, 2002.

Changes in medical and dental plan coverages for Medicare-eligible retirees and dependents will be offered for 2003. The U has submitted requests for proposals (RFPs) from health plan vendors. The Benefits Advisory Committee's retiree subcommittee will help evaluate RFPs and make recommendations to President Yudof in May.

Regents will make a final decision in May or June. U retirees currently pay the entire cost of their health coverage. New plan offerings should be available during fall 2002 open enrollment. The goal of the subcommittee is to ensure that proposed designs match State Employee Group Insurance Plan offerings in the past and to gain ground on the long-standing goal of U subsidy of retiree health benefits.

-The next UMRA luncheon meeting will be on Tuesday, April 23. The speaker will be Dennis Gimmestad; Government Programs and Compliance Officer, Minnesota Historical Society, speaking on preserving historical sites. Call Laird Barber, 320-589-4254, for more information.

Note: Denny is a 1973 alumnus of UMM and attended the Meiningens Reunion Homecoming 2001 last fall.

COMMENCEMENT 2002

Retired faculty members are invited to march in the commencement procession on Friday, May 10. Call 589-6141 (Bookstore) by April 5, 2002, to order regalia.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 17 –Annual meeting and reunion

Friday, April 19—A training session to become an Evergreen Reader presented by Jane Cunningham, Director of Learning in Retirement Programs, Minnesota Humanities Commission. Call Morris Area Community Education @ 320-589-4394.

Wed., May 1—Julie Goldstein will be presenting a workshop on storytelling. Call Community Education as above for info.

A long BITS AND PIECES will be printed in the summer UMMRA INFO.

