

# UMMRA INFO

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME VI, NUMBER 1, SUMMER, 2003

### DUES--MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is a letter from Ellen Ordway which is being sent to all retirees of any University unit in the Morris area. It explains some of the benefits of belonging to UMMRA. Our former chancellor, David Johnson, wrote in his newsletter that we need to join a retiree group for two reasons: 1. The University needs us. 2. We need the University. Please take care of this while it is fresh in your mind. The Summer newsletter goes to all retirees, but the fall, winter and spring UMMRA INFO goes only to paid members. Along with your dues please send us information on what you are doing – other members really enjoy reading about former colleagues.

### ONE DAY GARDEN TOUR

Avis Brandt is willing to plan a 1-day car trip to visit gardens in the northern part of the state if there are enough people interested. She will consult with Sue Gooch of Pioneer Public TV's "Prairie Yard and Garden" with the planning. As the trip makes for a lot of telephoning, Avis wants interested people to call her at 320-589-3304. The travel date would be the middle of July and she would like at least 12 participants.

On April 25, thirteen UMMRA members visited the Blue Cloud Abbey near Milbank, S.D. and the Tokheim Pottery in rural Dawson. Brother Michael Peterson, formerly of Morris and a graduate of UMM with a music major, was our guide. He is taking organ lessons and was playing the organ when we arrived. He showed us beautiful stoles and vestments that are made at the abbey.

After noon lunch in Milbank, we had a scenic drive to Tokheim's Pottery where Mr. Tokheim demonstrated their method of making pottery. We ended the tour in Milan with coffee and bars in the park.

### 2003-2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The newly elected UMMRA board members were installed at a board meeting on June 2 at the LaFave House as follows:

President – James Gremmels

President-elect – Janet Ahern

Past-president – Frederick Farrell

Secretary-Treasurer – Arden Granger

Member-at-large – Mary Ellen Grossman

Member-at-large–Harold Fahl (one more year)

Bettina Blake, Ellen Ordway and Avis Brandt are retiring after many great years as board members. Many thanks to them from the membership. Current board members have yet to find out how much their expertise will be missed.

### UMMRA OFFICE AND E-MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

Just a reminder that UMMRA has office space in the Community Services Building as part of the Center for Small Towns Complex (previous Post Office site). It is the last cubicle on the right side.

UMMRA has an e-mail address that goes to all subscribers in the listserv. To access the UMMRA listserv, the address is:

[ummra@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:ummra@mrs.umn.edu)

Individuals with e-mail can add themselves to the list if they send the command: **subscribe ummra** at the address:

[majordomo@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:majordomo@mrs.umn.edu).

### RETIREES REUNION/ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting/reunion luncheon was held at Prairie Inn on Thursday, April 17, 2003. Election of board members was held. Chancellor Sam Schuman gave an update on UMM which faces financial difficulties because of the current drastic budget cuts with more cuts likely for next year.

Afternoon activities included a tour of the Carlson Woodworking and Cabinet shop, a visit to the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance shop, and coffee plus dessert at the Common Cup Café. At 4:30, UMMRA hosted the annual reception for faculty and staff at the LaFave House.

The Faculty-Staff Recognition Dinner followed in Oyate Hall and honored the following retirees:

John Ingle, professor of studio art

Vinod Nangia, associate professor of physics

Vicky Demos, professor of sociology

Audre Ross, principal accounts specialist

Thelma Wilson, principal secretary

Congratulations to John, Vinod, Vicky, Audre and Thelma.

A big thank you to Harold Fahl for planning and carrying out a very busy and fun day. He had assistance from Bernice Erdahl and Avis Brandt.

### REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER

Chancellor Schuman has again agreed to contribute towards membership at the RFC for UMMRA members. The senior rate is \$115 but the University will contribute \$40. This is only for retired UMM employees over 62 who are paid members of UMMRA. The procedure is the same as last year and accomplished through Mary Zosel at 320-589-6022. **You should call her after the first week in August for specific details.** She hopes to be at the RFC for a few hours during the week of August 18 through August 22. You need to see Mary with your UMMRA membership card, pay the remaining share of membership cost and fill out a UMM Corporate Membership Verification form which you then take to the RFC desk.

-Summer senior swim time at the Rec Pool is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

- Senior track time is Monday-Friday, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Senior strength training goes from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mon. and Wed., 8:00-9:00 a.m. Cost is \$40 (members \$15 discount).

A new program is Water Tai Chi – inquire at desk for details

#### .UMRA UPDATE (Laird Barber)

1. The annual banquet and members' dinner meeting of The University of Minnesota Retirees Association of the Twin Cities (UMRA) will be held on June 24 in the West Wing of the Campus Club on the fourth floor of the refurbished Coffman Union. President Robert Bruininks will be the speaker. For further information call Laird at 320-589-4254.
2. UMRA is hosting the annual meeting of the Big Ten Retirees Organizations on 15-17 August 2004 on the Minneapolis campus. Some of the sessions might be of interest to UMMRA members. In addition, UMRA will be encouraging as many of its members as possible to participate in the meetings, meet delegates from other Big Ten organizations, and volunteer their services in various ways.
3. In UMRA's May Newsletter, Ted Litman reported that health insurance costs will probably rise again, but there is a chance that dental costs might fall for some people. He promises to keep us informed through their newsletter. If you want to see this newsletter call Laird Barber or Dolores Lammers (320) 589-1083. There is good information in the newsletter about medical coverage for retirees' travel abroad. The University does not recommend or subsidize the program but information about it can be accessed from a MEDEX customer service representative at 1-800-732-5309.

#### YEAR IN REVIEW

Luncheon meetings – The fall luncheon was held at Prairie Inn with Director Randee Hokanson, Stevens County Historical Society, as the program speaker. She outlined plans for remodeling the Historical Society Building (old city library). The winter luncheon participants were treated to a talk and slides by Laird Barber on his recent trip to Nara and Osaka, Japan. He focused on the buildings and gardens of the area. We were also treated to one of those quick Minnesota white-out snow storms that come up from nowhere.

Avis Brandt planned and introduced the meetings.

Volunteer Committee – Cathy Kemble (320-795-2290) and Bernice Erdahl (320-246-3393) scheduled volunteers at UMM and the city of Morris for the following events:

Graduation – handing out programs and ushering (5 people)

Orientation – telephoning and acting as guides (10 people)

West Wind Village (Evergreen Readers) – every Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., September through April (12 people)

Two people could read together if more convenient as Geneva and Curtis Gunvalson did three different times. Bernice and Cathy say a big "Thank You" to all who participated.

Car Trips – Last summer a trip was taken to the Terrace Mill where the group had lunch overlooking the lake and toured the 1800 house and art works. In the fall, a group traveled to Milan and visited the local potters. The spring trip was covered above.

Campaign MN – A very successful Campaign MN will end on June 30, 2003. On Tuesday, April 22, retirees, along with faculty and staff, were recognized for their contribution at a tree planting ceremony on the mall. A maroon and gold plant was presented to each donor. A picture of Rosemarie and Robbie Abbott was in the Morris Sun Tribune as they accepted their plant.

Heritage Preservers – Heritage Preservers, under the umbrella of Learning Unlimited, had a successful year with their series "Empowering Citizens: Past Knowledge and Future Action." The Minnesota Humanities Commission will lose all state funding on July 1 so Fred Farrell and other committee members will have a difficult time with planning for next year.

#### BITS AND PIECES

- The Barber Lecture in Literature was held on April 7, 2003. The series is funded by a gift from Laird and Dorothy Barber.
- The Edith Farrell French Poetry Reading contest was held on April 22 on campus.
- A great picture of Jim Tanner giving a presentation on the Korean War appeared in the Morris Sun Tribune. It was part of Museum Day '03 remembrance of Korean War veterans.
- Bettina Blake served as a judge for the annual statewide high school oral French contest on April 29 at Coffman Union.
- Bernice Erdahl and Avis Brandt were pictured in the Morris Tribune being honored as volunteers at West Wind Village and also in a group of board members celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Lodge #1-590 of the Sons of Norway.
- '02 and '03 Travels - Washington D.C., Hawaii (Latterell), New York, Puerto Vallarta, Las Vegas, MN. (Fosgate), New York, Cape Cod, China (Blake), Madagascar, Holland (Ordway), Mazatlan, England, Holland, Budapest, England again to meet new granddaughter (Gray), Idaho, Yellowstone, Black Hills - trip to Texas and Southwest U.S. canceled when Arden broke her ankle (Grangers), gorgeous Birmingham, AL. (Erdahl), Lanesboro, MN., B & B and Community Theatre production of "The Master Builder" (Gremmels), Santa Fe Opera Company – retirement gift to self (Ahern), Aruba, Anchorage, Spain, Torremolinos (Kemble), Tromso University, Norway (D. Johnson), Japan, England, Scotland (Barber), Texas, Florida – picture next issue (Farrell), Italy, Netherlands (McGinnis, Scharf), Caribbean Cruise, Whitefish –70 years family cabin (Imholte).

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER (James Gremmels)

I need the presidency of UMMRA like a guppy needs a ten-speed bicycle, but Ellen Ordway usually can talk me into anything. Here I am, committed to a two-year term; fortunately supported by a board of considerable competence and experience. Officially I assume my duties (a powerful word) at our meeting in September. Attending, as a guest, my first meeting in the LaFave House, I thought how nice it might be for UMMRA to sponsor some fundraisers to complete the guest suite downstairs. UMM needs a residence for distinguished visitors to spend the night. This project would finish the marvelous work done on the downstairs and grounds. Of course, if successfully accomplished, who knows what my aspirations for even higher offices might be.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, October 8, 2003 Fall Luncheon meeting
- Wednesday, February 11, 2004 Winter Luncheon meeting
- Wednesday, April 29, 2004 Annual Meeting and Reunion







