

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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SUMMER GREETINGS

A good beginning for the first 2000-2001 UMMRA INFO is the conclusion written by President Blake for the 1999-2000 Annual Report which was submitted to the administration of UMM.

“Retirees from UMM tend to be extremely active, committed people. The freedom of retirement is important to them, allowing them to participate even more than before in local and family activities. At the same time they are loyal to the Morris campus and do not want to feel entirely cut off from it. The University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees Association tries to find a balance between distancing and involvement, providing conviviality while making a minimal imposition on people’s time. UMMRA looks forward to growing as the ranks of UMM retirees increase, and to making a useful contribution to the Morris campus under the leadership of its new chancellor, Sam Schuman.”

DUES

Enclosed is a letter regarding dues for 2000-2001 (July 2000- June 2001). Please take care of them this summer while it is fresh in your mind. Only paid members can be assured of receiving future issues of UMMRA INFO.

T-SHIRTS

A few more maroon and gold UMMRA T-shirts have been ordered. They can be purchased for \$10 (\$13 if sent by mail) by calling 320-589-1083 or by sending the money along with your dues to Ellen Ordway. They are available in sizes M, L, and XL.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Retirees who wish to be listed in the Morris campus student-staff directory or the all-University directory may forward their information or corrections to Judy Riley, University Relations by July 15. Entries may be sent via regular mail or e-mailed to <rileyjk@mrs.umn.edu>.

RETIREE REUNION

The 2000 Spring Reunion was combined with the Spring Luncheon and the Annual Meeting on April 26. It was an all day event chaired by Avis Brandt, assisted by Charlotte Eul and Maggie Dylla. The events consisted of lunch at Prairie Inn, National Issues Forum at the Morris Senior Center, a tour of the new science building by Associate Vice Chancellor Lowell Rasmussen, Senior Art show,

UMMRA reception for all faculty, staff, retirees and their spouses at the home of Bettina Blake, and topped off by the Faculty-Staff Recognition Dinner. It was well attended and brought back many retirees.

ANNUAL MEETING

Elections for the 2000-2001 Board of Directors were held at the annual meeting. They are:

President – Bettina Blake
Sec.- Treasurer – Ellen Ordway
Past Pres./UMRA Rep.- Laird Barber
Directors at Large – Avis Brandt, Maurice Tipeke
Historian/Newsletter Editor – Dolores Lammers

QUARTERLY LUNCHEONS

Charlotte Eul arranged the luncheons at a new location which allowed for more elbow room, the Cougar Room at the Prairie Inn. Charlotte scheduled three excellent program speakers: Cindy Perkins from Morris Community Education in October, Missy Becker-Cook from West Central Minnesota Community Action, Inc. in February, and Chancellor Sam Schuman from UMM in April. The programs were informative and attendance was good.

HERITAGE PRESERVERS

The theme of the Heritage Preservers programs was “Past, Present, and Future in West Central Minnesota.” Six free programs were offered to Morris Area residents between February and May of 2000. The Heritage Preservers is an initiative of UMMRA in collaboration with other Morris area senior citizen groups and is partially supported by a \$3,000 per year grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission. We need to thank the members of UMMRA who give so much time and energy to this project. Extra volunteers are always needed.

RETIREE PERQUISITES UPDATE

Two versions of a UMM retiree perquisites sheet were distributed to members at the winter and spring luncheons. A sheet for faculty and one for staff were prepared by Sarah Mattson, the UMM Director of Human Resources. They list the local perquisites for retirees in Morris and will be given to new retirees. Bettina Blake is pursuing the possibility of getting a printed document of the “Rights of Retirees” approved by the University Senate this spring. It could be used by the entire University to answer questions that arise when people retire .

NEWS ABOUT UMRA

Laird Barber is our representative on the all-University Retirees Association. They have been very active this past year in pursuing national equity in Medicare payments. Their annual meeting (held on June 27, 2000) featured "Medicare Justice" with speakers Marty Gates, a leader in the Medicare Justice Coalition, and Kelli Jo Greiner, the Health Issues Manager for the MN. Senior Federation.

MEDICARE JUSTICE COALITION

The Medicare Justice Coalition, created by the Minnesota Senior Federation, believes that the Federal Government has created a two tier Medicare system that is unjust, unfair and illegal. With his permission the UMMRA editor has taken some of the following information from a memorandum sent by Bill Gardner, UMRA President, to all UMRA members.

"One serious aspect of the health care problem that is close to us and about which something can be done is the disparity in Medicare reimbursement rates, a situation that is both unjust and unfair. Consider these facts: An HMO covering senior citizens living in Dade County, Florida, will receive \$778 per month per beneficiary while an HMO in Minnesota will receive only \$405. Moreover, the Florida resident will pay no premium for services not covered by Medicare and does not need to pay for co-pays. On the other hand, we do pay for co-pays and for hearing aids, eye glasses, dental, and out patient drugs.

The Minnesota Senior Federation is the leader in the action to adjust Medicare payments to lessen or to abolish geographical differences. It has made Medicare's "flawed formula" the target of a number of actions, and the Federation has asked UMRA for our help in these matters. Specifically, the Federation is building the Medicare Justice Coalition (MJC), a national grassroots effort to lobby Congress for three goals: Fair Medicare reimbursement; increased fees for service, and equal Medicare benefits.

What is the Federation asking us to do? 1) Become involved, join the MJC. 2) If you are not already a member of the Federation, join now." Bill concluded the memo by saying, "Health insurance will continue to be difficult and frustrating. But we have a chance to do something that will benefit us all. I hope you decide to become part of this effort."

Enclosed is a pamphlet from the Medicare Justice Coalition with more information for MN. UMMRA members. Morris area people can join the Federation by calling Judy Nord at 320-589-2951 or by stopping at the Morris Senior Center at 603 Oregon Avenue. You can join MJC at the same time which is free of

cost. Judy said the Midwest Region Federation has planned a trip to Canada to purchase prescription drugs on August 21, 22, 23. They will take 3 bus-loads and include federal legislators and Twin Cities news people. The cost is \$200 for a 2 night stay. You need your own prescription, and a credit card is helpful. Call Judy to register by July 15, 2000.

FALL EVENT PLANS

Do you remember the original Louie's Lower Level? Did you work in an area that no longer exists? If you are a retiree who has a favorite memory of the early years of UMM or of the West Central School of Agriculture, would you be willing to share it? Items do not have to be lengthy; historical photos are also welcome. If so, please call University Relations at 320-589-6050 or write to Judy Riley, University Relations, UMM, 600 E. 4th St., 11 Education (garden level), Morris, MN 56267. UMM will be documenting the "personal history" of UMM and WCSA in a variety of ways during the 40th/90th year celebration beginning this fall.

PRAIRIE PIONEER DAYS

The 16th Annual Prairie Pioneer Days in Morris will be held on July 14, 15, 16. Arlene Beseman, UMMRA member, is a part of the planning committee. The programs are set and all activities will be listed in the Morris Sun Tribune.

RFC SENIOR TIMES SCHEDULE

Senior Times are special times set for senior citizens to participate in Regional Fitness Center activities on the Morris campus. A printed schedule of activities and times is available at the front desk.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Condolences to the family of Conrad Johnson who died on April 10, 2000. Conrad worked at the West Central Experiment Station and UMM from 1953 to 1978. Conrad and Freda were present at many UMMRA luncheons.

A large thank you to Charlotte Eul for her work on the UMMRA Board. The two years went fast!

Welcome to new board member, "Tip" Tipcke.

Congratulations to the six new retirees: Jim Gremmels, Mary Ellen Grossman, Jack Imholte, Shirley Kleepies, Fred Peterson, and Dennis Sayre.

Campus Duplicating will be moving to the new science building. The office will be closed the week of July 10-14.

Once again, a big thank you to Bettina Blake for opening her home for the annual reunion.

HAVE A GOOD AND RESTFUL SUMMER!

