



## UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 2001

### OFFICE FOR UMMRA

Chancellor Schuman notified board members that he found regular office space for the Retirees Association. It is the office in the Northwest region of the area on the first floor of the Community Services Building. It will have the necessary electronic hook-ups which will make communication with retirees fast and inexpensive. Members who want to join the e-mail list may subscribe themselves. They should send an e-mail message from their own account, addressed to:

[majordomo@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:majordomo@mrs.umn.edu)  
containing the message text:  
subscribe UMMRA

Any list member may send mail to the list by addressing it to:  
[ummra@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:ummra@mrs.umn.edu)

### 2001-2002 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Installation of the newly elected UMMRA Board was held at a board meeting on June 14 as follows:

C. Frederick Farrell, Jr., President  
Bettina Blake, Past President and Campaign MN Representative  
Ellen Ordway, Secretary-Treasurer  
Laird Barber, All-University UMRA Board Representative

Avis Brandt, Director at Large  
Maurice "Tip" Tipcke, Director at Large  
Dolores Lammers, Historian and Newsletter Editor

Also:  
Doris Benson, Campaign MN Representative  
Bernice Erdahl, Co-chair, Volunteer Committee  
Cathy Kemble, Co-chair, Volunteer Committee

"Tip" Tipcke will be in charge of the three luncheon meetings and Avis Brandt will co-ordinate the spring reunion and annual meeting.

### BETTINA

Many "Thank you's" to Bettina Blake for the leadership she provided to UMMRA during the three years of her presidency. Ellen Ordway prepared a list of Bettina's accomplishments for the annual meeting: establishing the quarterly newsletter, formalizing the list of perquisites for retiree faculty and staff, establishing the annual meeting/reunion plus the cocktail party in her home, making contacts with UMRA in the Twin Cities and inviting them onto our campus, initiating and establishing the Heritage Preservers (see below), and many other good things. Each member of UMMRA could add something personal to the list.

### DUES

Enclosed is a letter regarding dues for 2001-2002. Only paid members receive all 4 quarterly newsletters. According to our updated mailing list, UMM has 132 retirees; UMMRA had 85 paid members and spouses in 2000-2001.

### T-SHIRTS

A maroon and gold UMMRA t-shirt can still be purchased for \$10 (\$13 by mail) by calling 320/589-1083 or by sending the money along with your dues.

### RETIREES REUNION/ANNUAL MEETING

The annual reunion luncheon was held at the Prairie Inn on April 24, 2001 the same date as the Recognition Dinner. Elections were held for the 2001-2002 Board of Directors. Tribute was paid to Bettina Blake, retiring president. Chancellor Schuman gave an update on UMM areas of interest and budget concerns. The afternoon tour of the DENCO ethanol plant was interesting to all as all phases of ethanol production to the final product were explained. It was shown how all waste products were utilized for animal feed concentrates. Those with interests in the new science building and heating plant had the opportunity to visit areas of their choice. The annual cocktail party was held at the home of Bettina Blake. It was a friendly and lively group who had an enjoyable time before attending the Recognition Dinner at the Student Center.

Congratulations to the new retirees who were honored: Marilyn Bober, principal accounts specialist, PE Center; Char Castor, principal secretary, Division of the Social Sciences; C. Frederick Farrell, Jr., professor of French; Nathaniel Hart, professor of English; Jim Olson, professor of chemistry; and Robert Vikanker, special assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs. Jim Olson, the last member of the "original 13", was a recipient of a 2001 President's Award for Outstanding Service.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

The highlight of the year for the recipients was the fall trip to the TC campus. Two van loads had many adventures (covered in the winter newsletter).

Heritage Preservers had the topic "We All Came From Somewhere Else—Immigration".

The three luncheons were held at the Prairie Inn. The fall group was entertained by Jim Gremmels, who recreated his trip to China for them. The winter group became Scandinavians listening to the Pederson brothers talk about the Vikings and sampling Nordic treats brought by Avis Brandt and Bernice Erdahl. The spring meeting was the annual/reunion luncheon held on the same day as the Faculty/Staff Recognition dinner.

A Volunteer Committee was formed this year with Cathy Kemble and Bernice Erdahl as co-chairs. They found a need for volunteers on campus.

Also, a new electronic mailing list was set up for UMMRA by John Bowers, Computing Service. The process for taking advantage of this service is outlined in the first paragraph.

Thank you to all who made it a great year, especially Avis Brandt and "Tip" Tipcke who arranged the luncheons and reunion.

**MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM TRIP**

A one day trip to the Arboretum in Chanhassen has been set for September 4 (day after Labor Day). Cost will be for food and share of mileage. Call "Tip" Tipcke (320-589-1619) or Avis Brandt (320-589-3304) before August 20 to reserve a place.

**HERITAGE PRESERVERS**

In April Charlie Maguire entertained the Morris sixth graders and audience with the songs of immigrants. The final program was a presentation by author Bill Holm, recounting the immigrant experience and the background of Icelanders.

The Heritage Preservers cultural project, partially funded by the Minnesota Humanities Commission, is changing. Over the next year Heritage Preservers will become the nucleus of a larger initiative for senior citizen programming in this area. A survey of senior citizen interest in programming will guide the Morris Community Education staff, working with the Heritage Preservers Planning Committee, in planning activities for 2001-2002.

**A YEAR WITH UMMRA (LAIRD BARBER)**

The University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) of the Twin Cities leads a complex and active existence, at which one can only glance in a brief article. For UMM people, perhaps the most significant news is that UMRA will nominate David Johnson, our former chancellor, as the president-elect for 2001-02 and as president for 2002-03. UMRA entertained a group from UMMRA last fall in a most enjoyable visit for all of us. UMRA has about 750 members (plus spouses) and has a bank account of approximately \$8,300 and a savings account of about \$6,200. It coordinates an extensive volunteer program and presents monthly luncheon meetings, with speakers, during the academic year.

In the spring UMRA conducted a survey of its membership to see how it could better serve them. One main concern is that, despite UMRA's best efforts the pensions of many older retirees—specifically those who entered the University's retirement plan prior to October, 1963—are seriously inadequate. More generally, the survey revealed a feeling on the part of the membership that University retirees are not really recognized as an integral part of the University community. As a start to changing this widely felt perception, President Oriani discovered that UMRA members, on average, have contributed \$6,100 each to the University of MN Foundation, while the average donor to the Foundation has contributed \$1,570. Clearly, UMRA members make many other less tangible contributions to the University Community, but the dollar figure makes a specific and direct point.

The main concern of UMRA members, as revealed by the Survey and by general awareness, is the skyrocketing cost of health care for retirees. During the past year the Interim Health Benefits Committee conducted a thorough and detailed study of the present plan and of some available alternatives. A UMRA member monitored this process, emphasized some of our concerns and reported on the discussions to the UMRA Board. As the University moves towards establishing its own employee and retiree health plan, UMRA will continue to monitor the process.

**TRAVELS WITH UMMRA**

A friend from the TC campus, who will retire soon, was curious about what Morris retirees did with their extra time. The reply

was "Travel", so a list of some of the people and places will prove a point.

-Betty and Sinmin Wu, who live in San Diego, CA., took a cruise to the Bahamas, traveled to Thailand and Taiwan, and had a big family reunion in San Francisco.

-Ellen Ordway took a trip up the Yangtze River in China with Jim and Ruth Gremmels and Laird Barber, spent time in New York to fix her mother's house, and took a field trip through the Indonesian Islands including Bali, Lombok, Rinca, and Komodo.

-John Detlef took a month long tour of China and went antique hunting in Hong Kong.

-Avanelle and Wes Gray spent 10 days each in Puerto Rico and Costa Rica, did Elderhostels in Bismarck (Lewis and Clark expedition), New Mexico, and San Francisco (will go again). They made several trips to England to visit daughter, Maureen, with side trips to Europe, Turkey, Spain and Portugal.

-Sen and Helen Fan traveled to the Caribbean in the winter, to the East coast where they saw Jay and Hertha Roshall, to Northern Europe and Russia, and to China where they visited relatives, some of whom they hadn't seen since childhood.

-Laird Barber took a trip to Syria and Jordan and then to India, a summer trip to Holland and a music tour of Berlin, Leipzig and Prague.

-Lucy and Jack Imholte visited the British Isles and Florida in the winter. Jack went on one of Dave Johnson's Norway hikes and went to New York City with him to see plays.

-Cathy and Ernie Kemble visited Greece and Turkey and the Greek Islands, visited many of the Caribbean Islands at different times, took a cruise on the Mediterranean Sea, stopping in Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, and the Canary Islands (plus more stops).

-George and Pat Fosgate took trips to Lake Tahoe, to Greece and Turkey, and to Tahiti.

-Bettina Blake spent two and a half weeks in Paris, then took the train to Munich, Salzburg and Vienna (attended a dance, theatre, or music performance each night for 3 weeks). She has made many trips back East for high school reunion activities and as chair for Barnard College's 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion.

Please send news of your activities with your dues. Certainly there are many more people and places not covered—this could be a regular column.

**MORRIS BEAUTIFICATION**

Barbara McGinnis, with help from Mayor Carol Wilcox, spearheaded a project to create a "pocket garden" on the vacant lot between Keeper's and McGinnis Electric. An article and picture were in the July 3 Morris Sun Tribune.

**FALL FESTIVITIES**

Plans are being made for a car tour of several small towns in western Minnesota. It would start with a visit to an apple orchard owned by UMM alumni, Jerry Pommerenke, near Kensington; then a visit to a winery in Carlos; and end with a late lunch at the Dew Drop Inn in Hoffman. It would be during the last week in September—full details in next INFO.

The fall luncheon meeting is being planned at the Common Grounds Coffeehouse. Details later.

**Have A Good Summer**