

University of Victoria Retirees Association

25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 20, 2018

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the UVRA was held on June 20, 2018 in room 276 of the Continuing Studies Building of the University of Victoria. Twenty-eight members attended with President Peter Liddell chairing the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35. Peter opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territory of the WS'ANEC' (Saanich), Lkwungen (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation. He welcomed members and requested a moment of silence in memory of those members who had died during the past year. Terry Cockerline (the UVic liaison with the UVRA) and Cara Jones (UVic strategic planner from Human Resources) were introduced as guests for the AGM.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated, with the recognition that reports have been circulated in advance and that only highlights will be spoken to during the report presentations. Moved- Winona Pugh. Seconded- James Pearce. Approved.

2. **Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

Motion: That the minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted as circulated, with the correction of the spelling of the surname Pearce.

Moved- Colin Scarfe. Seconded- June Whitmore. Approved.

3. **Business Arising.** Business arising from the minutes is included in the agenda items below.

4. **Annual Reports (for complete versions see written reports on the UVRA website. Highlights of the reports were projected on a screen). The minutes refer to the points emphasized by the presenters, not the full text of their reports.**

4.1 President's Report – Peter Liddell

Peter noted that Letter of Understanding that was signed over the past year is a key to formalizing the UVRA link with the university. He mentioned that there had been an increase in the programs being offered by the UVRA to members and the wider community. These include social events, lectures and presentations leading to a need for additional, hopefully paid, office assistance.

The scholarship program has been created to support graduate research relating to themes that are relevant to the 55+ age demographic. This can be interdisciplinary research or research from a single faculty as reviewed by the UVic committee that will be in place once the funding meets the threshold to support a \$1000 scholarship annually. We need about another \$5,000 in

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donations, to be matched by the UVRA, to implement the program as a line item of the UVic Foundation.

The UVRA is researching the availability of “event” liability insurance to determine what coverage we may need to hold for events and activities that occur under our jurisdiction.

We continue to work on “succession planning” and encourage members to consider expressing interest in serving on the board, committees or program activities of the UVRA. Contact Peter for more information if you are interested.

Peter expressed his thanks to the board and the membership for the support that they provided him in his four years as president. With his term expiring at the AGM he welcomed incoming president John Anderson to his new position effective after the elections this AGM.

4.2 Treasurer’s Report – Dick Chappell

The treasurer outlined the current positive financial situation as reflected in the printed reports and notes that the total assets for the UVRA at the end of March 2018 total \$111,765.08. These funds are stable but do not represent enough to pay salaries on an ongoing basis for an office assistant. Some of the holdings are from “lifetime membership dues” of our members and are not to be diminished through short term expenditures.

4.3 Benefits – Winona Pugh

The Benefit services provided through the UVRA continue to be a valued service to our members. Through the three extended health options, UVic retirees are able to find the coverage that best suits their needs and to have the flexibility to change to the membership-exclusive UVRA Johnson Plan at any time as their needs change. The comparison charts developed by Lois Jones and updated by Suzanne Helston have provided an excellent resource to help individuals choose the best plan for their retirement. Additional report details are on the UVRA website.

4.4 Communications – Melvin Klassen

Members were provided with updates in the past year by E-mail or by Canada Post such as announcements and reminders from the UVRA Events Committee, *Grey Matters!* newsletters, reminders about *Masterminds*, notices of the UVRA Elder Academy events, reminders about the Christmas lunch, the Chinese New Year lunch, special events, and calls for volunteers to participate in UVic-approved research projects. Thanks must go to John Anderson, for continuing as the Editor of *Grey Matters!* and to Louise Schmidt, for printing over 60 copies of each issue, for delivery via Canada Post to those for whom we do not have an E-mail ID.

4.5 Membership – Zulette Gordon

Zulette provided an overview of her report noting that the UVRA membership is up 7.1% with an additional 48 members this year. Most of the UVRA members are life members (88%) and as

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this appears to be the best way for members to maintain their continuity of membership (and therefore stay on the Johnson Extended Health Plan, if they wish, without having to bother with renewing annually). A question was raised about membership dues and if they should be indexed to the cost of living. Peter noted that fees are reviewed annually at the September Board meeting.

4.6 Social Events – Lou Schmidt (Acting Social Events Coordinator)

The committee report on the website shows the success of the seven programs developed and delivered over the past year. Many thanks to the leaders who coordinated each of the individual events. We continue to look for people to volunteer for these functions, which are highly valued and important to our members. There was a vote of thanks from a member on the floor for the great work that has been done this past year.

4.7 Elder Academy – David Docherty

This was another full year of offerings for the UVRA Elder Academy. A big thanks to all the presenters who gave freely of their time and talents, to make the year a big success. The goal has been to offer a series each month from September until June. David acknowledged the invaluable help of Louise Schmidt who helped in so many ways, and especially in looking after all the registration. Full details are in the website report.

4.8 Masterminds Lectures – John Anderson

The MasterMinds series is comprised of four lecture presentations, one on each Wednesday evening in April. Each lecture is created and delivered by a University of Victoria retiree on a topic in their area of expertise and of general interest. Each year the series is developed by a collaboration of the UVRA and the University – in particular the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health and the University's Media Relations and Public Affairs group.

This year's sessions were:

- Diaries of a missionary doctor: A family history. Discover letters and journals revealing the fascinating life of the Colwell family. Dean Goard
- Watching learning happen: From neural networks to social networks. Explore the complexities and challenges of how we learn. Geri Van Gyn
- Let the images speak: Historic re-photography in Canada's mountain west. Hike Canada's ranges to see how scientists with cameras are revealing climate change. Mary Sanseverino
- On land and seafloor: Earthquake early-warning systems. Learn how Ocean Networks Canada's network of sensors is detecting subduction earthquakes. Bob Crosby

The presentations were well attended with average attendance in excess of 100, and well received by the audience with an average rating of 4.6 out of a possible maximum of 5.0. The series is widely advertised in the general media, University communications and also by word of mouth.

4.9 Newsletter – John Anderson

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The newsletter has been, and will be, published four times each year. The participation of UVRA members in contributing content has been and will be strongly encouraged – Retirees in Action, member engagement in community initiatives, UVRA member accomplishments, notes of interest in travel, savings and activities, books of interest, insights and views are some of the areas of focus.

4.10 UVRA Office - Lou Schmidt

The office has been very active through the leadership of Lou Schmidt and the dedicated volunteers who have managed over 1100 registrations, mailings or other key activities. A special thank you for their help and commitment to the Board members whose portfolios includes working closely with the office; to the dedicated office volunteers who generously gave 88 hours of their time to UVRA; and to the ever-helpful staff of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health. Due to lack of members volunteering for office work, and an ever-increasing work load, starting September 2018, the office will be looking at outside providers for the handling of registrations and payments of its events.

During this past year, the board Secretary (Grant Hughes) and Office Manager (Lou Schmidt) have worked with UVic Archivist Dave Young on the development of a Records Management Policy for the UVRA. We are now at the stage of developing a directory of our records and procedures for the formal management of our information in compliance with relevant protection of privacy information and long term preservation of key documents in the archives.

4.11 United Way – Patty Pitts

Grant Hughes and Patty Pitts co-chaired the 2017 UVRA United Way Campaign, and represented the UVRA on the Planning Committee for the UVic United Way Campaign. By the end of December 2017, UVRA members contributed \$28,324.56 to the 2017 UVic United Way Campaign—an increase of seven per cent over the previous year. Many thanks to all members who have supported this important community need.

4.12 University Club – David Leeming

The University Club had a very successful year, thanks to the continued support of its members. The UClub is grateful for the opportunity to promote our events in the Grey Matters! newsletter. The UClub continues to offer UVRA members the first year of membership for free, providing they have not previously been members of the UClub. All UVRA members who are also UClub members enjoy reduced membership fees.

Motion: That the committee reports be accepted.

Moved- Isobel Dawson. Seconded- Zulette Gordon. Approved.

5. Motion to double contribution to UVRA Graduate Research Scholarship.

As mentioned in the President's report there has been considerable progress in establishing the funding basis for this research scholarship. It will form one of the available scholarships administrated under the University of Victoria Foundation. At present the Board has approval

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from the members to match donations to a combined amount of \$25,000, which would result in an annual scholarship of \$1000 to a successful research applicant. The research to be supported is intended to be particularly relevant to the 55+ age group but does not necessarily need to be about “aging”. There was a suggestion made that the broad nature of the research scholarship could be more clearly stated in the UVRA documentation as this may encourage more donations. An example cited was that there may be engineering research that would be applicable to the 55+ age group and so applicants could come from this faculty. The Board is seeking the membership’s approval to build the scholarship to a higher level on a matching basis should the opportunities arise.

Motion: That the membership enables the Board to match additional contributions to the UVRA Graduate Research Scholarship to a level that would support one \$ 2,000 scholarship per year. This would amount to up to \$12,500 to match donations of up to \$12,500 above the current goal of \$25,000 for a total of \$50,000 endowed for this purpose.

Moved- James Pearce. Seconded- Ludgard De Decker. Approved unanimously.

6. **Nominating Committee** – nominations

UVRA Board for 2018-19

President: John Anderson
Vice President: Juliana Saxton (pro tem)
Treasurer: Richard Chappell
Secretary: Grant Hughes
Past President: Peter Liddell

Standing Committee Chairs:
Benefits: Winona Pugh
Elder Academy: TBD
Grey Matters Editor: John Anderson
Masterminds Series: John Anderson / Lois Holizki
Membership: Zulette Gordon
Special Events: TBD
United Way: Patty Pitts
Office Manager: Lou Schmidt
Information Technology Coordinator: Melvin Klassen

Members at Large:
Colin Scarfe
James Pearce
Jane Birkbeck
June Whitmore
Ex Officio: `
Lois Holizki / Leah Potter (Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health)
Benefits Manager (Human Resources)

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Motion: That the list of Board members as shown above be approved.

Moved- David Docherty. Seconded- Colin Scarfe.

Motion was approved unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

The President welcomed the new board members, welcomed John Anderson to his new position as President, and thanked outgoing board members Sandra Rifat and David Docherty for all of their hard work.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Ludgard De Decker

Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15

UVRAAGM2018

gwh