

UVIC Retirees Association 2009-2010 Annual General Meeting

President's Report

In memory of members who have passed away during the past year:

Lionel Adey, Gerd Bell, Albert Hurd, William Taggart, Alan Austin, Bill Bender, Judith Johnson, Luzia Williams, Lorraine Ayers, Harry Foster, and Oliver Burton Kurth

I am very grateful to the Executive Board and the Committees for their dedication and hard work hard work this year. The highlights have included the creation of the new Newsletter; a new UVRA brochure and web site; the Mastermind Art Show and Lecture Series; the interesting selection of events; the updating, security and maintenance of our data files; research on board liability and third party insurance; the exploration of benefits to do with bus passes for retirees and parking; and negotiations that keep us part of the computer network at UVic. All these have been ably supported by the membership chair, finance officer and office activities managed by board members and a team of excellent office volunteers.

We have continued to work with and share information with other associations, agencies, centres and the community. Examples are CURAC, the Centre on Aging, Friends of the Library, and the Centre for Religion and Society and other departments at UVic. Some members of the board have been able to meet with equivalent retiree groups at UBC and SFU to compare policies, similarities and differences and to exchange ideas. We have set up links to each other's web pages and encouraged our respective members to visit them. For example, UBC has developed a very informative package on preparation for retirement for retirees and has asked us to use and comment upon it. The UBC retirees were so impressed by the new UVRA Brochure that they have copied ideas in it, the highest form of flattery!

Plans for the coming year include reviewing and updating of the Constitution and By-laws, and searching for and trying to encourage recent retirees to become members of the association. We hope to do this by expanding the range and type of events and activities offered. For example we hope to include walking groups, autobiographical writing workshops, and perhaps marine exploration trips of the BC coast and Islands. The highly valued Masterminds Series organized so well for the last five years by Beverly Timmons will be continued under John Fitch with the support of the President Dr. David Turpin, Vice President of External Relations Dr. Valerie Kuehne and Grant Hughes, Manager of Community Relations.

The Benefits Committee will continue to explore transportation issues and alternatives for seniors at UVic and in the community. This may include participation in research concerning seniors needs and requirements. We will continue to be in touch with other university retiree associations in B.C., Canada and the USA in the effort to monitor benefits available at other universities that could be offered at UVic.

On behalf of the UVRA membership, I wish to thank the continuing and outgoing members of the association and Board for their contributions and to welcome the incoming board and the new members of the association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Isobel Dawson