

President's Report  
Annual General Meeting  
June 2, 2021

This past year has had its challenges but also provided some opportunities. The University of Victoria Retirees Association membership has increased slightly. We continued to provide a range of intellectual events by converting into an online format and also introduced a new Initiative - the Members Forum. Our financial situation remains positive as does our outlook that the coming year will permit UVRA to reinstate some of our social event schedule. The UVic Office of Alumni Affairs continues as our organizational link to the University and its new Director joined us at a UVRA Board to reconfirm the role of supporting our initiatives.

As mentioned last year, UVRA moved our events schedule online. A list of highlights is noted below:

#### *Membership*

- UVRA now has just over 720 members with the majority life memberships

#### *Communications & Office*

- Our website is the ongoing repository of our activities at [www.uvic.ca/retirees](http://www.uvic.ca/retirees)
- The "Grey Matters!" newsletter is generated four times per year with most accessing it online (so much content that email cannot contain it!)
- Eventbrite - the on-line registration & ticketing service - continues to be an efficient and economical means of operating our range of events
- Office Support - We now have ongoing office support paid for by UVRA. Sanjit Roy is helping enormously in a range of activities particularly by administering our online sessions such as Elder Academy and Members Forum.
- We appreciate the ongoing association and assistance of the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health and their helpful staff who assisted us in accessing our office space in IALH so that our activities could continue during these uncommon times.

#### *Social Events*

- This last year UVRA suspended its social events and local visits due to pandemic health protocols
- Members Forum - this new initiative based on a suggestion by two UVRA members has held monthly Zoom sessions beginning in January 2021. Topics to date include Health Care, Memory and Memoirs. Session topics are based on member input - so please send us your ideas - the sessions are stimulating and thought-provoking.

#### *Community Outreach*

- Elder Academy (EA) - after a short interruption due to the pandemic resumed its sessions online. Please check the EA report for a list of this year's amazing schedule.
- Masterminds series - resumed after a one-year absence due to Covid for its 15th year on four consecutive Wednesdays in April. Once again, our colleagues in the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health and University Communications, collaborated with UVRA to organize these stimulating sessions by UVic retirees.

- United Way: UVRA members continue their incredible support with over \$50,000 in contributions to this year's campaign. - over 20% of the UVic total.

#### *University Outreach*

- The initial UVRA scholarship was awarded this past September to a pre-doctoral student conducting research into aging, intergenerational relationships and wellbeing.
- A second UVRA scholarship was established this year to provide even more opportunities for research into the study of adults 55+.

#### *Benefits*

- The extended health coverage continues to be stable with a mixture of Blue Cross (continuation of UVic plan), the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and the Johnson plan with a slight lead to RTO.

#### *In progress*

- As a member of the College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC), UVRA has joined the Later Life Learning (LLL) Committee with a number of other member associations across Canada. This new initiative seeks to communicate the availability of sessions/events presented by various member retiree associations across Canada.
- Co-hosting in 2022. At this time, we are optimistic that the annual CURAC Conference will proceed in May 2022. The Tri-University conference (UBC, SFU and UVic) rescheduled from 2020 is to be held in Vancouver - more details will be provided as available.

We were pleased to welcome Rebecca Warburton onto the UVRA Board and shortly after into the role of Vice-President. She is a great asset and has also now been elected as a UVic Convocation Senator.

The activities of the association, would not be possible without the amazing work of our many volunteers. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant pivoting many of our activities due to the challenges in accessing our information and our facilities. Our administrative, membership and financial support team - Louise Schmidt, Zulette Gordon and Richard Chappell have done a superb job of adapting their processes and schedules to ensure that UVRA continues to function.

The Elder Academy Program Committee (David Docherty, Lou Schmidt, Richard Chappell, Barry Ming, Peggy Tully, newest member Dwight Owens with Chair John Gunton) have done a remarkable job of developing sessions during these unique times. Thanks also to Jane Birkbeck who stepped down earlier this year.

We ask that you consider becoming involved as a volunteer with the association. Your abilities would be of great value in generating ideas for the Members Forum, future events and/or sessions with Elder Academy and Masterminds, contributing to our Grey Matters! newsletter, as well as assisting in the organization of administration of activities or perhaps joining us on the Board of Directors.

With the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, UVRA will continue to conduct as many of its activities as restrictions allow. We will revise our activity schedules if and when changes in the level of the pandemic and health guidelines permit.

On behalf, of the UVRA Board, I wish all of you a safe and healthy summer. We all look forward to the upcoming year with hope and encouragement that we will start a return to more regular activities.

Keep well and all the best

Margaret Klatt  
President, University of Victoria Retiree Associaton