



President's Report  
Annual General Meeting  
June 7, 2023

The University of Victoria Retirees Association (UVRA) continues to move forward in a positive manner. Membership has increased, input to the UVic Strategic Plan was provided and representatives of the UVRA Board of Directors have participated in two meetings with UVic President Kevin Hall, one also included the VP Academic and Provost Elizabeth Croft. The number of social activities for members has increased although recruiting volunteers to organize such events continues to be challenging. As well, ongoing communication with the UVic Office of Alumni Affairs carries on as this continues as our organization link to the University. Our website has been updated and our financial position remains positive.

Below is an update on our activities:

*Membership*

- UVRA now has just over 750 members. The majority being life members.

*Communications & Office*

- The website is a key resource for activities at [www.uvic.ca/retirees](http://www.uvic.ca/retirees) and the weekly event listing provides updates on the new activities of UVRA and other groups.
- The newsletter, "Grey Matters!", published in four editions annually is readily available online with a broad range of articles contained in each edition.
- Eventbrite – had proven to be an effective and efficient online registration & ticketing system.
- Throughout this year we continue with our paid office support. Sanjit Roy, the Office Manager has continued to provide invaluable assistance for a broad range of activities including website updates, the weekly event listing and monitoring and scheduling emails.
- We are extremely grateful for the ongoing connection with the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) which again provided office space and assistance making it possible for our activities to continue.

*Social Events*

- The social events and local visits have gradually increased over the last year. The lack of a volunteer Social Events coordinator has limited the variety and volume of events. With the support of some great individuals UVRA was able to offer the Chinese (Lunar) New Year and the Historic Walk events and we thank them for their assistance.
- UVRA would like to offer more variety in the social activities and would greatly appreciate volunteers for selected events.

*Community Outreach*

- The Masterminds series completed its 17th year with three sessions on consecutive Wednesdays in April. Once again, the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) collaborated with UVRA to organize and coordinate these extremely interesting and

valuable sessions by UVic retirees. A special thanks again to Leah Potter of IALH whose extremely effective organization facilitated this excellent range of speakers.

- United Way: UVRA members once again displayed their generous support for this worthy cause by helping us attain our goal for this year. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping our community.

#### *University Outreach*

- Two UVRA Graduate Scholarships are now being awarded each year to assist new researchers in providing valuable insights through the study of adults 55+. This year's recipients Ashleigh Parker and Sanjit Roy have been invited to speak at this year's Annual General Meeting but unfortunately Ms Parker is unable to attend.

#### *Benefits*

- Extended health coverage continues with Blue Cross (continuation of UVic plan), the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and the Johnson plan. There have been some valuable additions and changes to some of these plans over the last year. Travel plans have included some important additions and more information can be found either on the UVRA website or on the websites of the specific plans.

#### *Ongoing and In Progress*

- UVRA continues to participate in the Later Life Learning (LLL) Initiative of CURAC/ARUCC which communicates information on a wide range of fascinating sessions being offered across Canada.
- As a member of AROHE (Association of Retired Organization in Higher Education) our members gain access to their valuable and informative newsletter on aging and wellness as well as additional benefits including access to Road Scholar.
- The annual CURAC/ARUCC Conference will be held this year in-person from May 31-June 2 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- UVRA is now a registered organization with Cyber Seniors which provides free technology support and training for senior citizens. Information will be available later on the UVRA website.

This is my final AGM report as President of UVRA and I want to reinforce that the association would be unable to operate without the dedication and participation of our team of volunteers. A special mention to our administrative, membership and financial support team – of Louise Schmidt, Zulette Gordon and Richard Chappell who make certain that UVRA continues to function. I also want to thank my fellow UVRA Board members for the time and energy they put into our discussions and activities on behalf of the membership.

I want to close my message with a request to consider becoming involved as a volunteer with the association. We have an outstanding range of interests and expertise in our membership whose contribution could make an even stronger association. Let us know if you are interested or just curious about how you might help with your ideas and/or your time.

On behalf, of the UVRA Board, I want to express my good wishes to all of you for a safe and healthy summer and all the best going forward. UVRA looks forward to connecting with you in the upcoming year.

Keep well and stay safe.

Margaret Klatt

President, University of Victoria Retiree Association