University of Victoria | Retirees Association

President's Report
Annual General Meeting
June 5, 2024

Greetings to my fellow retirees. I want to begin by acknowledging Rebecca Warburton and her contribution to the UVic Retirees Association (UVRA). Her contributions were many and she had a number of items that she had hoped to accomplish as President. We worked together on a vast range of topics and shared a strong commitment to its members and to strengthening UVRA. At the request of the board, I have stepped back in as President for the interim due to her sudden passing in March.

UVRA continues to move forward with a positive financial position and increasing membership, but we must improve the number of participating volunteers to remain effective. We have vacant positions on the board of directors and lack volunteers to take on activities that would broaden and strengthen UVRA's impact. Rebecca and I had several meetings with members of the senior UVic Executive including President Kevin Hall and there appears to be a willingness to strengthen and improve our relationship. We need to move forward in that direction. Although access to various health benefit plans is a key benefit of UVRA membership, we could provide more if we have the capability that comes through new initiatives.

We have focused on improving the number of social events available to members. We continue to try and improve the information on our website.

Below is an update on our activities:

Membership

- UVRA now has almost 780 members most of whom are life members. The additional option of multi-year renewals to the annual membership has been popular.

Communications & Office

- Our website continues to expand its relevance as a resource for information at www.uvic.ca/retirees. Changes have been made to broaden the information provided in the weekly event listing thanks to Sanjit Roy and Peter Liddell.
- "Grey Matters" , our UVRA newsletter continues to provide a broad range of articles and information. It is available on our website and via email to the membership.
- Sanjit Roy continues to provide support in the office as well as in a broad range of other activities including the website development.
- The support of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) is invaluable. They continue to provide us with office space and assistance in a number of areas

Social Events

- UVRA has been trying to increase the number and type of events over the last year. The absence of a volunteer has affected the type of activities that UVRA can offer but we have tried to maintain some core events including the Chinese (Lunar) New Year and the Christmas Luncheons.

Community Outreach

- The Masterminds series completed its 18th year with four sessions that occurred on consecutive Wednesdays in April. Juliana Saxton, June Whitmore and Peter Liddell gathered a wonderful group of presenters, and Leah Potter of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) provided great support in organizing these sessions.
- United Way: UVRA members once again displayed their strong support for this worthy cause. Thank you again for continuing to help this cause in our community.

University Outreach

- Two UVRA Graduate Scholarships were awarded again this year to assist new researchers in providing valuable insights through the study of adults 55+. This year's recipients were Poonam Sehgal and Sanjit Roy. These recipients are granted by an independent third party.

Benefits

- Johnson, the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and Blue Cross (continuation of UVic plan) continue to be available. Ensure that you check periodically to review the plans for updates or changes. The travel plan benefit continues as a significant option. For more information check either on the UVRA website or on the websites of the specific plans.

Ongoing and In Progress

- UVRA remains a member of the Later Life Learning (LLL) Initiative of CURAC/ARUCC (College and University Retirees Association of Canada) which distributes information and access on a wide range of fascinating sessions that are offered across Canada.
- Our continued in AROHE (Association of Retired Organization in Higher Education) provides access to their informative newsletter on aging and wellness. I found their three-part series on “Reimaging Retirement” continued many great ideas. You can view the recording of this series on the AROHE website.
- This years CURAC/ARUCC Conference will be held in a hybrid format from May 22-24e Waterloo, Ontario.
- We continue to be registered with Cyber Seniors. We hope that you find them valuable for free technology support and training. Their information sessions are listed in our weekly event emails.

In closing, once I want to again seek your participation in UVRA. Remember that there are so many ways in which your skills and knowledge can assist both the organization and your fellow retirees We would love to chat with you on how best you can take part with various time allocations. Contact us if you are interested in sharing your time with UVRA. We will be happy to discuss what this commitment may involve.

Again, on behalf, of the UVRA Board, I express my continuing good wishes. Have a safe and healthy summer and all the best going forward. We are also looking forward to connecting with you again in the upcoming year.

Keep well and stay safe.
Margaret Klatt
President, University of Victoria Retiree Association