



RETIRES ASSOCIATION
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Jack Rhoton,

Present were Susan Burkey, Cynthia Burnley, Scott Champney, Priscilla Ramsey, Jack Rhoton, Bonny Stanley, Fred Tudiver, Jeff Wardeska, Norma McRae, Charles Moore and Tisha Harrison
Absent were Gail Burlison. Don Gotterbarn and Chu-Ngi Ho

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October 2020 meeting were approved as printed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee and Program Committee: Jack Rhoton reported

- There will be no in-person gatherings for the next few months.
- There is the possibility of the Fall Brunch/Annual Meeting. A possible speaker is David Ramsey to speak about Rocky Fork State Park, a 2,035 acre scenic wilderness in Unicoi County. The park is approximately 30 miles from Johnson City and 10 miles from Erwin. Rocky Fork was designated Tennessee's 55th Tennessee State Park in October 2012 but was not officially opened and staffed until May 2015. As of January 2019, Rocky Fork State Park has been named after Senator Lamar Alexander.
- The February 25th East and Chat will be by Zoom and will feature Dr. Blaine Schubert, a vertebrate paleontologist at ETSU. His talk is titled "The Evolution and Paleobiology of Short-faced Bears."
- The April 21st Eat and Chat speaker will hopefully be Jeffrey Shells to speak about Esports (also known as electronic sports) - a form of sport competition using video games. His presentation has not been confirmed.
- The Summer Luncheon/Picnic is scheduled for Friday, June 11th at Food City on State of Franklin. Should Randy Wykoff be invited back for the talk he earlier planned on COVID "Rethinking Health: What Makes Tennessee Less Healthy Than 43 Other States". Agreement from the Board was to invite him back and this will probably be Zoom as well.
- The Fall meeting could be held in the Culp Center or Millennium Center. The Tennessee Room seats 75 in the Culp Center and there is also available the newly renovated Culp Center Ballroom. It was suggested that Public Safety could assign a lot for parking. The group voted to have the Luncheon on November 5th in the Culp Center Ballroom. Hopefully this will be an in person gathering.
- Eastman Credit Union has not responded as to financial assistance. Jack will contact them as to their continued support.

Membership/Communications: Cynthia Burnley reported:

- In the information Tisha sent out, there were 10 new ETSURA members, 2 renewals and 16 new retirees for December 2020. Tisha mailed letter to the new retirees. This should be continued with each new list. There are currently 1100 members in ETSURA.
- It was felt the new retirees and new members should be listed on the meeting agenda.

Finance Committee:

- The beginning balances were \$3,025.86 in Retirees Association, \$24,100.38 in Life Memberships, \$256,905.38 in Scholarship Endowment and \$12,453.68 in Endowment Operating.
- Tisha stated she used the Bio-Medical Office printer for the last Newsletter at a cost of \$691.00. In the past, the Human Resources printer has been used for free but it involves standing at the printer the entire time. Priscilla volunteered to help with the copying, etc. of the Newsletter.

University/Community Service Committee:

- Jack stated there will be no volunteers at Second Harvest for the next few months.
- Charles stated that volunteers will be needed for the WETS Fund Raising in the Spring.

Liaison Committee: Priscilla Ramsey reported

- Dr. Wilsie Bishop stated that ETSU should be back to normal by Fall 2021.
- Vaccinations have not been mandated for students.
- A Dean Search is ongoing for the College of Arts & Sciences
- Enrollment is down for Spring semester
- Lamb Hall will be renovated in Spring 2021. The plaza in front of Lamb Hall is really nice.
- Anita DeAngelis, Director of the Performing Arts Center, is leaving Hopefully a tour can be scheduled there in late Fall.

Charles Moore and Norma McRae were welcomed as a new Board members.

Jack will be absent for the February 23rd ETSURS meeting and Fred will chair the meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Susan Burkey

Recording Secretary