

AROHE Matters

E-newsletter of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

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January 2014

AROHE Board of Directors: Call for volunteers/nominations



AROHE members are encouraged to submit nominees for the 2015-17 slate of officers and the Board of Directors. This is a key opportunity to be at the forefront of innovative ideas and national trends in the realm of successful retiree organizations. Nominees will be considered for the elected positions of vice-president/president-elect, secretary, treasurer and at-large Board of Director positions.

The deadline to submit nominations is February 28, 2014. Elections will be held on August 12, 2014, at the AROHE conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For AROHE members who cannot attend the conference, absentee ballots will be emailed prior to the conference. [Click here to learn more about position duties and committee responsibilities or to submit a nomination for yourself or someone else.](#) For more information, contact Nominations and Elections Committee co-chairs Bobbie Lubker, blubker@live.unc.edu, and Lucy Rollin, rlucy@clemsun.edu.

Member Profile: University of Memphis Association of Retirees (UMAR)

The University of Memphis Association of Retirees (UMAR) is a very active organization that includes retired professors, administrators and staff. Its mission, consistent with that of AROHE, is "to advocate, to educate, and to serve." UMAR conducts a variety of activities focused on meeting the social and networking needs of its members and helps to coordinate various volunteer activities within the University.



UMAR incoming president Virginia Reed and current president Sheryl Maxwell

According to Dr. Sheryl Maxwell, UMAR's current president, the association's most successful programs are:

- **Scholarships**-one endowed undergraduate scholarship for a dependent of an active or retired employee and one annually-funded graduate scholarship for an active employee or dependent of active or retired employee; funds are raised at events and via mail and email solicitations
- **Holiday Brunch and Silent Auction**- also serving as the organization's annual meeting and awards event, UMAR members donate items for the silent auction (handcrafted items, time in vacation homes, etc.) to benefit the UMAR Scholarship Fund, most popular item is a basketball signed by the entire Memphis basketball team
- **May Picnic**-includes wine tasting, covered dish picnic provided by members and a drawing of donated items which benefits the scholarship fund
- **Coffee & Conversation**-held annually in September; features talks by the university president or provost and the recipient of the Willard R. Sparks Eminent Faculty Award

Additional UMAR programs include a monthly "Breakfast Bunch," "Mix and Match" social events, estate planning workshops, a book club and a garden club.

UMAR is a constituent organization of the University of Memphis Alumni Association and UMAR members are entitled to the same benefits and privileges as all Alumni Association members. Dr. Maxwell encourages other retiree organizations to consider affiliating with their alumni associations "UMAR has benefited greatly from this connection," she says, "Our members receive many additional benefits from membership and UMAR receives help from an administrative assistant."

For more information about UMAR, please visit their webpage at <http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/umar/>. Questions may be directed to Dr. Maxwell at smaxwell@memphis.edu

AROHE members encouraged to host local/regional meetings

In several regions of the United States and Canada, retiree organizations meet to delve into the issues facing their organizations and glean ideas for improving their operations. Several local/regional groups have met recently:

- **GA-HERO's**(Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations) semi-annual meeting in October focused on successful retiree volunteer service programs. Emory University's Senior Mentor Program, which pairs health-care postgraduate students with senior mentors, most of whom are drawn from the membership of Emory's Emeritus College, was showcased. [Click here to view a video about the Emory Senior Mentor Program.](#)
- The third biennial **SUNY (State Universities of New York) Retirees Conference, "Connecting SUNY Retirees in the Digital Age"** in November featured presentations on the successful use of technology to connect retirees to each other

and to their academic institutions. [Click here to view the PowerPoint presentations of each presenter.](#)

- **Nor-Cal ROCs** (Northern California Retiree Organization Consortium) also met in November. Attendees participated in a workshop and round table discussions focusing on ways that retirees can add value to their academic institutions. AROHE members, click here to view the [PowerPoint presentation](#) and the [meeting recap](#).
- Several Tennessee college/university retirees' organizations have met annually for nine years. Their 1 ½ day meetings start with dinner on the first day and focus on their organization's successes and challenges.

If your region has already established local meetings, OR, if you would like to organize local consortia or regional meetings please contact Dave Ewert, AROHE membership chair, at dewert@gsu.edu, to share your information.

Workshop explores critical career transitions, including retirement

At a recent "Arc of the Academic Career" workshop sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, the focus was on critical stress points for faculty and administrators, including career entry, the tenure decision and retirement. The event brought together experts on the problems associated with each of these career points with the intention of developing a holistic understanding of how policies specific to each area have implications for the others.



Joan Girgus, Princeton, Janette Brown, USC, and Edie Goldenberg, University of Michigan presented at the "Arc of the Academic Career" workshop.

Speakers from three **AROHE** member organizations-Princeton, the American Council on Education and the University of Southern California (USC)-outlined innovative programs that address the transition to retirement. Janette Brown, AROHE executive director and director of the USC's Emeriti Center and Emeriti College, highlighted AROHE survey data that shows the benefits of university-affiliated retiree organizations and/or campus-funded retiree centers that provide programs and services for academic staff as they transition through retirement. [Click here to view more details including the workshop PowerPoint presentations.](#)

What did we learn from the recent 2014 conference survey?

By Linda Pearson, AROHE 2014 conference program chair

In a recent electronic survey, AROHE requested to know the topics that members felt should be primary for the [upcoming conference in August of 2014](#). Three areas were rated the highest by survey respondents:

1. *Addressing the Needs and Interests of Specialized Segments of Retiree*

Organization Members in the categories of recent retirees, younger retirees, faculty retirees, older retirees, staff retirees and spouses, widows, widowers

2. *Supporting the Transition to Retirement to engage and involve newretirees as well as collaborate/coordinate with Human Resources Offices in order to get information about retiree organizations to newretirees*
3. *Institutional Support to the Retirement Organization and Retirees by the Institution;* noted was the desire for information regarding securing support from the university/college for the retirement organization as well as advocating for benefits and rights on behalf of retirees (library use, parking, health insurance, etc...).

Other topics of specific interest included:

- Communications (newsletters, emails, social networking)
- Marketing and advertising for retiree organizations
- Partnering with other campus or community groups and organizations
- Health promotion and wellness topics (i.e.: brain health).

It is not possible to discuss all the information produced by the survey in this article. Additional information will appear in upcoming newsletters.



All survey respondents were entered into a drawing to win a free conference registration for the 2014 AROHE conference. The winner was Dr. Angela Terry from North Carolina Central University (NCCU). Following her retirement in 2002 as vice chancellor for student affairs, Dr. Terry joined the Association of Retired North Carolina Central University Personnel. In September, she began her third term as president of the association. Her passion outside of the association is reflected in her seven plus years' membership on the Friends Board of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University.

Dr. Angela Terry

About AROHE

AROHE is a nonprofit association that develops, enhances and advances campus-based retiree organizations and programs. By sharing research, innovative ideas and successful practices, AROHE emphasizes service to retired faculty and staff as they continue to make valuable contributions to their academic institutions.

Learn more at <http://arohe.org> or contact AROHE at info@arohe.org or 213-740-5037.

AROHE is offering a [free trial membership](#) through March 31, 2014. Trial memberships enable one person per organization to receive AROHE communications and access to AROHE's online resources. Paid organizational memberships allow member benefits for

up to eight people per organization and start at just \$120 per year for retiree organizations with annual budgets under \$50,000. [Click here to learn more about membership.](#)

[AROHE board members](#) are volunteers who are leaders from associations of retired faculty and staff, administrators of campus-based retiree centers or emeriti colleges or other campus department administrators who oversee programs for academic retirees. Board meetings are held via conference call on the first Friday of each month, 10:30 a.m. Pacific time. Any AROHE member may join a board meeting by contacting the AROHE office for call-in information prior to the meeting.

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