



2017-2018

UWRA Annual Report

Rob Seltzer, 2018-19 President

As Frank Sinatra put it so aptly, was a very good year. The organization was led by a talented and thoughtful board including Diane Kravetz as president. Ann Wallace has done and continues to do amazing work as our hard-working Executive Director. Ann retired from this position May. Sandi Haase has agreed to assume this role for the future.

UWRA bylaws state “The purpose of this Association is to promote the interests and welfare of Association members, to facilitate their support of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the surrounding community and maintain liaison with relevant University and community organizations.” We pursue this purpose through numerous, all-volunteer activities.

The elected Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the policies, procedures, and programs of the UWRA. For 2017-18, the Board of Directors included officers Diane Kravetz (president), Gary Mitchell (past-president), Bill Richner (secretary), Darrel Barth (treasurer), Rob Seltzer (president-elect).

Directors-at-large included Mary Czyszak-Lyne, Dorothy Klinefelter, Steve Lund, Cora Marrett, Mary Metz, Sarah Potts, Chuck Read, Joel Skornicka, and Jim Stratton.

Not members of the Board but attended many or most meetings included Ann Wallace (Executive Director), Millard Susman (special projects), Char Tortorice (special projects), John Fett and Sharon Vinson (interim *Sifter* editors), and Sandi Haase (the new Executive Director as of May 25, 2018)

Our website maintained by Website Manager Pat Noordsij, provides detailed information on our programs and activities, bylaws and current operating procedures, and committees; it includes a list of our Board members and the members of our committees. It provides numerous annual reports that summarize the work of the UWRA and its committees.

The Association’s newsletter, *The Sifter*, is an invaluable source of information. It is published 10 times per year (September through June), and all current members receive copies by mail or email. This year, the interim editors of *The Sifter* were John Fett and Sharon Vinson.

Ten committees form the backbone of our organization: Communications, Connections, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement, Luncheon, Membership, Nominating, Retirement Challenges, Travel, and Volunteering.

These ten standing committees provide an impressive array of programs and activities. Our committees organize monthly breakfast gatherings; luncheons with programs and speakers; day trips and golf outings; a photo contest; and seminars on financial matters, electronic technology, and retirement challenges. If interested in serving on one of our committee, our members simply need to contact a member of the committee.

The travel committee led some very memorable trips, including to Titledown USA (aka Green Bay), a Cedarburg Holiday Tour, and a tour of Historic Milwaukee.

The committees hosted many presentations on a variety of topics including healthy living (“Changes as We Age”), state and national financial matters of importance to our members, and programs and articles on electronic technology (“Cutting the Cord and “Tips for Using your Smartphone Camera” among many others).

The Association continues to partner with Capitol Lakes Retirement Community and Oakwood Village Retirement Community - University Woods.

At many of our programs throughout the year we collect cash donations for four food pantries selected by our Volunteering Committee. As part of our School Partnerships Program we donated \$1,000 to the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools and \$1,000 to the UW-Madison Dean of Students Crisis Loan Fund.

Monthly get-together breakfasts are held both on the west and east sides of Madison. Lots of stimulating conversations take place at these informal gatherings.

The UWRA works with the UW-Madison in several ways. UWRA Board officers serve on the UW-Madison Retirement Issues Committee to address issues of concern to retirees and those close to retirement. In response to our request, every year the Provost distributes a memo encouraging units to involve UW-Madison retirees as volunteers for special projects in their units. We also participate in UW-Madison’s October Benefits Fair to answer questions and distribute information about retirement from UW-Madison. Annually, the UWRA and the Chancellor co-sponsor a new-retiree reception.

Sandi Haase has become our Executive Director; the editor of *The Sifter* will be John Fett and Sharon Vinson. Ann Wallace has agreed to serve in a special projects capacity. Sandi and a dedicated technical team is working to improve our processes with new membership management software and a redesigned UWRA website which went “live” in March, 2018.