

Minutes, JMU Staff Emeriti Association Luncheon, August 14, 2014

Twenty attended the meeting held at L'Italia.

Tina Updike introduced the steering committee members and Steve Smith from the Office of Constituent Relations and Karen Gerard, Co-Chair of the Employee Advisory Committee. Tina also presented a summary of the June 24 meeting at the Wood Grill.

Business Info presented included:

As discussed at the last meeting, Tina applied for a free trial membership with the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). AROHE is a dynamic member network that advocates for, educates and serves campus-based organizations for retired faculty and staff. They promote a culture that values and encourages retirees' continuing contributions to campus and community life and helps colleges and universities to harness the remarkable talents of their retired faculty and staff to further assist the missions of their institutions. The benefits of AROHE membership include a mentoring program, bi-monthly e-newsletters, resources and publications, start-up kits for new retiree organizations to name a few. Tina will take advantage of the free trial membership as a resource till it expires, sometime in Sept.

Tina asked the attendees for ideas of how best to reach out to other emeriti staff. The list of emeriti staff provided to the steering committee by the Office of Constituent Relations had over a 100 names on it. One idea was to try using a combination of email and snail mail since some people may not have access to a computer at home. Another idea was to split the list of names up among the folks that currently attending the meetings to reach out to other retirees from their own work areas and invite them to attend the next meeting. Tina said this would be discussed further between steering committee members.

The group was provided a checklist of activities that everyone could participate in throughout the year and asked to rate the activities on a scale of one to ten. This would give the steering committee a place to start in developing fun activities for the group to do throughout the year. Also on the checklist was a question about dues for membership in the emeriti association and what each person thought would be a fair amount. Currently it is pay as you go but looking toward the future, dues would probably need to be collected.

Tina shared with the group that she had spoken with JMU's President Jon Alger about the organizational efforts for a staff emeriti group and how well the first luncheon at the Wood Grill went. Mr. Alger told Tina that he looked forward to receiving the written proposal for the formation of a Staff Emeriti Association.

Next meeting: Different things were discussed. Should it be a dinner meeting? Should spouses/significant other be included? Maybe something in October at Bluestone Vineyard or Cross Keys Vineyard? The steering committee will check into the winery idea and let everyone know.

Dr. Violet Allain, President of the Faculty Emeriti Association, has graciously extended an invitation for staff emeriti to join in the faculty holiday dinner and square dance on December 10, 2014 at the Festival Center. Spouses and significant others are also welcome for this event.

Meeting was adjourned and names were drawn for the door prizes donated by Steve Smith and Sherry King from the Office of Constituent Relations.