



**James Madison University Staff Emeriti Association Minutes  
November 19, 2024 (10:30 am, Wine Price Conference Room 3030)**

**Attendees:** Tina Updike, Donna Burch, Alma Hale-Cooper, Judy Marshall, Judy Powell, Paula See, Louise White, Milla Sue Wisecarver.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting on August 20, 2024 were unanimously approved. These will be posted to the SEA website. Tina thanked Louise for taking the minutes today.

**Business**

- **Membership Update:** We have added two new SEA members since the last Steering Committee meeting in August for a total of twenty-two new members so far this year. We have had two deaths. Of the invitations emailed for the December 4<sup>th</sup> luncheon six bounced back as undeliverable. Tina noted that these individuals have not responded in the past, but this is the first time they have bounced back. She has not had a chance to check on why, but it could be they haven't signed in or changed their password in the required intervals and have been dropped if there has been a year of inactivity. She is concerned how the adoption of Okata Verify will impact our communications. She suggested sending an email to the membership reminding them of the approaching change to Okata and for them to contact the Help Desk if they have any problems. If they won't be using their JMU email address she will ask that they reply to her with the address they will be using. It was suggested she also mention this at the luncheon. She noted that they currently send emails to 298 individuals (JMU and other email addresses) and approximately 90 individuals are active and/or respond.
- **Increase Awareness Plans:** The website is up to date with all meeting and event information. The opening page photo and greeting need updating since Mr. Alger is in the picture and also offers the greeting. She suggested that HR Director Chuck Flick do the opening greeting since SEA falls under HR's purview. Once a new President is in place we can revisit. Following that greeting is Tina's welcome. Tina sent an email to Chuck and Amanda but has not heard back yet, but she is hoping to catch him at the University's retirement brunch next week. There was discussion on which picture to use with the opening greeting and, because of space, using the picture from the SEA retirement fair table was suggested.
- **Volunteer Activity:**
  - The Retirement Fair was fun, and Tina thanked all who helped.
  - The Madison Magazine fall issue is out with our article. Tina contacted Carolyn Windmiller about a deadline for the winter issue and found out it was going to be mostly photographs and more of a coffee table book. It will have very limited space for class notes or other articles, so her next deadline will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the spring/summer issue.
  - 2024 Staff retirement brunch is December 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:00...the same day as our holiday luncheon which starts at 11:00. Tina was asked to make a presentation about what SEA

- is/does. She will be finished by 10:30 allowing her to get to our luncheon at CrossKeys on time. She spoke with someone at the retirement fair about including her when notifications are sent related to the date of the staff retirement brunches so we don't have this conflict in the future. For our luncheon Milla Sue will sort the spreadsheet allowing her to print cards for each person with their menu choice. At the luncheon each person will get their name tag and the card with their name and menu choice to place on the table. The Monday after Thanksgiving Milla Sue will send a reminder email to all lunch participants that the doors at CrossKeys do not open until 11:00.
- At the holiday lunch we will only collect checks for the Food Pantry...no supplies. (Milla Sue will also include this in her reminder email). A total of \$315 in checks was collected at our ice cream social as well as 15 pounds of supplies. A few people do monthly donations for an additional \$100, so we are almost at \$6,000 in donations for the past two years. We may still collect a little more this year which could push us over that mark. It has been a very successful and impactful volunteer activity. All were in favor of continuing the Food Pantry initiative for the coming year. It was suggested we have Jeremy come to one of our lunches as a speaker which could be a recharge for members who are familiar with the Food Pantry but would be helpful for newer members. Hopefully we can visit the Clothes Pantry when we tour the Student Success Center.
  - Tina thanked Judy M. for sending cards to our members who are ill or to family of those who have passed away. Judy indicated she checks the DNR but if anyone hears about a passing or an illness to let her know. She doesn't mind getting information more than once.
- **Membership Development:**
    - Sept 14 Cracker Pillar lunch - 28 members and 6 guests attending for a total of 34. 17 didn't attend, 8 cancelled that day.
    - Oct 15 Smiley's ice cream social - 16 members and 7 guests attending for a total of 23. 5 didn't attend--4 no shows and 1 cancellation.
    - Dec 4 CrossKeys Vineyard luncheon - 42 members and 11 guests are expected for a total of 53. Eight responded they could not attend.
  - **Spring Events:**
    - Lunch in February at Ledo's Pizza (old location of Fire House Subs) - Alma will contact Ledo's for Feb 11 with Feb 18 as a snow day option
    - Tour of Student Success Center March 17, 18, 19 hopefully followed by a lunch at an open campus eatery. Judy M. will make contact with the SSC.
    - Library Tour April?? Tina will contact the library to see if there is even a possibility of a tour in April or May or if we need to wait for fall. After that she will contact Towana's office to see if we might get on her calendar so we can have our end of year luncheon earlier in May. It was suggested we might have two speakers...perhaps in addition to Towana the new Athletic Director or Jeremy from the Food Pantry.
  - **Steering Committee Structure:** Tina urged all to talk to people at the luncheon and any other opportunity about serving on the Steering Committee. If they are interested have them contact Tina (or say yes when she calls!) Judy P. and Louise will be going off.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 25 at 10:30 am in Wine Price Conference Room 3030.