

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF (ARES)
ANNUAL REUNION AND ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER
26, 2024

The ARFS annual reunion and annual meeting took place on Saturday, October 26, in the UWG Campus Center Ballroom. Check-in began at 9:30 am, and attendees enjoyed time to mingle and have refreshments prior to the official start of the event. Fifty-six persons were present as were four additional persons representing various campus entities.

At 10:00 am, current president Anne Richards welcomed the guests, indicated the agenda for the morning, and provided guidelines for the UWG trivia contest; the trivia quiz and answer sheet could be found on each table, and attendees were reminded to work together with winning tables to be awarded prizes later in the morning.

MaKena Burns, representing Alumni and Constituent Engagement, also welcomed the attendees and then introduced this year's recipient of the ARFS Legacy Scholarship, Kelli Kaiser. Ms., Kaiser is a senior at UWG majoring in special education with an emphasis on adaptive learning and hopes to teach at the high school level. She is the granddaughter of long-time basketball coach Roger Kaiser.

At 10:15, past president Meg Cooper introduced the nine honorees present, gave a brief background on each, and offered each the opportunity to say a few words if interested. As honorees took the stage, Anne Richards presented them with their medallions: Jim Burton, Julia Chibbaro, Melanie Clay, Amy Farmer, Myrna Gantner, Vickie Geisler, Javier Hasbun, Mardel Shumake, and James Yoder. At the conclusion of this portion of the program, ARFS member Cecilia Lee read her poem "A Toast to the New UWG Retirees."

At approximately 10:45, the general meeting began with an ARFS update from Anne Richards. Among the variety of points included were the following: ● Relocation of the campus post office to print services, new programs offered to students, renovation of the Humanities Building with Pafford next on the list, a current student enrollment of 14,288 with a retention rate of 78.81 %, an explanation of the AMP parking designation, a request from AAUP for volunteers, and the opportunity for persons to let the presidential search committee know of their concerns.

- ARFS membership is 620 retirees with approximately 400 receiving ARFS info through email while the rest receive basic information through regular mail. We continue to look for ways to encourage communication among the members, and \$2,640 remains the reimbursement amount for the coming year for healthcare expenses for Medicare-eligible retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents.
- Coordinating Council members represent ARES members at both the state level with GA-Hero and the USG Retiree Council dealing with various issues as well as on the national level with AROHE.
- The Rejuvenator, the ARFS newsletter, is always looking for info about what UWG retirees are doing.
- UWG has not yet finalized the policy regarding emeritus status for retired faculty, the Benefits Fair sponsored by HR will take place next week, and the number of perks provided to retirees (free parking decal, free admission to sports events, price reductions for other events, etc.) are due in large part to the work done years ago by Glenn and Debbie Novak.

Following Anne's review, Meg Cooper introduced the slate of candidates for the ARFS Coordinating Council including officer positions and at-large council members. There being no additional names submitted from the floor and there being no objection to voting for the slate as a whole rather than for individuals, the slate of candidates as presented was approved unanimously. Anne then asked current council members to stand and be recognized for their service.

At 11:00, Coordinating Council member Kevin Hibbard led the group in singing "Happy Birthday to ARFS" in recognition of its 20th year. Andy Leavitt, current Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, was formerly UWG's VP for Advancement and Development; he realized in 2005 that the institution was doing nothing to recognize those retiring. He is proud to have been a part of ARFS' beginning and credited others including Frank Pritchett, Glenn and Debbie Novak, and Anne Richards as founders of ARFS. Andy specifically identified the retiree tribute booklet as the only written record of those who have served at the institution.

Anne Richards then identified several points that make ARFS special/unusual. As an organization, we are supported by both Human Resources/Lauren Niedringhaus and Alumni and Constituent Engagement/MaKena Burns. We are one of the few retiree organizations without dues or membership fees, where retirees receive free parking hang tags, and where anyone on the ARFS mailing list is able to post questions or concerns as well as respond to various posts. Anne

then presented Debbie Novak and Andy Leavitt framed photographs of the original ARFS founders.

Meg Cooper presented Anne with an ARFS appreciation notebook containing numerous letters and emails acknowledging her tireless efforts on behalf of ARFS and thanking her for her service.

Meg then announced the winners of the trivia contest, and winning tables received prizes commensurate with their scores.

Anne officially adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 am and reminded those present that they were welcome to stay, continue to enjoy the refreshments, and mingle with friends. Respectfully submitted, Francie Taylor, Secretary