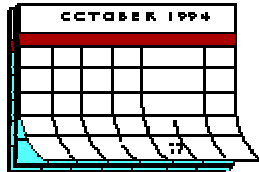


# Retirees' Newsletter

Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association, University of Windsor Sep/Oct 1994 Issue 9  
Editor: Bill Phillips

## **FALL GENERAL MEETING SET FOR THURS., OCT. 27<sup>TH</sup>; AGENDA TAKING SHAPE**



It Is Fall General Meeting Time Again! Be Sure to Mark the Date on Your Calendar:

**Thursday, October 27th at 2.30 P.m., in the Vanier Lounge of Vanier Hall.**

The Meeting Will Provide the Usual Occasion for a Visit and Friendly Chatter with Former Colleagues. In Addition, a Significant Agenda Is Already Taking Shape. As Usual, Parking Has Been Arranged (See the Notice of the Meeting on P.5), and Coffee Will Be Available at the Meeting.

### **Question Time**

Jim Skinner from Human Resources Will Be in Attendance at the Meeting to Discuss the Latest Developments in the Health Plan and to Answer Questions. If You Have a Question but Can't Make the Meeting, Let Us Know and We Will Bring Your Question up for You. **That Goes Especially for Our Members Who Live Outside of Windsor.**

(Continued on Page 5)

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## **FITNESS & FELLOWSHIP GROUP RESUMES ITS TUESDAY ACTIVITIES**

Joe Habowsky reports that, following the summer slow-down, the Tuesday group has resumed its activities. These consist of a workout at the St. Denis Centre at 12 noon, and lunch at the Faculty Club Dining Room at 1 o'clock.

### **So you prefer lunch only?**

Members who would prefer to bypass the workout, but would nevertheless enjoy getting together for lunch are welcome. Just turn up at the Club at 1 o'clock and ask for the "retirees' table". And be ready to have a nice relaxed lunch with good friends.

### **And maybe to critique a little art?**

Incidentally, this will also give you the opportunity to review the painting whose framing was paid for by the Ass'n. It is hanging on the wall near the designated table. Joe reports it looks good, though the plaque could do with a little sprucing up. (For background, see **THE NEWSLETTER, No. 7, page 2).**

This will also give you the opportunity to pick up a copy of the University's publication, Newsline. Just ask Rose, the manager at the Faculty Club. **For more info call Joe Habowsky at 738-4283.**



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## **What's Inside...** P.2: Pension Notes by Norm Shklov:

recent changes; P.3: Dues payment for coming year/ New retirees joining / What is UNI-COM? P.4: Bank charges on pension transfers / Art curator says "Thanks for the framing" / Report on a national association of university retirees' groups; P. 5: Summer picnic / Fall meeting reminder / Notes from the Editor.

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## Pension Notes

by Norm Shklov

Annual pension changes were announced in September, retroactive to July 1, 1994. This year the change was quite good for those still on Minimum Guarantee, and not good at all for those on Money Purchase.

The **Minimum Guaranteed** Benefit, effective July 1, 1994, was increased by 1.028% to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index in the preceding fiscal year.

The story for those receiving **Money Purchase** pensions is not so pleasant. The rate of return of investing the money in the Pension Fund was only 2.4%. When the 6% for servicing the fund is deducted from this, there remains a net loss of 3.6%. **Thus all Money Purchase pensions have been reduced.** Retirees who had been **less** than 3.6% above the Minimum Guarantee were reduced to the Minimum Guarantee. Those that were **more** than 3.6% above the Minimum Guarantee were reduced by 3.6%. These reductions were retroactive to July 1, 1994.

It is discouraging that after three years of substantial increases in the rate of return of investment of the money in the Pension Fund, we should be faced with such a substantial decrease. However, this is a reflection of the bad state of the investment markets due to the economic recession from which we are emerging. Hopefully, next year we shall be on track again with an increase.

There was a provision in the Plan to provide for averaging out the increases and decreases to Money Purchase pensions so that in any one year there would not be a decrease. However, this provision has been eliminated due to government regulation, and so those on Money Purchase pensions have to take the increases or decreases in the years in which they occur. Fortunately, the increases have outnumbered the decreases and, hopefully, they shall do so in the future.

**ARE YOU UNSURE WHETHER YOU ARE ON THE MINIMUM GUARANTEE OR THE MONEY PURCHASE PENSION?** To enable you to determine this, we have reproduced below, the chart (headings only) that was included in a recent letter from the U. to all retirees regarding these changes. Our only purpose for including it here is to enable you to determine for yourself whether you are on Min. Guarantee or Money Purchase.

AVC PENSION	MGB AT	MPP AT	TOTAL PENSION	AVC PENSION	MGB AT	MPP AT	TOTAL PENSION	RETRO ACTIVE	% CHANGE
	A	B			X	Y			

If A exceeds B, you were on Minimum Guarantee on July 1, 1993. If B exceeds A, you were on Money Purchase on July 1, 1993. If X exceeds Y, you were on Minimum Guarantee on July 1, 1994. If Y exceeds X, you were on Money Purchase on July 1, 1994. **By the way, if you've gotten a bit rusty on how the min guarantee and money purchase components are arrived at, ask about a copy of The Retirees' Handbook, prepared by the Association.** Pick one up

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## **A REMINDER CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF DUES FOR 1994-1995**

Members are reminded that the annual fee of the Association is \$10. This becomes payable for the academic year 1994-1995, at the Fall General Meeting, October 27th. Fees remain payable at any time between the Fall Meeting and the end of December, 1994.

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## **TO DATE, SIX 1994 RETIREES HAVE JOINED THE ASSOCIATION**

At publication time, six of the current year's retirees had indicated their desire to become members of the Retirees' Association. They are: Mansell Blair, Soc & Anth., Alan Brown, Econ., Bob Chandler, Soc. Wk., John Manzig, Law, Ed Rosenbaum, Bus Ad., and Don Stewart, Soc & Anth.

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## What is Uni-Com?

Its new head explains...

**Most** members of the Retirees' Assoc'n have heard of **UNI-COM** (short for University-Community) but many of us are still a bit unsure of what it is. In a recent note to **The Newsletter**, **Stuart Nease**, UNI-COM's president and a member of the Retirees' Association, did much to fill the gap. What follows is a synopsis of what he said.

UNI-COM is **an independent body**, with its own letters-patent and by-laws. Its prime purpose is to develop research projects and other activities within the University setting.

UNI-COM enjoys the support of the University. Its finances are administered by the University under the direction of the UNI-COM treasurer. It has an office located in Assumption University. Members are chiefly **retirees** from the University and from the community at large.

Stuart described some of the ongoing research projects. "This past spring the Department of National Health and Welfare approved \$54,500. under the Seniors Independence Program for Project C.A.R.E. Community Alzheimer Resident's Education. The CJAM Radio Evaluation project has been completed. The Barbara Perry Cancer Kit for Children is under way with the assistance of the U's School of Music.

"A beginning has been made on the Renaissance of the Family Unit. Two years ago, UNI-COM was asked by the Museum Committee of City Council to conduct a survey of senior secondary-school students to ascertain what they would like to see in a community museum. All secondary schools in Windsor and the county were canvassed. It is expected that a third exit poll will be conducted by UNI-COM at the 1994 Senior Independence Day exposition.

"This summer, UNI-COM sponsored the first Elderhostel program held in Windsor..."

Five meetings are held each year: on the second Wednesday of Sept., Nov., Feb., Apr., and June. Some of the meetings are of the Wine and Cheese type; agendas include reports of on-going activities and often guest speakers from the community.

If you would like to join UNI-COM, or to get further info, call **Bill McRae**, the Secretary, at 253-4232, ext. 3430. (Use the answer machine if Bill's not there). Or call **Stuart Nease**

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## QUERY FROM RETIREE RESIDENT IN FLORIDA: BANK GRABS 2% ON PENSION TRANSFERS

**Blake Gertz**, whose retirement home is at Port St. Lucie, Florida, wrote earlier (see the last Newsletter) concerning a question which may be of interest to other members. He expressed it as follows:

"In March Jim Skinner wrote that all pension payments would be by direct deposit, and no more checks would be issued. Two weeks later, I received a call from Canada Trust saying this could not be done for residents of foreign countries...

"What are the possibilities for persuading Canada Trust to convert to (in my case) U.S. funds, then mailing the check? My Florida bank charges 2%; perhaps collectively those of us living in the U.S. could get a better rate...Direct deposit in U.S. funds is available to CPP and OAS pensioners resident in the U.S. If the Govt can do it, why can't Canada Trust?"

We believe the point is well taken but unfortunately, our attempts so far (through discussions with Jim Skinner) to have Canada Trust do this have been fruitless. The position seems to be that the Government can economically do so only because it deals with much larger numbers of people. However, one suggestion would be to start a U.S. dollar account at Canada Trust in Windsor; then ask Canada Trust to deposit the converted amount of each check to the U.S. dollar account. One could then deposit one's own check on his or her own U.S. dollar account at the Florida (or other outside) bank and avoid any penalty.

Blake also asks whether a retiree can subscribe to any Faculty Association publications/newsletters. The answer is definitely yes. However, individual arrangements would have to be made directly with the Faculty Assn.

The Retirees Newsletter is published by the Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association of the University of Windsor five times per year (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun, Sep/Oct, and Nov/Dec). Editor/Compositor/Typist and general factotum is **Bill Phillips**, one of the founding members of the Association. **Correspondence should be addressed to: The Editor, The Retirees' Newsletter, Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association, The University of Windsor, Windsor, Ont. N9B 3P4.**

The Retirees' Association was founded in 1990. The Executive Committee consists of Norm Shklov, Association President; Bill Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer; Pat Galasso and Peter Sonnenfeld. Correspondence should be addressed to the Association (as above).

## ART CURATOR TELLS RETIREES' ASSOCIATION "THANKS FOR THE FRAMING"

**Carolyn Rourke**, Art Curator of the University's art.among.us, wrote to thank Association members for their donation which made possible the framing of one of the University's Christmas card paintings.

Members will recall that this donation was approved at the March 24th meeting this year, and was reported in THE NEWSLETTER No. 7.

"May I extend to your association our thanks and deep appreciation for assisting us in bringing more art to the campus of the University...The framing of the 1993 University of Windsor Christmas card adds to this new art scene and we are grateful for your interest and your generosity", Ms. Rourke said.

## CONTINUATION OF REPORT FROM CALGARY ON POSSIBLE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

In the last issue, we reported Walt Romanow's attendance at the Calgary meetings on behalf of our Association. Here is part of his final report.

The discussion on the possible formation of a national society was in three parts.

(a) Retirees' associations exist in a variety of formats: most take the form of what we have in Windsor - an organized structure according to an agreed constitution with clear benefits to be obtained for members (examples: pension matters; social gatherings). In other instances, more formal structures exist for specified purposes (continuation of research; pension matters; teaching involvement after retirement; support of the campus alumni association; and other identified purposes.

(b) A detailed list of possible (with emphasis on possible) benefits to retirees and the Canadian community, of a national association, resulted from the discussion. Among possible benefits, the following were cited: overtures may be made to national bodies concerning retirees - examples: Revenue Canada, supporting overtures for research facilities for retirees, or for research funding; a national speakers' bureau, of benefit to universities, might result; local affiliates might benefit from information exchanges; a national office might be a useful clearing-house of ideas, and other related matters.

(c) It was agreed that a small action committee of 5 persons would be formed to explore (no more than that) whether a national association of university retirees is an idea whose time and place had (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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## OCTOBER 27TH MEETING AGENDA

(Continued from page 1)

### **Election time**

In accordance with the Constitution, elections to the Executive Committee take place at each Fall General Meeting. The Executive Committee consists of the president, the secretary-treasurer, and two elected members.

### **Motion on Student Bursaries**

Members will recall that at the meeting of March 24th, a motion was approved that we look into the **establishment of a Retirees' Bursary Fund for students**, and that a further report be made to the October meeting. A meeting was held with the University Student Awards Office, and was reported in NEWSLETTER No. 7. Resulting from this, a formal motion will be put before the October meeting by Bill Phillips, that initial steps be taken to build up such a fund.

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## **ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC WAS FUN FOR ALL**

The Association's annual summer picnic on August 28th was another landmark event in its continuing program of social activities. **Bill and Carol Libby** hosted the picnic at their beautiful home, grounds and pool on Riverside Drive. Some 50 persons - members and their spouses, were in attendance.

Thanks are due to **John LaGaipa** and his Entertainment Committee for organizing the picnic and arranging for those attending to bring the required food and refreshments. A special vote of thanks must go to the Libbys for their generosity, and for the hard work they put into the event.

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## **REPORT ON A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

(Continued from page 4)

come. The working committee would solicit views from the nation's campuses and **report back on findings** to a similar retirees' session at the next meeting of the Learned Societies in Montreal in **1995** (May 28th to June 12th). Such a committee was formed and will serve with Dr. Robert Bramwell (Calgary) as chair.

**Ed. Note: Walt Romanow, who now lives in Edmonton, attended the meeting in Calgary on our behalf and is serving on the above-mentioned committee. (NEWSLETTER No. 8).**

**Thanks, Walt. By the way, the glacial speed at which this matter is proceeding illustrates that, even in retirement, professors do not lose the academic touch.**



Just a Reminder...

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27th

2.30 P.M.

VANIER LOUNGE IN VANIER HALL

Free parking has been arranged on the church lot  
beside the Library: mention that you are  
attending the Retirees' Association Meeting.

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## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope you like the **new font** at the top of THE NEWSLETTER. Incidentally, this issue was done on **WordPerfect 6.0a**. If you are interested in word processing - and WordPerfect in particular - I'd be really glad to hear from you with any suggestions. I'm definitely an amateur and can use help...Incidentally, when sending in any report, etc. done on diskette, it would save my time immeasurably if you could send it **on the diskette**... As long as issues remain at about 5 pages in length, I've decided to stick to the **one-sided format**. In my view, for up to 7 pages or so, the saving from going two-sided would not balance the awkwardness of reading it... **Incidentally, no LETTER BOX in this issue.**

**That's because there were no letters.**

Bill Phillips, Editor