

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
February 16, 2016**

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: ECU Athletic Director Steve Lochmueller

Topic: Update on ECU Athletic Programs

Marshall Meyers, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming more than 30 members and guests to our February meeting. After a buffet luncheon, a brief business meeting followed. Marshall read parts of a letter from Bob Wagoner, Executive Director of KRTA, which emphasized the problems experienced by KTRS regarding the pension system. He encouraged members to stay abreast of what is being addressed by the legislature and to contact senators and representatives. He also addressed what has been done to the funding for state universities in the governor's budget requests and the lack of addressing needs through capital project priorities. Richard Vance gave a brief budget update as legislative chairperson. Jackie Vance will forward to all members with email a legislative update for the current session.

The State Convention for KRTA is scheduled for April 26 and 27 in Louisville. We can designate, or take volunteers, for delegates to the convention. Anyone interested should contact Marshall. As an affiliate organization, we need to contribute some items for door prizes.

Jackie Vance contacted Model about submitting entries for the Grandparent Essay Contest sponsored for Kentucky fifth graders by AARP. Because of other commitments and missed days for weather, Model will not participate this year. Based on information Marshall has requested concerning hours our local members volunteer in community activities, we can submit a nominee for Volunteer of the Year. Marshall needs our volunteer hours so that he can complete the President's Report for submission to the state organization. Donations for our Food Project and for the School Supply Project at Model were collected by Fawn Conley and will be delivered to Model and the Salvation Army.

As it is in order to elect a President and President-elect for the 2016-2017 business year, Charles Hay was put into nomination for President and Fawn Conley for President-elect. Hearing no further nominations, the two candidates were elected by acclamation after a call for the question by Dot Kirkpatrick.

The next Food and Drink Event has been planned by Charles Hay and Fawn Conley for March and will encompass trips to Ale 8 One Bottling Company and Channel 27 followed by lunch at Windy Corners. A sign up sheet was circulated. All information is posted on the Website and those needing more information may contact Charles.

Our annual extended trip has been planned by Bob Rogow and Doug Lippmann. The entire itinerary and special information about the trip is posted on the Website. An informational report was presented about the trip to Springfield, Illinois, materials were

distributed, and members were encouraged to get their responses in soon, as deadlines are set. All information is available on the website and the EKURA Community FB page.

Ron Wolfe introduced Steve Lochmueller, Athletic Director for ECU Athletics. Mr. Lochmueller comes to ECU from the private business sector; he has lived and had a career in Lexington. This appointment is a change for Steve, although he comes with a wealth of experience in both business and athletics. He expresses his joy at being a part of the ECU family.

His presentation was a very interesting and informative profile of the accomplishments ECU athletic departments have achieved in the past eleven months, emphasizing that the cost of athletic programs are less than 5% of the total university budget.

A head men's basketball coach has been hired, who is pleased with the win/loss record as well as the academic progress of the team.

Both men's and women's teams won the OVC golf honors as well as men's tennis.

ECU won the Commissioner's Cup for 2014-15.

The trend for hiring coaches is up which is a plus for young men and women athletes.

Rick Erdmann is being recognized for his coaching of the ECU track program which is ranked as the 17th in the nation. He needs credit for this most prominent program.

ECU athletes are recognized for not only success on the playing surface but the academic surface. For the eighth semester the composite GPA for all athletes is 3 or above. Coaches are teachers first as they prepare athletes for the game of life. Most recently, cumulative GPA for soccer was 3.48, volleyball was 3.88, and women's golf was 3.66.

The Colonel Club has been relaunched as they begin to "grow" fundraising by establishing value levels of giving. Currently there are 711 Colonel Club members with 63% growth and 142 giving \$1000 or above. For 2016 the increase is 70% at \$350,000.

One program which will be funded is a nutrition program for athletes.

The goal is to fill up the seats and incentives are being introduced to get students to games/contests.

There is an effort to recognize past teams and memorialize former coaches.

Several facility projects are in the making:

\$15M bond for Eastside football stadium.

There will be new women's softball facility and men's baseball facility.

Final plans are out for Eastside football stadium and they will go out for bid in May.

A brief question and answer period followed an excellent presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00. Our next meeting will be at Golden Corral on April 19. The program will be on health care and state programs for retirees presented by a representative of United Health Care.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Vance, Secretary