

Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
APRIL 18, 2017

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: Dr. David McFaddin, Vice President, Office of Government Relations

Topic: 2017 Briefing – Eastern Kentucky University

Charles Hay, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming about 20 members and guests to our April meeting at Golden Corral. Following a buffet lunch, Fawn Conley, President Elect, made several announcements prior to the beginning of the presentation. The Salvation Army, who we support as part of our food project and our winter clothing project, is sponsoring a tea on Saturday, April 22. Tickets are still available and can be bought from Fawn. The Veteran's Honor Flight Project is scheduled for the upcoming weekend and one veteran will be accompanied by Fawn. She encouraged as many of us as possible to complete a "mail call" thank you card for a veteran to thank him/her for the service provided to our country. Ron Wolfe announced our next "food trip" will be on May 2, to Marksby Farm with lunch at the Bluebird Café in Stanford; anyone interested should complete the sign-up sheet or contact Ron or Charles. There will be a trip in July to Rosemary Clooney's home; more information in June. Charles reported that the balance in our account is \$2,588.71. Jackie Vance, Secretary, announced that minutes for both February and April will be on our website within the next week. Also, Taylor Grayson, our scholarship recipient, will graduate in May; we will begin to work on announcement for next year's scholarship at a June board meeting. Ron Wolfe will be our only representative at the KRTA annual meeting in Louisville on April 24 and 25; thank you, Ron. Charles Hay will attend the ECU Retirees dinner on May 4, as a representative of EKURA to apprise new retirees about our organization.

We welcomed two guest speakers. Dr. David McFaddin, Vice President, Office of Engagement and Regional Stewardship and Dr. Lara Vance, Student Success Center. Dr. McFaddin distributed a copy of ECU 2017 BRIEFING to each attendee. This publication clearly profiles the opportunities to lead through challenges which ECU embraces; it was initially prepared for presentation to the Legislature of the Commonwealth for its 2017 session. The indicators are clear that there have been dramatic declines in funding for higher education in Kentucky. In addition to a 5% cut in the budget model, future funding will be dependent on a performance-driven model. As ECU students are considered, the focus will be on PERSISTENCE, RETENTION, GRADUATION. ECU continues to be recognized as a College of Opportunity with 41% of the freshman class this year being first generation college students. The most critical piece in the funding puzzle is the 32B to 80B in unfunded liability to the pension systems, which has accrued with problems in fund management. With no appetite for revenue increase in part because of the changes in the political climate in Kentucky, many compromises must be considered in order to maintain the legacy of our institution to continue to educate Kentucky students. One great disparity is recognized when ECU is giving 3M in freshmen scholarships and UK is giving 25M to the same population. However, while

other institutions face a problem with survival, EKU does not. We will continue to do everything possible to serve students. EKU will have to continue to be aggressive in recruiting both out-of-state and other categories of potential students. The model for funding will allow premiums for four categories of students – underrepresented minorities, STEM, low-income, and those who finish the baccalaureate – which EKU will have to attract. EKU will have to be diligent with on-point messages. The scale for distribution of funds will be weighted, i.e. regional universities will use a 4 point multiplier while UK and UofL will use a 6.5 multiplier. If, for example, EKU gets \$26,000 per pupil, UK would get \$45, 000 for that same student. Dr. McFaddin encourages retirees to continue to be voices for EKU, stay aware and stay involved. While EKU continues to serve its mission, Richmond may become a destination for some, as the outmigration of rural settings continues. All this being said, we continue to be underfunded. EKU is not a work-force school and our focus will continue to be to produce an educated citizenry with the undergirding of critical thinking skills. Maybe the most understood premise is that we are NOW educating students for jobs which do not even exist now.

Dr. Lara Vance will return in the fall to give us a clear picture of the role of the Student Success Center. The Center has been in operation since January, 2017, with 24 tutors who provide advising, financial aid, and tutoring. In their role they dig into student issues and become pro-active in working with students, even engaging parents and career counselors in providing services to encourage retention, as they work with the freshman class. We look forward to her return to help us build some ways we can engage in the program as retirees.

Prior to adjourning, Charles reminded us of the trip to the Hatchery in May and the trip on July 20 to Rosemary Clooney home.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30. Our next meeting will be at Golden Corral on June 20, with a presentation to be announced. More information will follow by email and on the Retirees website which is maintained by Pauletta King, for which we are MOST appreciative.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance, Secretary