

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting**  
**JUNE 20, 2017**

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speakers/Topics: Roger Duvall – ECU Radio, history and services; Steve Gillespie – Update on Pensions; Jennifer Ott – Representing ECU Development

Charles Hay, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming about 34 members and guests to our June meeting at Golden Corral. Following a buffet lunch, Charles introduced our guests and topics of discussion. Pat Ridgley, Treasurer, reported that we currently have \$2,641.24 in our treasury. Jackie Vance, secretary, reported to members ways to stay abreast of EKURA news; ECU community page and EKURA website reflect updated information as to scheduled meetings, trips, special announcements from KRTA. Additionally, specific meeting announcements are sent by email during the academic year, following a letter and program announcement which will be mailed in July. A board meeting will be conducted within two weeks to determine the schedule for 2017-18. Those in attendance were encouraged to always be mindful of publications sent out to members by KRTA and TRS. Examples were shown. Jackie also reminded the members to sign the white cards if that has not been done. Local membership information is available through Jackie or Pat Ridgley. Communication through ECU was good this month. Jennifer Ott, Development, will work with us to improve notification to all members. Many things are happening regarding pensions and insurance; we will keep members updated.

Charles Hay circulated the sign-up sheet for the July trip to the Rosemary Clooney home. He explained the itinerary for the trip and encouraged attendance. Any questions regarding trips should be addressed to Hay or Conley. Fawn Conley, President Elect, made several announcements prior to the beginning of the presentation.

Roger Duval was introduced as the Voice of ECU. He announced that ECU Radio will celebrate 50 years of success in Fall, 2018. After crediting Ron Wolfe and Tim Singleton, members of EKURA, with the previous success of WEKU, Roger spoke of the radio offerings as “World as Your Classroom” as termed by Edward R. Morrow. The station has 52,000 listeners a week and that number is continuing to slowly build. The University supports 48% of the budget with the goal that the support can be dropped to 30%; there are currently \$400,000 per year in contributions. About 11% of the budget is from public broadcasting. Several new voices have places in local broadcasting and Ohio Valley Resource contributes a team of broadcasters. Additionally there is a managing editor and a data journalist as well as Mary Mehann as a health reporter and ECU contributor. She lends a prolific and productive global perspective. A mission of WEKU when it went on air was to provide programming in classical music which it continues. It is hoped there will be more ECU performances on air. Day sponsorships are being planned and recently there have been 800 contributors at \$180 at least. Mr. Duval closed by thanking the retirees for support which is critical to ECU and ECU radio.

Jennifer Ott was introduced as our new liaison with Development. As Director of Donor Engagement she mentioned several ways she could assist us and ways to get in touch with her.

Steve Gillespie, as a member of the state insurance board, reported that our health insurance is doing well at this time. The system is solvent and very stable. Our contribution may go up slightly. In regard to the pension systems, KRS is experiencing serious issues while the teacher system suffers from the over \$14 billion shortage in the amount the General Assembly was scheduled to pay into the system. The PFN group, assigned by Bevin, is in the process of analyzing the systems and have been less than honest in reporting reasons for difficulty. Simply put, the state did not pay 13 of the past 15 annual payments as well as being 6% short in the amount paid this legislative year, which was \$973,000,000. They would have to do this 14 more times in addition to the actuarially required contribution each year to be 100% funded. We had 8% in earnings this past year and unless the amounts are put in, by 2042 TRS will be unsustainable. IF TRS were changed from defined benefits to 401K we could not sustain the program. We would be 84% (instead of 55%) funded if the state had met their responsibility. The Legislators are 100% funded. Steve's suggestion is that we **KNOW OUR LEGISLATORS AND CONTACT THEM**. There will likely be a special session in September or October. There is an inviolable contract BUT as the problem grows, the dollar goes. We must push for tax reform. Bevin has named new outside people to the board; they do not have the vested interest teachers have. Be wary of opinions of groups like the Bluegrass Institute. Stay vigilant.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00. Our next meeting will be at Golden Corral on August 22, with Bob Wagoner, recently retired executive director of KRTA. 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