

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting  
August 15, 2015**

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30 AM

Facilitator: Marshall Myers; Program: Dr. Frank O'Connor

Topic: Kentucky's Economic Status

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 after a brief period of welcome and lunch. Marshall Myers, President of EKURA, called for discussion and a vote on a location for meetings for the 2015-16 academic year. By consensus, it was determined that we will meet at Golden Corral, except when a special circumstance calls for a change in location. Twenty-one members were in attendance. President Myers announced that John Cooper, representing North American Life Plans, will present two workshops on Tuesday, August 25 (11:00 and 1:00) on ways to maximize benefits available through the KRTA membership. A handout was distributed to provide information for registration. It was announced that the District Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park will be held on Monday, August 31; President Myers called for interest from EKURA members. Five members may attend and have expenses reimbursed for lunch and travel; Marshall Myers, Jackie Vance, Richard Vance will represent EKURA.

Jackie Vance, Secretary, gave a membership report. Several EKURA members are working with Marissa Parmer, our ECU liaison, to try to justify our membership rolls with those of the state organization, KTRA, to assure that all current and eligible members of EKURA are getting all materials and announcements. When committee work is complete, letters will be mailed to all eligible ECU retirees to give information about organization plans and opportunities for joining; the letter and information should be out within a week or so. It was explained that most communication will be done by email, so any changes in email addresses should be sent to Marissa Parmer. Jackie Vance called upon Dot Kirkpatrick to explain the creation of the EKURA Scholarship Program which was originally established through ECU Foundations and continues to be administered through them using \$100 from any lifetime member enrollee in EKURA for growth potential. The Scholarship Committee selected Taylor Grayson to receive the Scholarship for the 2015-16 year. She is a graduate student in Occupational Therapy and will be invited to one of our future meetings to be introduced.

Jackie Vance then introduced Christine Tuverson, Director of Development in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. She brought gifts from ECU for each attendee and advised us of some of the goals of their area. A proposal is being developed to engage retirees in a tutoring program with ECU students. Retention is up and ECU wants to encourage students by providing services to assist them in courses, if necessary. Ms. Tuverson presented thoughts on the proposal and asked for our input as they move forward. She also encouraged us as retirees to continue to make ECU aware of areas in which we could be helped.

Ron Wolfe gave a brief report on organization activities for the leisure lunch group. POPS was attended by around 20 members and went well. The next activity is lunch at Bluebird in Stanford. The group will go to Keenland in April and to the Glitz in June.

Charles Hay reported on the EKURA Travel Group. A schedule for the September trip to the Belle of Louisville was distributed and sign-ups were encouraged. Contact Fawn Conley for more information.

Pat Ridgley, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$2,028.56 in our treasury. Lifetime memberships and/or annual dues opportunities for EKURA will be announced in our mailing. We are going to encourage more participation in both KRTA and EKURA so that more retirees will be aware of the areas we need to work on to “shore up” our pension fund. The more VOICES, the better we are heard.

Officers for the next year will be Marshall Myers, President; President-elect OPEN; Jackie Vance, Secretary, Pat Ridgley, Treasurer; Ron Wolfe, Membership; Health/Insurance, John Gump; Richard Vance, Legislative Contact. We are currently searching for a President-elect. If you know of someone, or would be willing yourself to support our organization by serving as an officer, please contact Jackie Vance.

Charles Hay introduced our speaker, Dr. Frank O'Connor, Retired ECU faculty member and member of Gov. Beshear's Consensus Forecasting Group. The group was formed in 1996 to assist the Legislature and the Governor in making reliable forecasts for the three branches of government in order to facilitate prudent budgeting. The members of the group are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Budget Director of the LRC; seven of the committee members are from university settings and one is from LG&E. The main focus is on the general fund revenue and the highway Fund with some attention given to the tobacco settlement. The preliminary estimate is made in October after meetings in August of odd years. Final estimates are made on or before the fifteenth legislative day in the 2016 legislative session this year. KRS 48.120 established the consensus group.

The meeting adjourned after a period of Q&A. The next meeting will be at 11:30 Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at Golden Corral. Janie Caslowe, Deputy Executive Director of KRTA will bring information on KRTA's legislative lobby efforts to support retiree benefits.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance, Secretary