

Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
August 16, 2016

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: Shawn LaDouceur (Center for the Arts, Debbie Kidd (RAAC, Gwen Childs (Berea Arts Council)

Topic: The Thriving Madison County Arts Scene – A panel discussion

Charles Hay, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming more than 25 members and guests to our August meeting which officially opens our 2016-2017 program year. After a buffet luncheon, a brief business meeting followed. Charles called the meeting to order and asked that new attendees please sign the sheet circulating so that we will have current email addresses, especially if the addresses are other than EKU addresses and if no mailing had been received. The welcome letter for the year, explaining the dues structure and communication protocol, along with a list of programs and lists should have been received by all retirees of EKU recently whether or not they are members of KRTA, our affiliate organization. It is especially important to notify us of any email preferred to the EKU address, so that members may be assured of receiving notifications. As minutes are distributed electronically on the EKURA website, Charles called for approval. They were approved by consensus. Charles Hay reported for Pat Ridgley, treasurer, a treasury balance of \$2,361. He reminded those in attendance of the \$10 per year dues OR \$120 for a lifetime membership, \$100 of which goes to our scholarship fund. Jackie Vance, Secretary, reminded members to complete white cards which authorize \$20 to be taken from a member's November pension check; with this process an EKU retiree is a member of KRTA and is guaranteed benefits and publications. EKURA has a campus post box (773) for sending EKURA dues or any communication with our organization.

The District Meeting for Southcentral KRTA is scheduled for August 29, at Boone Tavern in Berea. Four officers will represent EKURA. Charles discussed the very valuable FACT SHEET published annually by KRTA. It has been mailed to all members by both KRTA and EKURA, as well as being available at this meeting. It has good information regarding contacts when information is needed and lists of benefits and available goods and services. We received and documented all school supplies sent to Model School for our project. Jackie Vance delivered those to Model for their school store operated by the special education department.

The KTRA annual convention is April 24-25, 2017 in Louisville. As many members as possible are encouraged to represent EKURA. A sign up form for the September 20 trip to the Jack Jouett House in Versailles with lunch at the Science Hill Inn in Shelbyville circulated so those interested could sign up. Further information is on the website or information may be picked up here. Charles encouraged members to sign up for four committees which are being formed: membership, planning, communications, legislative (Richard Vance, chair).

Jackie Vance introduced the three professionals representing arts opportunities in Madison County. A power point presentation was made by Gwen Childs, Director of the Berea Arts Council. She explained activities and events available to the community through the Arts Council. She discussed the community partnerships, such as Berea College and many artisans who join to provide programming for children, young adults, and all adults. She spoke of programs such as Walk with the Arts, Craft Fairs, displays and demonstrations, and instructional activities for all community members. Debbie Kidd, Executive Director of RAAC, also emphasized community partnerships that allow the Arts Council to offer a plethora of after school activities for Madison County Schools and located at the schools in part; transportation is provided by the district for children enrolled by parents. Sponsorships of activities such as the annual ARTS GALA, the Summer Music Series at the Richmond Centre, and a variety of seasonal activities as well as artist performances and showings were explored using a power point. Shawn LaDouceur, coordinator of publications and promotions for ECU Center for the Arts, distributed print materials showing a variety of available performances. He, too, spoke of the necessity of community partnership and especially that the Center has with the Madison County School System in presenting Student Discovery Series, so local students have exposure to the arts. A question and answer period followed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30. Our next meeting will be at Golden Corral on October 18, and our speakers will be Jane Gilbert, KTRS health insurance coordinator and Don Hines, KRTA legislative contact.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance, Secretary