

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
October 20 , 2015**

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30 AM

Facilitator: Marshall Myers; Program: Janie Caslowe

Topic: Update on KRTA Legislative Agenda

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. Thirty-five members were in attendance; Fawn Conley circulated a list to acquire as up-to-date as possible email addresses since we primarily communicate in that way. President Myers announced that Dr. Reed Tuckson will be presenting a talk about how to live a healthier life on October 27 in Louisville and on October 28 in Bowling Green; he asked that those interested see him after the meeting for more information. Dr. Wagoner has forwarded to each local retiree group a reminder that KRTA is a non-partisan group but that it is incumbent upon us as retirees to vote in the November election. His suggestion is that we carefully review the last newsletter from KRTA and consider the responses of the gubernatorial candidates. Melinda Murphy, representing the Development area at ECU, brought greetings and gifts from Eastern. She thanked EKURA affiliates for being frontline ambassadors for the University. She reviewed our scholarship history and reminded us of the work we are doing for ECU students. She distributed a handout on the 8 Tips for Estate Planning, which will also be posted on our new FB page. She is available to us for information we might need on planned giving and how to simplify estate planning.

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. Letters have been mailed to all eligible ECU retirees to give information about organization plans and opportunities for joining. Marissa Parmer has been instrumental in developing a FB page for the EKURA Community; it is up and running. She also has a colleague doing calling of ECU retirees to try to get the most recent email addresses so that we can continue to communicate in that manner. **REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE WHITE CARD YOU RECEIVED IN YOUR INFORMATIONAL LETTER; THIS WILL ASSURE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN KRTA AND ALL THE BENEFITS WHICH GO WITH IT, ESPECIALLY THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

Ron Wolfe gave a brief report on activities for the leisure lunch group; the next trip will be to Bluebird Café in Stanford on October 22. Be at Peddler's Mall at 10:00 if you wish to make the trip. President Benson will be our guest for Christmas lunch at Arlington on

December 15 at 11:30. It will be \$20 per person and money should be mailed to Pat Ridgley at 128 Buckwood Dr., Richmond, KY by Friday, December 4.

Charles Hay reported on the EKURA Travel Group. The September trip to the Belle of Louisville was well attended and enjoyed by members and guests. The next trip will be Thursday, November 19 to Ephriam McDowell and Burke's Bakery in Danville followed by lunch at Beaumont Inn. Be at the Peddler's Mall by 9 AM. Contact Charles if you plan to attend, as we need reservations for Beaumont Inn. Look at the Website for details on our trip to Springfield, Illinois in July. We hope to have a good group for this event.

Fawn Conley reminded everyone to check the sheet requesting email addresses and add theirs for ease in getting information. She spoke about KERS membership information. She distributed Salvation Army food bags to those interested in participating in that project. Contact Fawn if you wish to fill one for the holiday season. She also mentioned a "discount sheet" available to members; it can be requested by email. Fawn has that information. She had sheets of activities and specific information about KERS to be picked up.

Pat Ridgley, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$2,409.90 in our treasury. Lifetime memberships and/or annual dues opportunities for EKURA were 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. We have 4 new lifetime members.

Marshall Meyers introduced our speaker, Janie Caslowe, Deputy Director of KRTA, who spoke with us concerning the role of KRTA in our retirement. She reiterated how important it will be to us as retirees to vote in the upcoming election. She noted that when asked to respond to specific questions regarding the soundness of our pension system, one of the gubernatorial candidates chose not to respond at all. It is imperative that the actuarial soundness of the system be restored and that can only begin to be accomplished by having a governor who is supportive of retaining the practice of defined benefits and oversight by representatives we have selected. It is critical to the thousands of teachers, active and retired, that the unfunded liability be addressed by the General Assembly in order to protect pensions now and in the future, especially since the KTRS was established in 1938 to care for all teachers, without the Social Security benefit. Being involved and informed is necessary. She mentioned that 92% of retirees stay in Kentucky, pouring a vast majority of the \$197 M distributed annually back into the economy. She suggested that we individually work with local senators and legislators to find out IF they will support the efforts to restore the actuarial soundness to KTRS because "politics are ALL LOCAL." She spoke of HB4 which proposed bonding to repay the unfunded liability and failed in the Senate and ways that might be looked at again in the next session, depending on the outcome of the work of the Committee appointed by Governor Beshear to look at options for the pension system. She invited us to attend the meetings of the Pension Funding Work Group but especially to contact our

legislators and tell them of our concerns. Richard Vance, EKURA Legislative Chairperson has attended the sessions of the work group and followed up Ms. Caslowe's comments by reiterating the need for us to stay involved and to try to make others aware of the necessity of group action.

The meeting adjourned after a period of Q&A. The next meeting will be at 11:30 Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at Arlington. Remember to make your reservations by calling Pat Ridgley at 623-3527, or by sending \$20 for each reservation to him at 128 Buckwood Dr., Richmond, KY.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance, Secretary