

The BowWow Times

Official Newsletter of ARF (Association of Retired Faculty-MSU Bozeman)

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ARF ANNUAL REPORT: The latest report is available on-line at:

http://www.montana.edu/retired/ARF-AnnualReport-FY2011_26Jun2011.pdf

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS: Our monthly luncheons began again in Sept with a talk by Paul Wylie, followed by Dr. Richard Sabo in October, and Norm Eggert in November. Our December luncheon will be moved up to **Wednesday, Dec. 7 at noon** when David Senn, Director of the Montana Teachers Retirement System will be here to give us an update on TRS and where it stands financially. If you have any concerns about your future payments from TRS, you shouldn't miss this meeting to get the details from "the horse's mouth". The luncheon will be held in room 235 of the SUB.

Your suggestions for luncheon speakers for spring semester should be passed along to Pierce Mullen (pierce3@bresnan.net).

CAPSTONE LECTURES: Cathy Conover will be giving a capstone lecture this coming February talking about her experiences with leadership. Exact date, time, and location are yet to be determined so stay tuned to your e-mail for this information.

MEETING WITH MSU PROVOST: Marty Hamilton and John Jutila met with Provost Potvin on Nov. 1 to discuss various issues with her. They summarized certain ARF hallmark events and projects for the period 2010-11. This was followed by a presentation and discussion of post-retirement issues including phased retirement of ORP retirees, partial re-employment after retirement and retiree benefits and privileges. The Provost has agreed to include ARF in her administrative structure, albeit, in a "dotted Line" linkage with her office. The Provost expressed interest in our Mentoring program although she is reluctant to endorse the effort until details of its implementation are made known (See below).

Report on FY2012 Programs and Projects: The following programs and projects are under development this year. Volunteers are needed. We urge each of you in the MSU retired faculty community – whether faculty or spouse – to consider active involvement on a project team. Retirees, the university, and the community-at-large benefit from ARF projects. We hope you can find the time to contribute to the success of an ARF program. If you are interested, please contact Don Mathre. He can be reached at 587-8666 or 994-5157 or via e-mail at upldm@montana.edu.

MENTORING PROGRAM: We are in the process of developing a proposal that ARF establish a mentoring program, primarily for new faculty who sense a need for the special mentoring a retiree may be able to provide. Retirees have a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be of tremendous assistance to young faculty. The mentoring would take place on a "one-on-one" basis in a relaxed setting. When appropriate, graduate students and research associates might also be involved in the mentoring program. Stay tuned for developments as this moves forward.

PHASED RETIREMENT ISSUES: Several of the ARF officers are developing a document that will be used to clarify issues for those interested in phased retirement. The object is to make it possible for faculty to retire over an extended period of time (say five years) rather than over the weekend.

POST-RETIREMENT CONTRACTS AND ISSUES: If you are under the TRS system, there are some very specific figures about what can be earned on a post-retirement contract but it is very unclear about post-retirement contracts for those on the ORP program handled by TIAA-CREF. There are even some unclear aspects about post-retirement contracts for those on TRS. We will be working with the folks at the U of M on this since any change in policy would be university-wide.

BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES: Montana State University provides certain benefits and privileges to emeritus faculty members so that they can continue to be active in university and professional activities and to maintain a healthy body and brain. We are working to bring the MSU benefits and privileges in line with those that pertain at many other universities, including the Univ. of Montana. Discussions on this will occur over the coming months.

ARF OFFICE – 338 Culbertson: The ARF office is on the west side of the hall on the far north end of the third floor of Culbertson. There is a key box near the door. You can get the PIN from any ARF Officer. To enter the office, punch “clear”, the PIN, “open”. Follow the same procedure to replace the key, which you do before entering the office. The ARF phone has voice mail; call 994-7730. The office contains two computers, but only one is on the internet. For the main computer, the user name is ARF and no password is required. There is WiFi access in the room in case you want to work on your own laptop computer; click on MSU-Guest or RF-Connect to gain access to the internet. If you have an active campus account, the MSU-Guest server will prompt you to logon to that account. Please feel free to use the ARF office for meetings, project work, writing, counseling students, etc. There is a log book on the coffee table. Please help us keep a record of office usage.

WEB SITE: Dwight Phillips has worked hard to maintain and expand our web site at www.montana.edu/retired. On the “Links” page, he has added some sites of interest to our group and to retirees in general. The first, under current items of interest, is to a publication that talks about retiree centers on university campuses and the role they can play. Two other links are further down the page under the section “links to retired faculty organizations” and include new links to the UC Berkeley Retirement center. The other link is to the Rutgers Retirement group which is unique in that it seems to have links to a lot of advice on end-of-life issues, like wills, obituaries, planning, etc.

DUES: Dues for 2011-2012 are still being accepted. For the year ending June 30, 2011, ARF had 49 paid members although 207 of you are receiving this newsletter. As a reminder, dues are \$15 for regular membership; \$25 for a sustaining membership; \$50 for a contributing membership; \$100 to become a benefactor; and \$200 for a lifetime membership. Mail your checks to the ARF treasurer, Don Mathre, 731 South 12th Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715. Make checks payable to the MSU Association of Retired Faculty.

This is the 7th edition of the *BowWow Times*
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