

ARF NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

January 15, 2000

Volume 1 Issue 1

*A Message from our
Treasurer:*

We are in urgent need of dues owing for the current year: 1999-2000. We have an obligation to make a payment to YUFA on behalf of you, our members and potential members, now that YUFA has recognized non-teaching retirees as associate members of the union. And with so much going on we need to keep in touch with you more frequently than in the past. In view of these increasing costs, the Annual General Meeting voted to raise the annual membership fee from \$15 to \$25. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership now or join us as a new member. To speak effectively for you, we need a persuasively large and growing membership. You may send your dues to Margaret Knittl at 40 Vermont Avenue, Toronto, ON M6G 1X9

One Small Step...

YUFA's new contract contains this addition to Article 14.04: Senior Scholars are eligible to apply for conference travel funds on the same basis as full-time faculty.

Our President's Report

The recent Annual Meeting highlighted a number of initiatives undertaken by ARF. The inadequacy of our Extended Health Care and Dental Benefits remains of primary importance. To supplement the meager coverage it affords us, we have been working, as you know, to set up our own trust fund under YUFA's auspices. Those negotiations are now completed, the AGM has accepted the resulting document and the Benefits Trust Agreement has been signed. Our next task will be to appoint trustees and to shape the role of the Trust. (See item on the Trust, below.)

The conclusion of negotiations between YUFA and the Administration leaves some question about the actual meaning of the clause on retiree benefits. The Agreement speaks to a change in support levels by the Administration from \$66,000 to \$300,000 a

year. It looks to your Executive as if this amount will quickly be absorbed by continuing cost over-runs as the number of retirees steadily increases. YUFA contends that the bulk of this amount will be available for improvements in benefits. The discussion over this will take place in the Joint Benefits Sub-Committee. Whatever the outcome, it will be much short of our goal: parity with pre-retirees.

We have been attempting to "encourage" the Administration to respond to our push for parity by asking colleagues to write letters to Lorna Marsden on that issue, and a goodly number have done so. Add your voice to the chorus! In addition we are undertaking a series of area meetings to provide information on retiree benefits to faculty approaching retirement.

In trying to keep our list of retirees current, we have encountered a strange situation. The Administration refuses to give us a list of retirees and their addresses on the grounds that doing so would violate privacy. This makes our task of

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communicating with all of you a good deal more difficult than it otherwise would be. Further, we have reason to believe that this rule is not applied even-handedly across the university. So if you know of a retiree who is not receiving our mailings, please encourage him/her to get in touch with us.

Your Executive is still trying to arrange a meeting with Charles Hantho, Chair of York's Board of Governors.

Howard Buchbinder

Historic Moment! Benefits Trust Created

On Nov.23,1999, representatives of ARF and YUFA made history by signing the Agreement and Declaration of Trust to establish the York University Retired Faculty and Librarians Benefit Fund (hereafter the Fund). The Fund now has \$1.2 million to its credit. The revenues earned will be used to provide additional or supplementary health and dental benefits to retired faculty and librarians. The operation and administration of the Fund will be

the responsibility of five Trustees, three of whom, including a retiree who is a Senior Member of YUFA, will be appointed by YUFA and two by ARF. The Trustees will have the challenging task of getting things going and preparing the initial benefit plan for approval by ARF members. The appointment of ARF Trustees is now, therefore, our No. 1 priority. Trustees may serve up to six consecutive years and, to ensure continuity on the Board, there will be discussion with YUFA concerning the specific terms of the inaugural Trustees. Being a member in good standing of ARF will ensure that you can play a part in the development of the Fund.

First of all, your Executive invites you to suggest the names of persons you consider well fitted for appointment as inaugural Trustees, or their successors. Send your suggestions to Joe Green, ARF Secretary, by phone (H) 922-8969; (O) 947-5999; Fax 860-3855; or e-mail: jggreen@yorku.ca. We need the best of the best for this job!

George Eaton

More on the YUFA Contract Settlement

On enquiring about the new funding for retiree benefits, a member of ARF received this response from Brian Abner: "I've checked with Paula O'Reilly. Her understanding is that with the admin's new level of contribution of \$300K, the level of existing retiree benefits will be able to be maintained. The co-premiums paid by retirees will have to be maintained as well in order to continue the existing level of benefits. The fund was in deficit and going further (into) deficit each year so without our increased contribution either the level of benefits would have to be cut or the co-premiums would have been increased.

There is one caution I would add. Th Human Resources department has sometimes had difficulty getting good info from the insurer on the status of the fund. The information that Paula has is based (on) the latest that we have received from HR over the recent few months".

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More about Lists

Recently a good number of you received a mailing through York's Development Department suggesting that you contribute to the United Way campaign as members of the York community. (Not all of you did: the Administration's lists are themselves defective.) This raises the question of why one advocacy group, the Development Department, is entitled to have your name and address, while another advocacy group whose mission is to give you a voice, is not entitled to have it. Many of us don't remember authorizing the Administration to release our names and addresses to the Development Department. Do you recall doing so?

New Data Base of Members

With the help of volunteers, we are in the process of preparing a new data base of our members and potential members. So please, when filling out your membership application or renewal, give us all the information asked for. In

the future, the Fund will need additional information before it can begin to function, and we are trying to anticipate those requirements in designing our new data base. Wish us luck! More volunteers for inputting data would be most welcome. Contact Joe Green if you have time and patience for helping out with this task.

The Current ARF Executive

President:

Howard Buchbinder
(howardb@yorku.ca)

Past-President:

George Eaton
(geaton@yorku.ca)

Vice-President:

Mavis Waters

Treasurer:

Margaret Knitl
(knitl@yorku.ca)

Secretary:

Joe Green
(jggreen@yorku.ca)

At Large:

Gwenda Echard
(gechard@yorku.ca)

Sydney Eisen
(seisen@yorku.ca)

Don Holoch
Phyllis Platnick
(platnick@yorku.ca)

New ARF Mailing Address

As our work expands, your Executive feels the need of a more stable mailing address than we have had in the past. YUFA has agreed to act as our ongoing mailing address, though you may still, if you wish, send specific communications to particular officers, for example, names of suggested trustees to the secretary, Joe Green and fee payments to the treasurer, Margaret Knitl. But, as membership on the executive changes pretty regularly, it will be very helpful to all of us to have a permanent mailing address. It is: Association of Retired Faculty, c/o YUFA, Schulich School of Business, Room 241, York University, 4700 Keele St. Toronto, ON M3J 1P3.

YOUR ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
FACULTY AND LIBRARIANS NEEDS YOUR
HELP AND YOUR DUES!

WE ALSO NEED YOUR SNAIL-MAIL AND
EMAIL ADDRESSES --

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED
DUES AND INFORMATION FORM AND
RETURN IT TO MARGARET KNITTL AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE...