

ARF NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

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Contents:

- 1) President's Report
- 2) Sub-Committee on Benefits
- 3) ARF Benefits Trust Fund
- 4) Dues are due!
- 5) ARF Annual General Meeting and Election of the Executive Committee

Howard Buchbinder reports

This is the last newsletter before the Annual General Meeting of ARF. It has been a very eventful year. As we approach the new year we can see some of the changes which are before us. I will not be standing again for President, although as Past President I will continue as a member of the executive. I have also served for the past two years as ARF representative on the YUFA Executive Committee.

Our interests have been focused in several areas. Last year we concluded the negotiations with YUFA that resulted in the Benefits Trust Fund which is now in place. We also concluded, with YUFA a system for determining what role retirees could play in YUFA. We created two forms

of membership: Senior Members and Associate members, each with different voting privileges.

Negotiations with the administration and the union over the issue of extended health care and dental benefits continue and it appears we may have some results shortly. We have been looking at the impact of changes in mortality tables on pensions.

A major task has involved us in figuring out who our members are. We need ways of building a data base to reflect our membership. This has been a complicated and, at times, frustrating task. The details of many of these issues are contained in some of the reports in this newsletter and will be up for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

A Report From The Sub-Committee On Benefits

Contrary to first impressions, the increase YUFA negotiated for us in the administration's support of our benefit plan (from \$66,000 to \$300,000 a year) has proved large enough to generate a small surplus in the plan's budget since May of 1998, when the increase came into effect. We learned of this only in May of this year, and since then we have been trying to establish:

a) how large the surplus actually is, and b) how best it can be used; i.e., what the costs of particular

improvements would be over a two year period. It is clear that growing numbers of retirees will overtake this surplus within two years, but in the meanwhile there seemed to be room for a few modest improvements in our package. An unexpectedly large cohort of retirees this summer has compelled us to lower our sights, but there still seems to be a possibility of some betterment to our plan. We expect to know, for better or worse, before the Annual General Meeting in October.

Benefits Trust Fund Now In Business

We have been informed that the five trustees who will be responsible for overall administration of the York University Retired Faculty and Librarian Benefit Trust Fund had their inaugural meeting at the York campus on August 9, 2000. The names of the trustees and the offices which were filled by election are set out below.

George E. Eaton (YUFA appointee), Chair;
H. Ian MacDonald (ARF appointee), Vice-Chair;
Lillian Lerman (ARF appointee) Secretary;
Joanna Blake (YUFA appointee);
Al Stauffer (YUFA appointee).

As to be expected, the Trustees dealt with

(over)

administrative matters including the take over of the funds of the trust so that they can begin to address substantive matters. Until advised otherwise, the mailing address will be c/o YUFA Office, Room 241 Schulich Bldg, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, M3J 2R6.

Membership Fees Due -- Again!

Our financial year runs from July 1 to June 30 and that means that fees for the current year are now due. A fair number of you, aware of this, sent in cheques in May or earlier and have received receipts for the 2000/01 year. Thank you very much; we would be extinct without you! Please hold off now until next May. However, most members, lacking a reminder, have yet to renew. Please do it now. This year will be a critical one for us. YUFA will be in contract negotiations and our benefit package will be on the table. We must do our utmost to convince both union and administration that retirees deserve more than crumb from under the table. Our new Trust Fund holds great promise, but our bread and butter still depends on the premiums we pay and the funds the administration puts up. Our goal is parity, but to carry conviction, our words need the backing of a large and determined membership.

Free Email!

York's retired faculty, librarians and staff are entitled to Internet access via the University's data network free of charge. Those who already have email and high speed modem accounts when they retire simply keep them. Retirees who want to obtain new accounts must contact CNS Client Support Services (T128 Steacie). Phone 416-736-5800. You will be asked to provide an employee number and faculty/department name. Once these are confirmed, the accounts are quickly set up.

A high speed modem account lets you connect via your phone line to the York data network. From here you can surf the Internet. You will also need an email account; which lets you send and receive electronic mail through York's servers.

Another tool you'll want to get is YSoft. Put simply, YSoft is a software installer program developed by Computing and Network Services to make it easy for the University community to download and install new software from York file servers. YSoft comes on a single diskette. It is sold for \$5.00 from vending machines located in Steacie and the Scott Library. You can also download YSoft at <http://www.yorku.ca/ccs/software/ysoft>.

ARF Annual General Meeting and Election of the Executive Committee

<p>PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE OCTOBER 25 ARF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT NOON IN THE FOUNDERS COLLEGE SCR -- A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED & PARKING PASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE LOT BEHIND SCOTT LIBRARY</p>

The ARF Executive met on September 5 and, with two additional ARF members (Joe Ernst and Michael Creal), formed the Nominating Committee, as required by ARF By-Laws. The nominees put forward for election at the AGM are:

President: Margaret Knittl;
Vice-President: Sidney Eisen;
Treasurer: Bill Whitla;
Secretary: Phyllis Platnick; *at Large:* Howard Buchbinder (as Past-President), Don Holoch, and Michael Creal.

Two additional at-Large members are needed and additional nominations for any of the above positions may be made from the floor at the AGM.