

# ARF NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED  
FACULTY AND LIBRARIANS  
OF YORK UNIVERSITY



Vol. 7: No. 3 (Issue 19 Oct. 2001)

*ARF is a formal affiliate organization of York University Faculty Association and consists of those Faculty and Librarians, whether retired or not, who have paid membership dues. Retired Members of ARF are Associate Members of YUFA.*



At the Annual General Meeting of October 2000, the following slate of officers was returned, including those subsequently nominated to the Executive to extend its base and representation, as the meeting agreed. The Executive will normally be printed in each edition of the *Newsletter*.



## EXECUTIVE

*President*

Margaret Knittl

*Vice-President*

Sydney Eisen

*Treasurer*

William Whitla

*Secretary*

Phyllis Platnick

*Past-President*

Howard Buchbinder

*Members-at-Large*

Michael Creal

Ruth Grogan

Don Holoch

Alex Murray

Nick Tryphonopoulos

Mary Williamson (alternate)

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, OCT. 25**

#### FOUNDERS MASTER'S DINING ROOM

12:00–2:00

Note the change of locale. To reach the Master's Dining Room, take the Founders elevator to the basement, walk past the Cock and Bull Pub and the glass walls until you reach a corridor. Turn left and proceed to the end through the marked door. Signs will be posted.

#### AS USUAL, THERE WILL BE A GOOD LUNCH

ON THE AGENDA will be the Annual Reports from the President and the Treasurer, new information on Pensions and Benefits and a discussion of the Administration's proposed reduction of the annual increment for Retirees.

### 1. Parking for the Annual General Meeting

As you know, some of the parking lots have been closed during building projects, and others have opened, but parking is tight. We have made special arrangements through the Parking

Office for those with YURA parking tickets (available free with your YURA membership of \$15, with other benefits—in their new offices at 101 Central Square). The limited space in York Lanes garage will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, using YURA tickets. As well, ARF members may use lots 3B (the lot east off Founders Road, entering from Steeles) or 5A (east lot off North West Gate, entering from Steeles towards Tate McKenzie). Each of these lots has an attendant to whom you give your stub and YURA parking ticket. Otherwise you may park anywhere in any attended lot for cash. And there is always “the better way” on the TTC.



### 2. The President's Report

The past year has been a busy one for your executive. With YUFA's support, we put in place last February a mini package of improvements to our health and dental benefits plan. We have participated from start to finish in the negotiations for a renewal of the YUFA contract, and are now looking at a major challenge on the pension front.

Elsewhere in this *Newsletter* I have reported on the outcome of those negotiations so far as they touch our Health and Dental Benefits Plan. Here I can add that a new brochure describing the plan is in the works and may- just may- be ready to circulate by term's end.

On pensions we are at a cross roads. The Administration has yet to come up with an alternative to its current and unacceptable proposal to reduce

our annual increment (when we have one) by .25% a year as a way of dealing with our unplanned-for longevity. We still hope that the administration will find an alternative method that is acceptable to the bargaining units and that respects the integrity of our individual contracts that we signed on retirement. We have and continue to receive very valuable guidance on this matter from a first-rate actuary and a first-rate lawyer. Based on their advice, we may have an opportunity to secure at manageable cost a ruling on the legality of the .25% proposal. However, as an Executive we are keenly aware that what we do now—or don't do—will have consequences for all present and future retirees.

We must think very carefully about our options and consult with you, the membership, and ideally also with all the campus unions, but at least with YUFA, YUSA, and YURA. We are beginning that process now, and will be laying out the pros and cons for your consideration at the Annual General Meeting.

In summary, a good deal has been accomplished this year, and yet everything remains to be done.

—Margaret Knittl



### 3. Corrections: We Goofed!

First, Leona Fields has pointed out that in the May *Newsletter*

report of her presentation at YURA (page 2, col. 2), the difference should have read “2.74% (\$548) instead of 2.99% (\$598) [per year],” not per month.

Second, the phone number in Sydney Eisen’s column on out-of-country medical claims was wrong. The number to call at Great West Insurance is 1-800-957-9777. We apologize to any ARF members who were inconvenienced, and also to the unfortunate recipient of calls to the wrong number. York also has the claims forms, available from Pensions and Benefits section of Human Resources (416-736-5005). Only original cost receipts and medical test results are acceptable. But anyone can photocopy the forms and accept photocopies from your physician.



### 4. Missing Copies of the Newsletter for the Archive

We are missing issues 3 and 4 (1996) from the Newsletter Archives. If anyone has an old copy of either, we’d be grateful to complete our files. Please send a

#### DUES NOTICE FOR ARF Second Call

Attached to this Newsletter you will find a Dues payment form. If you have not already paid your dues for the current year, please attach your fees to the form and mail them to ARF. You can use an intercampus mailer if you mail within York. The treasurer can tell you whether you are paid up or not with a phone call to Bill Whitla at 416-766-6393.

copy or a photocopy to William Whitla, 226 Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto M3J 1P3.



### 5. Our Health and Dental Benefits under YUFA’s Renewed Contract

Under the new Agreement accepted by YUFA members in September, pre-retirees will be getting markedly less than they asked for, especially in the difficult matter of controlling escalating workloads— a prime concern in light of the double cohort of high school graduates due to enter universities in 2003.

We too got less than we asked for. The Administration’s offer was to increase their contribution from \$300,000 to \$450,000 a year, which they assured YUFA again and again would be enough to meet claims of all members for the two years May 1/01 to April 30/03. But they refused adamantly to put that assurance into the contract in any shape or form. Worse for our future prospects, the Administration refused to hear of any improvement to our plan even when the YUFA team offered to take a lesser salary increase in return. Plainly, any betterment of our plan in the next two years can come only from the Trust Fund.

So we are not uncapped, and have only a verbal assurance that the Administration’s intention and belief is that the sum pledged will do the job. The good news is that coverage now includes the improvements we secured last February. The budget for our plan, including the premiums we pay, the

administration's contribution and the surplus carried forward on May 1/01 will be about \$1,240,000. That compares with a little over \$800,000 for the previous two year period. Very probably the new sum will be enough to pay all claims under the plan as it stands. If a cost over-run should occur (and that depends very much on whether /how Mr. Harris "reforms" the Seniors' Drug Plan), it should not be large enough to precipitate surgery to our plan. In short, the negotiating team did pretty well by us, all things considered, but accomplished nothing, in this field, for pre-retirees.

What now? If uncapping two years at a time is the best we can do through the negotiating process, should we be thinking of other solutions to the insecurity of our situation? This is a discussion we will be opening up at the Annual General Meeting. Be there!

— Margaret Knittl



## 6. Free E-Mail and Internet Access

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 e-mail 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 home phone line to the York data network. From here you can surf the Internet. You will also need an e-mail account which lets you send and receive electronic mail through York's servers.

Another tool you'll want is to get a copy of YSoft (York Software). Put simply, Ysoft is a software installer program developed by Computing and Network Services to make it easy for the university community to make connections from their home computers, and to download and install new software from York file servers. The package includes e-mail software, Netscape, and other programs. Ysoft comes on a single diskette. It is sold for \$5.00 from vending machines located in Steacie. You can also download Ysoft at:

[http://www.yorku.ca/ccs/software/download/ysoft\\_installer.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/ccs/software/download/ysoft_installer.htm)

*(reprinted from the Newsletter of October 1, 2000).*



## 7. Getting a Copy of York's Anti-Virus Programme

York now has available copies of Norton Anti-Virus programme through a corporate on-site license. Members of the York community (including retirees) can get a copy easily. You will need a blank CD (writeable) that you can purchase in Steacie, as well as your MAYA account number that you get when your account is first set up (see above). The following information is provided by CNS on their

website about how to proceed:

CNS Client Support Services have installed a CD burner that provides quick and easy access to Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95/98 and Windows NT/2000. The machine is located in T128 Steacie and is available during Client Support's regular hours of operation. All you need are a blank CD and a MAYA login ID and password. Blank CDs (\$2.00) are available from the Steacie vending machine. The AntiVirus program is free to York people. Data transfer takes less than two minutes; compared to 2.5 hours required to download the 23MB package via 56K modem.

It's important to uninstall your old antivirus product before loading the Norton AntiVirus CD in your computer.

Client Support Services hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7:45 p.m., Monday-Friday; and Noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Direct relevant questions to CNS Client Support Services, T128 Steacie. Phone 55800.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND LIBRARIANS OF  
YORK UNIVERSITY

**DUES FOR 2001/02 ARE NOW RECEIVABLE.  
SECOND NOTICE  
PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ARF WITH YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

To: Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians, c/o YUFA  
241 Schulich School of Business,  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

- I wish to join ARF, to receive its mailings and support its activities  
 I wish to renew my membership in ARF  
 I am willing to undertake occasional work for ARF  
 I am not yet a retiree, but I want to become an Associate Member of ARF

Enclosed is my cheque for the period 1 July, 2001 to 30 June, 2002.

- \$25 Regular Membership  
 \$10 Associate Membership

Plus \$\_\_\_\_\_ as an additional contribution to help ARF in its continuing work on behalf of York's retired Faculty and Librarians.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Campus Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_