



# Northern Michigan University Retirees Association

Minutes of the August 13, 2015 Annual Meeting

Location: Ontario Room, Don H. Bottum University Center

Start Time: 10:00 AM with refreshments and conversation

Number Present: 39 retired employees and spouses/guests

Opening remarks were made by President John Kiltinen at 10:20.

Vice President Yvonne Lee introduced the guest speakers from Northern Center for Lifelong Learning (NCLL), Sally Olson and Phyllis James. The history, offerings, costs and procedures were explained and handouts provided. It was also pointed out that NCLL is an NMU-affiliated organization, as is the NMU Retirees Association. However, NCLL membership is open to anyone in the community. It is not necessary to be a member of NCLL in order to attend its events/sessions, but the session cost is typically \$3.00 for members and \$8.00 for non-members. NCLL is open to holding jointly sponsored events.

Secretary Sandi Poindexter facilitated the business portion of the meeting covering the following topics: membership statistics, budget, retirees' survey results, bylaw change proposal, and Board elections. Handouts were provided for each. (See attached presentation slide handout for details on the survey results and bylaw change proposal.)

#### Retirees Survey Results

- The results were distributed to the NMU RA members through email and will be published on the NMU RA website. With an approximate response rate of 20%, the results are considered reliable for use.
- Improved communications and additional venues for retiree events are survey concerns being addressed by the NMU RA Board in 2015. Members should watch for an email in September offering an opt-in choice for additional NMU email for activities, events and announcements.

#### Bylaw Change Proposal

- Proposal was presented to change the current wording of Section 1.0. BUSINESS AND SOCIAL MEETINGS (Amended November 11, 2010) from 1.1 **The general membership shall meet four (4) times a year.** (Amended November 11, 2010) to 1.1 **The general membership shall meet at least two (2) times a year.**
- Concerns were expressed over an underfunded budget, the possibility the change could result as a defacto standard of two meetings a year, and a lack of evidence that alternative venues for events would increase attendance.

- A motion was made by John MacDevitt and seconded by Grant Soltwisch to amend the proposal to read "...shall meet at least three (3) times a year." The motion was defeated 10-11.
- Discussion followed on the original motion. The motion passed, 18-3, and the new bylaw for at least two meetings per year will be in force.

Board membership elections

- The slate of candidates was unanimously approved with the following Board members: Gerry Nault (2 yr AP slot); Elmer Moisio (2 yr Faculty slot); Sue Tollefson (2 yr TOP slot); Dan Hakala (2 yr Operations slot). A one-year Operations slot remains vacant.

Four jars of Soltwisch jam were given as door prizes. Dan Hakala won the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

A Board of Directors meeting was held immediately after the general membership meeting to plan activities for the 2015-2016 year.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Poindexter  
Secretary-Treasurer NMU Retirees Association

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## Business Meeting Agenda

- Membership
- Budget
- Retirees Survey
- Proposed Bylaw Change
- Board elections

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## Retirees Survey

Results 2015

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## 120 Respondents

Category	Percentage
Staff	46%
Faculty	39%
Admin	13%
Spouse	2%

85% live in the Marquette area for most of the year, though travel

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## Reasons to attend Retiree Association events

# Responding Very Important or Important	
Getting NMU updates	90
Seeing former colleague	82
Getting info/entertainment	82
Meeting personal need	63
Learning of ways to help NMU	58
Meeting new people	56
Having breakfast/luncheon	42
Getting out of the house	41

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## Survey Key Findings

- More information and announcements are desired
  - List#Retirees goes to all
  - New opt-in system (Campus Connect) available early Fall semester
  - Watch for email solicitation to join
- Directories
  - Similar to Alumni (name, current location/activities, in Memoriam)
  - Shifting Retirees Association oversight to Alumni Association

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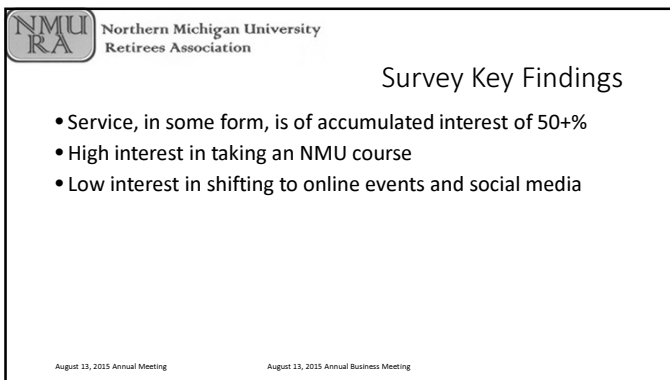
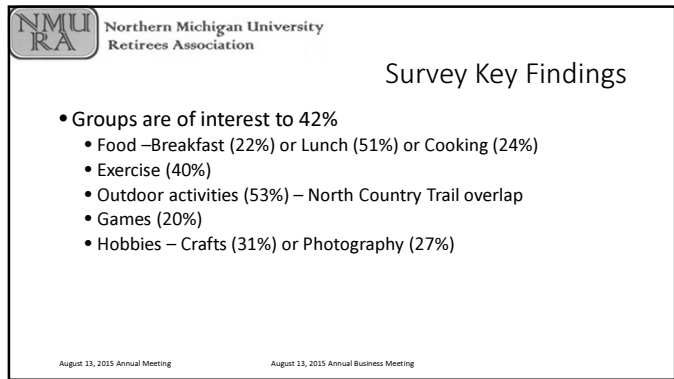
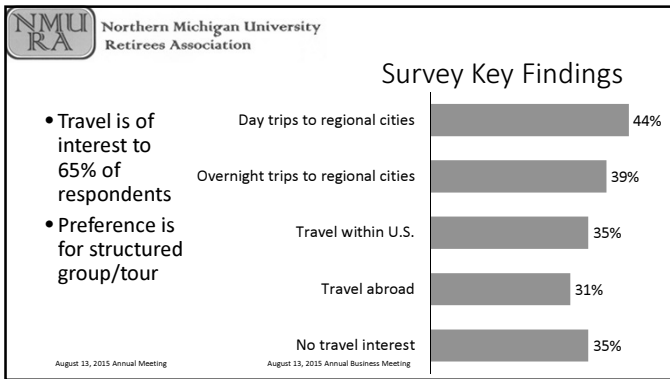
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## Survey Key Findings

- Event Interests
  - Group attendance at performances (60%), campus lectures (60%), sport event (25%)
  - Meal – picnic (46%), buffet (39%), coffee/tea (23%)
  - Some interests overlap with NCLL and North Country Trail

See handouts

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**Bylaw Change Proposal**

On 7/28/15 the Board unanimously approved putting the proposal to the general membership at the 8/13/15 meeting

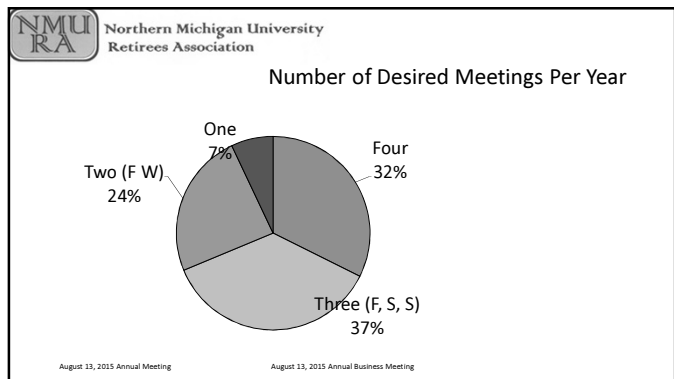
See handout


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**Proposed Bylaw Change**

- Current wording of Section 1.0. BUSINESS AND SOCIAL MEETINGS (Amended November 11, 2010):
  - 1.1 The general membership shall meet four (4) times a year. (Amended November 11, 2010)
- Proposed wording of item 1.1:
  - 1.1 The general membership shall meet at least two (2) times a year.

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### Proposed Bylaw Change

- The term “meeting” includes both the annual business meeting any social events scheduled by the Association and open to all members.
- In the recent past, four general membership meetings were standard, with a winter event having significantly lower attendance.
- The Association has been overspending its budget in the current four-meeting situation and it is not sustainable.
- The proposed change provides more flexibility for event planning.

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### Proposed Bylaw Change

“ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE BYLAWS

**Section 1. The constitution may be amended or changes made in the bylaws by a majority of those present at any duly called general meeting of the Association.**

**Section 2.** Proposed amendments to the constitution or changes in the bylaws may originate by petition from three (3) or more members of the Association or by action of the Governing Board.

**Section 3.** All proposals for amending the constitution or changes in the bylaws must be submitted to the Governing Board thirty (30) days prior to the next general meeting of the Association.+

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## Governing Board Elections

Five open slots

See handout

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