

University of Victoria Retirees Association

31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 5, 2024

The 31st Annual General Meeting of the UVRA was held on June 05, 2024, in hybrid (i.e., via Zoom teleconference, and in-person). Twenty-five members registered (thirteen registered to attend online and twelve registered to participate in person). Fifteen members attended the meeting (eight members attended online, and seven attended in person), and the UVRA President, Margaret Klatt, chaired the meeting. A quorum is fifteen voting members. As the meeting was held in a hybrid option, voting was conducted by requesting the in-person attendees to raise their hands and using the Zoom poll for the online attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm. Margaret Klatt opened the meeting by welcoming members and with the land acknowledgment. Margaret Klatt also cordially acknowledged the significant contribution of Rebecca Warburton to the UVRA. Due to the Zoom setup issues, the President was not able to share the screen with the online participants.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: That the meeting agenda be accepted as circulated. Moved by Peter Liddell. Seconded by Richard Chappell. **APPROVED.**

2. Minutes of the June 7, 2023 Annual General Meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the June 7, 2023, Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated. Moved by Juliana Saxton. Seconded by Richard Chappell. **APPROVED.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

No new business items arose from the minutes.

4. Annual Reports

All the reports were posted on the website when the notice of the meeting was issued.

University of Victoria Retirees Association

4.1 President's Report – Margaret Klatt

Margaret Klatt provided a brief overview of her report. The full report is attached below:



President's Report Annual General Meeting June 5, 2024

Greetings to my fellow retirees. I want to begin by acknowledging Rebecca Warburton and her contribution to the UVic Retirees Association (UVRA). Her contributions were many and she had a number of items that she had hoped to accomplish as President. We worked together on a vast range of topics and shared a strong commitment to its members and to strengthening UVRA. At the request of the board, I have stepped back in as President for the interim due to her sudden passing in March.

UVRA continues to move forward with a positive financial position and increasing membership, but we must improve the number of participating volunteers to remain effective. We have vacant positions on the board of directors and lack volunteers to take on activities that would broaden and strengthen UVRA's impact. Rebecca and I had several meetings with members of the senior UVic Executive including President Kevin Hall and there appears to be a willingness to strengthen and improve our relationship. We need to move forward in that direction. Although access to various health benefit plans is a key benefit of UVRA membership, we could provide more if we have the capability that comes through new initiatives.

We have focused on improving the number of social events available to members. We continue to try and improve the information on our website.

Below is an update on our activities:

Membership

- UVRA now has almost 780 members most of whom are life members. The additional option of multi-year renewals to the annual membership has been popular.

Communications & Office

- Our website continues to expand its relevance as a resource for information at www.uvic.ca/retirees. Changes have been made to broaden the information provided in the weekly event listing thanks to Sanjit Roy and Peter Liddell.
- "Grey Matters", our UVRA newsletter continues to provide a broad range of articles and information. It is available on our website and via email to the membership.
- Sanjit Roy continues to provide support in the office as well as in a broad range of other activities including the website development.
- The support of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) is invaluable. They continue to provide us with office space and assistance in a number of areas

Social Events

- UVRA has been trying to increase the number and type of events over the last year. The absence of a volunteer has affected the type of activities that UVRA can offer but we have tried to maintain some core events including the Chinese (Lunar) New Year and the Christmas Luncheons.

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Community Outreach

- The Masterminds series completed its 18th year with four sessions that occurred on consecutive Wednesdays in April. Juliana Saxton, June Whitmore and Peter Liddell gathered a wonderful group of presenters, and Leah Potter of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) provided great support in organizing these sessions.
- United Way: UVRA members once again displayed their strong support for this worthy cause. Thank you again for continuing to help this cause in our community.

University Outreach

- Two UVRA Graduate Scholarships were awarded again this year to assist new researchers in providing valuable insights through the study of adults 55+. This year's recipients were Poonam Sehgal and Sanjit Roy. These recipients are granted by an independent third party.

Benefits

- Johnson, the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and Blue Cross (continuation of UVic plan) continue to be available. Ensure that you check periodically to review the plans for updates or changes. The travel plan benefit continues as a significant option. For more information check either on the UVRA website or on the websites of the specific plans.

Ongoing and In Progress

- UVRA remains a member of the Later Life Learning (LLL) Initiative of CURAC/ARUCC (College and University Retirees Association of Canada) which distributes information and access on a wide range of fascinating sessions that are offered across Canada.
- Our continued in AROHE (Association of Retired Organization in Higher Education) provides access to their informative newsletter on aging and wellness. I found their three-part series on "Reimagining Retirement" continued many great ideas. You can view the recording of this series on the AROHE website.
- This years CURAC/ARUCC Conference will be held in a hybrid format from May 22-24e Waterloo, Ontario.
- We continue to be registered with Cyber Seniors. We hope that you find them valuable for free technology support and training. Their information sessions are listed in our weekly event emails.

In closing, once I want to again seek your participation in UVRA. Remember that there are so many ways in which your skills and knowledge can assist both the organization and your fellow retirees. We would love to chat with you on how best you can take part with various time allocations. Contact us if you are interested in sharing your time with UVRA. We will be happy to discuss what this commitment may involve.

Again, on behalf, of the UVRA Board, I express my continuing good wishes. Have a safe and healthy summer and all the best going forward. We are also looking forward to connecting with you again in the upcoming year.

Keep well and stay safe.

Margaret Klatt

President, University of Victoria Retiree Association

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4.2 Treasurer's Report – Richard Chappell

The Treasurer's report was submitted by Richard Chappell. The full report is attached below:

University of Victoria Retirees Association

Financial Statements March 31, 2024

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University of Victoria Retirees Association

Statement of Administrative Responsibility for Financial Statements

The financial statements of the University of Victoria Retirees Association (UVRA) have been prepared by the Treasurer in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Society. The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2024, and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

In fulfilling its responsibility and recognizing the limits inherent in all systems, the Treasurer has developed and maintains system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance that the Society's assets are safeguarded from loss and that the accounting records are a reliable basis for preparation of the financial statements.

The financial statements have not been examined, nor has an opinion been expressed, by an independent firm of Chartered Accountants. The opening and closing balances have been reviewed and approved by an independent person with a financial background.

Treasurer

University of Victoria Retirees Association

University of Victoria Retirees Association

Statement of Financial Position

	As at March 31 2024	As at March 31 2023
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 70,823	\$ 34,022
Investments	52,242	85,810
Capital Assets (Note 3)		
	<u>123,064</u>	<u>119,832</u>
Net Assets		
Operating Surplus	123,064	119,832
Invested in Capital Assets	-	-
	<u>\$ 123,064</u>	<u>\$ 119,832</u>

Approved by the Board

Director

Director

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

University of Victoria Retirees Association

University of Victoria Retirees Association

Statement of Operations

	Actual Year Ended March 31 2024	Actual Year Ended March 31 2023
Revenue		
Membership Dues	\$ 6,813	\$ 5,864
Group Insurance	13,276	12,398
Events	2,569	4,970
Interest	2,731	930
	<u>25,389</u>	<u>24,162</u>
Expenses		
Contract manager	15,527	16,295
Association fees	467	459
Society Act fees		90
Speaker Honoraria	57	550
Scholarship	500	-
Events	3,539	5,715
Insurance	1,295	1,206
Office expenses	772	1,235
	<u>22,157</u>	<u>25,550</u>
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$ <u>3,232</u>	\$ <u>(1,388)</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

University of Victoria Retirees Association

University of Victoria Retirees Association

Statement of Net Assets				
	Invested in Capital Assets	Operating Surplus	Total Year Ended March 31 2024	Total Year Ended March 31 2023
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 119,832	\$ 119,832	\$ 121,220
Excess of revenue over expenses		3,232	3,232	(1,388)
Balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 123,064	\$ 123,064	\$ 119,832

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

University of Victoria Retirees Association

University of Victoria Retirees Association Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2024

1. **Nature of Operations**

The University of Victoria Retirees Association was incorporated on xxxx as a member-funded Society under the Societies Act of the Province of British Columbia. The Society operates to The Society is registered as a non-profit organization for income tax purposes.

2. **Accounting Principles**

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations as recommended by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPAC) and include the following significant accounting principles:

Revenue recognition

Revenues are recognized when service is provided and collection is reasonably assured.

Financial instruments

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash on hand and are recorded at fair value.

3. **Investments**

The Society's investments consist of the following Guanteed Investment Certificates.

Coast Capital GIC	31-Mar-26	1.05%	10,319
Coast Capital GIC	28-Feb-25	2.20%	7,123
Coast Capital GIC	23-Nov-24	4.35%	5,912
Coast Capital GIC	16-Jun-24	5.00%	6,893
Coast Capital GIC	18-Jun-24	5.00%	6,480
Coast Capital GIC	23-Jun-24	5.00%	12,374
Coast Capital GIC	07-Aug-24	4.70%	3,141
			<u>52,242</u>

4. **Capital Assets**

The Society's capital assets are recorded at historical cost. At present the amount of Capital Assets is of a minimal value net of depreciation and have not been included.

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4.3 Benefits – Peter Liddell

The Benefits report was submitted by Peter Liddell. The full report is attached below:

Benefits Report for 2024 UVRA AGM

Health, Dental and Travel Insurance

Johnson is “gradually rebranding as Belairdirect.” The transition in branding is so far only affecting home and auto insurance, but will eventually be reflected in other plans. No changes to current services, contacts or other administrative aspects of the UVRA-Johnson Plan are anticipated. Premium rates for the UVRA-Johnson policy for the year beginning September 1, 2024 are currently under review. As of this date, negotiations on the Prestige Travel Plan foresee an increase of 5%. Rates for Extended Health and Dental Plans will be announced shortly. For premiums of RTOERO and Pacific Blue Cross, please check the respective websites.

In 2023, the UVRA-Johnson and RTO/ERO Extended Health plans added a new benefit, at no extra charge in premiums: an online pharmacy option available through Express Scripts Canada (<https://express-scripts.ca>). As an additional option, **not** a replacement for clients’ current arrangements, this online service could be used for some (say, recurring) needs and a local pharmacy and their consultation services for others. Effective May 1, 2024 ESC now also includes a Drug Optimization Program, which is designed to “ensure that drug plans are not unnecessarily impacted by costly new drugs that hit the market.” In short, it is a cost containment program similar to provincial and other insurance plan formularies. Members who require expensive new drugs might wish to consider this (DOP) option.

The new option has been adopted by similar organizations to UVRA, including UBC Emeritus College.

Respective enrolments in the 3 plans available to members and UVic retirees:

Pacific Blue Cross UVic Retiree Plan

Extended Health: 381

Dental Plan: 281

UVRA-Johnson

Extended Health: 209

Dental: 131

MEDOC Travel: 61

RTO/ERO

Health and Travel: 115*

** “unique UVic members (and identifying as CURAC members) as of May 21.”*

I infer that, while not yet a requirement, UVRA membership (which confers CURAC eligibility, via UVRA’s membership in CURAC) is the main criterion in reaching this total. There may be other UVic retirees who are not included in this total. PL

Belairdirect Scholarship Program (formerly Johnson Scholarship Program)

50 scholarships of \$1000 open to children and grandchildren of UVRA members (whether or not insured by Johnson) who graduate high school in 2024 and will start post-secondary education this Fall.

Deadline: July 31, 2024 See: <https://www.belairdirect.com/scholarship>

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4.4 Membership – Zulette Gordon

The Membership report was submitted by Zulette Gordon. The full report is attached below:

2023-2024 Membership Report

Active Members as of April 1, 2024:	770	
Increase in active Members since April 1, 2023:	45	
Life:	739	(95.97%)
Annual:	30	(3.90%)
Honorary:	1	(0.13%)
Group Type:		
Faculty	359	
Staff	323	
Associate	56	(7.27%)
Spousal	31	
Unknown	1	

38 members have joined in the last year (From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024), and 5 were deceased.

Zulette Gordon,
Membership Chair

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4.5 Masterminds – Juliana Saxton

The Masterminds report was submitted by Julian Saxton. In the meeting, Juliana asked feedback from the members on her report. The full report is attached below:

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MASTERMINDS 2024

Final Report and Review For Consideration by the Board of the University of Victoria Retirees Association

For contact response, please email: jsaxton@finearts.uvic.ca

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As promised in the earlier Interim Report on Masterminds (MM) '24 (see April 8th Board Minutes), there was much for our committee to consider after the lecture series was completed.

UVRA board members June Whitmore, Juliana Saxton, Peter Liddell, met with Leah Potter (UVRA board ex-officio) and Ashleigh Enright (our IALH partners) on May 31, 2024 to review what had taken place in the immediate past, to reflect on the past history of MasterMinds and examine future implications for its retention. It is our intention to present this detailed review for the Board's consideration in September but, in the meantime, our discussions may be of interest to UVRA members. (Note: There may be further information that was not available in May 2024). All UVRA members are invited to expand on these ideas by offering their responses to the email address on the Title page .

In order to better understand the history, the committee read four Masterminds reports from 2012-2015. The areas for discussion (below) were partially based on these reports and guided our discussions:

1. SPEAKERS:

Unlike other years, and because of the shortness of time, the four lectures were offered under a thematic title: *This is NOW: University, Community and Change*.

Stewart Arneil (*Digging for data: Researching the Digital Humanities in the 21st century*) spoke about the digital changes to research, especially in terms of the implications of artificial intelligence and the roles of the professoriate and students.

Deborah Walker and **Barb Roberts** (*Developing Development: How UVic Fundraising has evolved*) brought us up-to-date on the new trends emerging in funding issues and how giving has responded to these changes.

Bruce Kilpatrick (*Finding a Road to ReconciliACTION*) spoke, as an activist, on the issues of truth and reconciliation as they are affecting the governance of Oak Bay; and

Dr. Stephen Tax (*Journey to a Meaningful Second Act*) concluded the series with a very useful tour, from his own perspective, of how to prepare and effect our "second acts" in ways that are consistent with this new century.

Of the four speakers, three were past staff members and one was a retired faculty member.

Discussion: MMs are seen as opportunities for the university to promote and demonstrate the university retirees' continuing contributions to the wider community. The shortness of time limited publicity opportunities, and the present financial situation has resulted in marketing cut-backs, which may have affected the numbers of those present on-line and in person.

Suggestions:

- *that* the target audiences remains UVic Retirees and the community that lies outside the university. Since COVID, it was remarked that the number of evening lectures had increased at UVic, providing a plethora of choices;

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- *that* there needs to be a Standing Committee on MasterMinds (SC of MMs) that goes to work at the beginning of September in order to find speakers, settle venue requirements, and get publicity in place;
- *that*, in order to generate Retiree speakers, it was important for the SC of MMs to have access to the list of UVRA members so that they might have information about members' research and vocational interests as guidance for choices (see Geri van Gyn's 2015 report);
- *that*, in a meeting with Ember Millot, Privacy and Access Officer (VPFO), it is clear that if members of the UVRA sign off on a Membership document listing the types of information that they agree to have made public, there would be no difficulties with issues of privacy. In order for this information to be acquired, such a document needs to be designed,
- *that* the UVRA Membership committee design such a document, distribute it to all members, and manage the results. The Membership list could be released to the organization members as outlined in the document, with consent of members.
- *that* the SC of MMs keep the UVRA membership in mind as working partners and reach out for their help in suggesting topics for the lectures and in identifying potential speakers—first person experience is an excellent guide to being sure that speakers are engaging and can be heard (with a microphone). It was also noted that some retirees had spoken to MMs more than once and that that offer should continue;
- *that* the speakers should be lined up by the end of November;
- *that* the content of the lectures should return to the concept of an 'open plan' with speakers being invited or themselves suggesting areas of interest; Gray Matters could be a means of asking members to offer their ideas to the SC of MMs;
- *that* gender balance in the speakers' list be always a consideration.

2. AUDIENCE REGISTRATION NUMBERS:

APRIL 3	On-line	<u>31</u>	In person	<u>8</u>
APRIL 10	On-line	<u>20</u>	In person	<u>11</u>
APRIL 17	On-line	<u>22</u>	In person	<u>13</u>
APRIL 24	On-line	<u>53</u>	In person	<u>23</u>
TOTAL:	On-line	<u>126</u>	In person	<u>55</u>
TOTAL OVERALL: <u>181</u>				

Discussion: The numbers were extremely disappointing and do not reflect past years; the ad hoc committee of Whitmore and Saxton did not start until January and the cutbacks to the UVic Communications & Marketing dept. maybe seen as possible reasons, but there was conversation at this point as to whether MMs had served its purpose.

Suggestions: In light of the dismissal of the UVic Speaker's Bureau and the UVRA's ongoing discussions of if and how to replace the Elder Academy, it was agreed:

****that* the UVRA would present the MMs series at least for one more year in order to have a clearer picture about MMs value.

3. VENUE:

This year, we were able to access the Roger Bishop Theatre in the Phoenix Building for the series. It seats about 200 people in a comfortable theatre space that is used as a classroom. A large screen was available for PowerPoint as well as a speaker's podium

with microphone. Two theatre students were available to act as ushers—both equipped with First Aid qualifications (a requirement to use the theatres). The assistant Front of House manager was present and the Concession (operated by a student) was open for drinks and light food.

Parking was easily available and IALH made two of their students available to assist with the payment procedures. (Parking continues as a “grumble”—see earlier reports—but it was agreed that, due to the present financial situation) this was not the time to discuss the matter with the university.

Discussion: It was agreed that a small venue, available at no cost should be found.

Suggestions: It was suggested :

- *that* the new conference building (Sngqu House) auditoriums have a good atmosphere, great acoustics and access, and easy, available parking;
- *that*, although the theatre concession was not really used, with a larger audience perhaps coffee or tea (wine?) might be available before the lecture, providing an opportunity for guests to meet and chat socially. An offer of this sort can be an added attraction.
- **that* that May would be a better month to consider as April has many competing events and spaces are limited due to final exam schedules.
- **that* we need to find out when the UVic booking office opens for dates in May and make the booking early.

4. PUBLICITY:

We have noted above the problems with publicity for Masterminds. It is significant that the Report of 2013 suggest that “it is apparent that a wide variety of communication tools be used to inform the public “ about MMs.

Suggestions: We agreed:

- *that* an early start was essential; that we needed to consider the radio—CBC1, CFAX and CFUW should all be contacted for possible interviews and/or PSAs;
- *that* we should ask speakers if they would agree to being interviewed on radio;
- *that* we should try and reconnect with UVic Communications and Marketing to see what they might offer us.

5. RECEPTION DESK:

We saw this as an important site that, due to the small numbers this year, we had only Ashleigh Enright from IALH greeting people and handing out programs.

Suggestions: It was agreed:

- *that* the desk should be staffed by two UVRA volunteers;
- *that*, for statistics purposes, there should be a copy of the list of those who had indicated that they would attend so that we know how many attended
- *that* a paper program should be available, including the speakers’ bio and proposal, and any books or material of interest in terms of the lecture be cited; a brief welcome from the President, list of future speakers and any UVRA events of interest;
- *that* the speaker’s latest books or publication/s should be on display.

6. PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN IALH AND THE UVRA:

The smooth running of each lecture presentation is dependent—and has been for many years—on the capable technical and social knowledge of Leah Potter, IALH Institute Administrator, and IALH administrative assistant, Ashleigh Enright. In addition, they look after all the publicity, bookings and any special requests that the speakers may have. Both attend each of the lectures and Leah conducts the follow-up question period as she negotiates between on-line listeners and those present. Great thanks were expressed to Leah for all her work and attention, especially as she was doing two jobs for IALH and PHSP during the first months of the year!

Discussion: These IALH responsibilities are wide-ranging and demand a number of skills (particularly technological) that UVRA members are lacking. We agreed:

- *that* a Masterminds Procedures document needed to be put in the UVRA Office in the event that Leah or Ashleigh were unable to undertake the usual responsibilities (it was noted in the 2014 Report that Lois Holizki of the then COAG, was developing “a very detailed plan for the organization of the series and will ensure that members of the Masterminds Series committee have access to this plan” and this was again mentioned as ongoing in the 2015 Report); Leah is updating the action plan developed in 2018 to accurately reflect the current roles and responsibilities of producing Masterminds.
- *that* the UVRA President should acknowledge the value of this partnership to the IALH Director (presently acting);
- *that* the UVRA could relieve some of the burden of the evening by setting up through the SC of MMs, the agenda of the evening and who does what jobs and how they are shared: welcome; introduction of speaker, question facilitation, thank you to speaker, and goodnight to audience;
- *that* IALH students be invited when necessary, as ushers, parking supervision, and that this be a budgeted item.

7. GIFTS and THANKS

Past reports describe different responses to the issues of speakers’ gifts and from whom do the Thank You notes come? We note that there was an attempt (2014 Report) to thank the speakers with a lunch but that did not happen as not enough could attend.

Discussion: There needs to be a consistent approach to the matter of how we thank the speakers. This year, for example, \$100.00 was sent to each speaker (\$50.00 each to the speakers on Development) along with a thank you note. How that sum was arrived at is unclear. Who should be writing the Thank You notes needs also to be defined—should both the president of the UVRA and the Director of the IALH do so, as suggested in the 2015 Report?).

8. BUDGET

(to be supplied by Leah Potter)

In reviewing the MMs Reports, it was noted Geri van Gyn (2015) wrote that “as in previous years, the Office of the VP External Relations was instrumental in the support of this annual event”

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Suggestions:

- *that* this office (VPER) should be approached again to discover its interest.
- It was also noted that items charged to the UVRA (90000) account would cost more than if that item was charged to the (at that time) COAG (10000) account, because the UVRA was considered an external UVic entity. Again, perhaps an issue for the new MOU?
- *that* the Board pursue a closer relationship with the university
- *that* if this relationship obtains, it includes a description of those areas of financial support agreed upon.

Respectfully submitted,

June Whitmore, Juliana Saxton, Peter Liddell, Leah Potter, Ashleigh Enright

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4.6 Newsletter – Louise Schmidt

The Newsletter report was submitted by Louise Schmidt. The full report is attached below:

GREY MATTERS!

THE UVRA NEWSLETTER REPORT FOR AGM 2024

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter this last year. If you have yet to contribute, you are invited to do so with your photos, documents, and ideas. It is only with your input that the UVRA newsletters can contain informative, interesting, and relevant content.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Schmidt

Editor

University of Victoria Retirees Association

4.7 UVRA Office – Sanjit Roy

The Office report was submitted by Sanjit Roy. The full report is attached below:



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

OFFICE REPORT

It was another busy year for the office, and it handled numerous work. Some mentionable office work includes:

- processed membership applications (lifetime and annual) and annual renewal for the fiscal year 2024/2025
- handled and responded to emails, mails, and phones, and greeted in-person visitors when someone dropped in and inquired about different questions
- updated the UVRA website as required
- sent group posting every Friday, including a variety of events
- assisted the newsletter editor with PDF documents inserted if needed, sent the completed newsletter to UVic print shop to print booklets for members to post who have no email
- maintained an inventory of office supplies, replenished as necessary
- organized social events for the members
- printed and documented all necessary paper files for official records
- wrote the Board meeting minutes
- helped with conducting a survey and summarizing findings

Cordial thanks to all the board members for their continuous support and guidance on running the office more effectively.

Below is the summary of office updates from June 2023 to May 2024:

Office Update: June 2023 to September 2023

- The UVRA office was closed during July and August, but phone calls, mail, and emails were retrieved and handled weekly.
- Many new members joined UVRA during the summer months.
- The 2023-2024 annual renewal process ended on June 30, 2023.
- The entire database of the membership profile of UVRA was filed (both electronic and paper files).
- Some pages of the UVRA website were updated.

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Office Update: October 2023 to November 2023

- A summary list of all UVRA social and educational events from 2018 to 2023 was prepared and submitted to the President.
- Worked in organizing UVRA Christmas Lunch 2023.

Office Update: December 2023 to January 2024

- UVRA successfully organized the 2023 Christmas Lunch Program at the University Club, which was held on December 13th. This year, the attendance rate was lower than past years (Number of attendees = 28).
- UVRA office was closed from December 25, 2023, to January 02, 2024, due to the holiday season.
- The office worked in organizing the UVRA'S 2024 Chinese New Year Lunch Program.

Office Update: February 2024 to March 2024

- UVRA successfully organized the 2024 Chinese New Year Lunch Program at Lee's House Restaurant on February 6. This year, the attendance rate was lower than in past years (The Number of attendees = 28).
- Due to the popularity and higher interest among the UVRA members in attending the walking tours with John Adams, we offered another Tour on February 26. It was also successful, and the capacity was full. Given that success, John Adams showed his interest in arranging another tour in April 2024.
- The office worked in organizing UVRA's 2024 Library Tour on March 12, 2024. (2.00 am - 3:30 pm at UVic McPherson Library. Donna Mollin and Peter Liddell worked as co-organizers of this Library Tour. The tickets were sold out too quickly, within one day of the invitation being sent.
- The annual renewal for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was started in January and will continue until June 30, 2024.

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Office Update: April 2024 to May 2024

- Another successful completion of the Masterminds series 2024 happened in April with a range of timely and interesting topics. Thanks to Juliana Saxton and June Whitmore for their contribution and dedication.
- The walking tours with John Adams, a favorite among our UVRA members, saw another successful run on April 22 due to the overwhelming interest. The tour was fully booked, underscoring its popularity.
- UVRA's 2024 Library Tour (held on March 12, 2024) was successful. So, to fine tune that tour, Peter Liddell and Donna Mollin prepared a short survey to hear the opinions and suggestions from the attendees. The survey was sent on April 24 to all the Tour attendees.
- The UVRA's 2024 Library Tour survey summary results were sent to the event organizers, and the summary results were discussed in the May 2024 board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Sanjit Roy
UVRA Office Manager

University of Victoria Retirees Association

4.8 Communications – Margaret Klatt

Margaret Klatt provided a brief overview of her Communications report. The full report is attached below:



Communications Committee Annual Report 2024

Committee Members

The committee is now composed of two members as Jane Birkbeck decided not to continue on the UVRA board of directors.

This situation reflects the shortage of volunteers affecting the entire board.

Marketing Pamphlet

The committee has had intermittent discussions on the pamphlet but has not formally met this year. The Committee presented a list of inclusion requirements to the UVRA board for discussion and a refined list was developed. Margaret Klatt has taken photographs at some UVRA events such as the Christmas lunch for possible inclusion in the pamphlet.

Work on this document continues.

Committee Members:: Margaret Klatt (Acting Chair), Susan Service

University of Victoria Retirees Association

4.9 Planning – Margaret Klatt (For Rebecca Warburton)

The Planning report was submitted by Margaret Klatt (for Rebecca Warburton), and she provided a brief overview of the report in the meeting. The full report is attached below:

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Planning Committee's key purpose is to assist the UVRA Board of Directors in planning and developing an effective strategy for discussions with the University of Victoria.

The committee established a Terms of Reference for its activities that were approved by the UVRA Board of Directors. The committee developed a list of important considerations for inclusion in discussions with the University of Victoria particularly in reference to an updated MOU between UVic and UVRA.

Planning committee members Rebecca Warburton and Margaret Klatt met with several of the UVic Executive during the year. This included discussions with UVic President Kevin Hall, and VP Academic and Provost Elizabeth Croft, VP External Relations Chris Horbachewski and Associate VP Kane Kilbey. During these meetings, the important contributions of UVic retirees have been highlighted. Each of these meetings confirmed the commitment of UVRA and UVic to strengthening their relationship by expanding and updating the MOU.

One change has been the transfer of the liaison between UVRA and UVic to the VP External Relations Chris Horbachewski from Alumni Relations.

Meetings to negotiate and develop specific changes to the MOU will continue with UVic. These have been delayed due to the financial challenges being faced by UVic and by the sudden passing of Rebecca Warburton.

Prepared by Margaret Klatt

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4.10 United Way – Mary Ellen Purkis

Mary Ellen Purkis submitted the United Way report. The President mentioned that if all the members of UVRA go to the UVRA website and donate money, it will show that the money has been donated on behalf of UVRA. The appropriate link for donation will be circulated to the UVRA members in future correspondence. The full report is attached below:

Action Item: The president will circulate the appropriate link for donation to the UVRA members in future correspondence.

University of Victoria Retiree's
Campaign for the United Way of Southern Vancouver Island – 2022/23

Annual Report submitted June 3, 2024

To the UVRA Membership,

Greetings! I was pleased to serve as Campaign Chair for the UVRA United Way Campaign again this year. Our Campaign was a very successful one – once again! This year our UVIC Retiree donors contributed \$53,622 to our community! This year's total represents a slight decrease in our level of contribution over last year. Times are tough – for donors as well as those reliant on our donations. At the same time, over the lifetime of the Retirees' Campaign, we have contributed nearly \$580,000 to supporting our neighbours.

The Retiree's campaign is always significant in securing UVIC's reputation as a top-tier donor for the United Way of Southern Vancouver Island (UWSVI). I want to express my sincere thanks for your on-going support of this important campaign and for the impact that you have on families, seniors and youth who rely on programs that your donations support.

The United Way of Southern Vancouver Island is an important social impact organization in our community. If you are interested to know how your donations are helping to support individuals, families and communities in our region, I urge you to explore the [Community Impact Directory](#) on the United Way of Southern Vancouver Island's website. From this page you can learn about programs offered in your own neighbourhood – or you can use this directory to provide information to friends or family members seeking assistance in our region.

In order to maintain the vibrancy of our United Way Campaign, I really would appreciate working with one or two other retirees for the coming year's campaign. *Please* be in touch with me at emmie@uvic.ca!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Purkis - UVRA – United Way Campaign Chair

University of Victoria Retirees Association

4.11 University Club – Richard Chappell

The University Club report was submitted by Richard Chappell. The full report is attached below:

University Club Annual Report

After a not so good year financially, the fiscal year ended in [March 2024](#) with a slight surplus. The 2024/25 year has started off positively and the Board looks forward to much better results this year.

Jeff Hanson, the Manager has introduced several new functions which have been well attended. This year's summer wedding season is almost fully booked with only a few Saturdays later on still available. A new coffee machine has been installed at the Club, so patrons can now enjoy a latte or other coffee brews with their meals.

The patio is open for the summer, so outdoor dining is now available. The brief minor windstorm on [Friday](#) 17th May caused one of the patio umbrellas to dislodge, fly through the air and land upside down on the pond!

Report submitted by: Richard Chappell.

University of Victoria Retirees Association

Motion: That all the committee reports be accepted. Moved by June Whitmore. Seconded by Richard Chappell. **APPROVED.**

5. Other Business

No other business items arose.

6. Nominating Committee – Peter Liddell

The Nominating Committee report was submitted by Peter Liddell. The full report is presented below:

UVRA Board Nominations 2024-25

Members are warmly encouraged to volunteer for the board and vacant positions, particularly as there are important discussions ahead which will affect the Association's relationship with the University. *[See Note 1]*

Information on how to volunteer is available via uvra@uvic.ca.

Executive Directors:

President (interim): Margaret Klatt
Vice President: TBA
Treasurer: Richard Chappell
Secretary: TBA
Past President (interim): Peter Liddell

Members at Large:

Donna Mollin
Irina Gavrilova
Juliana Saxton
Susan Service
June Whitmore

Standing Committee Chairs:

Benefits: Peter Liddell
Membership: Zulette Gordon
Newsletter Editor: Lou Schmidt
Masterminds Series: TBA
Social Events: TBA
United Way: TBA

Ex Officio:

Institute on Aging and lifelong Health (Leah Potter)
Benefits Manager, UVic Human Resources (Tine Lathowers)
Office Manager, UVRA (Sanjit Roy)

Note 1: Since the 2017 AGM nominations are no longer accepted from the floor. The Board may add members in the interim, but such appointments require ratification at the next AGM.

Motion: That the Proposed slate of candidates for the 2024-2025 UVRA Board be Approved.

University of Victoria Retirees Association

Motion: That the list of Board members as shown above be approved. Moved by Peter Liddell. Seconded by Richard Chappell. **APPROVED.**

7. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Margaret Klatt. **APPROVED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.