UW-Madison Retirement Association
Volunteering Committee
Annual Report
2010-2011

UWRA Volunteering Committee

Members, 2010-2011:
Peg Davey, Chair, Sharon Brown, Dale Burke, Chère Gibson, Chris Kleinhenz, Don Klimpel, Ann Wallace (Executive Director, ex officio)
(Note: Sharon resigned in the spring and Dale Burke joined us in July. Peg and Chris will be co-chairs for 2011-12.)

Purpose: to encourage and support volunteering among our membership

Activities during the past year included:

Information in The Sifter, on UWRA website
¶ Contributed articles in The Sifter (1) about how to get connected to volunteer opportunities in the community, (2) from our members about their volunteer projects, and (3) encouraging volunteering and contributing to Midvale and Hawthorne, our partner schools
¶ Expanded volunteering information on web site

Communication with campus leaders
¶ Developed communication and materials for communication from Provost Deluca to deans, directors, department chairs and department administrators, encouraging consideration of retirees as volunteers (sent by DeLuca on October 11)
¶ Followed up with contacts with deans, directors committee members know (for example, Don Klimpel with Pharmacy Dean, Jeanette Roberts)

UW Park Street Collaborations
Worked with Lori Kay, Chancellor’s Office point person for UW/South Madison collaborative projects, to identify UW collaborative projects that might benefit from retiree volunteers.

Morgridge Center for Public Service
Met with Nancy Mathews, Director of Morgridge Center, and two of her staff in November to discuss how we can work with Center to encourage retiree volunteering on campus. Ideas coming out of the meeting that have moved forward are
¶ A survey in January/February to assess retirees’ interests
¶ Possible opportunities with the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery (see below)
¶ A special “hub” on their web site with volunteer opportunities for retirees
¶ Working with Badger Volunteers (students)

Starting in September, retirees will be able to join Badger Volunteers, student teams that volunteer at various sites in the community. There are over thirty placement opportunities for interested UWRA members, including Second Harvest, the Arboretum, the Salvation Army, and
elementary and middle schools in the Madison area. Morgridge staff have developed a special hub on their web site for retirees to view and get connected to these opportunities. In addition, informational/sign-up sessions have been scheduled in September for volunteers to meet with Morgridge staff.

Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery
In March met with Laura Heisler, Programming Director of the Town Center, about activities that would benefit from retired volunteers. As a consequence of that meeting and subsequent communications, this fall WID staff are recruiting retirees as volunteers for the following:

- Saturday Science Assistants: This monthly series consists of free science exploration and education programs aimed at families and learners of all ages and occurs on the first Saturday of the month. Volunteers help with presentations, engage with visitors, and assist with way finding.
- Discovery Guides: Guides use educational activities to engage visitors with the niches and features of the Town Center.
- Teaching Lab Aides: Aides provide hands-on assistance in the three teaching labs at Discovery.

Midvale and Hawthorne Schools
Continued to encourage members to volunteer at our partner schools, Midvale and Hawthorne. This year, because of an increase in reported contributions to Madison area schools by UWRA members, our Board gave matching grants of $1,000 to both Midvale School in December and Hawthorne in the spring.

UW Foundation
Ann Wallace met with Foundation staff to explore needs/opportunities for retirees. Subsequently the committee forwarded to the board ideas for retirees helping with thank you notes to contributors to the Great People, Great Place Scholarship Program. Plans for implementing this are under way.

Volunteering Session at Big Ten Retirees Association Conference
Peg, with assistance from committee, developed session on volunteering on campus for Big 10 Retirees Association Conference in August. Session included a panel discussion of strategies that work (that featured Jane Voichick’s research), and small-group discussions and ideas around various issues around campus volunteering.