We continue to send a representative to the annual Big Ten (now on steroids) conference of Retirement Associations (2012 conference at OSU). This is simply a continuation of those annual conferences that so many of us have attended over the years in which we gather with our peers from the other conference institutions to discuss both what we each are doing and what we can learn from one another. We’ve found this to be true still today as each year we learn from both the successes and failures of others and know that they have learned from us as well.

The recently formed Communications Committee was instrumental in developing two additional tools that we hope will have a positive impact on how we connect with potential new members and how current members connect with each other. The first is a sleek-looking, professional-quality brochure that gives an overview of what the UWRA is about and has to offer and can be handed out at any program, reception, or benefits fair or to any individual merely inquiring about the association. The second is an on-line membership directory that can be accessed through the uwra.wisc.edu website. Directions for accessing the directory can be found on the front page of the February 2013 issue of The Sifter (uwra.wisc.edu/Sifter).

In partnership with the Division of Continuing Studies, the UWRA co-hosted “Making the Most of your Retirement” (1-10-13), a wonderfully attended, first-time offering intended to provide a glimpse into the myriad of possibilities and opportunities awaiting both those looking forward to retirement and those already there. This was an awesome event that highlighted why involvement with DCS and UWRA can and does provide a wide range of opportunities for travel, lifelong learning and social interaction designed to meet the needs and interests of the curious and motivated. The UWRA provided treats and beverages for the attendees, and representatives from each of our standing committees were on hand to answer questions following the informational portion of the program.

The campus Retirement Issues Committee (UWRA officers and board members make up a majority of the committee) has developed a new resource for those looking to navigate the waters of pre, present and post retirement. Thanks to the work of the committee, a new website has been developed that is packed with information and links to other offices and departments that relate to a wide variety of retirement issues. Check it out and see for yourself at http://retirement.wisc.edu.

Our newest committee was established to assist members in trying to keep up with, to the extent that is even possible, the blistering pace of change in the field of technology. The “Electronic Technology Committee” was created to help members stay abreast of changing electronic technology, including but not limited to computers, tablets, telephones, cameras, and all-in-one machines (print, copy, scan, fax) as well as various software applications, social networking and Skype. The committee hopes to serve as a link between members and available DoIT services, identify and suggest courses, workshops or other training opportunities, inform members of their ability to access and use various UW technological resources and information, and develop ways in which to communicate with members regarding their technology questions and needs.
Lastly, a list of association programs, luncheons and activities from the past year is attached which highlights the many ways in which university retirees and their spouses and partners can remain involved and connected. On Wisconsin!
2012-2013 ACTIVITIES

Luncheons
11-30-12 Stanley Kutler, “Richard Nixon”
2-12-13 Meg Gaines, “Precious Mettle: Touchstones for Effective Health Care Advocacy”
5-21-13 Leigh Richardson, “The Work of Aldo Leopold”

Preluncheon Programs
10-24-12 “The Cradle Will Rock” excerpts from Marc Blitzstein’s opera
11-30-12 The Perlman Trio [plus two] playing piano trios and quintets
2-12-13 Bill and Bobbie Malone, “Love in Country Music”
5-21-13 Joe Parisi, “Dane County’s Clean Lakes, Clean Energy, and Climate Change Preparedness Efforts”

Day Trips
9-27-12 Bus trip to Janesville’s Rotary Gardens and Lincoln-Tallman Restoration and to Milton’s Milton House Museum
5-15-13 Bus trip to the EAA AirVenture Museum and the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh
6-18-13 Bus trip to Lake Geneva and Black Point Estate Tour

Activities
10-18-12 Chris Kleinhenz, “Italy 101: Exploring the Many Faces of Italy”
11-16-12 Maria Saffiotti Dale, guided tour of “Offering of the Angels” exhibit at Chazen Museum of Art
1-10-13 “Make the Most of Your Retirement”
4-11-13 Reading of Robert Skloot’s play “If the Whole Body Dies”
5-22-13 “What DoIT Can Still Do For You”

Retirement Challenges Seminars
11-13-12 Parker Palmer, “Healing the Heart of Democracy”
12-4-12 Charles Franklin, “The 2012 Elections in Perspective”
4-22-13 Richard Rieselbach, “The Future of Medicare: The Impact of the Affordable Care Act”
5-9-13 Elaine Rosenblatt, “You Too Can Travel: Preparing for a Healthy Journey”

Financial Issues Seminars
9-18-12 Christine Benz, “Key Ingredients for Successful Retirement Portfolios”
10-16-12 John Jarosinski, “Financial Crimes: Awareness and Prevention”
11-20-12 Ken Wundrow, “Income Tax Update”
12-12-12 Steve Rick, “U.S. Economic Outlook”
1-22-13 Julie Short, “You’re Only Old Once: Planning to Age in Place”
2-19-13 Michael Rawson, “Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) vs. Mutual Funds: What’s Inside Your ETF?”
3-6-13 Mark Bradley, “Modern Estate Planning Made Easy”
4-16-13       Robert Conlin and Michael Williamson, “SWIB and WRS Update”
5-23-13       James DiUlio, “Saving for College and the State’s Edvest Plan: Putting the
Pieces Together”

**Breakfasts:**  9-19-12, 12-6-12, 1-8-13, 3-19-13, 4-18-13, 6-20-13