UWRA bylaws state “The purpose of this Association is to promote the interests and welfare of Association members, to facilitate their support of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the surrounding community, and maintain liaison with relevant University and community organizations.” UWRA is a completely volunteer organization with an elected Board of Directors, a volunteer Executive Director, and ten standing committees. For full list of committees and committee members go to http://uwra.wisc.edu/about/index.html and click on About Us, then Committees. The association publishes The Sifter, a newsletter designed to provide an ongoing information source about association programs, activities and related matters ten times per year (September through June), and all members receive copies by email (preferred) or mail. UWRA maintains a website http://uwra.wisc.edu/index.html where members and prospective members can find information about UWRA and its activities and programs.

The Board of Directors for 2014-2015 consisted of Phil Certain, president; Dale Burke, immediate past president; Bob Dye, president-elect; Bill Richner, secretary; Darrell Barth, treasurer; and directors-at-large Rick Daluge, Debbie Lauder, Hal Winsborough, Barb Erlenborn, Diane Kravetz, Al Liegel, John Helgeson, Cherie Krenke, and Jan Richardson. Ann Wallace (Executive Director), Millard Susman and Char Tortorice (Special Projects), and Sharon Vinson (Sifter Editor) were ex-officio members of the Board.

A major concern of the Board this year was the proposed State Budget and the impact of proposed cuts to the University. In an effort to keep members informed, the Association held a special seminar on April 29 with Vice Chancellor Darrell Bazzell presenting “a ‘guided tour’ through the budget of the university and to explain to us in detail how a $300 million budget cut would affect educational programs at Madison.” Also on our radar and being followed by the Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement are the proposed changes to the State health insurance and other benefits programs.

Throughout 2014-2015, UWRA committees continued to present a wide range of programs and activities for the membership such as monthly breakfast gatherings, luncheons with programs, day trips, and seminars on financial matters, electronic technology, and retirement challenges. New events held for the first time included a golf outing, a photo contest, and Mallards baseball game. For a full list of Association activities go to http://uwra.wisc.edu/about/index.html and click on the Annual List of Activities.

Special thanks are in order for our departing Board members Rick Daluge, Debbie Lauder, and Hal Winsborough; and for our departing Sifter Editor Sharon Vinson. All will remain active with UWRA, but their contributions over the past several years deserve recognition and thanks. Mary Barnard Ray is the new Sifter Editor; thank you, Mary. At the Annual Meeting on May 6, 2015 the membership present elected Gary Mitchell president-elect; reelected Darrell Barth treasurer, and elected Cora Marrett, Dorothy Klinefelter, and Sarah Potts to the Board.