End of the Year Co-Presidents' Report

(Editor’s note: This is an edited version of the report submitted during the May 18th End of the Year Luncheon.)

When we agreed to serve as co-Presidents of the UNO Women's Club, we had high hopes that we would be continuing the UNOWC's tradition of supporting non-traditional student scholarships and providing opportunities for University Service and socializing with other UNO Women’s Club members.

The Scholarship dinner on October 1st was a great kickoff for the year, with other events planned and announced at that time in our first newsletter. Most of those planned events had to be cancelled and were not rescheduled. But then, unfortunately, two events caused some of us to gather together: the memorial services of our long-time members Anne Newton and Dorothy Patach. We hope that those who attended these services found comfort in their memories of our departed friends.

On October 18th, a group of members met at Spirit World to discuss the future of the UNO Women’s Club. We came up with five options to consider. On the next page are Elaine’s notes from that October 18th meeting. Although these options were not communicated to the general membership until now, we discussed these options at the End of the Year meeting that was held on Saturday, May 18th. See the End of the Meeting Notes for more information on that meeting.

As a follow-up to one of the options discussed in October, we twice met with the CCSW co-chairs to discuss service opportunities and to brainstorm how we could “market” the UNO Women’s Club to women faculty and staff. We were invited to the CCSW’s February 19th Luncheon. However, it was held on a day when neither of us could attend, therefore, we asked Vice-President Sue Manley and Scholarship Chair Janet Pol to represent the UNO Women’s Club.

Because the future of our club is uncertain, we decided not to present a slate of cabinet members to take on leadership roles next year. On the next page, you will read a motion that was presented at the End of the Year Meeting for vote by the membership. Since many members were unable to attend, we are holding open the vote until June 15th.

Please read the options and the motion and then send an email to UNO.Womens.Club@gmail.com with your vote. After the votes on the motion are compiled on June 15th, we will take appropriate action.

One last item: The UNOWC Scholarship selection committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15th, in Mammel Hall's Dean’s Conference room. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact Janet Pol at jpol@unomaha.edu as soon as possible so she can send the scholarship application packet to you.

Gina Pearson and Elaine Allen
2018 – 2019 UNO Women’s Club Co-Presidents

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The Future of UNO Women’s Club - Meeting Notes

Thursday, October 18, 2018, Spirit World


Options presented from the June 2, 2018, meeting:
1. Reduce number of General Meetings to 2: Scholarship Dinner and End of Year Meeting, plus keep the Interest Groups, and have 2 or 3 Happy Hour Socials.
2. Discontinue all programs except for the Scholarship Dinner and End of the Year Meeting.
3. Turn over scholarship administration completely to the NU Foundation with an UNO Women’s Club Scholarship Selection Committee, and dues to be paid to the NU Foundation to continue the scholarships.
4. Turnover scholarships completely to the NU Foundation and disband the UNO Women’s Club.
5. A 5th option was proposed by Janine Brooks: Explore collaborating with Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of Women (CCSW); UNOWC could provide social aspects and CCSW could provide service opportunities on campus. CCSW is made up of faculty and staff but they need new members. Chancellor Gold supports the CCSW by paying for the annual Legendary Woman luncheon. Drawbacks: Only employees can be on the CCSW; the membership requirement would exclude most of the UNO Women’s Club members. In addition, the CCSW meets over the noon hours. Past collaboration between the two groups didn’t result in more women joining UNOWC. Our involvement with the CCSW for two years was providing baskets for the Legendary Woman luncheon. Some agreed our club lacks the service element, which used to be the nature of the group in past years. Janine suggested we form an exploratory committee to discuss collaboration opportunities between UNOWC and CCSW. Elaine and Gina will work with Janine to meet with the two Co-chairs of the CCSW.

Other topics of discussion related to the future of the group:
1. Membership challenges: Several women agreed that the demographics of our group has dramatically changed over the years. Our “core group” of active members is dying and we need to expand beyond this core group, which has been stretched thin trying to keep the group viable. One long-term member suggested it might be time to disband the club, quoting her: “We need to go down with dignity.” A former president mentioned that the decline seemed to start when she was president a few years ago. We haven’t been able to recruit new faculty or staff because we don’t have access to that information. Amy mentioned that new faculty orientation isn’t until later in the semester, rather than at the beginning of the academic year.
2. Lack of Chancellor’s endorsement and support for UNOWC was another topic of discussion, along with the history of chancellors’ support of the group over the years: Chancellors Belck and Christensen paid for the scholarship dinners. Chancellor Belck held the dinners at her home. We used to have parties in members’ homes or other venues off campus. One person mentioned that newer members are not aware of UNOWC’s history.
3. Deans’ Support: Janet said she would like to engage more of the deans to support us. She and Debbie Hilt (CFAM Dean Hilt’s wife) and Deb Smith-Howell (Graduate College Dean and Associate Vice-Chancellor) are talking about hosting a wine & cheese reception before the UNO Theatre event, along with Dean Lou Pol (Janet’s husband). We voted to change the date of the event to November 8th so that it can be held in Weber Fine Arts’ gallery prior to the show.
4. **Scholarships:** One person asked if UNOWC is a scholarship fundraising group or are we a social group? There have been recent changes in some of the named scholarships’ maintenance. For example, Ann Newton’s scholarship will now be administered through Arts & Sciences.

**End of the Year Meeting Minutes, at Spezia, May 18, 2019**

**Attendees:** Elaine Allen, Gina Pearson, Sue Manley, Amy Schindler, Becky Means, Mary Bernier, Karen Garver, Laraine Conway, Claudie Stires, Sheila Runyon

**President’s Report:** Reprinted on Page 1, with minor edits

**Treasurer’s Report:** (see image)

After submitting the report, Amy also noted the “Gifts-in-Kind” that reduced the cost of the Scholarship dinner and were not included in the financial report. These gifts included the Library Dean’s donation of the wine, and Janet Pol’s use of her personal dishes, silverware, utensils, and centerpieces. We didn’t receive a bill for the 2 hours of bartender service.

Amy also suggested if the club discontinues, that we close out the balance of the fund. If we continue, recommends charging no dues. Membership would be determined by those who contribute to the UNOWC scholarship funds. Discussed turning over the funds to the NU Foundation and rely on a member to be a liaison with the Foundation as well as a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made, seconded and approved.

**Scholarship Report (submitted in writing)**

Janet Pol was unable to attend and wrote the following: “I apologize that I am unable to give this report in person, but Lou and I will be traveling in Italy during the meeting time. I hope that there are several of you who will be willing to spend a few hours reviewing and ranking our applications. We will meet on a Saturday in June. Three Saturday dates and times are available on my calendar. June 1, anytime; June 8, afternoon; and June 15, anytime. Please consult your calendars and let me know if you wish to participate, and if yes, which dates (and times) you are available. (Editor’s note: see addendum to this report for more details on this meeting.)

Here is a break-down of our applicants and funds:

- There were 40 applications submitted.
- One of those applications was incomplete.
- If all funds had sufficient funds and qualified applicants, we would have 22 applications to review, but
  - There were no funds available to spend in the Dorothy Patach Fund (next year her endowment will fund several scholarships)
  - There were no applicants that qualified for the Stedman Scholarship and
  - The Stoddard Fund had only $415, which will be retained until next year.
- This leaves 16 applications to review for seven $1000 scholarships.

(continued on p. 4)
Scholarship Report (continued from p. 3)

Awards to be distributed are:

- Bail … $1464 … One award; Bail $1000 award and $464 will be retained until next year
- Weber … $883 … One award; available funds will be supplemented with $117 from UNOWO for a Weber/UNOWC $1000 award
- Naylor … $1687 … Two awards; Naylor $1000 award with remaining $687 supplemented with $313 from UNOWC for a Naylor/UNOWC $1000 award
- Bernier … $883 … One award; available funds will be supplemented with $117 from Mary for a Bernier $1000 award
- UNOWC … $2501 … Two awards; Two $1000 awards, $117 to supplement the Weber/UNOWC award, $313 to supplement the Naylor/UNOWC award, and $71 to be retained until next year

I hope to hear from you soon about your interest and availability for helping choose our 2019-20 recipients. I plan distribute the applicant packets on the weekend of May 25th.

Janet Pol
email: jpol@unomaha.edu
402-968-8931

P.S. – Thank you to all who have contributed and continue to contribute to the scholarship funds that the UNOWC has the pleasure to distribute. We could not do it without of your help!"

Addendum to Janet’s report, presented during the meeting: Gina recently visited with the Nebraska University Foundation Associate General Counsel Chet Pohling. She asked him how we go about amending the fund agreements in the event we dissolve our organization as it exists today. All the fund agreements indicate the UNO Women’s Club scholarship committee selects the recipients. Chet suggested that we don’t make any decisions about our Club until our Scholarship Committee selects the recipients for this fall. Otherwise, we won’t be able to award any scholarships this fall because of the processes involved in amending the agreements. The amendment process is more difficult and takes longer when there’s no living donor, which is true of almost all the Foundation’s scholarships.

Old Business:
Discussion related to the Future of the UNOWC options (see page 2): The decline in membership and participation has been going on for more than 20 years. It’s not limited to our club; it’s happening to Rotary and other social clubs. We discussed the benefits of staying involved with each other, through the Scholarship Awards event, the book club interest groups, even informally, etc. Sue Manley suggested the Scholarship Awards event be a fundraiser. Discussed the tentative date for the Scholarship Event and timing. The proposed date is Monday, September 30th, at 5:00 with hot hors d’oeuvres instead of a meal. This would be much less expensive, and we wouldn’t need table service, etc. It might also be more convenient for those who work on campus and those who could come straight from work. Amy will check to see if the Library is available.

Scholarship Selection Meeting
Saturday, June 15, 10:00 a.m.
Dean’s Conference Room
Mammel Hall
Contact Janet Pol
jpol@unomaha.edu
402-968-8931
New Business:

Motion made by Mary Bernier and published with the Agenda: To amend the UNO Women’s Club mission from:

Current:

“To promote and support activities of the University of Nebraska Omaha, to provide opportunities for social interactions among women connected to the University of Nebraska Omaha, and to raise funds to support scholarships for non-traditional students attending the University of Nebraska Omaha.”

to:

New:

“To support scholarships for non-traditional students attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha.”

The motion was seconded by Laraine Conway. The vote was taken by those present. However, in order not to sway the vote of the rest of the members who can vote in absentia, the results will not be included in these minutes. Rather, they will be published with the voting results of all members who vote, following the June 15th Scholarship Selection meeting.

2018-2019 UNO Women’s Club Members

The following members paid their dues for the year and are eligible to vote on the motion presented at the End of the Year meeting.

Camille Allen
Elaine Allen
Jean Bartek
Monica Bayles
Cathy Beck
Mary Bernier
Karen Bird
Mary Kay Bret
Lori Byrne
Patty Chase
Jan Christensen
Laraine Conway
Sharon Davis
Carol Ebdon
Judy Gaeddert
Karen Garver
Mary Lou Gouttierre
Patti Gregor
Rose Mary Hefley
Rita Henry
Debbie Hilt
Krystyn Kallhoff
Jennifer Katz
Wilma Kuhlman
Sue Kutschkau
Carole Langan
Melissa Lorenzen
Sue Manley
Donna Masloski
Nicole Massara
Sherry Mead
Becky Means
Darlene Menard
Lori Mower
Elaine Nelson
Ann Olmsted
Marjorie O’Reilly
Cindy Osborne
Gina Pearson
Inez Petrie
Cathy Pettid
Janet Pol
Mary Lynn Reiser
Kristine Richards
Randall Roberts
Nicole Rosenau
Sheila Runyon
Amy Schindler
Jeannine Sindt
Claudie Sires
Deb Smith-Howell
Patsy Stradling
Karen Todd
Angela Valle

Angelika Walker
Judith Welk
Charlene Wilcox
Dorothy Willis

* Note: Ann Newton and Dorothy Patach, deceased, paid their dues at the beginning of this membership year.

Save the Date:
Monday, September 30th
Scholarship Awards Event
Place and Time
To be Announced
Remembering Dorothy Patch, UNO Women’s Club Member and Community Activist

Dorothy Patch, who was a long-time UNOWC member, died on February 16th at the age of 95. As well as being an active member of this club for decades, she was active in many community and environmental projects in South Omaha.

Her obituary outlined her many professional and civic accomplishments:

“Dorothy began working with nursing students in 1956 at the Jenny Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa. While working at various local hospitals, Dorothy helped to develop surgical drapes and was involved in the testing of Formula 99 (which later became known as Dial Soap) and made the critical proposal to changing from liquid to bar form to reduce allergic reactions to the first antibacterial soap.

In 1959, Dorothy joined the staff at the University of Nebraska at Omaha to lead their Nursing Program. It was during an elevator conversation with Chancellor Milo Bail, during the 1960s, while campus dress code still required women faculty, staff, and students to wear skirts on UNO’s campus when not engaging in athletic activities, that Dorothy suggested that allowing females to wear slacks on campus might result in fewer miniskirts being seen on campus. Dr. Bail agreed and so updated the dress code accordingly.

While there, she also took on the roles of student advisor and director of nursing and allied health education Associate Professor and Assistant to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. She retired 30 years later, in 1989.

Not only was Dorothy a nurse and educator, she was also an activist within her community. The idea of community involvement was instilled within Dorothy as a child. Her parents were both active community members. Dorothy began to take over their responsibilities as they grew older. For example, when her family experienced plumbing difficulties, she immediately acted by consulting with the city to fix the sewers.

Dorothy was also an avid volunteer. She worked with a variety of organizations in Omaha, most notably with Sokol Centers, the Spring Lake Neighborhood Association, the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance, the South Omaha Business Association, Bohemian Cemetery Association and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.”

In 2015, she was featured in a video created by OPS students in the summer program “Making Invisible Histories Visible”: Here’s the link to the video: Omaha Public Schools Invisible History 2015 Student Projects: Dorothy Patch. The video is in the middle of the page or watch it on YouTube.

Dorothy’s 1990 “Reflections in Time” interview for UNO is available from UNO Libraries’ Archives and Special Collections at the following link: UNO Archives: Dorothy Patch.