

Houston Baptist University
Retirees' Association
April 13, 2012

The spring 2012 dinner meeting was held in the Dillon Center, Hinton Building. It was called to order by Chair Don Looser, and members and guests were then photographed on the staircase in the Hinton Building. Dr. Harold Raley led us in a word of prayer, followed by a great meal provided by the Retirees' Association

Ed Best reported that he enjoyed the Rodeo tickets he won as the door prize at the February meeting. Sherry Hibbert, former liaison, has offered to donate another set of four tickets next year.

The minutes of the February meeting were presented by Carol Elsbury and were approved without dissent after a motion by Don Byrnes and second by Linda Clark.

The treasurer's report was provided by Ruth Ann Williamson. After the night's meal is paid for, the University account will be reduced to a zero balance. The new budget provided by the University will take effect on June 1, 2012. The retirees account has a balance of \$6,013.57.

The Association history is current, and the picture that was taken tonight will be added to the history.

Kathleen Strom reported that a sympathy card was sent to Mary Jo Williams and that a book was donated to the library in memory of Sebron Williams. Don Looser spoke at that time about Sebron's life, including his service in World War II. The obituary will be read at the next meeting. Several members represented Houston Baptist University at the memorial service. Randy (son) and Mary Jo (wife) were so appreciative of HBU and the support.

Barbara Owens did not have a report on membership.

Candace Desrosiers reported that the President of Hobby Lobby would be the speaker for the Prince Chavanne Lecture.

The University's annual Celebration Dinner will be Fri., April 20. The Retirees' Association has purchased a table for this event and some of the board will be present. This gives our organization an opportunity to be recognized and to identify colleagues who will be retiring from the University.

Jon Suter, member at large, had no official report.

Diana Linder, wife of Robert Linder, suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Mexico. It was a really close call; however, she is better and back at home.

The decision as to the name change of the University will be made over the summer. Some feel that "Houston" and "Baptist" could make recruiting more difficult.

Dr. John Mark Reynolds from Biola University has been named the new Provost, and Vic Shealy from Kansas has been named head football coach.

Dr. Sloan has announced plans for the redevelopment of University property on the Southwest Freeway frontage road.

Now it is time for the current board to step aside. Barbara Owens and her nominating committee presented the slate for the 2012-2014 Board, as listed below.

Chair Elect	Mary Ellen Spore
Assistant Chair	Ruth Ann Williamson
Secretary	Jon Suter
Treasure	Ken Rogers
Historian	Ed Best
Membership Chair	Shari Wescott
Hospitality Chair	Becky Greer
Representatives at Large	Judy Elleson
	Jennie Hedger
University Liaison	Loree Watson
	Candace Desrosiers

The Association By-laws state that additional nominations can be made from the floor, but there were none. A motion by Don Byrnes was made to approve the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. It was seconded by Carol Elsbury and passed without opposition.

Mary Ellen Spore announced that the fall meeting, October 19, will feature Dr. Chris Hammons from the Political Science Department. Since that meeting will be just before the November national election, his talk should be of great interest.

Jon Suter then had the pleasure of introducing the speaker, Ron Stone, Jr. Ron Stone is a native Houstonian and has a Masters in Library Science. He worked at KPRC Channel 2, the local NBC station. Ron has also developed MLA courses for HBU, and is now working for Shell Oil Corporation.

Ron spoke about his dad, his accomplishments and how important education was to him. He then spoke about the history of Houston, mainly with respect to how development of Buffalo Bayou into the Houston Ship Channel influenced the growth of Houston into the nation's fourth largest city.

Don Looser thanked Ron Stone for his presentation.

Don Looser presented Mary Ellen Spore with a gavel as the new chairperson of the organization.

Mary Ellen then thanked Don Looser for his time of service and presented him with three books from the Retirees Association as a token of appreciation for his leadership.

The meeting was brought to a close with a reminder that the next meeting will be in October.

Carol Elsbury
Secretary