

Academic Freedom for a Free Society
Akron-AAUP Monthly Newsletter
for April 2010

Special Recognition: The chapter wishes to heartily thank two faculty members who have made significant contributions and professional sacrifices to advance the cause of the Akron Chapter of AAUP.

John Hebert, Ph.D., President of Akron AAUP (2003-2007) and Treasurer of Akron AAUP (2007-2010)

After 30 years of service to the University of Akron, John Hebert is retiring as Professor of Management in the College of Business at the end of this semester. He served as President of Akron-AAUP for four very tough early years of our Chapter. John guided the organization through the grueling 26 months of negotiating for our first contract, and through the first years of implementing that first bargaining unit contract. After stepping down as President of our faculty union, John agreed to serve as the Interim Treasurer, and later ran for that same office.

John has enjoyed a productive and successful career at the University of Akron. In so doing, he also advanced the professional lives of his colleagues by protecting their academic freedom and insuring faculty are treated with the professional respect their credentials deserve. He is our colleague, our friend, and represents the best of a contributing member of our community.

Words are insufficient, but we thank him for all he has contributed to making the University of Akron a better place. Prof. Hebert - we wish you many enjoyable rounds of golf and happy travels as he and wife Linda pursue a justly deserved retirement.

Linda Barrett, Ph.D., Akron-AAUP Negotiating Team (2003-2005), Grievance Officer (2005-2010)

Akron-AAUP Negotiating Team (2009-2010). Linda is stepping away from her Akron-AAUP missionary work to refocus her energies on her professional life in the Department of Geography at the University of Akron. If there were a UA Nobel Peace Prize awarded, it would be sitting on Linda's library shelf. Linda's quiet demeanor coupled with her thoughtful focus and determination during the first 26 months of contract negotiations and in her role during the most recent negotiations is deserving of such recognition. She has been a diligent defender of faculty rights.

Her work on the first negotiating team was so impressive to the AAUP Executive Committee that they asked her if she would consider being the "enforcer" of the new contract by assuming the position of Akron AAUP Grievance Officer. Her generous spirit agreed to do so, knowing that this new union work would demand that she put her own professional goals on hold. Her work as Grievance Officer has been wonderfully fruitful, protecting jobs, benefits, and academic rights of numerous individual faculty on our campus. In so doing, she protected us all.

Thank you Dr. Barrett for all that you have done for Akron AAUP. You have the unqualified respect and admiration of your colleagues and we wish you only the best.

Spring Chapter Election & Meeting: The chapter members of the Akron-AAUP have elected **Kate Budd** (Art) and **Richard Elliott** (Chemical Engineering) as **Secretary** and **Treasurer**, respectively, for the next two years. While Kate Budd ran unopposed, Elliott won in a close election over **Pamela Schulze** (Family and Consumer Sciences). Please thank all three

candidates for being willing to run for office and for volunteering their time to work for all of us.

Attendees at the Spring Akron-AAUP chapter meeting elected **Bonnie Chojnacki** (University Libraries) as our chapter representative to the annual AAUP meeting in Washington, D.C. in June. She will cast any votes on behalf of our chapter at the Collective Bargaining Congress (CBC) meeting, where the 70+ AAUP collective bargaining chapters approve policies and initiatives of the CBC. On the national front, Steve Aby was elected to a one year term on AAUP Council, extending his tenure on the national decision-making body for AAUP.

The Spring Akron-AAUP chapter meeting was held in the Martin University Center Library Room on Wednesday, April 14th. Besides the announcement of election winners, there was an overview of the current state of negotiations over health care. As faculty may remember, our recently approved contract included the reopening of negotiations over health care for years 2011-2013 and compensation for July 2011 through December 2013. Health care negotiations have begun, and negotiations over compensation should begin by the middle of this Summer.

New Grievance Officers: As you have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, Linda Barrett is stepping down as chapter Grievance Officer after many years of tremendous service. Linda was also a member of both of our negotiating teams. As a result of her focusing on her faculty role, the Akron-AAUP Executive Committee has taken the opportunity to get new individuals involved in servicing potential grievances.

Elizabeth Kennedy, recently of the second Negotiating Team, will now become the Akron-AAUP Grievance Officer. Assisting her will be **Stacy Willett**, who has been assisting Linda Barrett in that capacity, and who has also been one of the two elected Liaison Representatives to the Executive Committee.

Finally, **Russ Davis**, retired faculty member and current chapter Executive Director, will take on the additional role of Grievance Administrator. Russ's role will be to handle all of the intake of potential grievances, along with additional support work to aid both Elizabeth Kennedy and Stacy Willett. If faculty have a potential grievance, and they would like to consult the chapter, Russ Davis should be the first person they should contact. His email and office phone number are posted on the chapter web site at .

The Ohio Conference of AAUP Chapters (OCAAUP) Annual Meeting: OCAAUP held its annual meeting on April 16-17 in Columbus. This year, in addition to the business meeting, officer elections announcements, and workshops on AAUP Principles, the conference recognized Ohio State Representative Katherine Chandler for her work to preserve higher education in the state. OCAAUP also hosted the Collective Bargaining Congress Executive Committee 's regional meeting on Saturday, April 17th and Sunday, April 18th.

Visit the Chapter Website Often - <http://www.akronaaup.org>

**Akron-AAUP
Communications Committee**