

## **RFAO President's Report to the RFAO Membership**

Presented at the RFAO Annual General Meeting, October 10, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Your Board has continued to hold monthly meetings. Two topics were regularly on our agenda. We continued our dialogue with HR personnel and Blue Cross/Blue Shield managers concerning our Vermont Blue Advantage insurance. We channeled our own experiences and other retirees' concerns related to claims problems, the exclusion of classes of providers, mailings that were inapplicable to our policy coverage, and misinformation from call centers. Our feedback seemed to produce improvements in the quality of the current program's operations. Moreover, this feedback appears to have been influential in shaping the replacement Medicare Advantage program recently negotiated with Cigna, as reflected in premium costs and in the promised delivery of additional benefits that were sought.

A second area of focus has been the loss of access to various software packages, especially important for those peers who continue to pursue their research agendas. The lack of clarity regarding the terms and scope of licensing agreements has been problematic and the Board continues to try to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the administration. Speaking of research, a subcommittee of the Board awarded stipends, from a total of \$8000 provided by the University, to five retirees who submitted meritorious proposals seeking support for their scholarship.

Our voting representative on the Faculty Senate attended those monthly meetings and kept the Board apprised of university-wide issues of relevance to retirees. Likewise, our representative on the United Academics executive committee reported back on its activities and matters of mutual benefit. Recently one of our Board colleagues (Mara Saule) was invited to join the UVM Foundation Board. So, our influence spreads!

Looking to the immediate future, one enterprise that the Board has in mind is the establishment of an occasional speaker series for which Tom Sullivan's presentation today could serve as a model.

Respectfully submitted,  
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