

FOR THE PAST two years I have enjoyed serving as President of the Retirees' Association of Queen's. During this time, the President's page of *RAQnews* has been titled "News and Views" – a different

approach from that taken by founding President John Meisel, a master of the written word. In this issue, I'm focusing on two recent events – the first, a dinner meeting with Principal Karen Hitchcock; the second, the 2007 AGM. They conclude the series of Council, Committee and related meetings for the year following the previous AGM.

Principal Hitchcock has made it a practice to invite Executive members to a dinner meeting with Vice Principals and relevant senior staff. This spring it was on April 10 at Summerhill, and RAQ invitees included Dr. Henry Dinsdale, who chairs our committee exploring the possibility of a Retiree/Emeritus Centre, and Ms Alison Morgan, who has been

**On to the AGM** – On April 30 I was delighted to welcome some 80 members to the University Club for an enjoyable lunch and a review of the past year's activities. It's hard to believe this was RAQ's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Every report made there showed clearly that we're an organization with lots of intellectual and social bustle. To cover news and topics raised there, this newsletter has been expanded, but I would like to cite a few highlights for those who weren't present:

The on-going projects under Alison Morgan and Henry Dinsdale (mentioned above) drew considerable interest. The first oral history interviews for the period 1960-74 will be taped early next year. Please don't be shy if you're asked for your memories and views.

Membership Secretary Joy Hoselton reported a total of 535 members – an increase that Treasurer Barbara Aitken noted means almost \$900 more in revenues (total \$7,438). I'm sure you'll agree this is very healthy. Still, the Council would welcome ideas for attracting even more staff retirees.

According to John Gordon, we're communicating effectively via e-mail, *RAQnews*, mailings and our web-site, but this committee (Alison invites readers suggestions) for improvements. Pension and Benefits Committee chair Bill Wright brought welcome news on several fronts, as you'll see in his column inside. Arlene Aish's report on events past and future certainly testified to members' diversity of interests and expertise.

It was John Meisel who wrapped up the agenda as Nominating Committee chair. I'm happy to be passing the gavel to Arlene Aish, who has given strength and inspiration to this association from its very beginning. At the same time, we salute some other RAQ pioneers whose terms are up. (*More on this inside*). The sustained applause they and the committee chairs received was certainly well deserved.

It was an honour to serve this term and a pleasure to look around the AGM and sense the purpose, dedication, and enjoyment that I believe will ensure a long and lively future for this association.

JOYCE ZAKOS, *President*

**20%** Much of the work of our committee during the past year has aimed at finding protection for the 20% not covered under the Queen's Medical Plan, chiefly for those traveling outside the country. Here's a quick recap of those efforts:

- \* Trent Insurance stopped selling this coverage.
- \* Neither Queen's administration nor RAQ could find any company in Canada willing to provide a plan whereby the "missing" 20% coverage could be bought for a 20% premium.
- \* Representatives from Kingston Financial Centre very kindly (and without remuneration) came up with a much-appreciated alternative.
- \* Through Kingston Financial Centre, and with its assistance, we can now access individual travel and emergency medical insurance through Robin Ingle in Toronto. For information, please go to <http://www>

### ***Membership increasing***

The Retirees Association wrapped up its 6<sup>th</sup> year with a membership of 535 – 275 single members and 130 couples. Membership Secretary Joy Hoselton, when asked from the floor about the ratio of faculty to staff, noted that faculty retirees outnumber staff members about two to one, and she invited mem-

bers' ideas about increasing staff applications. She also reassured questioners that non-Queen's spouses were welcome to join. At present, everyone retiring from Queen's is mailed RAQ information and a welcome. The Executive decided not to increase fees this coming year (\$15 single, \$25 a couple).

President Zakos observed that RAQ's current Executive and Council are almost perfectly balanced between faculty and staff volunteers.

### ***Numbers up, revenue up, budget up***

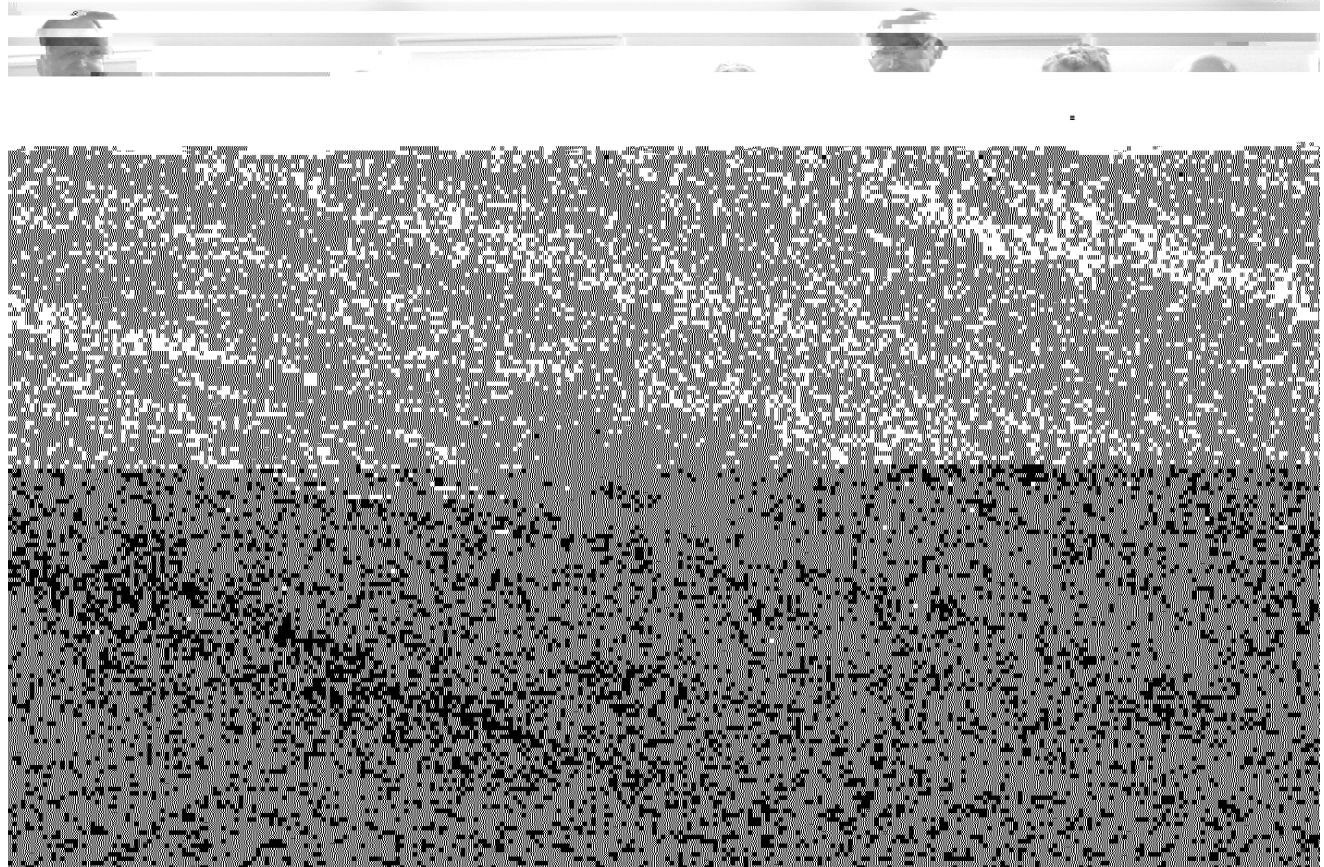
Treasurer Barbara Aitken reported that this year's increased membership has meant a welcome increase of \$890 in revenue. Income for 2006-07 was \$7438, and expenses totaled \$6371. As a corollary, additional costs for communicating with more members will make this year's budget higher (\$7350).

In addition to membership revenues and cost-recovery for events, RAQ receives a grant of \$1500 through the Vice-Principal (Academic) towards communication costs (printing, postage, phone and website). That office also funds the Monday Morning Forums, which are considered a first step towards the anticipated Emeritus College – a possibility being explored by a committee chaired by Dr. Henry Dinsdale. Guest speakers have addressed six of these forums to date, and forum organizer Dr. Agnes Herzberg has five more scheduled for this year.

### ***RAQ Spin-off in BC***

RAQeteer Mavis Goodman, now a resident of Victoria, BC, has discovered enough other Queen's retirees living in the same city that she now reports there's a RAQ "branch" up and running. "That may be a misnomer," she writes, "since we've thrown membership wide open to anyone with a Queen's connection of just about any kind." They've had two meetings and plan to meet over lunch on the last Thursday of each month from now on. It's likely this will be the first "spin-off" group among CURAC members.

If you have friends in Victoria who might be interested, please contact Mavis or give your friends her address: [goodmanm@post.queensu.ca](mailto:goodmanm@post.queensu.ca)



**Meet your 2007-08 RAQ Team.** SEATED, from left: Patricia Bogstad, Eileen Aish, Paulee Zakos and Nancy Aish. Standing, from left: David Bonham, Chuck Campling, Henry Dinsdale, Alan Green, Bill Wright, Barbara Aitken, Mary Balanchuk, Joyce Zakos and Eileen Fleming. The photograph was taken at the AGM on April 30. Absent from the photograph: John Gordon, Maureen Kelly, and Jessica Roddy.

**New  
President  
and  
Officers**

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE chaired by Past-President John Meisel presented a popular slate of officers to the AGM and introduced RAQ's new President, Arlene Aish. As a former Associate Professor of Nursing and Assistant Dean of the School, she brings a valued administrative experience to her new post, just as she brought it to her previous duties as Events Committee Chair and Executive member-at-large.

John Meisel is one of three long-serving officers whose terms are now complete, the others being Councillors Dan Soberman (an inaugural member and the drafter of RAQ's Constitution), and Eileen Fleming.

The new President's Executive Committee of eight now consists of Joyce Zakos (Past-President), George Brandie (Vice-President), Bruce Hutchinson (Secretary), Barbara Aitken (Treasurer), Joy Hoselton (Membership), and three members-at-large: John Gordon (Communications Chair), Bill Wright (Pension & Benefits Chair) and an Events Chair to be named.

Committee – both continuing and new – are Mary Balanchuk, Patricia Bogstad, David Bonham, Chuck Campling, Henry Dinsdale, Alan Green, Jim Kelly, Juliet Milsome and Jessica Roddy.

# Reports *of* Past Events – Winter 2007

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On January 26, nine RAQeteers braved a cold and blustery day to tour Gordon Hall – new home of Registrarial and Career Services. We enjoyed a warm welcome from Joanne Brady, University Registrar, and a wonderfully relaxed yet informed tour conducted by her assistant, Rebecca Mezciems, and by Debbie Mundell of Career Services.

We were shown both the public and behind-the-scenes spaces. The architectural details were wonderful: the restored gable roofline, the slate floors, the lighting, the high ceilings, and the distinctive interior space created by the gables. The layout has been carefully designed for maximum service to students and efficiency and comfort for staff (e.g., the windows can be opened). The wide range of Registrarial Services is, for the first time, under one roof. Career Services offers a lot of help for both students and employers in a people-friendly space. [

RAQ members  
continue to meet  
informally for  
lunch at various  
restaurants, usually  
on the last Monday  
of each month.

Everyone is wel-  
come – including members' spouses  
and friends. On May 28, we're at  
The Greek Islands, 331 Bath Road.  
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