

Big Ten Retiree Association (BTRA)

2026 Conference in Minneapolis July 21 - 24, 2026

Summary of RPAN report at the conference

Presented by Al Hermesen, University of Michigan Retiree Association

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At the 2026 BTRA conference hosted by the University of Minnesota Retiree Association. 15 of the 18 Big Ten schools were represented with a total of 36 attendees. Al Hermesen did a general session where he reviewed the goals and objectives of the Retired Professors Association Network.

He reviewed the history of RPAN since it was originally set up as the Professors Emeriti Network in 2020 and renamed as the Retired Professors Association Network in 2025. He let the people at the conference know that RPAN meets via zoom on a quarterly basis and invited them to join RPAN and attend the next meeting on September 16. Several people indicated they would attend that meeting.

He reported that RPAN has established a planning team which has now set up seven goals to pursue. He reviewed those seven goals and reported that the first goal would be to pursue keeping emeriti faculty institutional access to email accounts and data bases. The attendees discussed the importance of keeping university emails. Most of the retiree associations of the Big Ten do retain their email accounts, but several do not. They are hoping RPAN initiatives will help restore their email accounts.

Big Ten Retiree Associations already have collaborations with 17 other associations in this conference, as well as with AROHE. So, the question was raised by one of the attendees as to what additional benefits RPAN would offer them. This topic was discussed with Al and Eric Hockert explaining other benefits which RPAN would offer.