

# Purdue University Retirees Association

## 2009-2010 Annual Report

Lois Wark, President

The 2009-2010 year for PURA began with the annual transition meeting on May 26, 2009. There was an opportunity for all committees to meet and plan for the year to come. At the luncheon, President France Córdova spoke, sharing current information about Purdue and reflecting on the significant contributions that retirees make to the University. Retiring members of committees were recognized, new members were welcomed and the new president and vice-president were installed.

The PURA president, Lois Wark, and vice president, Chris Johannsen, participated in the University Retirement Banquet held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, welcoming new retirees into our organization and presenting the Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award to the Purdue University Extension Service for their outstanding service to their retirees. This award and a \$2,500 stipend was funded by TIAA-CREF.

Each year representatives from PURA attend the Big Ten Retirees Conference where information about the various retiree organizations is shared. This year the conference was held August 14-16 on the University of Iowa campus. Lois Wark, PURA president and Martha Chiscon, Chair of the Benefits Committee, attended. PURA is unique among the Big Ten schools because we do not charge dues and every retiree is a member. We are privileged, as few others are, to have financial and secretarial/clerical support from the University.

PURA's annual Kick-Off Luncheon was held on September 14. It is probably the most important event of the year. Teri L. Thompson, Vice President for Marketing and Media, shared significant strategies that the University uses in enhancing the image of Purdue throughout the nation. The Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union was presented the Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award for its participation and support of PURA for more than a decade.

The PURA Executive Board consists of the officers and committee chairs of the association. Pat Lawson is invaluable as our Secretary/Treasurer and Mary Alice Nebold, our Historian, spends many hours preparing our history for permanent archiving as a part of our rich Purdue history. We appreciate the dedicated efforts put forth gathering and organizing information about our activities.

All of PURA's standing committees and their chairmen are listed below:

Martha Chiscon	Benefits Committee
Sue Hume Graham	Campus and Community Activities*
Dick Nelson	Communications
Betty Nelson	Endowment
Sue Hiser/Eldon Fredericks	Hospitality
Marilyn Yoder/Ann Pickett	Kick-Off Luncheon*
Eldon Ortman	Program
Bill Baumgardt	“Purposeful Living in Retirement” Seminar*
Sue Abney/Jim Marciniak	Trips and Tours

\*Formerly ad hoc committees. Proposed by-law changes scheduled to be voted upon at the June 7<sup>th</sup> MCL Luncheon will change their status to standing committees

We are privileged to have as our University advisor, Robin Bellinger, Associate Vice President of Advancement. She has attended most of our monthly Executive Board meetings and has shared current information about the University and its fundraising efforts. Robin has always been available when we need counsel. We are very grateful for her obvious interest in and support of PURA

PURA benefits greatly from its support by the University, both financially and with extremely valuable help from staff members from Staff Benefits, Human Resources. John Beelke, Director of Human Resources – Staff Benefits, is immediately available to us when we have any kind of questions or concerns. Michele Salla, Administrative Assistant in Human Resources, provides the very structure on which PURA stands! She is available for our meetings; attends to our correspondence, addresses our many questions and solves numerous problems. It is hard to imagine PURA functioning without her. We gratefully appreciate the help of Kate LaMar, Benefits Customer Service Supervisor and Retiree Liaison for Medical Insurance. Kate works closely with our Benefits committee. Teresa Wesner, also from Human Resources, serves as an important link from the University to the Hospitality committee.

PURA's Kick-Off Luncheon is always a grand affair and this year's luncheon on September 14 was no exception. Approximately 260 PURA members and guests benefited from the careful work of the luncheon committee, chaired by Marilyn Yoder and Ann Pickett. Dick Nelson and his Communications committee, with a great deal of help from Valerie O'Brien from the Department of Marketing and Media, make sure that PURA and its activities are appropriately publicized. Their primary tools include a web page and four newsletters sent to retirees each year. Valerie will soon leave us to take a new position in Marketing and Media. We thank her for all her work with PURA and wish her well in her new role. We welcome Sharon Martin who will take Valerie's place working with Dick Nelson in all of our communication efforts.

Betty Nelson, chair of our Endowment committee, oversees our PURA Endowments – the PURA Activities and Opportunities Fund and the PURA Martin and Patty Jischke Purdue Opportunity Award. Martha Chiscon for some time has chaired our Benefits committee. Together they work very hard all year to provide the best possible health insurance for Purdue retirees. Martha and Kate LaMar address constant concerns of retirees regarding their health insurance. Our Hospitality Committee, chaired by Eldon Fredericks and Sue Hiser, makes sure that PURA members and guests are warmly welcomed at all of our events. They frequently present to the board creative ideas to further serve retirees and/or enhance the role of PURA on campus and in the community. Sue Hume Graham and her Campus and Community Activities committee planned very interesting tours on campus and in the Greater Lafayette community this year. They have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Eldon Ortman along with his Program committee members have provided excellent programs each month of the year when the PURA membership meets for lunch at the MCL Cafeteria. Various topics have been addressed by interesting speakers. This spring PURA presented its annual seminar, "Purposeful Living in Retirement" seminar. We thank Bill Baumgardt and his committee for all the work they did to make it a highly successful event.

Our Trips and Tours committee, chaired by Sue Abney and Jim Marciniak, has arranged for interesting tours this year. For the first time they have forged very fruitful relationships with two commercial touring companies. As a result, many retirees and friends have taken advantage of these interesting and worthwhile events.

At our annual meeting on April 5, Chris Johannsen was elected to serve as our president this next year. Charles (Chip) Rutledge will be our new vice president. Pat Lawson will remain as our Secretary/Treasurer and Mary Alice Nebold will continue to serve as our Historian. Together they will form a fine team to promote PURA and to serve our Purdue retirees.

PURA continues to give significant financial support to the Purdue University. In 2009, a typical year, Purdue retirees gave to the University \$3,511,009.00. Retirees supported the Purdue University United Way Campaign at a very high level. Goals for 2008 and 2009 were both \$84,000. In 2008 the total given was \$88,400 and in 2009 the total was \$89,855.

A special project this year has resulted in a complete updating of PURA's Procedures and Policies Manual. A committee of past presidents – Betty Nelson, Roy Johnson, Christiane Keck, Betty Suddarth and Scott Rumble – along with Chris Johannsen and Lois Wark - has met regularly for the past 15 months in order to complete this project. Roy Johnson, who initially created the manual, took upon himself all of the computer work generated by changes and additions that the committee made. We greatly appreciate and thank Roy for all he has done, and continues to do for PURA. This manual will be distributed to all board members within the next few months.

Special thanks must go to some key individuals who consistently give of themselves by sharing their significant talents and broad experience. I think of Jeris Eikenberry and Roy Johnson who have provided music at most of our events. I have so appreciated the support and guidance of our past presidents: Scott Rumble, Betty Suddarth, Christiane Keck, Mike Drayer, Roy Johnson and Betty Nelson. They have mentored me in many ways. Chris Johannsen, this year's vice president has been of great support. In addition to broad experience, he brings to PURA a delightful sense of humor.

This has been a good year for PURA despite the unsettled times and the changes that have taken place at Purdue. We have continued our efforts to serve our retirees in as effective ways as possible. With much appreciated support from the Purdue administration and the dedication of PURA's leaders, we have enjoyed a busy and very rewarding year.

PURA has meaning only because of you. You have enthusiastically supported all of the events and activities held this year. Many of you have stepped into leadership positions and shared your talents and experience. I want to express my genuine thanks to our officers, committee chairs and committee members for their many contributions. You are truly what makes PURA a great organization.