The 2010-2011 year for PURA began with the annual transition meeting on June 4, 2010. There was an opportunity for the PURA Committees to meet and plan their activities for next year. At the luncheon, President France Córdova spoke to our leaders and committee members by sharing current information about Purdue and discussing the impact that PURA is making to the University and community. Retiring members of committees were recognized, new members were welcomed and the new president and vice-president were installed.

PURA Past President Lois Wark and Vice President Chip Rutledge participated in the University Retirement Luncheon on June 7 by officially welcoming Purdue retirees from the previous year into our organization. The Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award was not presented this year, as we did not receive a qualifying application for the Award. Efforts were made by your President to contact Deans and their council of department heads about the purpose of the award so that we would have nominations for the 2011 Award. Letters under my signature requesting nominations were sent to all academic Department Heads about the Award and included a Hansen Award brochure and the PURA Quick Facts.

Each year representatives from PURA attend the Big Ten Retirees Conference where information about the various retiree organizations is shared. This year’s conference was held on the Indiana University Campus on August 20-22. Chris Johannsen, PURA president, Chip Rutledge, PURA vice president and Martha Chiscon, Chair of the Benefits Committee, attended. IU focused a full agenda on the cultural arts aspect of their University and the role that their retirees have played. PURA is unique among the Big Ten schools because we do not charge dues and therefore we count every retiree is a member. We are privileged, as few others are, to have financial and secretarial/clerical support from the University.

The annual Kick-Off Luncheon, which is one of PURA’s most important events of the year, was held on August 30th. Our speaker, Dr. Vic Lechtenberg, Vice Provost for Engagement, shared significant contributions that Purdue is making to Indiana, the Nation and the World. Roy Johnson was presented the Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award for the multiple roles that he has performed for PURA over the past decade, which included serving on the Program, Benefits and Kick-off Luncheon Committees, helped plan the 2006 Big Ten Retiree Association Conference hosted by Purdue, served a two-year term as president of PURA starting in 2003 and, with assistance from an ad hoc committee, and recently produced the PURA’s first Procedures and Policies Manual, a detailed document that will benefit PURA and other Big Ten retiree organizations for years to come.
The PURA Executive Board consists of the officers and committee chairs of the association. Pat Lawson as our Secretary/Treasurer documents our Board and special meetings 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.

The PURA standing committees and their chairs for this past year are listed below:

- Martha Chiscon: Benefits Committee
- Sue Hume Graham: Campus and Community Activities
- Dick Nelson: Communications
- Betty Nelson: Endowment
- Sue Hiser: Hospitality
- Sara Johnson/Ann Pickett: Kick-Off Luncheon
- Eldon Ortman/Rueben Peterson: Program
- Scott Rumble: Purposeful Living in Retirement Seminar
- James Marciniak: Trips and Tours

Our University Advisors are Lisa Calvert, Vice President for Development and Robert Ford, Director, President’s Council. They attended our monthly Executive Board meetings and shared current information about the University and its fund raising efforts. Both provided counsel to our Board as needed. Beginning in January, we invited Kevin Vedder, Director of Human Resources Service Center, to update us on efforts of the Center and how its functions relate to staff and especially to retirees. We are grateful for their interests 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, has been available to us when we have any kind of questions or concerns. He will be joining PURA through his retirement in June and we are grateful for the help that he has provided to our organization. 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. Michele has also been answering the phones of the new Human Resources Service Center. We are also appreciating the assistance of Kate LaMar, Benefits Customer Service Supervisor and Retiree Liaison for Medical Insurance. Kate works closely with our Benefits committee. Teresa Wesner from Human Resources serves as an important link from the University to the Hospitality committee. A special thanks goes to Martha Chiscon, our Benefits Chair who has put in long hours of effort on our behalf, especially this year when we were changing health insurance companies.

PURA’s Kick-Off Luncheon is always a grand affair and this year’s luncheon on August 30 was no exception. Approximately 290 PURA members and guests benefited from the dedicated work of the luncheon committee, chaired by Ann Pickett and Sarah Johnson. Dick Nelson as chair of our Communications committee, with a great deal of help from Sharon Martin from the Department of Marketing and Media, making sure that PURA
and its activities are appropriately publicized. Their primary tools include a web page and four newsletters sent to retirees during year.

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. Betty made a special appeal to our Board members who responded in putting the Jischke POA at a level of funding so that funds could be made available to qualified students.

Our Hospitality Committee, chaired by 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 such as a PURA tent at Spring Fling to inform Purdue staff about the benefits of PURA when they retire.

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 by the retiree participants.

Eldon Ortman and Rueben Peterson 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. An exciting array of speakers and topics this year caused us to change the seating arrangements at MCL so that we could accommodate more retirees.

This spring PURA presented its annual seminar, “Purposeful Living in Retirement” seminars attended by over 200 people. We thank Scott Rumble, former Past President and his committee for all the work they did to make it a highly successful event.

Our Trips and Tours committee, chaired by Jim Marciniak, arranged for some interesting tours this year. They continued the fruitful relationships with two commercial touring companies in planning a good variety of tours. Purdue retirees were given Purdue pins as they stepped into the buses so they would be identified from other travelers. As a result, many of our retirees and friends have taken advantage of these interesting and worthwhile events.

At our annual meeting on April 4, Charles “Chip” Rutledge was elected to serve as our president this next year. Sue Hiser 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 for this next year.

Special thanks must go to some key individuals who consistently give of themselves by sharing their significant talents and broad experience. First, Jeris Eikenberry and Roy Johnson provided music at most of our events. Roy always was able to select songs at our PURA Luncheons that matched the theme of speaker’s presentation. Second, I
appreciated the support and guidance of our past presidents: Scott Rumble, Betty Suddarth, Christiane Keck, Mike Drayer, Roy Johnson, Betty Nelson and Lois Wark. They have provided support and ideas to me in many ways. Chip Rutledge, this year’s vice president has been of great support and we worked as a team. Chip brings broad administrative experience to the position and I look forward to continuing to work with him.

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 the involvement and support of the retirees like you. You have enthusiastically participated in PURA 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. It has been an honor to serve as your President. Thank you for the opportunity.