

PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION 2020-2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS:

President	Norm Long
Vice President	Bill Bennett
Secretary	Judy Ware
Treasurer	Lucia Anderson
Historian	Sue Hume Graham
Past President	Tom Turpin
Advisor	William Bell

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Benefits	Larry Pherson
Campus and Community Activities	Jim Lehman
Communication	Karen F. Lembcke
Finance	Lucia Anderson
Hospitality	Linda Hawkins
Kickoff Luncheon	Karen D. Ferry and Viki S. Taylor
Program	Jerry Day
Purposeful Living Conference	Olivia B. Wood
Scholarship	Melinda H. Bain

ANNUAL TRANSITION/KICKOFF MEETING: This year, the annual transition meeting will be held in June. It will be held virtually since we are still being sensitive to gathering in person due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic. This year the meeting will be different, but we will still recognize outgoing and new officers and committee members. A sharing of what the fall programs will be and how they will be offered to the PURA retirees will be discussed. The passing of the PURA Key from outgoing president Norm Long to incoming president Bill Bennett will occur.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Arthur G. Hansen Award and Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award: These awards were not awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic but will be addressed in 2021.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE: Working with University staff and healthcare consultants, PURcare and the Medicare Advantage Plans were extended for 2021. Both plans remained unchanged. The premium for Medicare Advantage is \$178.267 per month, a reduction of about \$19.81/month. The monthly premium for PURcare decreased slightly from \$281.80 to \$281.43. Utilization of these insurance plans is approaching 2,600 members.

An evaluation of the negotiations of the 2021 insurance package was conducted during the Fall of 2020. Recommendations resulting from that evaluation will be utilized during the negotiation of the 2022 insurance package.

The Committee considered alternatives to the PURcare plan and determined that due to the exceptional elements of the plan, any change at this time would not be desirable.

The document “Organizing My Affairs” is being updated and will have a rollout in 2021-2022.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Four events were offered in the 2020-2021 year. PURA members toured the Haan Museum of Indiana Art at 920 E. State St. in Lafayette in small groups scheduled in August and September. In October, a video-based virtual tour of Purdue Grounds was presented via Zoom. More than 350 people viewed the video tour of the campus grounds. In November, the Common Read was offered: [A Reluctant Icon: Letters to Neil Armstrong](#) by James R. Hansen was presented by Tracy Grimm via Zoom. In March, a Zoom talk with Professor David Sanders, an expert in virology, was presented on the stages of virus life cycle and vaccines. These programs were well attended and enriched our members.

COMMUNICATIONS: This past year brought major changes to our committee. We mourned the sudden death of James R. Daniels, our website “go-to-person”. A new Media Communications Committee was formed to assist in the logistics of PURA’s website along with other technical support and use of social media platforms. Scott Ksander joined PURA as the chair of the Media Communications Committee and we have benefited from his support and expertise. Our *PURA News* is an excellent communication tool and has a variety of articles and news. The PURA News moved to a new software, Sales Force IT System, which is ADA compliant and *PURA News* is now a web-based publication. In addition to timely articles, Norm Long shared President’s Notes; Scott Ksander shared monthly articles on technical issues; Chris Rearick shared health issues, Karen Lembcke shared Road Trip ideas, and Jo Ann Thomas shared Confessions of a Book Addict. Campus Calendar and Mark Your Calendar of PURA events were a regular feature in PURA News.

FINANCE: The Finance Committee with the Treasurer as Chair implemented the plan to consolidate all finance, endowments and budget responsibilities into one committee. The final statement of the PURA finances will be available in July at the close of the fiscal year.

HISTORIAN: A timely review of the PURA Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual was conducted by the Executive Committee. Updates and revisions were made and approved at the April Meeting by the PURA members. Online versions of both documents are on the PURA website. A Historical Reference File was also added which summarizes major activities and recipients of awards annually. Each officer has also been asked to keep a notebook of the policies/procedures/events and other pertinent information that can be passed on to the succeeding officer as transitions in office occur.

HOSPITALITY: The role of the Hospitality Committee changed as the pandemic moved our meetings to Zoom. PURA Executive Board, Hospitality Committee and other members supported a Drive-Through Flu Shot for retirees and spouses/partners in partnership with the Custom Plus Pharmacy at the VFW in the fall of 2020. Twenty-three (23) retirees volunteered their support for this event. This new endeavor was a very successful event and appreciated by all.

KICKOFF Event: The annual Kick-Off organized by our Kick-Off Luncheon Committee was held via Zoom due to the pandemic on September 14, 2020. It originated from the PRF Atrium at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center. Bill Bell, V.P. for Human Resources, spoke about Purdue’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was well attended and provided the continuity of information and purpose of PURA for its members.

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS: This was a new committee established in October 2020 to assist in the communications and use of social media and electronic support of PURA. Scott Ksander is the chair of the committee and has supported the Zoom meetings, conducted electronic surveys and ballots, and the updating of the website. The committee is working with the Purdue Development Office to update the source for PURA email data, which will hopefully make PURA information available to a wider group of retirees.

PROGRAMS: Covid-19 led to the cancellation of all PURA events after early March of 2020. As a result, new ways to meet and offer programming were explored. Zoom meetings became the platform for sharing monthly programs with excellent speakers. The quality and variety of the programs at PURA's monthly meetings during 2020-2021 have been excellent. Zoom meetings were held at 12:45 p.m. and attendance at the monthly meetings were higher than historic in-person gatherings for almost all of the programs. Retirees who had moved away from the Purdue community were able to attend as well as folks who were out of town. When we return to in-person programming, the plan is to continue with the virtual Zoom option.

PRE-RETIREMENT MEETINGS: Members of PURA's Benefits Committee participated with staff from Purdue Human Resources in presenting "Road to Retirement" seminars for current employees. These continue to be popular, well-attended events

PURA WEBSITE: www.purdue.edu/retirees Our website continues to grow in content as well as readership. The scope of the information provided about PURA programs, activities, benefits, health insurance, and short-term employment opportunities continues to expand. Our website also includes a photo gallery and houses archival information regarding PURA history as well as copies of current and past newsletters and annual reports. Links are provided to information about University cultural and athletic events as well as announcements regarding Purdue and community events and resources. PURA's Media Committee maintains our website, and it is updated at least monthly.

PURPOSEFUL LIVING IN RETIREMENT (PLIR) SEMINAR: The 2021 PLIR was held on April 21, 2021 with Dr. Philip Low presenting "Drugs in the Pipeline for Treating Human Diseases". The virtual program was coordinated by Special Events of the University Development Office. Studio and production aspects of the virtual program were provided by Elliott Hall of Music with an anticipated fee of \$1,500. The program was well received and is on the PURA website.

RETIREE DEMOGRAPHICS: Currently, there are over 5,000 Purdue retirees, and they live around the world. About 4,000, however, reside in Indiana. Approximately half are faculty members or administrators and half are members of the clerical or service staffs.

RETIREE DIRECTORY: To facilitate communication among Purdue retirees and with former colleagues in the units where they worked, PURA and the University Development Office continue to explore ways that retiree directory information in the University's database could be made accessible through PURA's website.

RETIREE GIVING TO PURDUE: Purdue retirees continue to be generous givers. Once again, they contributed over \$4,000,000 to the University in outright and deferred gifts.

RETIREE GIVING TO THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER LAFAYETTE: Purdue Retirees are very supportive of our community. For the ninth consecutive year, they contributed significantly to the annual campaign. This year \$173,877 was pledged to the local United Way annual campaign.

SCHOLARSHIP: Awards totaling \$11,300 were made by the PURA scholarship endowments for the 2020-21 academic year to 19 Purdue students. The Book Value of the PURA Student Scholarship Endowments as of April 30, 2021 is \$199,591.87. The Book Value of the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke is \$52,694 as of April 30, 2021. We appreciate the generosity of all donors and friends of PURA.

Until this year, Purdue Day of Giving contributions averaged about \$5,000. PURA members were very generous this year. In September 2020, there was a single gift of \$15,000 and multiple donors gave an additional \$21,000 for a total of \$36,000. In April 2021, Day of Giving, approximately \$7,000 in gifts was received.

Five scholarship recipients were invited to be part of the PURA monthly Zoom meetings by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and then sharing about themselves in a brief interview with President Norm Long. It was a great way to connect with our Purdue student scholars.

SPRING FLING: Spring Fling was cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

TRIPS AND TOURS: Trips and Tours has been an inactive committee due to the pandemic.

OVERALL:

2020-2021 has been a year of excellent offerings and opportunities. Due to the pandemic, programs and offerings were modified and many presented through Zoom. The Executive Board held a Zoom meeting June 3, 2020 and discussed how to proceed during these challenging times. The President and Executive Board proved to be flexible and willing to try new ways of keeping PURA a vital organization. We all want to keep connected and to continue to develop relationships and offerings for our retirees. The annual reports written by our officers and committee chairs share even more about all that occurred. These are available electronically on PURA's website www.purdue.edu/retirees by clicking first on "Archives" then on "Recent Annual Reports." Hardcopies of these documents can be found in the PURA collection at the Purdue University Library Archives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Hume Graham, Historian Purdue University Retirees Association June 2021