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PURA History: 2007-2008

YEAR IN REVIEW

Officers and Advisor:

President: Betty M. Suddarth
 Vice President: W. Scott Rumble
 Secretary/Treasurer: Patricia J. Lawson
 Historian: Mary Alice Nebold
 Past President: Michael T. Drayer
 Advisor: Murray M. Blackwelder

Committee Chairpersons:

Benefits: Martha O. Chiscon
 Communications: Oscar Hopkins
 Endowment: Betty M. Nelson
 Hospitality: Lois M. Gotwals and Lois K. Wark
 Program: Dale R. McHenry
 Trips and Tours: Truman G. Martin

Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons:

Campus and Community: Richard C. Nelson
 Kickoff Luncheon: Carolyn T. Jones
 Purposeful Living in Retirement: Lowell Landrum

Activities:

Annual Meeting:

President France Cordova was featured speaker at the annual meeting.

Award Recipients:

Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award: No award was given in 2007-2008.
 Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award: Purdue Marketing Communications, David J. Brannan, Director

Benefits:

The Senior Supplemental Health and Prescription Plan was negotiated for the third year with PacifiCare and United Health Rx.

Big Ten Retirees Association Conference:

Betty M. Suddarth, W. Scott Rumble, and Martha O. Chiscon represented PURA at the Big Ten Retirees Association held on the campus of Pennsylvania State University.

Campus and Community Tours:

Tours of new campus buildings (Mann and Armstrong Halls); visits to the Columbian Park Zoo, the Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab, and the Lafayette Symphony; and lunch at the Athletic Dining Room prior to the Purdue Women's exhibition basketball game comprised the campus and community organized tours for PURA members.

Endowment:

PURA established an endowment with the Purdue Foundation using the reimbursement from the United Health/ PacifiCare Performance Guarantee. Earnings generated by the endowment will benefit Purdue retirees. Betty Nelson, chair of the Endowment Committee, worked with Purdue Marketing Communications to develop a brochure announcing this endowment.

Handbook:

The updated handbook for retirees was formatted as a tri-fold and sent to members with the July

2007 PURA Newsletter. Sufficient copies were produced to cover two years distribution.

Kickoff Luncheon:

A record 379 Purdue retirees and friends attended the luncheon at University Plaza September 10. Dr. France Cordova, Purdue's new president, was the featured speaker.

Newsletter:

In the future, the PURA Newsletter will be distributed to all Purdue retirees four times each year in January or February, March, July, and November. Development of the new web site for PURA is in progress.

President Martin C. and Patty Jischke Recognition:

PURA has five years to reach the \$20,000 contribution goal for the Martin C. and Patty Jischke Opportunity Award Endowment. To date, \$12,000 has been given. The Purdue Opportunity Award is granted to students who have high financial need, personal hardship(s), and/or other extenuating circumstances. One award is designated for each of Indiana's 92 counties.

Programs:

Monthly meetings, held at MCL, featured a variety of topics presented by engaging speakers. A listing of program titles and the presenters is included with the archival materials.

Purdue University Strategic Plan:

Betty Suddarth represented PURA on the Campus Design Committee, one of eight Tiger Teams, appointed by President Cordova to participate in the process of developing a meaningful and comprehensive university strategic plan. Several retirees contributed ideas at the various open forums that were held on campus.

Purposeful Living in Retirement:

The fourth retirement conference (formerly Living to 100) was held April 23 at University Plaza. The presentations focused on preserving family history, discovering one's second career, personality and longevity in purposeful living, a spiritual bucket list, and solutions for care givers.

Spring Fling:

The Hospitality Committee again hosted a PURA tent at Spring Fling. Informational brochures about ongoing benefits official Purdue retirees receive, and magnetic folders for addresses were distributed to attendees.

State College Retirement Associations:

Michael Drayer volunteered to research the possibility of organizing meetings with representatives from other Indiana college retirement associations. He found, however, that only Indiana University and Purdue University have organized retirement associations.

Trips and Tours:

One hundred nineteen (119) members and friends participated in enjoyable and entertaining trips around Indiana (French Lick and West Baden, the Railroad Museum and Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge, Rose Hulman Institute and the Clabber Girl Museum, Indiana University campus and the Oliver Winery), and to the Gerald Ford Museum and Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

United Way:

As pacesetters, Purdue retirees gave \$83,949 to the United Way Campaign. This amount was only \$51 short of the \$84,000 goal.

Comprehensive reports regarding PURA activities and accomplishments during the year, June 2007 through May 2008, are filed in the Purdue University Library Archives and Special Collections. A guide to the PURA records can be accessed on the web at <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/>

May 2008

Mary Alice Nebold, Historian

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