

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
2015-2016
YEAR IN REVIEW**

Officers and Advisor:

President	Olivia B. Wood
Vice President	Melinda H. Bain
Secretary	Deborah L. Dimmitt
Treasurer	Robert W. Bain
Historian	Carolyn T. Jones
Past President	Dan E. Collins
Advisor	Trenten D. Klingerman

Committee Chairs:

Benefits	Don K. Gentry
Campus and Community Activities	Richard C. Nelson
Communication	Karen E. Lembcke and Suzanne M. Collins
Endowment	E. Suzanne Hiser
Hospitality	Jeris G. Eikenberry and Dorothy A. Jones
Kickoff Luncheon	Sarah C. Johnson and Ann J. Pickett
Program	Sue W. Scholar and Don D. Jones
Purposeful Living Conference	W. Scott Rumble
Scholarship	Melinda H. Bain
Trips and Tours	Thomas L. Haworth

Annual Transition Meeting:

Considerable planning was done for the coming year, and progress reports were given by each PURA committee at the annual transition meeting on May 17, 2016. Amy Noah, Purdue's Vice President for Development, was the luncheon speaker. Outgoing PURA board and committee members were recognized for their service, and outgoing president Olivia Wood passed the PURA Key to incoming president Melinda Bain.

Award Recipients:

Arthur G. Hansen Award:

Purdue Extension (formerly the Cooperative Extension Service) received the 2015 Hansen Award for its many accomplishments in cultivating and maintaining relationships with its retirees. With support from their department, the 285 CES retirees statewide remain connected with the University and their colleagues through departmental e-mails, newsletters, and conferences as well as with each other through special retiree trips and social gatherings. Accompanying the Hansen Award are a trophy and a \$2500 prize funded by TIAA-CREF for use in furthering strengthening the department's ties with its retirees.

Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award:

W. Scott Rumble received the 2015 Nelson Award presented annually to an individual or organization providing outstanding service to a broad range of Purdue retirees. Scott has been a member of PURA's benefits, endowment, and kick-off luncheon committees. In 2007, he was elected vice president of PURA, and in 2008-2009, he served as president. Since 2013, Scott has chaired PURA's Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference which under his leadership has grown from a biannual

to an annual conference and has become PURA's signature spring event. For his unending contributions to PURA and Purdue retirees, Scott was presented a trophy, and his name has been inscribed on the permanently mounted Nelson Award plaque in the Purdue Memorial Union.

Big Ten Retirees Conference:

Melinda and Bob Bain represented Purdue at the annual Big Ten Retirees Conference at Michigan State in August 2015. Purdue retirees should be very proud, they reported, of our many benefits, programs, and activities and especially about the great relationship we have with our University. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case at many of our Big Ten counterparts. Next summer's conference will be at Nebraska. In 2017, Purdue will be the host of this three-day event. Melinda is chairing the planning committee for the latter.

Campus and Community Activities:

During Fall 2015, Purdue retirees participated in on-campus tours of the new VOSS Display (Visiting Our Solar System) dedicated in memory of Purdue astronaut Janice Voss and the Learning Research Center. Off campus, we visited the Community Garden in Lafayette and viewed some of the city's other efforts at going green. Events during the spring semester featured attending a men's varsity tennis match at Schwartz Tennis Center and going to a Boilermaker softball and a Purdue baseball game. PURA's second Common Read also occurred. This year's selection was Little Else than a Memory, a collection of biographies about graduates from Purdue's Class of 1904 written and published by students in a present-day freshman honors English class. Attendance at these events totaled about 125.

Endowments:

The PURA Endowment encompasses two funds. Earnings from the Activities and Opportunities Fund are used to support programs related to health matters and educational opportunities for retirees as well as for fellowship activities for new retirees. This year, a \$2,500 grant was awarded to the Center for Families and the Life Course to help sponsor an on-campus conference in Fall 2016 on Time Horizons and Optimal Aging. The second fund, the Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin and Patty Jischke, is a special scholarship established by PURA to honor the Jischkes. The first of four annual awards from this fund was made in 2012-13 to Michael McCormick who will graduate in August 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology and a certificate in Entrepreneurship.

Fitness and Wellness Programs:

Retirees on the PURcare health insurance plan are eligible for free membership in Silver Sneakers which with strong encouragement from PURA is available at two sites on campus—the Ismail Center and the Córdoba Recreational Sports Center. Not only do retirees have complete access to these facilities at no cost, we can use all of the equipment as well as participate in special classes and programs each has developed for seniors. PURA also has been instrumental in encouraging and publicizing numerous free and/or low cost on-campus health screenings for retirees including those for cholesterol, glucose, high density lipo-protein, and blood pressure. Among the evaluations available to retirees are those for cardio-vascular risk, body-mass index, hearing and, peripheral vascular disease. Medication therapy management also is available as are screening physical exams. All are offered thru clinics and centers in various academic departments across the campus. Perhaps the most popular wellness program for retirees is the annual University-sponsored free flu shot clinic. Three days were reserved solely for retiree inoculations in 2016. The already large number of participants continues to increase every year.

Health Insurance:

PURA continues to make two elective Medicare senior supplement health and prescription drug insurance plans (PURcare and Medical Advantage PPO) available to Purdue retirees. In an environment this past year characterized by an increasing impact of the Affordable Care Act of 2010, subsidy reductions from Medicare, and a surge in prescription drug costs, thoughtful and deliberate negotiations with UnitedHealthcare led by PURA's Benefits Committee produced an overall 4.4% reduction in premium for the former plan and a flat premium for the latter for the more than 2500 Purdue retirees covered!! Additionally during 2015-16, the Benefits Committee negotiated a new one- payment- per-household or per- member billing process for PURcare participants as well as an involuntary termination policy with UnitedHealthcare for failure to pay a premium. It also addressed health insurance alternatives for retirees under the age of sixty-five and led the way in forging a new partnership making it possible for PURA, Purdue University, and the Henriott Group to set up a private exchange program that will provide Purdue retirees an opportunity to review a number of plans and enroll in one if it meets their needs better than other pre-Medicare alternatives available elsewhere. Already with an eye on next year, the PURA Benefits Committee is studying the projected impact of high costs and specialty drugs on our health plans and reviewing options available for vision care and preventative dental care as it prepares to negotiate PURA's health insurance plans for 2017.

Hospitality:

PURA strives to be a very welcoming organization, and our Hospitality Committee members continue to be wonderful hosts and ambassadors. In these roles, they greet and assist participants at our many programs and activities. They also prepare and distribute information about pre-retirement and retirement. This year, they developed and distributed a special business card that publicizes PURA and includes a list of important benefits and interesting opportunities available to Purdue retirees.

Kickoff Luncheon:

248 Purdue retirees and friends attended the annual Kickoff Luncheon at Four Points by Sheraton on September 14, 2015. Vic Lechtenberg, the featured speaker and recent retiree, shared reflections on Purdue from his perspective as professor, Dean of Agriculture, Vice Provost for Engagement, Provost, and most recently Special Assistant to the President. In addition to reconnecting with former colleagues and being entertained by Vic's many humorous stories, 60 of the attendees also went home with door prizes donated by 31 vendors.

Monthly Luncheon Programs:

Featuring a variety of topics ranging from the Master Gardner Program to the World War II Battle of the Bulge, an update from the Provost to a report on the Status of Battery Research, and a presentation regarding new developments in hearing aid technology to plans for Indiana's Bicentennial, PURA's luncheon programs continue to be well received. About 85 retirees attended each month. A complete list of the programs and speakers is on file in the University Archives. It also can be found in the Program Chair's annual report under the Archives tab on the PURA website: www.purdue.edu/retirees

Pre-Retirement Meetings:

The chair of the PURA Benefits Committee joined staff from Purdue's Human Resources Services in presenting retirement planning seminars for active employees. Five of these informative programs reaching over 350 current employees were presented in 2015-16.

PURA Newsletter:

The PURA newsletter grew from a quarterly to a monthly publication this year and was renamed PURA News. Its goal is to keep retirees better informed in a more timely manner of upcoming events and opportunities as well as to report and include photos of these after they occur. An edition in color is e-mailed to all retirees who have electronic addresses on file. A black and white copy is mailed to local retirees for whom PURA does not have electronic addresses. In addition, each edition is available on the PURA website. PURA News is written and produced by our Communications Committee. It has been very well received and much appreciated by Purdue retirees.

PURA Student Scholarship:

The PURA Student Scholarship Committee was created in 2015 initially to promote fundraising for the Jischke Scholarship Endowment. While preparing to undertake this project, the committee was made aware of new matching funds that were available to create endowed Affordability Scholarships. Seizing this opportunity, the committee recommended and the Board approved making an initial pledge to raise \$25,000. With matching funds, PURA would be able to endow a \$50,000 scholarship in perpetuity for Indiana students with financial need to attend Purdue. Optimistic that retirees would be able to accomplish this, the Board, upon recommendation of the committee, authorized that PURA aim to raise up to an additional \$25,000 for this scholarship that also would be matched. Fundraising began on Purdue's annual Day of Giving on April 27, 2016. Within 24 hours, PURA raised \$15,800. Additional contributions shortly thereafter brought the early-May total donated for the PURA Student Scholarship up to \$17,300!

PURA 20/25 Task Force:

A special task force focusing on the future was created during 2016 to address what PURA might/could/should look like in 2025. Members will seek suggestions from current and prospective retirees, dream up other possibilities, analyze all of these ideas, and present a summary report of their findings and recommendations to the PURA Board later this year for consideration and possible implementation.

PURA Website: www.purdue.edu/retirees

The PURA website continues to be a comprehensive one-stop repository for current information about PURA programs, activities, benefits, health insurance, and short term employment opportunities at Purdue. It also contains archival information regarding PURA history as well as copies of past newsletters and annual reports. Links are included to information regarding University cultural and athletic events as well as announcements about Purdue and community events and resources. Our website is updated monthly by the Communications Committee. It continues to attract increasing numbers of viewers every year.

Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference:

176 attendees and 25 commercial exhibitors participated in PURA's signature annual Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference at the Beck Center on April 20, 2016. Topics covered included Hearing Your Best: A Critical Component to a Good Life (Susan Lopez, Au.D); The Upside to RIGHTSizing: Thinking BIG about going SMALL (Danielle Gaylord); Retiring from the Job but not the Economy! (Charlene Sullivan, Ph.D); and What's New in Health Care and Insurance (Don Gentry, Ph.D). A summary of the findings of the prescription drug utilization and dosage data gathered at last year's conference was presented. (Matthew Murawski, R.Ph., PhD.) This year's attendees also were given an opportunity to have their medications analyzed and receive a personal computer-generated medication side effects analysis to share with their physicians.

Retiree Giving to Purdue:

As of February 2016, Purdue had 4688 living official retirees. During 2015, they contributed \$4,035,162.45 in outright and deferred gifts to the University!

Retiree Giving to the United Way of Greater Lafayette:

Purdue retirees living locally continue to be generous pacesetters. Collectively we donated \$127,775 to the United Way of Greater Lafayette. Our 2016 contribution was our largest yet!

Short- Employment Program for Purdue Retirees:

Begun a year ago, this program continues to grow and receive very positive feedback. Purdue retirees can sign up for automatic early notification (about 150 already have done this) or check PURA's website for information about non-benefit, short term employment opportunities at the University. When applying, they receive priority consideration if they are qualified over candidates who are not Purdue retirees.

Spring Fling:

Many retirees return to campus for this annual event in May not only to reconnect with former colleagues and participate in the fitness walk but also to help distribute food and assist with the various contests and games. Our Hospitality and Benefits committees staff the PURA information tent and provide insightful information to those in the workforce about preparing for and enjoying retirement.

Treasury Operations:

PURA bylaws were revised in 2015 splitting the office of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions. The rationale for creating separate offices was to strengthen understanding and better manage PURA's fiscal resources. Considerable progress was made toward these ends the past year. Sources and uses of funds were researched. The monthly financial report to PURA's Executive Board was streamlined and its timeliness improved. Balances were reviewed, and recommendations by the Treasurer were approved by the Board to transfer funds from operations into PURA's two undergraduate scholarship endowments.

Trips and Tours:

About 70 Purdue retirees hit the road this year exploring and enjoying the following trips PURA sponsored in collaboration with Imperial Travel: "Historic Byways and Yard Sales along State Highway 40 from Richmond to Indianapolis," "Chocolate Trail and Winery Along the Old National Road," "Chicago Your Way (Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, Navy Pier, Water Tower Place)," and Riverboat Cruise Along the Ohio River on the Belle of Louisville."

University President's Reception for Retirees:

Over 100 PURA members attended a reception hosted by Mitch Daniels for retirees on July 27, 2015 in the Purdue Memorial Union East and West Faculty Lounges. In welcoming the group, he thanked those present for their dedicated and stellar service to the University as well as their continuing interest in financially supporting Purdue and the United Way. He also commended PURA for being the Big Ten's premier retiree organization. Following a short update on the status of the University, the President encouraged and responded to retirees' questions and concerns.

Carolyn Jones, PURA Historian
May 2016