

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
2016-2017
YEAR IN REVIEW**

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS:

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|----------------|--|
| President | Melinda H. Bain |
| Vice President | John O. Trott |
| Secretary | Deborah L. Dimmitt |
| Treasurer | Robert W. Bain |
| Historian | Carolyn T. Jones |
| Past President | Olivia B. Wood |
| Advisors | Trenten D. Klingerman 7/16-10/16 Denny D. Darrow 11/16-6/17 |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS;

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Benefits | Don K. Gentry |
| Big Ten Retirees Conference | Melinda H. Bain |
| Campus and Community Activities | Richard C. Nelson |
| Communication | Karen E. Lembcke and Suzanne M. Collins |
| Endowment | E. Suzanne Hiser |
| Hospitality | Nina Barron-Burke |
| Kickoff Luncheon | Sarah C. Johnson and Ann J. Pickett |
| Program | Don D. Jones and John A. Schneider |
| Purposeful Living Conference | Jeanne V. Norberg and Olivia B. Wood |
| Student Scholarship | Melinda H. Bain |
| Trips and Tours | Thomas L. Hayworth and Joma Roe |

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

2016 marked the 40th anniversary of the beginning of our retirees' association. Created in 1976 by President Arthur G. Hansen as the President's Advisory Council on Retirement (PACR), its role was primarily to help bridge the gap retirees perceived between themselves and the University. An Executive Committee plus three other committees—Benefits, Program, and Communications—were created. Over the years, mutually beneficial relationships developed. In 2001-02, an official set of bylaws was adopted, the University agreed to provide some funding, and the group's name was changed to Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA). The events that follow highlight our 40th anniversary celebration.

ANNUAL TRANSITION MEETING:

Considerable planning was done for the coming year, and progress reports were given by each PURA committee at the May 31, 2017 Annual Transition Meeting. Michael Cline, Purdue's Vice President for Physical Facilities, was the luncheon speaker. Outgoing PURA board and committee members were recognized for their service, and outgoing president Melinda Bain passed the PURA Key to incoming president John Trott.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Arthur G. Hansen Award: The College of Health and Human Sciences with special recognition to the Office of Student Services received the 2016-17 Arthur G. Hansen Award for excellence in cultivating and

maintaining relationships with its retirees. The latter continue to be invited to college and departmental recognition receptions, luncheons, and dinners as well as seminars and lectures. Publications and electronic newsletters are sent regularly. Moreover, HHS retirees note they feel genuinely welcome when they do return to their former workplaces. For continually fostering meaningful relationships with its retirees, the College of Health and Human Sciences received a trophy and a \$2500 award funded by TIAA.

Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award: Jeris Eikenberry, PURA's own "piano man," received the 2016-17 Nelson Award presented annually to an individual or organization that provides outstanding service to a broad range of Purdue retirees. In addition to playing at PURA's monthly program meetings, Jeris chaired our Hospitality Committee for six years. He also served six years on PURA's Benefits Committee. Currently he is a member of our Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference Committee. For all he has done over many years for PURA and Purdue retirees, Jeris was presented a trophy at the Kickoff Luncheon, and his name has been inscribed on the permanently-mounted Betty M. Nelson Award plaque in the Purdue Memorial Union.

BENEFITS:

Health Insurance--Medicare Supplement Programs: PURA continues to make two elective Medicare senior supplement health and prescription drug plans (PURcare and Medical Advantage PPO) available to Purdue retirees. Much to the pleasure of our 2500+ participants, PURA's Benefits Committee has successfully negotiated flat premiums for PURcare the past six years and for the Medicare Advantage PPO for the past three! What a major and greatly appreciated accomplishment this has been in an era of surging prescription drug costs and price increases resulting from the continuing impact of the Affordable Care Act of 2010!

Health Insurance—Pre-65 Retiree Option: In Fall 2016, our Benefits Committee in partnership with Purdue Human Resources implemented an option developed during the previous year focused on working with the Henriott Group in Lafayette, Indiana to provide pre-65 retirees an opportunity to explore buying health insurance on the open market thru the Indiana Health Insurance Exchange. This option gives pre-65 retirees a chance to see what is available and to determine whether they are eligible for a subsidy from the Federal government to assist with premium payments. Those exploring this option found it quite helpful in determining how best to meet their health insurance needs.

Preventative Dental Plan: A new optional plan providing preventative dental coverage was developed by our Benefits Committee in cooperation with the University and contracted with Blue Cross Blue Shield. To participate, retirees need not be on one of PURA's medical plans. More than anticipated enrolled.

End of Life Planning Documents: Another new initiative rolled out this year by PURA's Benefits Committee is a set of documents to help retirees organize their affairs, express their wishes, and provide their loved ones assistance in handling end of life matters. Included is a form for recording important contact information, a survivor's checklist regarding what to do when a loved one passes away, and an inventory "Organizing My Affairs" to help retirees gather and record information those responsible for managing their estates will need. All of these documents are available under "Benefits" on the PURA website www.purdue.edu/retirees

Fact Sheet Explaining the Differences in Hospital Inpatient Status:

Our Benefits Committee's also developed a fact sheet defining the differences between inpatient admission and inpatient observation. Understanding each is important, for they impact medical as well as prescription drug coverage in different ways. A copy of this material was mailed to our retirees. It also is available under "Benefits" on PURA's website.

Fitness and Wellness Programs: Retirees with PURcare health insurance are eligible for free membership in Silver Sneakers which with PURA's encouragement can be used at two sites on campus—the Ismail Center and the Cordova Recreational Sports Center. Not only do Silver Sneakers members continue to have complete access to these facilities at no cost, they can use all equipment as well as participate in special classes and programs for seniors. PURA also has been instrumental in encouraging and publicizing numerous free and/or low cost health screenings open to all Purdue retirees. These are offered thru clinics and centers in various academic departments across the campus. Perhaps the most popular University-sponsored wellness program for Purdue retirees and their spouses is the annual free flu shot clinic. Three days were reserved solely for retiree inoculations in 2016, and 1076 retirees participated.

Other Retiree Benefits:

The University continues to make the following additional benefits available to official Purdue retirees : free "A" parking permits, staff discounts on tickets to University-sponsored (including athletic) events, access to the Purdue Pharmacy and to services at the Nursing Center for Family Health, free rides on City Bus, access to the facilities and services of the Purdue libraries, eligibility to retain Purdue e-mail accounts, and an opportunity to enroll in Purdue classes at current faculty/staff prices.

BIG TEN RETIREES ASSOCIATIONS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The 2016 conference was held at the University of Nebraska. PURA was represented by Melinda and Bob Bain. The 2017 conference will take place at Purdue on August 25-27. Focusing on organizational improvement, the PURA planning committee has selected the theme **Together We Soar, Best Practices and Sharing Ideas for Operating a Successful Retiree Association**. An interesting feature will be the keynote address featuring Purdue alum Jerry Ross, a former NASA astronaut, and John Norberg, Purdue retiree and writer, who together authored Ross's story, Spacewalker: My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA's Record-Setting Flyer. The program will be formatted much like Purdue's annual Common Read. All PURA members will be invited to join conference participants from across the Big Ten for this event.

BYLAW CHANGES:

At the recommendation of the Executive Board, the PURA membership approved the following changes to the PURA bylaws in April, 2017:

---To coincide with the University's fiscal year, the dates for PURA's business year were changed to July 1 thru June 30.

---The word "standing" preceding the words "committee" or "committees" was removed throughout the bylaws. All committees now have equal status.

---Uniform term expectations/limits (3 year terms with a maximum of six year uninterrupted service on the same committee) were removed. Each committee now will be able to set it own term expectations and limits.

---Other new provisions that were added regarding committees include the following:

---The Executive Board shall have the authority to create, restructure, and disband committees as circumstances dictate.

---Committee members shall be recruited by their respective chairs and confirmed by the

Executive Board.

---Committee members and chairs shall assume their responsibilities at PURA's Annual Transition Meeting.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

During the past year, PURA members and their guests visited the Tippecanoe County Election Commission at the county courthouse to learn more about early voting, traveled to Chicago by train on the Hoosier State and enjoyed a day in the Windy City, engaged in a variety of virtual reality experiences at Purdue's Envision Center, and participated in PURA's annual Common Read at the University Archives. Slow Ball Cartoonist, a biography of John McCutcheon, a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist from Lafayette, was discussed. A collection of McCutcheon's cartoons housed in the archives was on display. Attendance at these events totaled about 100. Yet to come this spring is a sneak preview of the new Wilmeth Active Learning Center which is scheduled to open in fall 2017. Considerable interest is being expressed among retirees about touring this huge new contemporary classroom/library facility.

ENDOWMENTS:

PURA's Endowment Committee works with two of PURA's endowed funds. The Purdue Opportunity Award in honor of Martin and Patty Jischke is a scholarship fund that helps support students whose financial circumstances would keep them from attending college. Decisions regarding the recipient are made by the Division of Financial Aid. Our first four-year recipient, Michael McCormick graduated in August, 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology and a certificate in Entrepreneurship. Our second Jischke Scholar, Kiana Bowen, is a freshman majoring in Technical Graphics. PURA's second fund is the Activities and Opportunities Fund. Earnings from it are used to support programs related to health matters, and other educational opportunities for retirees, and fellowship activities for new retirees. During 2016-17, grants were given to support a conference, Time Horizons and Optimal Aging sponsored by the Center for Families and Life Care (\$2500) and mailing costs (\$4714) for a PURA Benefits Committee fact sheet sent to all Purdue retirees regarding the differences between inpatient admission and observation.

HOSPITALITY:

PURA continues to be a very welcoming organization. Our Hospitality Committee members are wonderful hosts and ambassadors. Whether it be at our monthly luncheon program meetings, flu-shot clinics, or day-long special events such as our Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference, they are there to greet and assist with whatever is needed. They also help staff the PURA Information Tent at Spring Fling, the University's annual faculty-staff appreciation event.

KICKOFF LUNCHEON:

273 retirees and friends attended this year's annual Kickoff Luncheon held at Four Points by Sheraton. William E. Sullivan, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer at Purdue, was the featured speaker. Focusing on areas in which Purdue excels, he discussed a long list of accomplishments ranging from being one of only six public institutions in the US with a AAA rating by Standard & Poor and Moody to our world-wide preeminence in Zika virus mapping and research. It was a good day to be a Boilermaker!

MONTHLY LUNCHEON PROGRAMS:

Unless it falls on a holiday, Purdue retirees meet the first Monday each month at a local cafeteria, MCL, for lunch, good fellowship, and interesting programs. Speakers on topics ranging from the State of the West Lafayette School System, to Self-Driving Cars, to 100 Years at the Indiana State Parks, and from What is Virtual Reality and How Can It Be Used, to Honey Bee Research, to Meeting Purdue's New

Athletic Director brought an average of about 80 retirees monthly to these meetings. A complete list of the programs and speakers for 2016-17 can be found in the Program Committee Chair's annual report under "Archives" on the PURA Website www.purdue.edu/retirees In addition to arranging these programs, our Program Committee also has been exploring possible solutions to the problems arising from inadequate A/V equipment at MCL. Shortly, its plan to bring a proposal to the PURA Board to partner with the Lafayette Kiwanis Club, which also meets at MCL, to cost-share in purchasing a permanently mounted 65" TV set that would greatly enhance A/V capabilities for both groups.

PRE-RETIREMENT MEETINGS:

Representatives from the PURA Benefits Committee continue to join staff from Purdue's Human Resources Services in presenting retirement planning seminars for current employees. About 200 participants attended these sessions this year.

PURA NEWSLETTER:

PURA News is sent monthly either electronically to those with e-mail addresses on file or by US Mail to our local retirees who have not provided e-mail addresses. Copies also are available worldwide via the PURA website. The goal of PURA News is to keep our retirees informed in a timely manner of upcoming events and opportunities as well as to report on and include photos of these after they occur. Written and produced by our Communications Committee, PURA News continues to be well received and much appreciated by Purdue retirees

PURA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:

In 2015, PURA pledged to raise \$50,000 by 2020 to endow an Affordability Scholarship that would make it possible for more Indiana students with considerable financial need to attend Purdue. As part of this pledge, the University agreed to match dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 what PURA raised. By the end of April, 2016, we raised \$17,300. A year later, this total increased to \$34,908. When PURA's total reached \$25,000 earlier this year, the University transferred its first \$25,000 in matching money. Thanks to PURA's creative Student Scholarship Committee and Purdue's generous retirees, what appeared to be a stretch when we began two years ago, now is clearly looking attainable!

PURA 2020 TASK FORCE:

Our 2020 Task Force was charged with identifying areas that PURA needed to address to ensure our continuing excellence. The first focused on modifications needed in organization and structure. The bylaw changes noted earlier were made in partial response to this. Updating PURA's policies, procedures, and other governing documents as well as making them more visible also was proposed. Other recommendations included developing a formal marketing plan, considering additional avenues for communicating with Purdue retirees, and ensuring each committee has access to the technology expertise needed to carry out its work.

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 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 regarding University cultural and athletic events as well as announcements about Purdue and community events and resources. Our website is updated at least monthly by the Communications Committee. It continues to attract increasing numbers of viewers.

PURPOSEFUL LIVING IN RETIREMENT CONFERENCE:

This day-long conference has quickly become PURA's annual spring signature event. Held at the Beck Agricultural Center in West Lafayette, the 2017 conference attracted 184 attendees and 23 exhibitors. Program topics included Eating Healthy for a Better Retirement; Let's Get Moving: Exercise for Retirees; Helping Your Doctor Assess Your Physical Fitness; If Technology Has You Baffled, Here are Some Answers; Tips for Medical Emergencies; Insuring Our Health; and Adult Daycare.

RETIREE GIVING TO PURDUE:

Purdue retirees continue to be very generous givers. Thru October, we contributed \$4,079,812 in outright and deferred gifts to the University during 2016.

RETIREE GIVING TO THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER LAFAYETTE:

Local Purdue retirees also continue to support their community. Contributing \$123,975 to the United Way in 2016 marks the sixth consecutive year our annual contributions have exceeded \$100,000!

SPRING FLING:

Many retirees continue to return to Purdue in May for this annual campus-wide employee appreciation event. They come not only to reconnect with former colleagues and participate in the fitness walk but also to help distribute food and assist with the various games and contests. Some also staff the PURA Information Tent and provide insightful information to those in the workforce about preparing for and enjoying retirement.

TRIPS AND TOURS:

Purdue retirees and their friends had opportunities to travel to a variety of places throughout Indiana as well as in Ohio and Kentucky this past year. Our Trips and Tours Committee currently is surveying our members to gain better insight into where their future travel interests lie.

2016-17 has been a busy year. The annual reports written by our officers and committee chairs tell even more about all that occurred. These are available on PURA's website under "Archive", "Recent Annual Reports".

Carolyn Jones, Historian
Purdue University Retirees Association
May 2017