

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
2017-2018  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

**OFFICERS AND ADVISORS:**

President	John O. Trott
Vice President	Don K. Gentry
Secretary	Deborah L. Dimmitt
Treasurer	Robert W. Bain
Historian	Carolyn T. Jones
Past President	Melinda H. Bain
Advisors	Denny D. Darrow 7/17-2/18 Christopher A. Ruhl 3/18—6/18

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Benefits	Larry Pherson
Big Ten Conference	Melinda H. Bain
Campus and Community Activities	Richard C. Nelson
Communication	Karen F. Lembcke and Suzanne M. Collins
Endowment	E. Suzanne Hiser
Hospitality	William I. Bennett
Kickoff Luncheon	Sarah C. Johnson and Anne J. Pickett 7/17-10/18 Karen D. Ferry and Viki S. Taylor 11/17-6/18
Program	Roy A. Johnson and John A. Schneider
Purposeful Living Conference	Olivia B. Wood
Student Scholarship	Melinda H. Bain
Trips and Tours	Joma Roe

**ANNUAL TRANSITION MEETING:**

Considerable planning was done for the coming year, and progress reports were given by each committee at the May 30, 2018 Annual Transition Meeting. Tom Turpin, incoming PURA Vice President and Professor Emeritus of Entomology, was the luncheon speaker. Outgoing officers, committee chairs, and committee members were honored. In recognition of their service, a donation was made in each of their names to the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. The program concluded with the passing of the PURA Key from outgoing president John Trott to incoming president Don Gentry.

**AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

**Arthur G. Hansen Award:**

The recipient of the 2017 Hansen Award for cultivating and maintaining meaningful relationships with Purdue retirees was Human Resource Services. For many years, the HR staff has assisted retirees in numerous ways including providing access to in-house and external consulting services relative to Medicare supplemental and pre-65 medical insurance, offering help when needed resolving claims issues, involving retirees in Spring Fling activities, providing retirees a temporary employment service, offering flu shots at no cost to retirees, and providing clerical support for PURA programs and activities. For its continuing excellence in fostering meaningful relationships and supporting Purdue retirees, Human Resource Services received a trophy and a \$2500 award from TIAA.

### **Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award:**

Melinda Bain, past PURA secretary, vice president, president, and chair of the Big Ten Retirees Associations' Annual Conference as well as current chair of PURA's Student Scholarship Committee received PURA's 2018 Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award for her many contributions to Purdue retirees. A small sampling of her many noteworthy accomplishments include chairing the highly acclaimed Big Ten Retirees Association Conference hosted by Purdue in 2017, initiating the PURA Student Scholarship Fund, securing a \$50,000 1:1 matching challenge grant for it, and with help from her committee, raising the funds needed to receive the grant and endow the fund in record time! For her unending contributions to PURA and Purdue retirees, Melinda was presented a trophy at the Kickoff Luncheon, and her name has been inscribed on the permanently mounted Nelson Award plaque in the Purdue Memorial Union.

### **BENEFITS:**

The PURcare and Medicare Advantage Plans were extended for 2018. Both plans remained unchanged. The premium for Medicare Advantage, \$208.49 per month, remained the same. The monthly premium for PURcare increased for the first time in 4 years to \$282.73. Working with University staff and healthcare consultants, the PURA Benefits Committee was able to negotiate UnitedHealthcare's initially proposed 60% increase for PURcare down to 7.2%. Currently, about 2600 Purdue retirees have elected to be covered under one of these two health insurance plans.

Following the completion of negotiations for the 2018 healthcare plans, a list of nine action items to improve working relations between the Benefits Committee and UnitedHealthcare was developed. While progress has been made on resolving the concerns that were identified, continued effort will be devoted to this important initiative by both parties during the coming months.

With the implementation of License Plate Recognition, the Benefits Committee worked with Parking Facilities to ensure that retirees preferring not to participate in LPR will not have to surrender the five-year complimentary "A" parking permits they were issued in July 2017. Other new retiree benefits this year include being able to enroll tuition-free in on-line courses offered by Purdue Global and being eligible for Purdue employee perks at Fast Park & Relax, a parking facility near the Indianapolis airport.

### **BIG TEN RETIREES ASSOCIATIONS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**

"Fabulous conference," "thought provoking," and "excellent—gave me ideas" were among the many comments received from participants from other Big Ten universities attending the annual Big Ten Retirees Association Conference hosted on campus August 25-27 by PURA. Numerous group discussions organized around the conference theme, **Together We Soar—Best Practices and Sharing of Ideas for Operating a Successful Retiree Association**, resulted in lively, informative exchanges on a wide variety of topics. However, all was not work. Conferees participated in a PURA Common Read and heard Purdue astronaut Jerry Ross and co-author John Norberg discuss *Spacewalker: My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA's Record-Breaking Frequent Flyer*. The conferees also were treated to a special flight and space exploration exhibit in the University Archives, participated in an aviation-themed campus tour, visited the newly-opened Wilmeth Active Learning Center, heard after dinner speakers Vice President for Human Resources Denny Darrow and Provost Jay Akridge, were serenaded by PMO's BaNaNa with favorites from the 50's and 60's, and concluded their visit with a ride on the Boilermaker Special. In summarizing his thoughts about the conference, one participant wrote, "Purdue is a class university." Another responded, "You all did Purdue proud!"

**CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

From visiting the state-of-the-art locker, training, and instructional rooms in the new Football Performance Facility, to watching robots in action from the catwalks above the production lines at the local Subaru of Indiana automotive plant, to seeing how Purdue researchers study plant growth in the Controlled Environment Phenotyping Facility on campus, Purdue retirees thoroughly enjoyed exploring new horizons this past year. PURA also sponsored a privately conducted tour featuring exterior murals and other outside art in downtown Lafayette as well as a trip to Cook Biotech in West Lafayette where members discovered how that company, a world leader, uses animal tissue to replace and regenerate tissue in a variety of human organs as tiny as the inner ear. Finally, our retirees had an out-of-world experience as Purdue astronaut Jerry Ross and co-author John Norberg discussed the former's biography and shared photos Jerry had taken from space at this year's Common Read which was held during the Big Ten Retirees Association Conference. Attendance at these events totaled about 320.

**ENDOWMENTS:**

The Endowment Committee has responsibility for managing two endowments—the PURA Activities and Opportunity Fund and the Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin and Patty Jischke. The earnings from the former are to be used for the general good of Purdue retirees or to support activities such as programs related to health matters, educational opportunities, or special initiatives for new retirees. During the past year, \$2000 was awarded from the A&O Fund to the Center for Aging and the Life Course (CALC) to help support its symposium on Aging Across the Generations, and \$788 was awarded to help underwrite the Big Ten Retirees Association Conference. An additional \$2000 was committed to CALC to help support next fall's symposium on Technological Innovation in Aging. The earnings from the Opportunity Award Fund are to be used solely for Purdue Opportunity scholarship awards to Indiana students whose financial circumstances would keep them from attending the University. Kiana Bowen, a sophomore in Purdue's Polytechnic Institute studying game design and animation, received PURA's Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin and Patty Jischke this past academic year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

The Executive Board approved a proposal to establish a PURA Finance Committee at its April 2018 board meeting. Responsibilities include overseeing the financial status and affairs of PURA, understanding the financial resources and uses of PURA funds, preparing an annual budget for approval by the Executive Board, establishing and reviewing procedures for financial controls, orienting the president-elect about PURA finances, and responding to requests from the Executive Board. The Finance Committee is to meet at least quarterly to review PURA's financial situation, consider and recommend sources and uses of funds, and report to the Executive Board as appropriate. The committee will be chaired by the PURA Treasurer. Other initial members include the Vice President, President, and Past President of PURA. Additional members, if/when needed, will be nominated and approved per the PURA bylaws.

With the addition of this new committee, responsibility for administering PURA's Activities and Opportunities Fund will be transferred from the Endowment Committee to the Finance Committee. All fund raising, mentoring, and other administrative responsibilities related to the Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin and Patty Jischke will be transferred to the Student Scholarship Committee. The Endowment Committee will be dissolved.

**HOSPITALITY:**

PURA continues to be a very welcoming organization. Our Hospitality Committee members are wonderful hosts and ambassadors. Whether it is at our Kickoff or monthly program luncheons, the flu shot clinics, or our annual Purposeful Living in Retirement Seminar, they are there to greet and assist with whatever is needed. Moreover, they also prepare holiday table decoration for our luncheons, display and distribute promotional materials, and participate on the planning committee as well as staff the PURA Information Table at Spring Fling.

**KICKOFF LUNCHEON:**

238 retirees and friends attended the annual Kickoff Luncheon on September 11, 2017 at Four Points by Sheraton. Michael R. Berghoff, Chair of the Board of Trustees, was the featured speaker. Highlighting recent changes and the impact they were having on the University, he noted in particular the increases in the percentages of first-generation students, underrepresented students, students selecting majors in the STEM disciplines, four-year graduation rates, and faculty members receiving research awards and patents. He also pointed out that student debt at graduation had decreased dramatically since Purdue initiated its tuition freeze. Retirees also enjoyed the always popular door prize drawings throughout the luncheon. In 2017, 63 lucky attendees left with gifts donated by 31 vendors.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM LUNCHEONS:**

The quality and variety of the programs at PURA's monthly luncheons during 2017-2018 have been exceptional. Those presented this year include Self-Driving Cars, Honey Bee Research, Immigration in America, Tech Toys—Part 2, Birds and Airplanes—a Dangerous Mix, Youth Justice Reform, AMTRAK and Lafayette—Where Are We Going?, Purdue Explosives Research and Homeland Security, The Lafayette Art Museum—Expanding and Changing, and Cyber Forensics. Attendance at two of these monthly events exceeded 100. PURA's programs were further enhanced by the addition of a high resolution video monitor on which the speaker's slides, photos, videos, and other visuals could be projected and clearly seen everywhere in the room. Many thanks to the Lafayette Kiwanis Club for cost-sharing its newly installed electronic equipment at MCL with PURA.

**PRE-RETIREMENT MEETINGS:**

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

**PURA NEWSLETTER:**

*PURA NEWS* is published 10 times a year by our Communications Committee and is sent electronically to all official Purdue retirees who have e-mail addresses on file. In addition, it is mailed to those residing in Greater Lafayette and the surrounding counties who only have provided the University with street or post office box addresses. Each issue also is posted on the PURA website. A four-page publication, *PURA NEWS* contains information and photos of PURA and University-related events as well as updates regarding retiree benefits. Both a "Mark Your Calendar" announcing PURA events and a campus calendar of upcoming University events are standard features. Articles highlighting people and/or accomplishments of special interest also are included. *PURA NEWS* continues to be well received and much appreciated by Purdue retirees.

## **PURA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

This manual has been completely updated and revised and will be available electronically on the PURA website this summer. Not only will this edition be more readily available to all who want to see it, it also will be much easier and quicker to revise and keep current than the previous hardcopy editions distributed in notebooks.

## **PURA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:**

What a wonderful year it has been! The PURA Student Scholarship Fund balance on 7/1/17 was about \$35,000. A \$15,000 donation brought the total to the \$50,000 needed to qualify for the pledged \$50,000 matching grant. End of the calendar year donations totaling about \$5400; Purdue Day of Giving gifts of \$4265; and a \$730 contribution from PURA honoring the invaluable service provided the organization by outgoing officers, committee chairs, and committee members brought the Student Scholarship Endowed Fund total to over \$110,00, all of which is dedicated to help highly qualified Indiana students with significant financial need attend Purdue!

## **PURA RETIREE INFORMATION BROCHURE:**

A new 11x17 tri-fold brochure was introduced this year to acquaint both prospective and new members with all PURA has to offer. It includes information about the benefits the University provides its retirees as well as about PURA Medicare supplemental health insurance plans, PURA activities, and PURA awards. It also has a list of phone numbers for offices of interest to retirees and references PURA's website where further information about all the aforementioned can be found.

## **PURA 2020 TASK FORCE:**

PURA's 2020 Task Force, which was charged with identifying areas PURA needed to address to ensure continuing excellence, issued its final report in August 2017. Following a comprehensive review, recommendations were made about amending the bylaws, enhancing marketing, expanding communications, and identifying additional technical expertise. To date, the recommended changes in the bylaws have been made. In the areas of marketing, communications, and technology, most of the recommendations have been considered and some of the proposed changes have been made.

## **PURA WEBSITE: [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://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 Communication Committee maintains our website, and it is updated at least monthly.

## **PURPOSEFUL LIVING IN RETIREMENT (PLIR) SEMINAR:**

Attracting a record-setting 232 attendees in 2017-18, PLIR continues to grow. This year's program featured nine speakers and 22 exhibitors. Topics included Staying Independent, Securing Your Home Against Burglary, Securing Your Cellphone, Protecting Your Technology, Empathy: Cues and Clues, The Indiana Caregivers Act, and a Healthcare Insurance Update. PLIR, which began as a biennial seminar, has now solidified its place on PURA's calendar as a highly anticipated annual event.

**RETIREE DEMOGRAPHICS:**

Currently, there are over 5000 Purdue retirees, and they live around the world. About 4000, however, reside in Indiana. Approximately half were faculty members or administrators and half were 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 data base 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 also are very supportive of our community. For the eighth consecutive year, they contributed over \$120,000 to the local United Way annual campaign.

**SPRING FLING:**

Retirees continue to have a noticeable presence at Spring Fling, the University's annual faculty, staff, and retiree appreciation celebration. While our Hospitality Committee staffs the PURA information booth, other PURA members help serve lunch, ice cream, and popcorn to the hundreds of Boilermakers who attend. Many retirees also participate in the University fitness walk as well as in the activities at the Córdoba Recreational Sports Center. All especially enjoy the opportunity this event provides to reconnect with friends and former colleagues.

**TRIPS AND TOURS:**

Much of the focus of our Trips and Tours Committee this year has been on developing and conducting a survey to learn more about our retirees' out of town travel preferences. They found attending musical theater productions and sporting events were their primary interests. The survey results also indicated not many individuals are interested in driving. They prefer traveling by bus. The committee's findings will guide their planning for 2018-19.

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2017-2018 has been a busy as well as a productive year. Clearly, PURA continues to be the envy of the Big 10! The annual reports written by our officers and committee chairs tell even more about all that occurred. These are available electronically on PURA's website [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://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.

Carolyn Jones, Historian  
Purdue University Retirees Association  
May 2018