

PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION 2018-2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Historian's Report

OFFICERS AND ADVISORS:

President	Don K. Gentry
Vice President	Tom Turpin
Secretary	Judy Ware
Treasurer	Robert W. Bain/Lucia Anderson
Historian	Sue Hume Graham
Past President	John Trott
Advisors	Christopher A. Ruhl/William Bell

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Benefits	Larry Pherson
Campus and Community Activities	Mary Alice Nebold
Communication	Karen F. Lembcke
Finance	Lucia Anderson
Hospitality	William I. Bennett
Kickoff Luncheon	Karen D. Ferry and Viki S. Taylor
Program	Roy A. Johnson
Purposeful Living Conference	Olivia B. Wood
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 June 5, 2019 Annual Transition Meeting. Bill Bell, Vice President for Human Resources, 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 Don Gentry to incoming president Tom Turpin.

AWARD RECIPIENTS: Implemented a new process for the Arthur G. Hansen Award in accordance with the plan approved by the Executive Committee in March of 2018 including the creation of a Developmental Grant Program to encourage Purdue departments and units to expand their activities for retirees. Three grants were awarded: School of Aviation and Transportation Technology; Office of Vice Provost for Student Life; and School of Languages and Cultures.

Arthur G. Hansen Award: The Arthur Hansen Award for service to Purdue Retirees was awarded to the Department of Health and Kinesiology at the Annual Purdue Retirees Luncheon and again at the Annual PURA Kick-Off Luncheon. The department received a trophy and a \$2,500 award from TIAA.

Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award: Two long-time Co-Chairs of the Annual Kick-Off Luncheon Sarah Johnson and Ann Pickett were awarded the Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award at the Annual Kick-Off Luncheon for their years of service to PURA.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE: Working with University staff and healthcare consultants, PURcare and the Medicare Advantage Plans were extended for 2018. Both plans remained unchanged. The premium for Medicare Advantage, which is \$208.49 per month, remained unchanged for the fifth year in a row. The monthly premium for PURcare decreased from \$282.73/mo. to \$265.39/mo., a decrease of \$17.34/mo. Utilization of these insurance plans is approaching 2,600 members.

The Committee reviewed options for modifying the current open formulary drug plan and determined that there was no cost advantage resulting from any modification of the PURA plan to limit/manage/control the use of very expensive drugs.

An evaluation of the negotiation of the 2019 insurance package was conducted during the Fall of 2018. Recommendations resulting from that evaluation will be utilized during the negotiation of the 2020 insurance package.

The Committee is considering options that might assist members with a less expensive insurance plan. This work is only in its initial stages and will continue into the upcoming year.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Two events each semester were offered in the 2018-19 year. A common book read [A Purdue Icon: Creation, Life, and Legacy](#) with commentary by Karl Brandt about the old power plant was shared and a tour of Wilmeth Active Learning Center. The Bechtel Innovation Design Center and The Black Cultural Center were toured. Both facilities host remarkable offerings for students and state of the art technology. Second semester showcased Bennett's Greenhouse and tips for successful growing of plants and the new Lafayette Family YMCA which is home to six organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS: March 2019 brought a major change in the mailing of *PURA News*. The Board decided to send *PURA News* to our retirees electronically. Our mailed *PURA News* was four pages in length, and amazingly, our first few electronic *PURA News* have been eight pages. This change will allow us to provide more information on a timely basis. Another benefit realized from this change is that we have reduced our mailing costs; we can deliver the *PURA News* quickly without the five to seven business day delay for postage processing; and any last minute information can be included.

FINANCE: The Finance Committee with the Treasurer as Chair implemented the plan to consolidate all finance, endowments and budget responsibilities into one committee.

HOSPITALITY: The committee served as greeters and assisted PURA participants in the monthly luncheons, annual kickoff luncheon, annual retiree flue shots, the Purposeful Living seminar, and information tables at Spring Fling. The alternative dining room luncheon seating at MCL has provided for more seating in the room used for the monthly meeting and speaker. We are able to seat about 100 people now.

KICK-OFF LUNCHEON: The annual Kick-Off Luncheon organized by our Kick-Off Luncheon Committee was another great event with large attendance, great fellowship, door prizes and speaker Provost Jay Akridge made an outstanding presentation on "Giant Leaps: Positioning Purdue for the Next 150 Years" and the PURA President gave the "State of PURA".

MONTHLY PROGRAM LUNCHEONS: The quality and variety of the programs at PURA's monthly luncheons during 2018-2019 have been excellent. Those presented this year included Purdue's Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2019; Tech Toys III and Top Tech Concerns of the Day; From Pharmacies

to Farmacies: How the food we eat and the way we eat it can lead to health and longevity; The Future of K-12 Education in Indiana and the Greater Lafayette Career & Technical Education Center; The NICHES Land Trust; Cannabis – Facts About Its Medical Use; The Opioid Epidemic - An Update; Campus Master Planning & Discovery Park Plans; Safely Navigating Your Prescription Drug Regimen; and The State of American Politics: A Historical Perspective and West Lafayette – Current Developments and Future Plans. New seating arrangements at MCL were offered to accommodate our well-attended programs. The use of the high-resolution video monitor has enhanced our speakers' presentations.

A new program, "Planning for Your Future," was offered in November for Purdue retirees and staff/faculty planning for retirement. The topics of Estate Planning, 2018 Tax Reform, Planned Giving, Home Care, Retirement Communities, and Funeral and Cemetery Options were presented. This was a well-received offering and may be repeated every few years.

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 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL: This manual has been completely updated and revised and is now available electronically on the PURA website. Not only is this edition more readily available to all who want to see it, it also is much easier and quicker to revise and keep current than the previous hardcopy editions distributed in notebooks. Thanks to past and current Historians for this major accomplishment. Thanks to Carolyn Jones for her work on the PURA Policies and Procedures Manual.

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 Communication Committee maintains our website, and it is updated at least monthly. Thanks to Jim Daniel for his support of the website.

PURPOSEFUL LIVING IN RETIREMENT (PLIR) SEMINAR: Another record-breaking attendance of 246 attendees and 31 exhibitors on April 17, 2019 at Beck Agricultural Center. PLIR continues to grow. PURA's 150th Anniversary Historical Characters including John Purdue, Orville Redenbacher, Harvey Wiley, Mary Matthews, Clifford Turpin, and Amelia Earhart greeted attendees. This year's program featured eight speakers. Topics included Intergenerational Communications, Asset Transfer 101, Aging and Importance of Exercise to Prevent and Improve Our Vocal and Physical Motor Abilities, Hidden Gems in Indiana, How to Keep an Active Mind, and a Healthcare Insurance Update. PLIR has solidified its place on PURA's calendar as a highly anticipated annual event.

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 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 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 also are very supportive of our community. For the ninth consecutive year, they contributed significantly to the annual campaign. This year, \$139,470.85 was pledged to the local United Way annual campaign.

SCHOLARSHIP: A total of \$7,750 was awarded from PURA scholarship endowments for the 2017-18 academic year. The Book Value of the PURA Student Scholarship Endowments as of May 7, 2019 is \$137,900. The Book Value of the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C and Patty Jischke is \$50,309 as of March 31, 2019. We appreciate the generosity of all donors and friends of PURA.

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 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 guided their planning for 2018-19. Trips and tours included an offering to Samara (John Christian's home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) and Amtrak to Chicago – "The Train, The Tower, The Architectural Tour".

2018-2019 has been a year of excellent offerings and opportunities. PURA President, Don Gentry, shared a list of goals and, with that in mind, PURA and its members accomplished all of the goals and more. 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) 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.

Sue Hume Graham, Historian Purdue University Retirees Association May 2019