Health insurance info for 2011 mailed to retirees

Purdue retirees by now should have received information from Purdue in the mail about PURcare and Secure Horizons coverage for 2011. PURcare is the Purdue-sponsored health plan that supplements Medicare, and Secure Horizons PFFS is the Purdue-sponsored Medicare Advantage plan. For news about the plans, see the article on Page 2 of this issue.

Plan to attend the upcoming luncheons

This year has seen many exciting speakers come to the PURA Monthly Luncheons, held every first Monday of each month at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette. Choose your own lunch from the cafeteria line, which opens at 11 a.m. The program begins at noon in the Purdue Room.

The following speakers and topics are planned for the coming months:
- Dec. 6 – Michael Brzezinski, Understanding the Chinese Mind: Confucious, Values and Beliefs
- Jan. 3 – Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, Looking at the Future of Lafayette
- Feb. 7 – Paul Robinson, Climbing Mount Everest
- March 7 – Anthony Cawdron, A House Manager’s Life

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Johnson honored at Kickoff Luncheon with Recognition Award

A packed crowd gathered on Aug. 30 to attend the PURA Kickoff Luncheon at the University Plaza Hotel in West Lafayette. In addition to enjoying each other’s company over lunch, guests heard from keynote speaker Vic Lechtenberg, vice provost for engagement at Purdue.

In addition, the Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award was presented to Roy Johnson. The award recognizes persons or entities that have greatly improved the lives of Purdue retirees or made outstanding contributions to PURA. This award may not be made yearly, but only as awardees logically emerge through the cumulative weight of their positive influence on the lives of Purdue’s retirees.

Johnson has participated in PURA in multiple roles over the past decade. He has served on the Program and the Benefits Committees and on the Kickoff Luncheon Committee. He was an active member of the committee that planned and executed the Big Ten Retirees Association Conference at Purdue in 2006. He served a two-year term as president of PURA starting in 2003 and, with assistance from an ad hoc committee, recently produced the organization’s first Procedures and Policies Manual, a detailed document that will benefit PURA and other Big Ten retiree organizations for years to come.

In addition, this year’s award recipient is a musician, a public orator, a repository of Purdue history, a traveler, and a teller of funny but worthless jokes. His positive nature and mischievous smile are welcome in any group.

The award was named in honor of Betty M. Nelson, former president of PURA, who worked to establish the Purdue University Retirees Association as a formal organization with by-laws and guaranteed annual funding from the University, formalized the administrative structure, and made gains in PURA’s visibility within the University community.

Choose your own lunch from the cafeteria line, which opens at 11 a.m. The program begins at noon in the Purdue Room.

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From your Benefits Committee: PURcare for 2011

Here are changes for the upcoming year in PURcare.

1. PURcare premiums for Medical, Rx, Preventive and Vision will decrease from $282.56/month/person to $263.01/month/person or 6.9 percent for 2011. This decrease is primarily due to the Affordable Care Act (health care reform) legislation that begins to close the gap in prescription drug coverage.

2. PURcare premiums for Medical only for those with Veteran-provided Rx will decrease from $205.78/month/person to $205.45/month/person.

3. PURcare 2011 will remain the same as in 2010 with a $300 yearly deductible for all Medicare approved care. Most members will pay the Medicare Part B deductible as their first costs in 2011 with the remaining deductible being paid from the 20 percent not covered by Medicare until you reach the yearly $300 out-of-pocket. All remaining Medicare approved coverage will be covered at 100 percent.

4. Preventive coverage will include $150 toward a non-medical vision exam, lenses and frames.

5. Medicare will cover the yearly wellness physical as well as other Medicare-designated wellness screenings at 100 percent. These will not be subject to a deductible.

6. Rx coverage will remain the same with an open formulary with few prior approvals, step therapy and limited quantities.

7. Call Kate LaMar at 765-494-1694 with any questions.

8. SilverSneakers, Nurseline, Optum Health Discount and Caregivers will remain as benefits.

9. UnitedHealthcare completed the transition from PacifiCare to its systems at the end of July 2010. At that time you received a new medical card that you should show to all your providers at point of service. PacifiCare will no longer be on any of the UnitedHealthcare materials.

National PPO (NPPO Plan) for 2011

1. The Secure Horizons PFFS plan will no longer be available after December 31, 2010. It is being transitioned to a UnitedHealthcare NPPO Plan.

Unfortunately, there will be some areas not covered in Indiana and possibly elsewhere in the country. Those affected will be contacted.

2. Premiums for Medical, Rx, Preventive and Vision will increase from $172.42/month/person to $173.09/month/person or 0.03 percent.

3. Changes to the plan include a $5 increase in the copay to see both your primary physician and any specialist. Your yearly maximum out-of-pocket will increase to $2,800 but the copay to see the doctor will be included in the out-of-pocket costs this year.

4. Your Rx plan has the same broad prescribed formulary that includes prior approvals, step therapy and limited quantities with which you are already familiar. Due to the Affordable Care Act (health care reform) your brand drugs will be covered at 50 percent in the gap. Generics will continue to be covered as usual in the gap.

5. Call the customer service number on your card or Kate LaMar at 765-494-1694 with any questions.

6. SilverSneakers, Nurseline, Optum Health Discount and Caregivers will remain as benefits.

PURA Members Enjoy the President’s Suite – President France Córdova and the first gentleman, Chris Foster, hosted several PURA board members in the President’s Suite during the Purdue vs. Western Michigan football game on Sept. 11. A good time was had by all, as Purdue won the game 31-21. Margene Ortman contributed this picture from that wonderful vantage point.
Benefits Committee to increase communication about PURcare

The PURA Benefits Committee believes that PURA members as well as active faculty and staff who are planning to retire soon can benefit from increased communications about PURcare, the Purdue-sponsored Medicare Supplemental for Medical and Drug Insurance. This program has been custom-designed for Purdue retirees by the Benefits Committee.

“The committee believes strongly that this insurance program is superior to anything available on the market,” said Joseph Uhl, professor of agricultural economics and a member of the Benefits Committee. Uhl said PURcare has the following advantages:

1. The future of medical insurance is very uncertain. No matter what changes occur as the new Affordable Care Act legislation passed by Congress is implemented, the Benefits Committee will work hard to provide the best supplemental medical/drug insurance for Purdue retirees at the best possible price.

2. A full-time Purdue HR staff member is assigned to provide assistance and support for members of PURcare. It is comforting to have a local Purdue advocate if you have insurance problems and/or questions!

3. Participating in PURcare is one way to maintain a link to Purdue in retirement.

4. The larger the population in the insurance pool, the broader the risk is shared to everyone’s benefit.

5. Only official Purdue retirees and their eligible dependents that are 65 years old and enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B are eligible for the PURcare (or the alternate plan, a group Medicare Advantage PPO) insurance pool. Some retirees have still-employed spouses who cover the retiree on their employer’s health plan, so a retiree may be well beyond the age of 65 when first eligible to join PURcare. Purdue retirees and spouses who retire prior to age 65 are eligible to participate in a Purdue University health care plan until they reach the age of 65 and are eligible for PURcare.

6. New Purdue retirees cannot be denied coverage in PURcare because of pre-existing conditions.

7. PURcare is not age-rated as are most private plans.

8. PURCare participants do not have to re-enroll each year. It is done automatically unless they choose to stop participation.

Uhl said it is especially important that faculty and staff planning retirement understand that they must decide whether to opt-in to PURcare when they retire. “They may not opt-out and then enter the program after developing health problems,” he said. “This would be unfair to the people who have paid into the program from the time of retirement. The purpose of any insurance plan is to share risk.”

Uhl said the Benefits Committee urges current participants in PURcare to advise their colleagues who are planning retirement about the advantages of choosing PURcare. Thanks for your help!

Retirees board the Tall Ships in Chicago

On Aug. 26, more than 80 PURA retirees and their guests boarded Imperial Royal Tour buses to travel to the Tall Ships Chicago 2010 Festival at historic Navy Pier, courtesy of the Trips and Tours Committee. More than 20 tall ships from around the world were showcased, including those representing various U.S. cities and states, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands.

The weather was glorious with sun shining on a blue-green Lake Michigan. The options ranged from viewing to boarding for a self paced walk-around (and up and down) or even setting sail for an hour on one of several ships offering lake excursions for an extra fee.

At this photographer’s paradise, one of the most popular shots was looking west toward the city to capture the nostalgic 19th Century masts of the tall ships displayed against the backdrop of the gleaming 21st century Chicago skyline. There were the flags, the rigging, the crew (some straight out of 19th century lore) — no matter where one looked, a picture was begging to be taken.

Added to the mix were the standard attractions on Navy Pier. Attendees could choose various food venues, the spectacular Stained Glass Museum, the free trolley between State Street and the pier for avid shoppers, the architectural boat tour via the Chicago River, or just people watching. It was a wonderful chance to spend time in relaxed conversation with some of the best colleagues in the world: Purdue retirees!

Visit www.purdue.edu/retirees to see more photos from the Tall Ships tour.
Look forward to spring – save these dates!

The Campus and Community Activities Committee has a great line-up scheduled for 2011. Mark your calendars now to attend these events.

A tour of the Prime Laboratory-Particle Accelerator and the Electric Nuclear Reactor is scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in the Physics Building. This tour will include a presentation on the use of the particle accelerator for examining and dating bone fragments from the 4-million-year-old genus of hominid, Australopithecus, stone from Stonehenge, and the Shroud of Turin. This tour will not be handicapped accessible and those with pacemakers or chemical pumps will not be admitted because of possible adverse effects of electro-magnetic fields. Parking garage is available on Northwestern Avenue. Meet in Physics 244 for the tour, where the group will proceed downstairs to the PRIME Lab.

On April 14 at 3 p.m., PURA members are invited to tour the Hansen Life Sciences Research Building. Tim Ratliff, director of the Purdue Center for Cancer Research, will discuss some of the kinds of cancer research being conducted, as well as the markers for cancer. The main research areas are in breast, pancreatic and prostate cancers. A tour of the building will include the Transgenic Mice Breeding Lab, the Protein Lab and Ratliff’s lab. Some of the other 20 researchers in this building may also be available to give additional information.

Parking is available behind the building in the center of the agriculture campus. Enter the back dock door, go through three sets of double doors, then turn right and see a sign for Purdue Center for Cancer Research. The tour group will gather in the Hansen Life Sciences Research Building lobby.

PURA members visit SIA

On Oct. 14, 52 Purdue retirees learned firsthand about the Subaru of Indiana Automotive plant in Lafayette. SIA is a major corporate partner in our community. SIA is one of the nation’s most progressive automobile manufacturers, employing 3,600-3,900 people on first and second shift. Employees are able to rotate up to four different positions in the plant depending on their skill qualifications. This enables employees to have variety in their work and not do repetitive work for eight hours. We were able to see automobiles at various stages from the Subaru and Toyota Camry lines from start to finish on the assembly lines. SIA is an environmentally friendly manufacturing plant and is able to have zero waste going into area landfills. We appreciate Subaru for their hospitality and Michelle Dennis, our tour guide, for her interesting insights into the Subaru plant.

Visit the PURA web page (www.purdue.edu/retirees) to see additional pictures.

PLEASE PRINT, FILL OUT, AND SEND THE RESERVATION FORM TO:

Michele Salla, Purdue Human Resources, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024 or e-mail reservation to Michelle Salla at masalla@purdue.edu.

Reservations should be submitted by one week prior to the date of the tour.

Print Name(s) ________________________________
Address ______________________________________
Telephone number ____________________________ E-mail ________________

Please indicate number of persons wishing to attend the tour.

___ PRIME Laboratory, March 24 at 2 p.m.
___ Hansen Life Sciences Research Building, April 14 at 3 p.m.

Alternatively, you may e-mail Sue Hume Graham at sg1321@comcast.net, or call her at 447-7366. Please provide name(s) and an e-mail address and/or a telephone number if you e-mail or call. Be sure to indicate which tour(s) you are booking.
Purdue remembered President Emeritus Arthur Hansen as having a notable ability to combine personable warmth with intellectual candor. Hansen died July 5 in Fort Myers, Fla.

Purdue's eighth president, Hansen served from 1971 to 1982. He came with two expressed challenges from the Board of Trustees — renew student confidence and establish a continuing program in fundraising — that both demanded his range of abilities.

“Arthur Hansen was the perfect choice as president at that specific time in Purdue’s history,” says Betty Nelson, dean of students emerita. She was assistant dean of students, then associate dean of students, during Hansen’s tenure.

“Walking with him or behind him on the way to a meeting across campus was a remarkable experience — he was the ‘Pied Piper of Purdue.’ Students were attracted to him like a magnet — his easy gait, ready smile and genuine interest in students made him an attractive companion for a walk between classes.”

At the time, most public universities, including Purdue, depended on state funding for nearly their entire budgets. The trustees’ charge to awaken the giving potential of alumni and others, coupled with the inflation of the 1970s and enrollment growth, made private giving vital. Besides its centerpiece President’s Council, the Hansen plan led to the Phonathon, Annual Fund and Purdue’s first retirees organization, the President’s Advisory Council on Retirement.

Working in concert with a group of retirees headed by Harland W. White, longtime director of admissions, President Hansen in 1976 created and appointed the President’s Advisory Council on Retirement (PACR) and formed an organization for all retirees, the Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA).

The goal was to bring retirees into a closer working relationship with the University and to involve them in the mainstream of campus activity.

After more than a quarter century, the initiative begun by President Arthur G. Hansen thrives through the continuing strong relationship between Purdue University and the PURA.

Today PURA continues to honor his care for retirees with the Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award, which Nelson helped establish. She says it “is given most years by PURA and the Office of the President to the University unit that excels in fostering a strong relationship between Purdue and that unit’s retirees.”

An alumnus of Purdue, Hansen earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1946 and a master’s degree in mathematics in 1948. His career included stints at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Nucleonics Section of the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory and professor and head of the Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Michigan. Hansen became dean of engineering and later president at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Under his administration at Purdue, enrollment increased to more than 32,000, and new buildings were constructed for engineering, nursing, agriculture, psychology, life sciences and athletics. Hansen also supported the growth of Purdue’s first Black Cultural Center and recognized the first official organization. He left Purdue in 1982 to become chancellor of the Texas A&M system.

His legacy at Purdue, where many think of him as “the students’ president,” includes the Arthur G. Hansen Life Sciences Research Building and the Nancy T. Hansen Theatre, for which he donated $1.8 million in 2002.

Nominate your area for Hansen Award by Dec. 1

Many retirees are still extremely involved in the University community at Purdue. The areas that value their retirees and make them feel welcome are in turn valued greatly by the Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA).

The Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award is given by PURA to a Purdue school, department, office or division that cultivates and maintains meaningful relationships with its retirees.

Retirees are encouraged to make nominations for the next Hansen Award, which will be presented in the spring at the annual Purdue retirement banquet. Deadline for nominations is Dec. 1. Nomination forms are available online at www.purdue.edu/retirees.

The Hansen Award, named for former Purdue President Arthur Hansen, is sponsored by the Office of the President and PURA. A trophy is presented to the winning department along with $2,500, funded by TIAA-CREF. The money can be used to strengthen the department’s ties to its retirees.

Past winners include the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Department of Animal Sciences, the Department of Agronomy and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Some activities that foster the continuing involvement of retirees include inviting them to help with student organizations, inviting their help with organizing archival materials, including them in e-mail distributions with general department information, inviting them to attend social events and ensuring they receive notices of temporary opportunities for paid employment.
Monthly luncheons bring expert speakers

Monthly luncheon programs for Purdue retirees are held on the first Monday of each month at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette. Lunch lines open at 11 a.m. The program begins at noon in the Purdue Room.

On Aug. 2, Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer, associate dean and director of International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA), provided a quick overview of the Purdue Agriculture international efforts in the areas of education, extension and research. He noted that 26.4 percent of the 2010 bachelor’s degree graduates from the College of Agriculture had done some study abroad.

The flagship research and engagement project for Purdue Agriculture is PICS. The project has activities in 10 countries in West and Central Africa this year and hopes to provide improved grain storage technology to 3.4 million households. The second largest effort is the Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (A4), which is training young agricultural faculty for Afghan universities and helping those universities to upgrade their curriculum. Ten Afghan students are studying for master’s degrees in Purdue Agriculture.

Purdue continues to play an important role in the USAID Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs), with current projects in the Sorghum and Millet CRSP (INTSORMIL), Horticulture CRSP, ASSET CRSP, Aquaculture CRSP, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) CRSP.

A new development at Purdue is the International Center for Food Technology Development to Expand Markets with a mission to address needs in food production, product preservation, and market development to grow local economies in developing countries.

On Oct. 4, Larry DeBoer spoke on the timely topic of the constitutional Indiana amendment before voters this year. It is commonly referred to as the vote on putting property “tax caps” into the constitution.

DeBoer studies state and local government public policy and provides information to the state on tax and finance issues. He also teaches an undergraduate course in macroeconomics and has been named outstanding teacher in the ag economics department five times.

DeBoer presented three areas of discussion that are certain to come to the forefront if the amendment passes:

1. How much local government do we want/what services to reduce?
2. What kind of local government do we want/can we change structure to deliver services more efficiently?
3. How will we pay for local government/other taxes or fees?

DeBoer indicated that if the amendment fails, the legislature would probably need to take another look at the whole property tax issue.

On the road with Purdue retirees

The Campus and Community Activities committee kept retirees busy this fall. On Sept. 23 about 23 Purdue retirees met at the Purdue University Beef Cattle farm to learn about the feed facility and what feeds are used (pictured below). The guide gave everyone a chance to feel and smell the feeds that included dried distilled grains, corn, kaylage, corn silage and minerals, etc.

The beef farm manager, Brian DeFree, took the group on a people transport to see the farm, lots and facilities. He explained that we were only seeing the youngest cattle, mostly under two years of age. The cows were on summer pasture at the Purdue Scholer farm in Southwest Tippecanoe Co.

Brian did a very good job of explaining much about raising beef cattle as well as explaining much of the research being conducted on the farm. Of particular interest is the way they take care of water. The entire beef farm is designed in a way that every drop of water, from rainfall or hydrants, is moved to a lagoon. That water is used to irrigate crops on the farm, thus completing a cycle. –by Verle Chappell

On Sept. 2, 35 PURA members were treated to a tour of Pao Hall to see the department of art and design, as well as the Hansen and Mallett theaters. Robert Sabol, professor of visual and performing arts, and Richard Stockton Rand, professor of visual and performing arts and chair of the Department of Theatre, conducted the tour. Retirees learned about Purdue’s outstanding academic programs and were privileged to see students’ works in the studios for ceramics, sculpture, photography, painting, and design.

Visit www.purdue.edu/retirees to see more photos from recent tours.
Chef Hubert shares his memories of WWII

Editor’s note: Thanks to all those who submitted reminiscences for our new “Those Were the Days” column. This month, author JoAnn Thomas shares the story of Hubert Schneider, Purdue chef.

For American children WWII was very exciting with its posters, stirring songs and brand-new processes such as ration books and war bond stamps. For a youth in Germany, the picture was much different.

Chef Hubert Schneider was 10 years old at the start of the war. Politics meant little to him, even though Hitler was sometimes seen near his home. Their radio could receive only one station, so the news was a bit slanted. Soon, all the male teachers were drafted, which was quite different.

Hubert lived in the Black Forest, where his father and grandfather before him were foresters. They had a simple life, growing their own vegetables, getting eggs from their hens. One day some wealthy gentleman came to hunt. Guided by Hubert’s father, one bagged a very large ancient woodcock, a bird of almost mythic renown.

While celebrating, he asked Hubert what he wanted to do with his life. His sister answered that he wanted to be a cook, but his mother didn’t want that. His mother’s opinion of cooks was that they were Godless wastrels up to no good.

The hunter said that it was a wonderful occupation and sent a recommendation when Hubert finished his mandatory eight years of education.

When he closed his last book, Hubert’s father took him on his first train ride to Stuttgart, where he began his three-year apprenticeship. A master chef was challenged to teach the young men until every action was ingrained. He was not to use them just for menial tasks.

And so they learned the basics while working very long hours. The extended hours meant that all the apprentices lived in the building, which was five or six stories and housed a restaurant and a theater.

The Americans were sending waves of planes in daylight and the air raids were more frequent. The cooks turned off the gas and ran for the basement, many carrying a small bag with belongings. In July 1944, they suffered a direct hit. The cover of the door to the outside was jammed so they went through tunnels to the next basement, which had no exit either. A third basement was a public bomb shelter where many had been killed. But there was an exit.

Dazed they made their way to the river, where the master Chef told them to go home. In shock, Hubert made the 70- to 80-mile journey home. He has no memory of how.

Later he was told to come to Esslingen near Stuttgart. Times had worsened and almost all available food was provided by Mother Earth: dandelions, herbs, plentiful mushrooms and hibernating snails.

Hubert’s first job was to clean snails, which was a very smelly proposition. Several soakings were necessary before wringing out the snails. These were chopped fine and put into a stew. Potato peels were soaked to leach out the starch.

From his bedroom window, he could see rolling hills and watched a fighter plane drop two bombs — which fortunately went over his building. And then the war was over. He had been issued a bazooka and a gun, and told it was his duty to fight for his country. The American tanks shook the entire town as they rolled down the street. Two hundred planes darkened the sky. He decided fighting wasn’t a good plan.

Hubert was 16 years old. He couldn’t speak English and was alone in the world. His father was in a French prison camp while his mother was in the French Zone, into which he was unable to travel. But he had something the Americans wanted. Sick of K-rations, they wanted real food.

So young Hubert was taken to an Officer’s Club to be a cook. One day a young GI walked into the kitchen and spoke to him in Pennsylvania Dutch. He and another young man became like big brothers. They taught him English and requisitioned food for the kitchen. One passed away a few years ago, but Hubert is still in touch with the other.

With his apprenticeship papers in hand and a knowledge of English, he worked in Germany and Switzerland, meeting many international travelers. Eventually, he was invited to the United States, where he had a sponsor.

His career on two continents has brought him international acclaim and awards — and the title of the first chef of Purdue University.
Check and approve your address information

The Purdue University Retirees Association is working hard to keep up-to-date with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for retirees. Retirees are asked to check carefully the accuracy of their name and address as it appears on the mailing label (above) of this issue of the PURA Newsletter. Please make any changes on the form below and mail to the address indicated or e-mail to julie1@purdue.edu. Thank you.

Purdue University Retirees

Please help us keep your information accurate. Send any changes from the mailing label that appears above on this issue of the PURA Newsletter. Thank you for your help.

| Name ______________________________________________________________________________ |
| Address ____________________________________________________________________________ |
| City _____________________________ State ___________________ Zip code ____________________ |
| Phone ___________________________ E-mail address ______________________________________ |

Return this form to:

Julie Thedans
Purdue University Retirees, Human Resource Services
401 S. Grant St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024