

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
2014-2015  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

**Officers and Advisors:**

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

**Committee Chairs:**

Benefits	Don K. Gentry
Campus and Community Activities	Richard C. Nelson
Communication	Jill P. May
Endowment	E. Suzanne Hiser
Hospitality	Jeris G. Eikenberry and Dorothy A. Jones
Kickoff Luncheon	Sarah A. Johnson
Program	Sue W. Scholar and Don D. Jones
Retiree Conference	W. Scott Rumble
Trips and Tours	Thomas L. Haworth

**Annual Transition Meeting:**

Much planning was done for the coming year at the May 5, 2015 annual transition meeting. Trent Klingerman, Interim Vice President for Human Resources, was the luncheon speaker. Outgoing president Dan Collins passed the PURA key to incoming president Olivia Wood.

**Award Recipients:**

**Arthur G. Hansen Award:**

This award was not presented in 2014-15.

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

Don Gentry is the 2014 recipient of the Nelson Award which is presented annually to an individual or organization for providing outstanding service to a broad range of Purdue retirees. For the past four years, he has chaired PURA's Benefits Committee. Working with our Communications Committee, Don has personally taken responsibility for continually providing them the latest information about PURA's health insurance plans to place on our website. While our PURcare health insurance benefits have grown since Don became chair, our premiums are less than when he began! As he was throughout his career for faculty, staff, students, and the general public, Don now also has become a very important difference-maker for PURA and Purdue retirees!

**Benefits:**

PURA continues to offer both an elective Medicare Senior Supplement Plan (PURcare) and a Medicare Advantage plan for retirees and their spouses. While the premiums rose for the first time in four years, our 5% increase was considerably less than the industry average. The PURA Benefits Committee also negotiated a more user-friendly billing system with UnitedHealthcare. We are grateful to the University for providing the financial resources to support the services of an outside consultant to assist our Benefits Committee in negotiating these plans and the new billing process. Our members also appreciate the outstanding customer service provided by the Purdue Human Resource Services Benefits staff when having to work with UnitedHealthcare to resolve unusual or difficult issues.

Continually attuned to trying to improve PURA's insurance offerings, the Benefits Committee conducted surveys regarding vision care, participants' thoughts about the anticipated federally-mandated changes on the horizon for Medicare Advantage Plans, and the need for a PURA-sponsored gap health insurance plan for the growing number of Purdue early retirees. Survey results, when available, along with continually updated information about our health insurance plans can be found on the PURA website at [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)

Record numbers of retirees took advantage of the University-sponsored free flu shot program as well as the other Healthy Purdue wellness programs available to them. Large numbers of those on the PURA health insurance plans also took advantage of their Silver Sneakers benefits on campus at the Córdova Recreational Sports Center and the Ismail Center for Health, Exercise, and Nutrition. Thanks to the University, other benefits available to retirees include free "A" parking permits, staff discounts on tickets, staff rates at athletic facilities, access to the Purdue Pharmacy and services at the Nursing Center for Family Health, staff discounts on computers and peripherals, free rides on City Bus, access to the facilities and services of the Purdue Libraries, eligibility to retain Purdue e-mail accounts or apply to activate one, and opportunities to enroll in Purdue classes at current faculty/staff rates and participate in long-term care plans at cost.

**Big Ten Retirees Conference:**

Dan Collins represented PURA at the Big Ten Retirees' Association annual meeting at the University of Minnesota. Purdue will be hosting this event in 2017. Dan, Olivia Wood, Sarah Johnson, and Sandy Komaskinski have begun some of the pre-planning groundwork.

**Bylaw Revision:**

PURA members approved a change in the organization's bylaws dividing the current office of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions. These were created to ensure the organization maximizes its funding by having a "chief financial officer" knowledgeable about the overall financial picture of the organization as well as the sources and uses of PURA funds. The Treasurer will be elected for a three-year term and be eligible for re-election to a second full term. This bylaw revision becomes effective with the installation of the 2015-16 officers.

**Campus and Community Activities:**

Retirees continue to enjoy a wide variety of informative, educational, and entertaining activities across Greater Lafayette. Included this year were visits to Matchbox Co-working Studio, the Krach Leadership

Center, the Córdova Recreational Sports Center including a special pickleball clinic for PURA members and friends, Purdue Musical Organizations' new home at Ralph and Bettie Bailey Hall, the University's new 3-D Print Lab, and a special presentation for PURA at University Place by the Civic Theater Comedy Readers . Attendance at these events totaled nearly 200.

#### **Common Read:**

Common Read, a new PURA program this year, was initiated by the Communications Committee in collaboration with the Purdue University Press (PUP). A book was selected during the summer and made available for purchase by PUP at a 20% discount for retirees. The 2014-15 selection was The Dean's Bible, a story of the five women who served as Dean of Women and Dean of Students at Purdue from 1913 until 1995. On March 30, a reception was held honoring the author, Angie Klink and the last of the five deans , PURA member Betty Nelson. A book discussion followed led by Nick Schenkel, Director of the West Lafayette Public Library. The dialogue was interesting and lively, for all of the retirees in attendance had been at Purdue as a member of the faculty or the staff during a portion of the period covered by the book.

#### **Endowments:**

A new PURA Endowment Fund brochure with information about our two endowed funds was developed and widely distributed. The Center for Families and Life Care and the Department of Nutrition Science were jointly awarded a \$2000 grant from our Activities and Opportunities Fund to co-sponsor a symposium on "Avenues to Optimal Longevity." Michael McCormick, a junior in the College of Technology, was the recipient for a third year of the scholarship generated by PURA's endowed Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin and Patty Jischke. To keep in contact with his legion of "Purdue Grandparents," Michael periodically attends our monthly luncheons. We look forward to his return in Fall 2015 and especially to hearing about his semester and summer study abroad experiences in Lucerne.

#### **Kickoff Luncheon:**

268 retirees and friends attended the annual Kickoff Luncheon held on September 8 at Four Points by Sheraton. Purdue President Mitch Daniels, the featured speaker, focused his remarks on student success and the early positive results gleaned from the Gallup-Purdue Index, a new University initiative that has been garnering national acclaim. Administrative services for the Kickoff Luncheon were provided by the Division of Conferences for the first time. To keep tickets affordable, some of the program support costs were covered by PURA. More than 53 attendees went home with door prizes donated by 26 vendors.

#### **Pre-Retirement Meetings:**

Don Gentry, chair of PURA's Benefits Committee, continued to make presentations about our health insurance plans to Purdue employees at these Human Resource Services sponsored pre-retirement planning meetings. Throughout the year, four sessions were presented. They continue to be well attended (over 200 employees came to the last two) and well received.

**Monthly Luncheon Programs:**

Speakers on topics ranging from Illegal Drugs in Indiana to Retiree Volunteering and from the State Street Master Plan to 3 D Printing brought an average of about 100 retirees monthly to MCL for PURA's regular luncheon meetings. A complete list of these programs and speakers can be found in the Program Committee's 2015 Annual Report on the PURA website and in the University Archives.

**PURA Newsletter:**

A quarterly eight-page printed newsletter containing information; reports; stories about benefits, health insurance, and past as well as upcoming events along with special features regarding retirees continued to be published this year. Because the cost to produce these has been increasing and more retirees are using e-mail as well as going to websites for information, PURA will be replacing our current newsletter with 10-12 monthly reports of activities next year. These will be e-mailed to those with an electronic address on file, mailed to all local retirees without e-mail addresses on file, and made available to everyone on the PURA website. A traditional print newsletter will be mailed to all Purdue retirees annually in late summer.

**PURA Website:** [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)

Our website continues to be a very useful source for PURA-related information regarding upcoming events, benefits and health insurance news, Purdue short-term employment opportunities, and PURA history and annual reports. It also contains links to information regarding University cultural and athletic events as well as to information about Purdue and community events and resources. Our website is updated weekly by the PURA Communications Committee.

**Purdue Retirees Short-Term Employment Program:**

New this year is a short-term employment program developed by the University in cooperation with PURA. Early notification about all non-benefit short term employment opportunities is now made available to Purdue retirees on-line prior to the time these positions are announced to the community. Retirees interested in participating can sign-up for on-line automatic early notification. Retirees desiring to check the list of openings only occasionally can do so easily through the link to the list on the PURA website.

**Retiree Giving to Purdue:**

2014 was a stellar year for retiree giving to Purdue. We contributed \$6,683,088.31 to the University, about half in outright gifts and half in deferred gifts!

**Retirees Conference: Purposeful Living in Retirement**

162 retirees and 23 commercial exhibitors participated in our superb Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference at the Beck Center this year. Topics covered included Home Healthcare, The Changing World of Health Care and Benefits, Prescription Drug Side Effects, and Beyond Estate Planning.

**Spring Fling:**

Retirees continue to have a noticeable presence at Spring Fling, the University's annual faculty, staff, and retiree appreciation celebration. Our Hospitality Committee staffs the PURA Information Booth. Others help serve lunch, ice cream, and popcorn to the hundreds who attend. Many retirees also participate in the University fitness walk as well as the activities at the Córdova Recreational Sports Center. All especially enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with friends and former colleagues.

**Trips and Tours:**

Retirees journeyed to Saugatuck, Michigan and the Frank Lloyd Wright home, studio, and residences in Oak Park, Illinois this past year. In May, they will travel east on U.S. 40 to take in the Historic National Road Yard Sale and likely will pick up a few bargains along the way to bring home.

**United Way:**

In 2014, Purdue retirees contributed \$123,264 to the United Way of Greater Lafayette. Not only did we reach our goal, we exceeded it by 30%! This was our best campaign ever!!

May, 2015

Carolyn Jones, PURA Historian