



PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

June-July 2022

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Welcome Current & New PURA News Readers!

The PURA newsletter, published 10 times a year, regularly features articles on retiree benefits, Purdue news, upcoming opportunities to hear interesting speakers with other retirees, health topics, humor, Indiana travel, and PURA business.

We hope you'll find this publication informative and entertaining, but if you're not interested you may, of course, opt out.

We welcome your comments and suggestions (send to: pura@purdue.edu), and we invite you to join us at our virtual programs.



SAVE THE DATE!

**PURA Kickoff Luncheon
Monday, September 12, 2022
12:00 Noon**

**COURTYARD By Marriott
150 Fairington Avenue, Lafayette, IN**

**Registration information will be included in the August
issue
of the PURA Newsletter**

**Door prizes will be missing from this years' program due to the lingering negative
issues caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic .**

West Lafayette Campus Parking Permit Renewal

It's that time again! Retiree parking permits for the West Lafayette Campus will expire August 15, 2022. For those retirees wishing to renew your permit, here is what you should expect.

The Purdue Parking Facilities Office will send a letter and a renewal application, by U.S. mail, to those retirees currently holding a retiree parking permit for the West Lafayette Campus. This mailing will occur during late June. **The application should be completed and returned before the end of July.**

The physical permits will be mailed to retirees requesting them during early August. Since the current permits expire August 15th, be sure to display the new permit on the vehicle that is brought to campus after that date.

Just a reminder, all University parking rules and regulations apply to your use of the University Retiree Parking Permit issued to you.

PURA Transitions to New Program Year

In early June, PURA officers and committees met to recap PURA's 2021-22 accomplishments, welcome new members, thank outgoing members, and begin planning for the 2022-23 program year. Below, many of the 2022-23 officers and committee chairs are pictured. If you'd like to read the complete 2021-22 Annual Report, it is available on the PURA website, at: <https://www.purdue.edu/retirees/annualreports>



2022-23 PURA President, Jerry Day, receives the gavel from outgoing President, Bill Bennett.



2022-23 PURA Officers

From left:

**Judy Ware, Secretary
Bill Bennett, Past President
Jerry Day, President
Tom Robertson, Vice-President/President-Elect
Sue Graham, Historian**

Not pictured:

Lucia Anderson, Treasurer



2022-23 PURA Committee Chairs

From left:

**Scott Ksander, Media Communications
Larry Pherson, Benefits
Linda Hawkins, Hospitality
Vickie Taylor, Kickoff Luncheon co-chair
Melinda Bain, Student Scholarship
Norman Long, Purposeful Living in Retirement**

Not pictured:

**Lucia Anderson, Finance
Karen Ferry, Kickoff Luncheon co-chair
Jim Lehman, Campus and Community
Karen Lembcke, Communications
Bob Ritchie, Program**

Bill's Bulletin



It has been an honor to serve as your President this year. I look forward to our continued growth under the leadership of your new President, Jerry Day, and our dedicated PURA committees who provide activities and programs for our retirees.

I leave you with some Presidential trivia:

- Theodore Roosevelt served for almost eight years but was only elected once.
- George Washington stood six feet two inches tall, just shy of Abraham Lincoln at six feet four inches tall.
- Thomas Jefferson's library of approximately 6,000 books became the basis of the Library of Congress; they were purchased from him for \$23,950.
- Abraham Lincoln's brother, half brothers, and brothers-in-law all fought for the Confederate Army.

Bill Bennett
PURA 2021-22 Past President

Jerry's Jottings



It is an honor to begin my term as the 2022-23 President of PURA. I want to thank the membership and the Executive Committee for their faith in me and for the opportunity to serve in this position. I also need to thank Bill Bennett and Norm Long for their help and support over the past year.

After my retirement in 2017 from Student Life (formerly Housing and Food Services), I started attending the monthly luncheons at MCL. Soon after, I was recruited to become a member of the Program Committee and subsequently served as the Chair of that committee. A year ago, I was nominated and elected to serve as the Vice President/President-Elect, a necessary step to prepare for serving as your President. My path demonstrates the opportunities available to become involved in the leadership of our retiree organization.

“Finding a New Normal” seems to be a good theme for the coming year. This will be challenging since we are not even sure what normal is after what we have been through over the last two years. During the pandemic we lost our routine, were forced to make and communicate last-minute changes, cancelled events, and had to adapt to new ways of doing things. The good news is that we were able to adjust how we communicated, held meetings, and delivered programs. Not many of us even knew what Zoom was in March of 2020! We have all personally suffered and our organizations have suffered, but the last two years have shown us that we can adapt to a new normal.

On June 1, almost fifty of us gathered at the VFW for the annual PURA Transition Meeting where new officer terms began and committees held planning meetings. It was good to be able to meet in person for this event for the first time since 2019. While the Executive Committee provides leadership for PURA, the committees do the real work of the organization. After hearing the committees report their plans for the coming year, I can assure you that all of them are working hard to deliver quality programs, benefits, communications, and hospitality for PURA members.

During the past year, a lot of effort was made to update and enhance the PURA website, www.purdue.edu/retirees. I invite you to spend some time exploring it to become more familiar with what PURA has to offer. Benefits information, event recordings, current and past newsletters, annual committee reports, and the upcoming events calendar are examples of what you can find.

New PURA volunteers are needed to keep our organization strong and growing. All of us need to be a part of building this new normal. Please give serious thought to joining a PURA committee and give a little push to a fellow retiree who you think might enjoy volunteering with PURA. Contact us via pura@purdue.edu to volunteer.

Thanks!
Jerry Day, 2022-23 PURA President

2022 National 4-H Hall of Fame Inducts Two Purdue Retirees

For the second consecutive year Purdue Extension's Indiana program boasts multiple inductees into the National Hall of Fame.

Dr. Norman Long, retired extension 4-H specialist, and Mr. Jeff Holland, retired Monroe County 4-H Educator, will be inducted on October 7, 2022 to the National 4-H Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place at the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University, in Washington, D.C..

Congratulations to Norm and Jeff!

Confessions of a Book Addict

By Jo Thomas



Editor's Note: In this issue, we welcome back Jo Thomas' excellent book reviews!

The Forgotten 500, by Greg Freeman

For political reasons, the national powers decided that happenings must be classified. So what did happen? Author Greg Freeman tells the tale of an amazing rescue in 1944.

Twelve man bomber crews stationed in Italy were tasked with destroying oil fields in Piosti, Romania; a major source of oil for the Germans. To do this they had to fly a course through the mountains of what was then Yugoslavia. The Nazis met them with anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes. Author Freeman personalizes the book with stories of individuals and pictures, such as the belly turret gunner who was substituting for the usual airman, who was ill.

As they crossed Yugoslavia, they were badly shot up. The pilot shouted to abandon ship and the men began jumping. Except the belly gunner whose elevator to get him into the plane didn't work. He resorted to a crank which was extremely hard to use. By the time he had an opening to crawl out he was the only man on board. Owing to the movement of the falling ship, his chute was not where he had left it. He found it and bailed out hoping he wasn't too close to the ground. His chute didn't open. Using his hands he pulled out the silk and it opened. He drifted into a tree and was thankful. On the ground was a grandmother and grandson who took him to a family who shared what little food they had. There was a pounding on the door. Since they didn't share a language, they grabbed him and shoved him under a bed. Minutes later he was staring at a pair of shiny black boots of a German officer. The Germans counted parachutes and knew one was missing. His luck had changed.

All the downed airmen were gathered together. OSS men had been dropped in and had a great plan to get them out. All they had to do was build an air strip with no tools on rocky, uneven ground at night so the enemy wouldn't detect anything. It worked. As they left, they gave the people their shoes. All they had to thank the Serbs who had given them so much.

There were two leaders in the country. Josip Broz Tito and General Draza Mihaillovenich, who was a friend of America; and sent them important information. After the war Tito invited the Russians' in. He jailed The General for war crimes. He was tried, convicted and executed despite protests from America. Sixty years later Mihaillovenic's daughter was given the Legion of Merit for his heroics.



The Impact of Hearing Loss on Healthy Aging

Melissa Newell, Au.D., CCC-A/FAAA

(she/her/hers)

Clinical Assistant Professor

Purdue Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences



As we age, hearing loss becomes more common. One-third of people over the age of 65 and more than two-thirds of people over 75 have hearing loss. Forty-eight million people in the U.S. have difficulty hearing in one or both ears. Hearing loss is typically gradual, and with age we are more likely to lose the ability to detect higher pitched sounds. Women and children often have higher pitched voices than men, so their speech can be more difficult for a hearing impaired person to understand. In the higher pitches, we hear consonant sounds, such as “th,” “f,” “s,” and “k.” When these sounds are not heard clearly, it is quite easy to misunderstand a conversation. Because hearing loss is not something a person can feel, often people do not realize they do not hear well. It is not uncommon for significant others to notice the hearing loss first. As audiologists, we frequently have patients state, “I can hear, but it sounds like people are mumbling.” Other signs of hearing loss include having trouble hearing on the phone or needing to turn the TV louder to the point where others complain. Listening to conversations when more than two people are talking can also be difficult for people with hearing issues.

In the past two years with mask use, people with hearing loss have noticed a significant worsening in their ability to understand speech. Masks degrade the speech signal and cause people to lose lipreading cues that we all use to facilitate communication. Clear masks can be helpful when communication is essential, at work, in social situations, or when receiving care from a medical professional. Apps on smartphones can also be used in these difficult listening situations. For example, Google Live Transcribe is one of the many apps that can transcribe spoken language as words on the phone screen, allowing listeners with hearing loss to use visual cues to improve understanding. This technology works in 70 different languages, is relatively simple, and can be used in many different listening environments.

Untreated hearing loss can lead to social isolation, loneliness, and overall poorer quality of life. Depression is 2.3 times greater for those with hearing loss compared to people with normal hearing. Poor communication can disrupt connections with other humans, leading to a sense of isolation and loneliness. Depression affects all portions of a patient’s life, causing some people to withdraw from activities, worsened by embarrassment and frustration related to hearing loss. Regular use of hearing aids, when needed, has been shown to lower the prevalence of depression even within the first three months of use. Recent studies also show that when people withdraw from activities and conversations due to hearing loss, the risks for dementia increase.

Seeing an audiologist for hearing assessment is the best way to determine if a hearing loss is present. The hearing assessment is relatively inexpensive and covered by most insurance carriers but may require a referral from a physician. An audiologist can provide comprehensive care for hearing and guide care for tinnitus, loudness intolerance, dizziness, and other ear-related problems. An audiologist can also guide patients to other healthcare professionals for treatment if needed.

To find a qualified audiologist, consider two sources: The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (www.ASHA.org) and the American Academy of Audiology (www.audiology.org) have dedicated websites to direct patients to qualified professionals and provide educational information for individuals with hearing loss. The Purdue University Audiology Clinic provides comprehensive hearing and dizziness care for all age ranges. Please contact us with any questions or concerns! We are here to help!

To reach Professor Newell:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/slhs/clinics/audiology.html>
Purdue University
715 Clinic Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: (765) 494-4229
Fax (765) 494-0771

Purdue Horticulture Greenhouse Tour Recap

The Campus and Community Committee tour of the Purdue Horticulture greenhouse complex took place on Thursday, June 9. Nathan Deppe, Facility manager, gave a detailed and informative tour of the facility to eleven PURA members and guests.

This state-of-the-art facility supports the research and teaching for Purdue Horticulture and Landscape Architect faculty, staff, and students. It consists of teaching laboratories, climate-controlled growth rooms and chambers, and work/storage rooms in addition to the extensive array of green houses. Nathan explained the elaborate systems for controlling light with automated shades and overhead lighting, water purification and fertilization systems, in addition to temperature and humidity controls. He gave us insight into the planting and sanitation procedures followed as well as growth documentation to insure accurate and reproducible research data.



The Horse

By Sara Jane Coffman



It's starting to happen.

People are starting to think I'm old. For instance, my doctors.

They're being very sweet about it, but I've noticed words coming out of their mouths that never came out before, like "trifocals." When my optometrist told me I needed them, he assured me that the line between the prescriptions could be smoothed out so that no one would know. (I'll know! Why did he tell me that? I'll know!)

I've been to my dentist's office so many times lately, they have my credit card. Not my credit card number. My actual credit card.

But the highlight of my recent doctors' visits was my annual physical which I had with my doctor's assistant who looked about 12 years old. I could see where the appointment was going when she pulled the chair out for me.

She began by taking my blood pressure.

"Oh, it's probably high," I informed her jauntily. "I have white coat syndrome."

She smiled (and kept the number to herself).

Then came the questions. Questions I've never been asked before, like: "How many times have you fallen this past year?" Do I look like I fall? At my age, is there a correct number of times I'm expected to fall? Should I tell her about my two Siamese cats who race me down the stairs every morning and whose sole goal in life is to trip me?

Then she asked me what the date was.

"I have no idea," I answered. "I'm retired." She waited, smiling, obviously wanting me to take a shot at it.

"O.K. Well, I know it's March. 2022. As for what day it is – well, let me think. I watched Lawrence Welk on Saturday, and yesterday I went to church, so, today must be Monday. I'm going to say "Monday." As for the date, I have no clue. Did I mention I'm retired? I have no need to know the date. Were you asking for your own personal information? If you really need to know, check the bottom corner of your computer. It's probably there."

She smiled (and typed something into her computer).

"On a scale from 1 to 10, how much energy do you have?"

Compared to what? Compared to when I was working? Compared to my girlfriend who just had knee surgery? And it depends on the day. After watching Lawrence Welk and going to church this weekend, I'm a little run-down. So I told her "6 to 9." I was afraid of what she might do if I gave her a smaller number.

Her last "question" was the clinker. "I'm going to give you three words, and then in a few minutes, I'm going to ask you to repeat them."

Wait – what? What if I can't do that? I'm still stressed over your asking me the date! Could I pick the three words? Could we use my first, middle, and last name?

Obviously, she wanted to check my memory. Which was a bit worrisome because I no longer store the important things in my life in my brain – I store them on post-it notes which are scattered all over my house.

I really didn't want her checking my brain because sometimes I have no control over it. For instance, this morning, the first thing on my "to do" list was: "Pick up horse."

When I read that, my brain jumped in and said: Horses are heavy. I don't think you're strong enough to pick up a horse.

Then I thought: Do I even HAVE a horse? I don't remember having a horse.

My third thought was: I buy a lot of things on Amazon. Did I buy a horse on Amazon? Well, if I did, it obviously wasn't going to be delivered, so I was going to have to go pick it up.

The fourth thing that crossed my mind was: my friend Linda has a horse. Maybe I agreed to pick up HER horse. Did I agree to pick up HER horse?

It finally dawned on me that the word was "house," not "horse." I'd written "pick up house," not "pick up horse." Pick up all the clothes that were lying on the floor that I'd been tripping over the last few days.

I was going to tell that story to the physician's assistant so she could have a laugh. She looked like she needed a laugh. But I decided to keep it to myself – her sense of humor might not be as well developed as mine.

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming PURA Events

4 July, 2022 4th of July holiday. No PURA Meeting.

1 August, 2022 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** Via Zoom, broadcast from our studio at the Lafayette VFW on Duncan Road. .
- **Time:** Program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Emily Toner (from the Netherlands via Zoom!). Per her web site, Ms. Toner is a "writer, multimedia producer, soil geographer, facilitator and community builder," and formerly a Purdue Extension Educator for Marion County.
- **Topic:** Soil Information; A World View

12 September, 2022 PURA annual Kickoff.

- **Location:** Courtyard by Marriott, 150 Farrington Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana
- **Time:** 12:00 noon, ET
- **Speaker:** TBA.

PURA's virtual meetings are presented via Zoom. Zoom connection information and other important updates are provided via email, the *PURA News* newsletter, and our website: www.purdue.edu/retirees

July 2022 Campus Calendar

Academic/Holiday:

4 July—4th of July Holiday. No classes. Offices closed.
6 August—Summer Commencement
14-16 August—Boiler Gold Rush Move-in
16-20 August—Boiler Gold Rush new student orientation
22 August—Fall semester begins.

Music: Note that guests are required to follow Protect Purdue guidelines and local COVID-19 mandates at time of event. Dates and times are subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public.

Purdue Memorial Union Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series will take place every Friday in June and July at 6:30 p.m. (No concert on Friday, July 1.) Location: PMU East Terrace. Rain location will be at the PMU Ever True Stage (near Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux). Food and drinks will be available through Walk On's Sports Bistreaux inside PMU.

Friday, July 1, 2022 -NO CONCERT

Friday, July 8, 2022 - Ryan Rollins, the Piano Man

Friday, July 15, 2022 - Christine Kindred Trio, singer/songwriter, country music

Friday, July 22, 2022 - Hunter Wainscott, guitar/drums, "folk Americana, influenced by Celtic and traditional Appalachian music"

Friday, July 29, 2022 - Mami Matsuda, singer/songwriter, '70's and '80s covers

Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings

The Zoom connection information for PURA monthly meetings is shown below. **The link, Meeting ID, and password will be the SAME for all normal monthly meetings.**

Members who wish to join via phone call audio only will need the separate Passcode shown below. (The password/passcode for that method is different from the normal “computer connection” to Zoom.)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?](https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09)
[pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09](https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09)

Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

Passcode: BoilerUp

One tap mobile

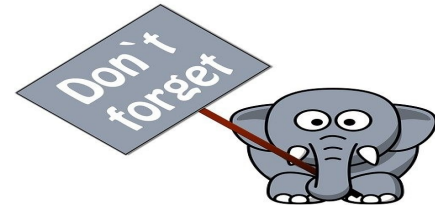
+13126266799,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

Passcode: 41051096

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acvQOKVcnE>



Patriotic Trivia:

Which U.S. President first held a 4th of July celebration at the White House?

On the Original American flags, what shape were the 13 stars?

Who wrote the lyrics to The Star Spangle Banner?

Who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence?

On what day did Congress vote for American independence?

Who declared the 13 colonies were no longer part of the British Empire?

Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?

Answers:

1. Thomas Jefferson
2. Circle
3. Francis Scott Key
4. Thomas Jefferson
5. July 2, 1776
6. Richard Henry Lee
7. John Hancock



About PURA News

The Purdue University Retirees Association newsletter is published for official retirees of Purdue University, and prepared by the PURA Communications Committee.

Send suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter to:

Office of Retiree Affairs
2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Telephone, via Purdue Benefits help line:
(toll free) 877-725-0222
Email: pura@purdue.edu

2022-2023 PURA Communications Committee:

Chair: Karen Lembcke
Members: Connie Bilyeu, Jo Thomas