October 2026 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Events

PURA WESTWOOD LECTURE in cooperation with the President's Office is scheduled for October 28, 2026. This event was confirmed just before press time. Capacity is limited, and reservations will be required. More information and registration details are coming soon.

GE AEROSPACE LAFAYETTE ENGINE FACILITY TOUR is scheduled for November 4, 2026 at 2:00 pm. Participants to arrive by 1:45 pm. Space is limited, and reservations will be required. See registration information below.

PURDUE HOMECOMING 2026 is scheduled for November 7, 2026.

The **2027 PURA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** is scheduled for April 21, 2027 at the Beck Agricultural Center located at 4550 US 52 West in West Lafayette.

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Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule

Location: IN-PERSON Large Meeting Rooms A & B Near the Railyard at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center, 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard, West Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast.

Parking in the lots around Kurz does not require a permit.

Time: 10:00 am ET to approximately 11:30 am ET.

Monday, November 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Scott Ksander, Retired, Exec. Director IT Network & Security – Purdue
- Scott Ksander is a self-described "Computer Geek." His passion for computing and technology started at an early age and eventually lead him to Purdue and a degree in Computer Science in 1974. He would later join the staff at Purdue and serve as Executive Director for IT Network/Security and Chief Security Officer for Purdue. He retired in 2015. His love for Purdue and students saw him being recognized with the highly coveted Special Boilermaker Award. He and his wife served for many years in the University Residences Faculty Fellow Program. PURA is truly fortunate to have Scott as its go-to tech guy and the November PURA speaker.
- Topic: Tech Toys & Other Computer Topics

- Holiday “toys” that incorporate technology are becoming more sophisticated, appealing, and helpful to children of all ages. During this very popular program offering, Scott Ksander will present a wide variety of devices including full descriptions, vendors, prices and critique of usability and value. With the holidays just around the corner, this program is perfectly timed to provide you with information you need to make a wise purchase.

Monday, December 7, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: To be determined – Purdue
- Topic: Purdue Center on Aging and the Life Course

Monday, January 4, 2027 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Kyle Charters, Publisher, *Exponent*
- Topic: The Storied History of the Exponent and the Demise of Local News

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PURA Annual Kickoff Luncheon – Wrap Up

The 2026 PURA Kickoff Luncheon was held on September 14th at the Courtyard Marriott in Lafayette. A delicious lunch, an interesting talk, and lively interaction with fellow retirees were enjoyed by 139 PURA members and special guests. The keynote speaker was local author Angie Klink, who gave an interesting and informative talk about her career and Purdue connections. Numerous door prizes and table decoration chrysanthemums were given away to attendees.



Speaker Angie Klink at the PURA Kickoff Luncheon on September 14, 2026

Linda Hawkins and Bob Ritchie were presented with the 2026 Betty M. Nelson Award for their service to PURA. Linda is Chair of the PURA Hospitality Committee and the welcoming face of PURA at many of our

events. Bob is Past Chair and member of the PURA Program Committee which arranges speakers for our monthly meetings. Congratulations to Linda and Bob!



Linda Hawkins and Bob Ritchie with Betty Nelson and PURA President Tim Luzader at the Kickoff Luncheon

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The October Monthly Meeting Program
Purdue Institute for Cancer Research



Dr. Andrew Mesecar speaking to PURA members at the monthly meeting on October 5, 2026

Our PURA Program in October featured Dr. Andrew Mesecar, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and the Robert W. Miller Director, Purdue Institute for Cancer Research. 46 in person attendees and 17 Zoomers were enthralled with Dr. Mesecar's presentation with many questions during and after the presentation…following him all the way to his car in the parking lot! He described the interesting approaches emanating from the Cancer Institute to deepen the understanding of cancer as they develop ways to detect, prevent and treat the many forms of cancer. His slides and real-life videos, while not for the faint-of-heart, were fascinating as they showed how their research made it possible for surgeons to identify cancer cells (actually having a fluorescent glow) as they strive to remove all cancer cells during procedures. Our Cancer Institute is one of only eight in the United States. The institute has wide participation from across campus including around 119 faculty, from 21 departments, in 7 different schools or colleges. The highly visible and familiar "Hammer Down Cancer" phrase, with its' official color of Volt Green is now trademarked. The complete presentation can be found on the PURA website" purdue.edu/retirees.

Summary provided by John Sautter, Chair of the PURA Program Committee.

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GE Aerospace Lafayette Engine Facility Tour – November 4

The next PURA community tour is to the GE Aerospace Lafayette Engine Facility, a state-of-the-art 300,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing plant located at 3700 US-52, Lafayette. Opened in October 2015, the facility plays a critical role in global aviation by assembling and servicing some of the world's most advanced jet engines.

GE Aerospace employs skilled technicians and engineers at the Lafayette plant where they support new jet engine assembly for the LEAP and Passport engines as well as overhaul for the LEAP engine.

The tour, that takes about an hour, is limited to 20 people, at 2 pm November 4. Participants should plan to arrive at GE by 1:45 pm. Parking is in any of the visitor spots. The tour will gather in the lobby where you will show your ID and sign in. The deadline to register with Sally Luzader is October 28, luzaders@purdue.edu

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Purdue Retiree Flu Shots

Flu Shots were given to 346 PURA members, and 66 members received a wellness screening during the first two scheduled flu shot clinics. We would like to give a special shoutout to the Center for Healthy Living and all the Purdue School of Nursing students who staff the flu shot and wellness clinics.

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News from the PURA Benefits Committee

The PURA Benefits Committee and United Healthcare have nearly completed the development of PURA's 2027 health insurance plans. You should expect to receive, during the month of October, by U.S. Mail a letter describing PURA's insurance plans and the monthly per member premium for each plan.

Mark your calendar for November 2nd. An open forum has been scheduled to immediately follow the PURA Monthly Meeting. The forum should begin at approximately 11:30 am. If you wish to attend virtually, you may do so by connecting to the Zoom links provided by PURA for the November 2nd monthly meeting.

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Free Adult Dizziness Screening
Purdue Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

Do you feel dizzy, experience spinning or false movements, or **become unsteady when you move?**

This screening may be a good fit if you experience:

- Spinning or vertigo
- Dizziness when rolling in bed, looking up, bending, or moving your head
- Motion sensitivity, rocking, floating, or feeling off-balance
- Unsteadiness that is worse in the dark or on uneven ground
- Blurred or bouncing vision when walking or moving your head

What is included?

1	2	3	4
Brief dizziness history	**Standing balance screen**	**Video head impulse screen**	**Results and next steps**

If balance is your only concern

Please contact us if the balance problem began with dizziness or vertigo, is worse in darkness or on uneven surfaces, includes blurred/bouncing vision with movement, or causes unexplained veering or falls.

DATE	Tuesday, November 24, 2026
TIME	9-12 am
PLACE	Lyles-Porter Hall, 715 Clinic Drive. Park in Harrison Street Garage and have ticket validated at the front desk.
CONTACT	Newell7@purdue.edu or slhsfrontdesk@purdue.edu

Advance registration recommended

This educational screening does not diagnose or rule out a medical or vestibular condition. It is not intended for sudden or severe symptoms. Seek urgent care for new weakness/numbness, trouble speaking, inability to walk, fainting, chest pain, sudden severe headache or neck pain, or sudden hearing loss.

Please call 765-494-4229 or email slhsfrontdesk@purdue.edu to register.

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Purdue's United Way 2026 Fund Drive

Purdue's 2026 United Way fund drive is underway. You may have received a United Way mailing earlier this fall that included a letter from PURA President Tim Luzader inviting your participation. Historically Purdue retiree donations make up a significant percentage of the overall Purdue funds raised for this worthy cause. If you have already given, thank you. If not, it is not too late to participate. Purdue United Way - Office of Engagement



Past President Charlene Sullivan representing PURA at the Purdue United Way Kickoff

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Volunteer Opportunities



Grab a pair of gloves and a rake and pitch in to help spruce up campus during the fall 2026 Purdue Day of Service!
Friday, October 30
9 a.m.–Noon ET
Horticulture Park
Registration: 8:30 a.m. // Welcome remarks: 8:50 a.m.

Take small steps to refresh campus by helping the Purdue Grounds Department with mulching and cleaning up landscaping beds at Horticulture Park. Volunteers will be provided with an exclusive event T-shirt and all necessary equipment. Complimentary refreshments will be available.

Purdue Day of Service has become a popular semiannual event. This fall, we hope you will take part as we continue to make Purdue a more beautiful place from the ground up—sign up and spread the word!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Purdue Day of Service was created in 2021 to encourage Purdue alumni and friends of the university to embrace volunteerism.

Stay Connected to Purdue as an EPICS Design Reviewer

EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) gives Purdue students the chance to design real-world solutions for community partners. Community members from all backgrounds are invited to serve as design reviewers, offering feedback on student presentations twice each semester (October 5–9 and November 30–December 4, 2026). Each review requires as little as two hours and can be done in person

or online. It's a flexible, meaningful way to stay involved, share your expertise, and support the next generation of Boilermakers.

For more information—or to be added to the invitation list—please contact Robyn Jakes, Lead Outreach Program Manager for EPICS, at rjakes@purdue.edu or by phone at 765-714-1380.

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What to do if you are having problems receiving PURA emails

If you are not receiving PURA emails, send an email to gifts@purdue.edu explaining that you are a Purdue retiree and are not receiving emails from PURA (Purdue University Retirees Association) sent out through Purdue for Life. Purdue for Life maintains the Purdue retiree information including email addresses in its Salesforce CRM software. Please pass this information along to any retiree friends who are not receiving our emails.

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Subscribe to Purdue Today to Keep Up with Campus News

Purdue Today, the university's e-newsletter for faculty, staff, and graduate student staff, provides updates on the latest Purdue news. Each issue celebrates achievements in research and innovation and highlights important information for employees. As a Purdue retiree you may find this newsletter a great way to stay connected to the campus. Sign up for Purdue Today at this link if you are not already a subscriber. https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/faculty-staff/purdue-today/

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Visit the PURA website www.purdue.edu/retirees for information about PURA activities and benefits.

Questions about PURA may be sent to pura@purdue.edu.