

NEWSLETTER

September
2024



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Mike Woods

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Bob LeValley
Mike Lorenz
Kent Sampson
Carol Schmitz
Gerald Stangl
Sue Williams

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President's Message

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. Cooler weather is coming. Now, hopefully we will also see some much-needed rain.

Our recent Monday Night Dinner was held on September 9. Members were treated to a great catered meal. Pistol Pete made an appearance at our "Meet and Greet" reception. There were a lot of pictures taken with Pete. Thanks to Joe and Sue Williams for hosting the "Meet and Greet." Our speaker for the evening was Scott Petty, who was Pistol Pete No. 40. Scott provided insights on the selection of students to serve as Pistol Pete each year; and he also shared some interesting stories about his experiences as Pistol Pete. Thanks to VP for Programs Priscilla Gerfen who does a great job arranging our programs. This was another good one! The September dinner was a wonderful start to the fall semester celebrating America's Brightest Orange! Several pictures of the event can be found on page 4.

Over the summer, a Financial Working Group representing the Emeriti Council met. We reviewed our various fund accounts and discussed potential financial policies and decisions. The very good news is that our Emeriti Association is fiscally sound. Thanks to Treasurer Ron Miller and our entire Council for great leadership. Our Council has recognized there will be critical positions that will need to be filled next year. Current council officers are terming out after lengthy, effective, and appreciated service. We will need a new Vice President for Programs and a Treasurer. If you have an interest in either of these positions please contact Past Council President Gary Sherrer.

Finally, Membership Chair Mike Lorenz is reaching out to recent OSU retirees to encourage them to join our Emeriti Association. If you know of OSU colleagues who have recently retired, invite them to a Monday Night Dinner. The first meal for prospective members is complimentary.

Respectfully,

Mike Woods
President

New Members of the Emeriti Association

Since the publication of the last monthly newsletter, the following individuals have joined the Emeriti Association:

Nancy Dryden

Joe Groshong

Joe Berry

Emeriti Committees and Groups

Ambassadors

Joyce Sherrer

Archive /Historian

Barbara Miller

Benefits

Mike Woods

Catering and Reservations

Bob LeValley

Communications

Zane Quible

Directory

Zane Quible

Faculty Council

Barbara Miller

Finance

Ron Miller (chair);

Mike Woods

Investment Club

Ron Elliott,

Ray Huhnke

Meet and Greet

Joe Williams

Membership

Michael Lorenz

Name Tags

Michael Lorenz

Newsletter

Zane Quible

Nominations

Gary Sherrer;

Mike Woods

Technology Group

Glade Presnal

Tours and Travel

Cathy Shuffield

Web Site

Zane Quible

Stillwater Medical Center Now in the BC/BS Medicare Advantage HMO and PPO Networks

As of May 1, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma welcomed primary care physicians and specialists affiliated with the Stillwater Medical Center to the BCBSOK Medicare Advantage (HMO)SM and BCBSOK Medicare Advantage (PPO)SM networks. Accordingly, BCBSOK mailed a letter mid-July to eligible OSU employees about the new offering. Following is a link to information about the difference between Medicare Original and Medicare Advantage that you might find helpful in deciding whether or not to change your Medicare plan: [AARP Plan Comparison](#) .

Recent Content Added to Emeriti Web Site

The following content has been added to the Emeriti Web site since the publication of the last newsletter:

April [Minutes](#)

May [Minutes](#)

Margaret Ewing [Obituary](#)

Information From OSU Human Resources

Retiree Life Insurance Benefits

Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System (OTRS) provides retirees with a \$5,000 death benefit payable to one's designated beneficiary upon the retiree's demise. When one retires with OTRS, he/she would have completed a form to designate a beneficiary for this benefit. If you need to update this designation, you can locate the *TRS Form 2R* at <https://oklahoma.gov/trs/forms.html>. Upon the reporting of the retiree's death to OTRS, it will contact the designated beneficiary regarding the \$5,000 death benefit.

Oklahoma State University also provides retirees with a \$6,000 retiree life insurance benefit payable to one's designated beneficiary upon the retiree's demise. You may at any time update your beneficiary designation by completing and submitting the following form: <https://hr.okstate.edu/benefits/retiree-benefits.html> . Reporting of the retiree's death needs to be made to OSU Benefits, which will file the claim with Lincoln Financial, and Lincoln

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Financial will submit paperwork to the designated beneficiary to finalize the claim for payment.

2025 Open Enrollment

OSU Benefits anticipates mailing open enrollment materials on or around October 9, 2024, and changes to your enrollment can be made between October 14 and November 8. Changes made during this time will become effective January 1, 2025. There will not be any vendor changes; health and prescription drug insurance remain with BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma, vision with Vision Service Plan (VSP), and dental with Delta Dental of Oklahoma. Rates for 2025 have not been finalized at this time. All retiree benefit information may be accessed online at <https://hr.okstate.edu/benefits/retiree-benefits.html>.

The Medicare Rx coverage gap phase has been eliminated in CY 2025, meaning a beneficiary will leave the initial coverage phase and enter the catastrophic phase once he/she incurs enough true out-of-pocket eligible costs to meet the annual out-of-pocket threshold, which is \$2,000 in CY 2025. Thus, retirees who have the Enhanced Rx plan may want to evaluate and consider changing to the Basic Rx plan for substantial savings on your monthly premiums.

Insurance Billing with Chard Snyder

Chard Snyder will continue as our third-party billing administrator. As a reminder, the contact information for Chard Snyder by phone is 888-993-4646; email is HealthBenefitSupport@wexinc.com; online portal is <https://app.unifyhr.com>. If you pay by check, make the check payable to UnifyHR and mail to Benefit Continuation Department, PO Box 6764, Fargo, ND 58108.

Photos From September's Monday Night Dinner



