

Highlights of 2020-2021
OSU Emeriti Association

Michael Lorenz, President 2020-2021

The pandemic of the past two years has caused many disruptions in our lives and in the functions of the Emeriti Association. In the Spring of 2020, Monday Night Dinners (MND) were suspended, and meetings of the executive committee and Council were held via Zoom. We continued to do the business of the association. Dues were suspended for 2020 and 2021 and were reinstated beginning January 2022. Dinner meetings were restarted in the Fall of 2021 with dinners held at the Alumni Center October 18 and November 8. The annual Christmas dinner was held at Legacy Village and was very well attended. We anticipate a full calendar of dinner meetings for 2022. Largely due to the pandemic, several of the special interest groups have been discontinued. The Investment Club and Technology Interest Group continue into 2022.

Membership numbers have decreased in the past two years (473 in 2019 compared to 445 in 2021). From January 2020 through December 2021, 20 individuals joined the association including 13 new lifetime members. New members are already engaged by assuming committee appointments. During the past 2 years, 27 members were deceased whose names are listed in the In Memoriam section of the directory.

The financial condition of the Association is strong. While we collected lower receipts during the past two years (recall that annual dues were suspended during this period) our expenses were also lower due to cancellation of Monday Night Dinners. During the two-year period, we took in \$826.00 in annual dues and \$1850.00 in lifetime memberships. The non-COVID 5-year averages for annual and lifetime dues are \$2,123 and \$2,260 respectively. Meal receipts for MND meetings were less than expenses for catering and room rental. Much of the difference is paid using cash available in the General Endowed Fund. The subsidy is continually reviewed and is endorsed by the Council to keep the cost of meals at \$15 to encourage attendance at MND.

The Association has two endowed funds with the OSU Foundation. The Scholarship Fund has an endowed value of \$53,000. In 2020 -2021, scholarship recipients were Alyssa Hoyle, a senior from Alma, Arkansas, majoring in Animal Science – Pre Vet, and Bailey Lockhart, a senior from Muskogee, majoring in Agricultural Leadership. For 2021-2022, recipients were Braxton Beuke, a senior from Woodward, majoring in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, and Alexis Van Pelt, a senior from Broken Arrow, majoring in Physiology and Biology – Pre Med. For this academic year, each recipient received about \$950.00.

The “General” Endowed fund has a value of about \$68,200 as of November 30, 2021. The corpus continues to grow and there are ample earnings to help underwrite expenses for MND. Contributions to either of the Association’s endowed funds are welcome at any time. The OSU fund numbers are 20-91150 and 20-72400 for the Scholarship and General Funds respectively.

Our partnership with the Alumni Center continues to thrive. We developed an updated memorandum of understanding with the Alumni Center. We are thankful for the support of President Rob McInturf and his staff.

The Emeriti Association is very grateful for the support we receive from the OSU Office of the Provost. Ms. Coral White is very helpful in assisting the membership committee by providing a list of

recent retired faculty and staff who are invited to join the association. Ms. Sofia Gustafson is providing administrative support to the association. She is doing a wonderful job, and we really appreciate her support.

I want to especially thank Sharon Nivens for her work on the Council and for successfully completing 2 years as our President. Ron Elliott has served the association for 7+ years as our treasurer and has done a tremendous job. He will step down in March and will be replaced by Ron Miller. Faye Ann Presnal served as Vice President for Activities in 2020 and did an excellent job. Priscilla Gerfen now serves in this capacity and has arranged several outstanding programs for 2021-2022. I appreciate the timely work of Kay Keys, our secretary. She completes her term of office at the end of this year, and we will need to find her replacement. Clem Ward coordinates meal functions for MND and does an outstanding job. And finally, we are indebted to Zane Quible for his dedication in maintaining our web site, publishing the newsletter, editing and publishing the directory, and helping organize several special interest groups. This is Zane's last year for these activities and finding his replacement will be difficult. Please give these individuals a big thank you for their service.