HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR - 2007

Bob Swaim, President

The OSU Emeriti Association realized several significant achievements in 2007. Phyllis Luebke and Beverly Perkins chaired a planning committee for the organization’s 20th Anniversary. A gala dinner was scheduled for January 7, 2008 to honor the four founders of the Association: Robert Henrickson, the late Jeanne Agnew, the late Richard Jungers and the late Kenneth McCollom. The Emeriti Council approved a $5109 budget for the event and other anniversary activities.

Monthly dinner programs moved to Click Hall in the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center this year due to the closing of Kerr-Drummond cafeteria. Beginning in March, the dinners became first Monday events to accommodate Alumni Center scheduling. Thanks to excellent program planning by Sharon Brown and the Activities Committee attendance soared to 212. Klein’s Catering of Perry served buffet style for the dinners with a variety of meats, salads, vegetables and desserts.

In January, Billy Crynes presented a unique program on “Outhouses”. John Womack shared his book and drawings of Route 66 at the February meeting. Music was an added feature to many of the programs this year. The speakers included topics on Wind Power, an update on the White Woods Retirement Campus, an overview of the status of the OSU Athletic Facilities, Master Plan and Campus Transportation to mention a few. It was a real honor to have Blake Wade, Chairman of Oklahoma Centennial and a real treat to watch The McTeggart Irish Dancers of Oklahoma. With several other outstanding programs, the year ended with a Christmas program on the History of Christmas Carols and a sing-a-long led by Marilyn King.

A new division of duties in the 2008 officer’s slate has been designed to maintain the high level of First Monday programming. Sharon Brown will continue as Vice President for Programs and Activities working with Dennis and Loretta Bertholf as Vice Presidents- Elect. Catering and Dinner Reservations will be coordinated by Allen Reding.

Elections of 2008 Officers and new Councilors took place December 3, 2007 at the dinner meeting. At the December 17, 2007 Council meeting, Larry Zirkle was installed as President for 2008.
Emeriti on the Faculty Council Standing Committees are: Athletics- Glade Presnal; Budget- Andrea Arquitt; Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security- Alan Brunken; Faculty- John Bale; Research- George Waller; Retirement and Fringe Benefits- John Sauer; Student Affairs and Learning Resources- Allen Reding; Academic Standards and Policies- Margaret Scott. In addition, three Emeriti members serve on the university-wide standing committee on Flexible Compensation and Benefits. They are Bob Oehrtman, Raymond Habiby, and Earl Mitchell.

Health care plan decisions by OSU and the effect on retirees made big news in 2007. The university switched plans from HealthChoice to Blue Cross-Blue Shield. Individuals who retired after May 1, 1993 were required to join the Blue Cross/Blue Shield program but were allowed to continue with Dental and Vision coverage by Health Choice if desired.

Also in 2007, in recognition of the important impact of retirees on the Stillwater economy, the Emeriti Association joined the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Emeriti Association as President in 2007.