The Emeriti Association has experienced a very successful year in 2008. The year began with the January 7, 20th Anniversary Celebration. In connection with this activity, the Emeriti Suite was remodeled and redecorated, and a video was developed summarizing the history of the Association.

Serving as president has led me to appreciate the extent of involvement of our emeriti faculty and staff in a broad variety of service and professional activities. In the Emeriti Association we have 31 members serving as chairperson in one or more of our 28 committees, subcommittees and/or special interest groups. Several times that number are involved in serving those activities. 16 members serve on the Association Council holding positions as officers and councilors.

In addition, we have 9 members serving on 9 different Faculty Council committees, 2 serving as representatives to affiliated organizations, and 3 people serving on a University committee. Since we began keeping records in April 2008, 41 different members have been involved in serving as ambassadors for OSU on game days, for homecoming, and for commencement; and in providing assistance to the Alumni Association in various ways amounting to 430 hours of service. Some of our members continue to participate in and provide leadership for professional society activities, consulting, teaching classes at OSU and other places, civic groups, and benevolent, business and church activities. I now understand why retirees say that they are busier now than they were before they retired. It is very rewarding to observe emeriti using their time in beneficial causes in such unselfish ways.

As an Association, a major effort has involved updating our founding and operating documents. We have laid the basis for greater efficiency, growth, and service by updating and revising our Constitution, By-laws, and Policies and Procedures. Position descriptions have been developed for every officer and committee chairperson in order to expedite the transfer of leadership,
assure efficiency, and provide a basis for accountability. We also approved a restructuring of the Activities Committee in order to more fairly distribute the tasks associated with the First Monday dinners. Responsibilities for Catering and Reservations, and Programs and Activities were broken out as separate tasks. A new Facilities and Maintenance committee was established, and a policy for long term investment of lifetime dues was approved. The Council approved an increase in annual and lifetime membership dues effective January 1, 2009. A long sought achievement was accomplished in the hiring of a part time office manager in cooperation with the Osher Lifelong Leaning Institute.

We have held monthly dinner meetings with attendance averaging around 120. A wide variety of entertainment and interesting programs has been presented. Also, several items of concern to emeriti have been raised and are resolved or in process, dealing with such things as handicapped parking, fees at Lake Carl Blackwell, access to OSU e-mail and other computer systems and programs, health insurance payment, etc. Several tours have been conducted to regional programs and points of interest. The International Relations Committee has been successful in increasing scholarship funds for international students, and is aggressively continuing to pursue this goal. Emphasis has been placed on contacting international graduates for support and assistance.

The Association has continued to strongly support our affiliated organizations, the Osher Lifelong Leaning Institute, and the White Woods Retirement Center program.