HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012
OSU Emeriti Association
David Lewis, President

The Oklahoma State University Emeriti Association is actively involved in the University’s programs and events. Many members contribute their time and skills to Campus activities. In addition, members serve on Boards and Committees of the University and the University’s Faculty Council. Members also serve on committees of the Association and our governing Council.

The Association meets monthly (except for July and August), usually on the first Monday for a social followed by dinner and a program. Janice and Joe Jadlow arranged our programs and musical entertainment which covered a wide range of topics of interest to members.

The Office of the University’s Provost provides administrative support to the Association which includes salary support for our Office Manager, Adeana Sallee, and the services of Professor Brenda Masters in the revision and maintenance of our web page as a part of the University’s system of web pages. The Provost’s Office continued to pay the Association’s dues to the Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) and the expenses of our President-Elect Dennis Bertholf to attend the AROHE Sixth Biennial Conference in October at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

During 2012 leadership of the Membership Committee shifted from Zona Noyes to Sharon Nivens. We began 2012 with 523 members and ended the year with 534 members, a net increase in membership of eleven. The Membership Committee contacts current and past retirees from the University to inform them of the programs and benefits of being a member of the Association.

The “Newsletter” and monthly “Update” were prepared by Adeana Sallee and Vickie Sturgeon with support from the Communication Committee led by Jo Ann Seamans. Natalea Watkins relinquished her role in the preparation of our communication materials due to the requirements of her other responsibilities. She has made immeasurable contributions to the Association since its founding through the application of her communication skills and talents. These contributions were recognized by the Council this past fall. We owe Natalea a great debt for her contributions to the Association.

Bob Henrickson prepared a history of the Association which is available in the Emeriti Suite and is being incorporated into our webpage.

The Emeriti Ambassadors, under the leadership of Sharon Brown, provides a special form of outreach for the University that benefits both the University and its retirees. The Ambassadors assemble a group of volunteers who greet visitors to the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center before home football games to host the events and serve at the reception desk. At least two times each month, a group of Ambassadors gather in the Emeriti Suite to work with Alumni staff in preparing monthly and annual mail-outs. Ambassadors also serve at Gallagher-Iba Arena
handing out programs and assisting families and graduates during multiple commencement and convocation ceremonies each semester.

The Association was represented on all of the Faculty Council Committees by the following:

- John Baird – Academic Standards and Policies
- Larry Zirkle – Athletics
- Andrea Arquitt – Budget
- Jim Criswell – Campus Facilities, Safety and Security
- Ken Bell – Faculty
- Kay Murphy – Learning Resources/Student Affairs
- Russell Wright – Long-Range Planning and Information Technology
- Charles Taliaferro – Research
- Bob Terry – Retirement and Fringe Benefits

The contribution of the Association’s representatives to the work of the Faculty Council Committees was recognized in the Committee reports to the Faculty Council during the year.

The efforts of Russ Wright with the Faculty Council Committee for Long-Range Planning and Information Technology and Bob Terry with the Faculty Council committee for Retirement and Fringe Benefits deserve special recognition. Russ worked with Ms. Darlene Hightower to develop and implement a procedure that allows Emeriti Faculty to access Microsoft software under the University’s license. Bob Terry reports the Retirement and Fringe Benefits Committee has undertaken discussions with the University Administration to extend the benefit of Colvin/Seretean Wellness Center membership to Emeriti Faculty. This effort is continuing into 2013.

During 2012 the Council discussed health insurance for retired University employees with Ms. Jamie Payne, Assistant Vice-President/Chief Human Resources Officer. Efforts are continuing to involve representatives of the Association in discussions of health insurance for retirees and in informing the Association members of their status regarding health insurance. Because of the link between wellness and the cost of health insurance, Ms. Payne is contributing to our discussions with the University Administration to extend the benefit of Colvin/Seretean Center membership to Emeriti Faculty.

In 2012, with the support of the Faculty Council, the Association nominated the following representatives to University-wide Committees and Boards:

- Joe Williams – Academic Integrity Panel
- Glade Presnal – Athletic Council (reappointment)
- George Arquitt – Diversity Advisory Board (appointment complete)
- Margaret Scott – Library Advisory Committee
- Ronald Noyes – University Intellectual Property Screening Committee
- Cecil Dugger – University Scholarship Committee
The appointment process of Joe Williams, Margaret Scott, Ronald Noyes, and Cecil Dugger is continuing.

Two special interest groups – Investment Club (Ken Bell) and Technology (Glade Presnal) met regularly. A third special interest group, Making the Most of Retirement (Zane Quible), was initiated and will have its first meeting in 2013. Contact the interest group facilitators listed above for more information.

The efforts of the White Woods Retirement Campus Board were successful in bringing the Epworth Villa organization to Stillwater and achieving a long term goal of the Association. We supported the effort by sharing the Emeriti Office with the sales force of the Epworth organization until Epworth’s space needs exceeded the size of the office. Epworth left their office furniture which upgraded the furnishings of the Emeriti Office. John Harned, President of Epworth Villa, contributed to the new refrigerator in the Emeriti Suite to replace the one that failed.

The Association has benefitted from the dedication and service of Andrea Arquitt, Charles Taliferro, and Zane Quible who have completed three years of service as Council Members-at-Large for the past three years. Zane Quible, Andrea Arquitt, and Clem Ward were elected to three year terms as Councilors-at-Large. Pat Murphy and Geneva Dugger were elected President-Elect and Treasurer. Dennis Bertholf, Betty Rutledge and David Lewis will continue as President, Secretary and Past-President respectively.

Collectively we owe a big thank you to all Emeriti members who have participated and worked on Association committees and activities.