Mark Your Calendar for Fall Monday Night Dinners. Join us each month at 5:20 in the Emeriti Suite for “Meet & Greet”, 6:00 dinner in Alumni Center.

May 5  OLLI @ OSU
June 2  National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, tour & dinner
July - no MND  
Aug - no MND  
Sept 8 Mike Woods, 100th Anniversary of OSU Extension (2nd Monday because of Labor Day)
Oct 6 Kris Steele, Criminal Justice Reform
Nov 3  TBA  
Dec. 1 Stw High School Choral

Notes from the President, Pat Murphy

The very first meeting of the Oklahoma State University Emeriti Association was held in January, 1988. Twenty-six years later, at our January, 2014 monthly meeting, the Association’s leadership group, your Emeriti Council, paused from doing “business as usual.” Instead the Council began to take a look at itself, and the current state of the Association.

Questions were asked. Why has our membership remained fairly constant, when in fact, there is an increasing number of eligible retirees each year? As evidenced by the still vacant president-elect position, why is it becoming more difficult to fill the Associations leadership roles each year? Are we serving our members, OSU retirees? What are we doing well and what services could be changed to appeal to the interests of more retirees?

These questions, and many others, have evolved into a committee of six current and past Council members, who will serve as an Association “self-assessment committee.” This work started at a February meeting and will continue. Several of their immediate suggestions were brought to the Emeriti Council meeting for their action on Feb. 24th. Each recommendation from the Assessment Committee was unanimously approved. Each will be implemented within the next weeks.

Zane Quible and Clem Ward have prepared a member and non-member survey to determine the perceptions of our current programs and services, member and non-member interests, and the reasons people have for participating or not participating in the Emeriti Association. Association dollars are funding this initiative.

A program to facilitate prospective new member interest, and to increase the pool of future leaders, is the motivation for implementing a trial program of paying for the first Monday dinner of current member-invited guests. Up to 6 people, individuals or couples will be welcomed to the first Monday dinner program, introduced as our guests, and encouraged to come back as a new member. Please look for a ‘guest ribbon’ under their names and please say ‘hello’.

Finally an interest group “table talk” program, to be initially coordinated by Zane Quible, will bring small groups of retirees together to discuss topics of interest to the group. Topics will be varied, broad, and partially suggested in the survey results. Immediately groups on politics, sports, bridge and chess, as only examples, come to mind.

The assessment committee wants to hear your ideas. Members are: Vickie Sturgeon, Andrea Arquitt, Russ Wright, Clem Ward, Zane Quible and Pat Murphy.

It is my personal opinion that the very viability of the Emeriti Association’s future is currently at risk. Like people, organizations must sometimes look at themselves and change to meet the current challenges. It is clearly time for our Association to do this.
2014 Emeriti Officers

President:
Pat Murphy

President Elect:
—

VP-Activities:
Gladeen Allred & Ed Long

Secretary:
Betty Rutledge

Treasurer:
Geneva Dugger

Past President:
Dennis Bertholf

At Large:
2014-2017: Vickie Sturgeon, Jim Criswell and Althea Wright

Admin Assistant:
Adeana Sallee

The OSU Emeriti Association is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization with the IRS. Donations to the Emeriti Association are tax deductible.

Looking Back on Some Highlights

Emeriti President Pat Murphy, Council Member Althea Wright, and VP’s for Activities/Programs Gladden Allred & Ed Long

Zane Quible introduces Financial Planner Louise Schroeder at Retirement Interest Group on Jan. 15.

OSU Alumni Association honors Ambassadors for their service at Jan. MND. Alumni President Chris Batchelder, Alumni Past President Larry Shell, and Emeriti President Pat Murphy

Heartwarming presentation about Turning Point, a therapeutic riding center, enriching lives of people facing physical, mental or emotional challenges at Feb. MND. Dennis Bertholf, Natalea Watkins and Dee Miller.

Jamey Jacob, OSU Dept of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, demonstrates the use of unmanned vehicles at the Oct. MND.

“Christmas Selections” from the Stillwater High School Chorale, directed by Dana Ayers at the Dec. MND.

Juliana Nykolaiszyn and Tanya Finchum of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program present fascinating view of Circus Culture in Hugo and connect with former Hugo residents Sharon Brown, Elizabeth Rogers, and Ruth Ann Rogers Waldrop at Sept. MND.
The new Emeriti Association Web site was launched recently, and it can be accessed using the following URL: http://emeriti.okstate.edu. The Association wishes to thank Associate Provost Brenda Masters and Abhar Panchel, a graduate student in the Department of Management Science and Information Systems, the individual who created the initial site and who continues to update the site on a regular basis. Both provided immeasurable support in facilitating the development of this new Web site.

The new Web site has a number of links on the left-hand side, and these links have one or more secondary pages that can be easily accessed by clicking on the secondary links. An events calendar is always viewable in the right two-thirds of the page when the user initially opens the page.

If you use Firefox as your Web browser, two sections may or may not load correctly, the Monthly Updates and the Newsletters. However, these two sections load properly when using either Internet Explorer or Google Chrome as the browser.

## Discussion Groups Program Recently Initiated by the Emeriti Association

The Emeriti Association recently initiated a new discussion groups program. Detailed information about this new program is available by accessing the Emeriti Association Web page and then clicking on Discussion Groups. The new program is provided by Association members for Association members.

Two different types of discussion groups will be offered: (1) those that are ongoing and that have a continuous existence, and (2) those that are formed on an ad hoc basis. These groups will likely disband when the participants believe their mission has been accomplished.

A recently completed survey of the membership will be used to determine which ongoing discussion groups are of the greatest interest to the membership. The ad hoc groups, on the other hand, can be formed by a member who wishes to share his/her knowledge or expertise about a particular topic of interest to others. This person will serve as the discussion group chair. Other ad hoc groups can be formed in response to a request by a member who wishes to learn more about a specific topic; and he/she communicates that desire to the coordinator of the discussion groups, who will then attempt to locate a member willing to serve as the chair of the group. The topics of the ad hoc groups can be practical, esoteric, philosophical, enriching, nice to know, etc.

We envision this new program to be continually changing with the formation of new discussion groups while other groups are disbanded because their mission has been accomplished. Some groups might meet only one or two times; other groups might meet for several weeks or months. Each group will determine its own operating procedures, which should enable the various groups to be tailored specifically to the wishes of the participants.

Any member who wishes to volunteer to serve as a discussion group chair or who wishes to have a discussion group formed is encouraged to send an e-mail to the coordinator of the discussion groups program, Zane Quible – zquible@okstate.edu.
LOOKING BACK AT EMERITI TECHNOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

Blayne Mayfield, OSU Computer Science Associate Professor, covered the following topics and problems this year: Best Routers for my home WIFI; all the latest info on TVs, video cameras, DVDs, pros and cons on TV providers; password security; Kindle-How to use and where to get help; Which is better for home use Adobe Writer or Adobe Profession; ATT And T Mobile contrasted; Which should I get-Desktop, Laptop, or Tablet?; Tips and Tricks for IPhones and IPads.

If you want to learn more about technology, it meets the second Wednesday of the month, September through May. Topics and questions are generated by the group and Blayne always provides excellent information and answers. Contact Glade Presnal for more information or look for meeting dates and times in the Update each month. 377-6388 or glade.presnal@okstate.edu.

Those we love don’t go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Anonymous

Hans Bilger          Donald Norvette
Leo Blakley         Audry Oaks
Herbert Bruneau     Orpha Powell
Rose Carnefix       Charlie Lou Rouse
Gloria Confer       Gerald Stotts
Margaret Fitch      Betty Stratton
Lucy Fite           Jim Strikzke
Ralph Hamilton      Nyayapathi Swamy
Martha Harvey       Pauline Walters
Edna Jungers        Jeane Yates
Andrew Monlux

INVITE A GUEST TO A FREE EMERITI MND

In an effort to increase Association membership the Emeriti Council has approved a six month trial program to explore whether a free dinner will help motivate OSU retirees, and others, to become a member of the Association.

All a current Emeriti Association member has to do is invite one or two colleagues, or friends, to a Monday night dinner. If the invitation to your guest(s) is accepted call the Emeriti office (744.5263) or email the Administrative Assistant at emeriti@okstate.edu with the name(s) of your guest(s) for their especially prepared name tag. Ask the guest for the name they prefer on the name tag. We want to remember their name. Only six (6) reservations for guests can be accepted each month. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you choose to invite someone there are important responsibilities for you to assume.

• When your guest arrives for dinner please introduce them to others.
• Invite them to sit with you at your table. There will be NO special designated “guest only” sitting.
• Introduce the guests to everyone when the president asks for “guest” introductions.
• And more generally make every effort to make them feel welcome, included in our activities. At the end of the program be sure your guest takes with them a copy of the newsletter with upcoming events.
• Invite them to join the Association.

If you have questions please contact Pat Murphy at 372.9562 or at patmmurphy41@gmail.com.