

Winter 1994

The Extension Newsletter, Issue 02, Winter Quarter 1994

Wright State University Retirees Association

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THE EXTENSION

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

WINTER QUARTER 1994

ISSUE NO. 2

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

Progress Report by Leone Y. Low

Four more organizational meetings have been held since the initial meeting of those interested in a Wright State University retirees organization. All of the meetings have benefitted from the helpful leadership and assistance of Richard Johnson and Becky Sommer of the department of Human Resources.

The results of the survey, for which Len Cargan was given a vote of thanks, were presented at the first meeting of the four. The name Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA) was chosen and a group volunteered to write bylaws for the organization. They were asked to incorporate the survey results where feasible.

The second meeting was attended by Nick Davis, Elizabeth Harden, Richard Johnson (ex officio) and Leone Low. The general approach, goals of the organization, and specific details of the bylaws were discussed.

The third meeting was attended by eight retirees who closely scrutinized the bylaws draft and adopted changes.

The group attending the fourth meeting had some overlap with those at the third meeting. They approved the bylaws, set the first year's dues at \$8.00, and authorized volunteers to proceed with an election procedures and nominating committee. After some discussion, it was decided a mail ballot would be sent to all retirees. Those planning to pay dues would vote, and those not planning to be members would be "on their honor" not to return the ballot. Dues would also be accepted from those who chose not to vote.

DON'T BE A COUCH POTATO . . .

In the last few years, studies have proved that diseases of "old age" are not the cause of old age. These studies have shown that lack of physical activity and eating an affluent diet are the main reason for the diseases associated with old age. By adjusting your lifestyle, eliminating high-risk foods and adding daily exercise to your lifestyle, you can easily add 20 years to your life expectancy. It could be that the good life is no life at all!!!

NOTES FROM RICH JOHNSON AND BECKY SOMMER OF THE WSU BENEFITS OFFICE

The Wellness and Recreation Committee, appointed by the Department of Human Resources, would like to promote an annual event to bring together current and/or retired faculty and staff members. While we plan to make the summer Picnic on the Quad an annual event we are also planning something special for retirees this spring.

The University is celebrating its 20th season in the Festival Playhouse this year. As a grand finale, the Theatre Department will present "Company," a Stephen Sondheim musical, in May. We would like to combine a Saturday matinee performance and a reception with Dr. and Mrs. Harley Flack on May 21 at 2:00 pm. The cost will be \$3.00 per person for you and a guest (if you don't already hold season tickets).

Additional information and a ticket request form will follow but right now we need to know if there is enough interest to go forward. We have to make a commitment to the Theatre Department early so they know approximately how many seats to hold for us. Please indicate by note or a call to us (873-2566) by March 31 if you think you would like to come for the afternoon of May 21. We will not consider this a commitment on your part but it would be of great help to us in planning this event.

WHAT YOU TOLD US . . .

Ninety-seven of you liked the idea of receiving a quarterly newsletter . . .

Sixty-four of you thought that \$10.00 dues per year was just fine . . .

In the Dayton area 88 retirees responded and out-of-the-area 34 responded . . .

It looks like 68 of us are very interested in the monitoring of changes, real and proposed, in the benefits package of PERS and STRS . . .

Interesting numbers don't you think??????



Book by George Fura, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
May 5-22, 1994

In its first season at the Festival Playhouse, WSU Theatre presented this musical about bachelor Bobby and his married friends Calista, Bobby's brother, and WSU Theatre's resident musical, with a revival of this landmark musical comedy about the joys and sorrows of modern relationships.

Company is being presented by WSU Theatre.

**COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RETIREES (CHER) – REPORT OF
MEETING WITH STRS
by Mary Stonecash**

Nick Davis and Mary Stonecash, WSU representatives to CHER, attended a joint meeting with Ohio State University Retirees Association (OSURA) at the STRS headquarters in Columbus on February 3, 1994.

Purpose of the meeting was to give representatives an overview of STRS activities, so they might take back to their organizations current activities and concerns.

Herb Dyer, new CEO, kicked off the meeting, and was followed by seven STRS department heads, who presented brief reviews of their departments, and by a PERS representative who discussed joint benefit procedures.

We left the meeting with a wealth of information and the assurance that STRS welcomes questions from any all STRS members.

To briefly touch on some of the topics:

The organizational structure was presented: administration; benefits; investments; and finance. STRS is an independent legal entity, (not a state-run organization) with policy set by a nine-member board and carried out by the staff. It should be noted that, while not a state organization, the Ohio legislature does guarantee all benefit payments, should STRS default.

But with 26 billion in assets and ranking of 16th in all public and private retirement funds (PERS is 14th) and an average return on investments over 10% a year, health of fund is excellent. Incidentally, 63% of income comes not from contributions, but from investments.

They are installing a new software system for better, faster service.

A review was presented of pending federal and state legislation; and of re-employment requirements after retirement (PERS changed regulation from two months lapse to six months, effective 2/94); and determination for benefits for person in both STRS and PERS.

Health care proposals were reviewed. All are being monitored, but current policy is to wait and see what Congress does. Both Aetna and Blue Cross expenses have been reduced.

Investment allocation percents: 46.6 Fixed income
39.5 Stocks
1.2 International
7.0 Real estate
(250 buildings in 36 states)

We discussed with both STRS and PERS representatives about providing speakers at our June meeting.

**WANTED: NOMINEES!
by Leone Y. Low**

The WSURA Election Procedures and Nominating Committee (Emilie Cannon, Pat Jessee, Leone Low, Mary Stonecash, Mildred Waddell, and Susan Williams) met on March 3, 1994. They established procedures to initiate the election process, discussed potential nominees, and authorized this article to ask for the names of persons who are interested in serving as an officer of the Wright State University Retirees Association.

The officers of the Association are automatically a member of the Association's Board. The officers consist of:

President
Vice President (also the President Elect)
Treasurer
Secretary
Communications Coordinator
6 Board Members

All officers are defined in the attached By-laws. A brief summary follows. The first four officers and board members have the duties which are traditionally associated with the positions. The Communications Coordinator oversees membership records, *The Extension* (newsletter), information gathering, and office volunteers.

The intent of the bylaws is to provide as much continuity in the organization as possible. The person who is elected Vice President normally has three years of duties: first a year as Vice President, then a year as President, and finally a year as Past President. All other terms are for two years. In order to have experienced members on the Board at all times, then, for the first election only, the terms of Board candidates with the three highest vote totals will be for two years. Those with the next three highest vote totals will serve one year. In addition, the term of the Treasurer will be for two years. The first elected Secretary and the Communications Coordinator will have one year terms. There are no term limits in effect except for implied ones in the presidential track, where succession should be reasonably automatic.

The duties of the first elected officers will be unusually heavy. They must determine the committee structure and more clearly delineate, and where possible, implement, the goals of WSURA. Because the first elected officers will have a major impact on the organization, the Election Procedures and Nominating Committee would like to have more than one candidate for each office. Potential nominees are being contacted. The Committee does not wish to overlook any retiree wishing to play an active role in the formation of WSURA. Anyone who is interested is urged to contact one of the following committee members by March 21 or as soon thereafter as possible.

Emilie Cannon (513-879-0838)
1320 Rona Village Blvd.
Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Pat Jessee (513-277-9519)
1747 Bluefield Ave.
Dayton, Ohio 45414

Leone Y. Low (513-767-2411)
387 N. Enon Rd.
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

Mary Stonecash (513-434-1149)
44 Nicholson Ct.
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Mildred Waddell (513-233-7992)
7144 Pineview Dr.
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424

Susan Williams (513-376-3447)
1936 Winding Brook Way
Xenia, Ohio 45385

**WHEREVER AND WHENEVER,
REMEMBER, WE'RE ALL YOURS,**

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION