



# Newsletter

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## July 2008

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OSURA held its Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 12, with 170 people in attendance. There were the usual business items, minor Bylaw changes, announcements of the new committee chairs, thanks to all of those who served, and committee reports.

There were two special highlights. One was the awarding of the first OSURA Outstanding Service Awards to John Mount and Larry Lewellen. John was one of the founding fathers of OSURA 25 years ago. Since then he has been an active member with contributions to OSURA's success just way too numerous to list. Almost everybody knows John, and he seems to know everybody. Larry Lewellen, associate vice president, Human Resources, has been a generous supporter of OSURA for many years. Without the support of Human Resources OSURA wouldn't have a newsletter or Judi McMahon. (Try to imagine that!) Also OSURA enjoys an easy cooperative relationship with Human Resources, and we anticipate future projects for the mutual benefit of the University and OSURA.

President Bob Warmbrod announced the results of the recent election. Nancy Wardwell is the new vice president and president-elect. Dick Hill was re-elected as secretary. The elected members at large of the Executive Board are Clarence Cunningham, Penny O'Neil (re-elected), and Joyce Smith. Marie Taris, Joe Lipsky, and Shirley Chase are the continuing Board members. Tom Ridenour continues as treasurer and Carlene Hamilton, communications secretary.

Bob Warmbrod then passed the president's gavel to me, and I was privileged to introduce President Gee. His address was the other highlight of the meeting. He overwhelmed us with his energy and his enthusiasm for OSU, its recent spectacular progress towards greatness, and his vision for its future. He warned us that our work for OSU is not done because he plans to use our experience and talents to the fullest to benefit the University community.

This was a good year. The 25th Anniversary bash was a huge success. It was just fun. Serving more practical purposes, Coping with Change and the Tax Seminar did their usual excellent jobs. The Lunch Bunch attendance exploded with the move to Damon's and the addition of speakers to the menu. The Special Interest Groups and the Tertulia Breakfast continue on serving specific interests. And, did you know that this past year over 1900 people participated in the tours and social events sponsored by OSURA committees?

Those are all visible activities of OSURA. As I have become more deeply involved this past year I have come to realize that, valuable as they are, these visible activities are like icing on the cake. After all, tours are good, but our pensions checks are vital. Perhaps more important is the less visible aspect, namely, the monitoring of the STRS, OPERS and the legislative landscapes, and the reports they provide us that you read parts of in the newsletter. There are clouds on the horizon that need to be watched, and dedicated members of OSURA do that for us. It has been said that vigilance is the price of freedom, and for us, vigilance is also the price of financial security. Some may hesitate to pay their OSURA dues because they believe OSURA is of no use to them when they do not participate in its visible activities. Some day the vigilance OSURA provides may pay off in a big way, and \$12 to support it is cheap at the price. I'll address this in more detail in later messages.

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- Thomas Willke, President

# OSURA News

## Officers

### President

Thomas A. Willke

### Vice President/President Elect

Nancy S. Wardwell

### Secretary

Richard M. Hill

### Treasurer

C. Thomas Ridenour

### Communications Secretary

Carlene Hamilton

### Past President

J. Robert Warmbrod

## Executive Board

### Members at Large

Shirley A. Chase

Clarence J. Cunningham

Joseph A. Lipsky

Penelope F. O'Neil

Joyce A. Smith

Marie T. Taris

## Committee Chairs

### Benefits-

Louis P. DiOrio

### Budget and Finance-

Charles E. Corbato

### Bylaws-

Thomas L. Sweeney

### Communications-

Carlene Hamilton

### Endowment-

Shirley A. Chase

### Friendship-

Mary Anne Herbst

### Membership-

Donald W. Larson

### Program Coordinating-

William J. Studer

### Cultural Arts-

Odette Blum

### Social-

Penelope F. O'Neil

### Travel-

Betty A. Maynard

## Representatives

### Campus Campaign-

Richard M. Hill

### Bucks for Charity-

Penelope F. O'Neil

### Faculty Compensation and

### Benefits Committee-

Richard M. Hill

### Ohio Council of Higher Education

### Retirees-

Louis P. DiOrio and

Thomas A. Willke

### Staff Compensation and

### Benefits Committee-

Eleanor C. Conlon

## Historian

Fern E. Hunt

## Office Manager

Judith A. McMahon

## COPING WITH CHANGE XI

The annual conference sponsored by OSURA is scheduled for September 25, and will be held again at the Fawcett Center. The program will feature a keynote address by Dr. Herb Asher on the "Mainstream Media and the Presidential Selection Process." Other topics include fraud/identity theft, saving and investing, nutrition for healthy aging, ways to make your home barrier free, stretching and strengthen, ways to protect your home, and health updates from STRS-Ohio and OPERS. Watch for registration information in the August Newsletter.

## BYLAWS AMENDED

At the Annual Meeting June 12, the members adopted amendments to the OSURA Bylaws as published in the May and June newsletters. These amendments are to Article IV, Governance of the Association, and names the committees as well as the composition of the Executive Board.

## OSURA: 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The presentation prepared and delivered by Past President Virginia Gordon at the OSURA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration can be viewed on the OSURA web site, [osu.edu/osura](http://osu.edu/osura). Click on "Pictures."

## CONGRATULATIONS!

OSURA member Dr. Joan Leitzel has been appointed to the position of interim executive dean and vice provost of the Federation of Arts and Sciences Colleges. In the new federated structure each of these units—the Colleges of the Arts, Biological Sciences, Humanities, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences — would retain its own dean, with an executive dean in the leadership role – the position to which Leitzel has been appointed interim.

## IN MEMORIAM

*We honor and thank our colleagues for their service and the many contributions that made our University a finer place.*

**BENSLER**, David P., May 5, age 68

**BROWNING**, Robert L., May 11,

Commission on Interprofessional Education and Practice, age 83

**CAHILL**, Ruth H., May 21, OSURA, age 86

**CALLAHAN**, Mary A., May 8,

Food Service, age 63

**CASBORRO**, Jean E., May 10,

Hospitals/Nursing, age 80

**CHOHAN**, Harpal S., May 27, age 48

**EGGSPUEHLER**, Joan B., May 26

**GREEN**, Katheryn, May 29, OSURA

**GULICK**, Larry "Moose", May 6, age 65

**LAUGHLIN**, Hugh D., May 4, Education, age 94

**LEWIS**, Richard P., May 18,

Medicine/Cardiology, age 71

**LEWIS**, Ursel, March 3, OSURA

**MATTINGLY**, Thomas H., May 27, age 79

**MCCORMICH**, Robert W., May 10,

Athletics/Football, age 85

**MUNNERLYN**, Ovetta P., April 29, age 95

**PETERFISH**, Robert F., May 9,

Physics Laboratory, age 82

**REHNER**, Joan "Joni" S., May 24,

Residence Halls, age 47

**RHINE**, Daisy R., May 16, Law School, age 82

**ROBERTSON**, Wayne G., May 3, Airport, age 91

**SANZI**, Mary M., May 3,

Human Resources/Payroll, age 56

**SUMMERSON**, Charles, April 28, Geology, age 93

**TALLEY**, Barbara J., May 7, age 78

**WAHOFF**, Charles G., Pediatrics, age 73

**WATKINS**, Edgar P., April 30,

OSUE/Summit County and

Agriculture Economics, age 89

**WOHLERS**, Arthur E.,

Education Policy and Leadership and OSURA, age 94

*When you know of the death of an OSU retiree or employee or spouse of an OSU retiree/employee, please contact the OSURA office – 614-292-2916.*

# Calendar

See "Description of Events" later in this newsletter for details.

- Jul 8 ..... Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Friendship Village of Dublin  
Jul 17 ..... Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Jul 22 ..... Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club  
Jul 23 ..... Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin  
Jul 24 ..... Stone Lab Tour on Gibraltar Island, depart from Fawcett Center, 6:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Aug 3..... Wooster Light Opera, depart from Fawcett Center, 8:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Aug 8..... Rosemary Clooney House Museum and Historic Augusta, Kentucky, depart at 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Sept 10-11 ..... Focusing on Ford, depart September 10 from Fawcett Center, 7:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Oct 8 ..... Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens – depart 6:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
**Oct 10..... *Dracula*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal – depart 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
**Oct 22..... Holmes County Amish Brown Egg Tour, depart from Fawcett Center, 7:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Oct 24-Nov 2..... Celebrations in Mexico, depart from Columbus International Airport – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Nov 30-Dec 6 .... Branson Christmas, depart 7:00 a.m. November 30 from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- 2009  
Apr 23-May 4..... France Magnifique, depart from Columbus International Airport – REGISTRATION REQUIRED

## Notes:

- Bold font indicates that the event is new and listed for the first time.
- Arrive at the Fawcett Center 15 minutes earlier than the time of departure listed.
- Call the OSURA office if interested in an event for which registration is closed to see if space is available.

## RESERVATIONS:

For those events marked "Registration Required":

- Call OSURA office (614-292-2916) and leave detailed message for Judi McMahon; you will receive a return call regarding your reservation request/status.
- PAYMENT is due in the office ONE WEEK after CONFIRMATION to keep reservation.
- Make check payable to OSURA (please write event date(s) and name(s) on check).
- Mail to Suite 300, 1590 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43201-2190.

**MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATIONS AS SOON  
AS YOU KNOW YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN AN EVENT!  
Some fill quickly and you  
may be closed out if you  
delay.**

## ON SUMMER VACATION

- **Book Club** until September 17
- **Photo Society** until October 9

The Ohio State University offices are on summer hours, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., until September 2; and the University will be closed Friday, July 4, to observe Independence Day.

## Outstanding Service Awards

*OSURA established an Outstanding Service Award to be given to an individual who has contributed to the betterment of The Ohio State University retirees through leadership and service to retirement causes. Here are the comments of OSURA President J. Robert Warmbrod when presenting the first of these awards at the Annual Meeting June 12.*

### LARRY M. LEWELLEN

Larry M. Lewellen, OSU associate vice president for human resources, consistently supports OSURA financially, provides office space and a staff member to be OSURA's office manager, and offers encouragement and support for OSURA's activities and services. He provides support for and involves retirees in developing and keeping up to date the *Retiree Handbook* and retirement-related publications. His authorization for and support of the re-examination of the post-retirement insurance and death benefits provided by OSU were instrumental in the substantial increase in these benefits. Mr. Lewellen supports retirement causes as a leader in administrative, policy, and legislative activities. His contribution to the proposal to increase substantially the financial base of the health care benefit of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio is noteworthy. He is a spokesperson for Health Care Advocates for STRS. For your strong advocacy for retirement causes in general and Ohio State University retirees specifically, we are pleased to award you a 2008 OSURA Outstanding Service Award. Congratulations.

### JOHN T. MOUNT

Seventy years ago, John T. Mount completed his freshman year at The Ohio State University. Sixty-seven years ago – 1941 – he earned the baccalaureate degree and began employment as an OSU faculty member – county agent in Highland County. With exception of the four years he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, since entering OSU in 1937 to today, John has been an active participant in and ambassador for OSU as student, faculty member, junior dean of the College of Agriculture, assistant to the OSU president, secretary of the OSU Board of Trustees, vice president for student services, and dean of University College and vice president for regional campuses. He retired in 1983, two months after the organizational meeting of OSURA. During the past 25 years, one – notice I said one – of his interests and areas of volunteer activity at OSU has been and continues to be the welfare of retirees. He chaired the OSURA Benefits Committee for years; he was president of OSURA in 1994-1995. He continues to be a forceful advocate for retirees and retiree causes. His involvement in securing and supporting the extraordinary cooperative arrangements OSURA enjoys with OSU reflect the influence of John Mount. He has counseled numerous retirees about retirement issues and concerns. John, it is a high honor for OSURA to recognize and honor you as a recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Service Award. Congratulations.

## WELCOME NEW RETIREES

*We congratulate our colleagues who retired from The Ohio State University in May 2008.*

**Baldwin**, Lisa A., Facilities Business Management \* **Beuzard**, Karen E., Transportation & Parking \* **Clark**, Barbara C., Dentistry/Periodontology \* **Evans**, Melanie A., University Controller's Office \* **Evans**, Larry W., Student Financial Aid \* **Fettrow**, Roger W., Facilities Utilities \* **Gallagher**, Tamara L., OARDC \* **Griffin**, Christopher M., English \* **Howell**, William S., Facilities Maintenance \* **Huddleston**, Carol A., University Hospitals \* **James**, Randall E., OSUE County Operations \* **Kinnamon**, Frank, Facilities Maintenance \* **Lanier**, William H., University Hospitals \* **Martin**, Jane C., OSUE County Operations \* **Mekoleske**, Barbara J., OARDC \* **Methner**, Clarence O., Cancer Hospital & Research Institute \* **Morgan**, Mary K., Pediatric Dentistry \* **Partee**, Kim, Veterinary Biosciences \* **Schneider**, Philip J., Pharmacy \* **Scott**, Carl L., University Hospitals \* **Shannon**, Linda J., Social & Behavioral Sciences \* **Spencer**, Edith A., OSUE County Operations \* **Stephan**, Alexander F., Germanic Languages & Literature \* **Travalio**, Gregory M., Law \* **Veit**, John J., Research Foundation \* **Wolford**, Marjorie E., OSUE County Operations

*Help welcome our colleagues to retirement and OSURA. Call those you know, encourage them to return their OSURA membership application, and invite them to attend an OSURA event with you.*

**BREAKING NEWS:** The *Retirement Handbook* has been revised and will be mailed to OSURA members soon. So watch your mail for it, then read it, put it in a place where you will refer to it on occasion, and be sure your family and executors are aware of it. The handbook contains important information for Ohio State retirees.

## Annual Meeting – President Gee

Dr. E. Gordon Gee, president of The Ohio State University, was the speaker at the Annual Meeting June 12.

He said he is often asked what led him back to Ohio State and he gave several reasons: "First of all, I was invited back, which is not always the case" and he is grateful for the opportunity to lead one of the most important institutions twice. The influence of OSU throughout the world is another reason; he cited an incidence when he was in Beijing and heard someone call out, "O – H," to which he responded (of course) "I – O." Dr. Gee said, "What a place in which you can engender such respect and recognition!"

In 1990 when Dr. Gee first came to Ohio State, the retention rate was 45 percent – most students did not make it to the second year. The University adopted a selective admissions policy and when Dr. Gee left Ohio State in 1997, the retention rate was 80 percent. Today it is 93 percent.

OSU has \$720 million in funded research. "Incredible! This is a very competitive environment."

Sixty-five percent of the faculty have been hired since Dr. Gee left. He cited some of their outstanding accomplishments; e.g., two young faculty members from Ohio State have discovered a new planet similar to the earth; Ohio State is the only place in the nation where an Andy Warhol exhibit will take place. Ohio State is becoming a literary and culture magnet. This is a world-class university with much to celebrate.

The power of this institution is in its size and quality, but it needs a one-university structure – to become a unified institution with goals and expertise.

The University should put students first – "focus on our students." Nine out of ten students select Ohio State as their first choice.

The biggest single challenge is to re-value our faculty so they are fulfilled at the end of their careers.

We have much to learn from other cultures. The university is part of a community – a city, but also throughout the world: Columbus, Canton, Pittsburgh, Beijing, ...

Dr. Gee has 555 reasons he loves Ohio State, but it has become a "bureaucratic nightmare." This "has to stop" so our people do the right things the right way.

"These are issues we are focusing on" and he expects to call on OSU retirees for help – to take time to work with students and faculty, to volunteer in libraries and laboratories... "You may have a retired status, but you have not retired from The Ohio State University! Your time is not your own."

Dr. Gee then took questions from the assembly:

- Will you talk about the restructuring of arts and sciences.

This is a major reorganization of the University. In 1968 it was decided Ohio State could not sustain a large College of Arts and Sciences and it was divided into five colleges. That model has remained, but the University "has turned itself around." The collective opinion is for Ohio State to be a world-class institution and it has started with the "heart and soul" of the University. The ultimate goal is a great University.

- What about quarters vs. semesters?

Intellectually, one system teaches to read and write; the other, to read fast. This is "not good." We are members of the Association of American Universities (60 major institutions in the country) and we are the only one still on the quarter system. We are in a deficit because "people don't understand quarters."

- The next person asked several questions: Who is your best friend? What are you going to do to save the symphony [*for those who live outside the Columbus area, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra cancelled its 2008-2009 season because of a labor dispute?*] How do you choose your bow ties in the morning?

Dr. Gee said he loves being here, is married to *Carmen Ohio*.

With regard to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, we need to make sure that it is a common ground. The University's role would be to create the notion that the symphony and culture are important. In these days of instant gratification, we have to re-create the notion that the community is important – people sitting next to each other, talking to each other, ...

Dr. Gee has 900 bow ties and loves all of them.

## Annual Meeting – President's Summary

Excerpts from President J. Robert Warmbrod summary of OSURA's activity and accomplishments during the year

- Eighty different individuals served as a committee member or chair, the convener of a Special Interest Group, or as an Association officer or an At-Large Member of the Executive Board.
- There were 300 registrations for *Coping With Change X* – a record! One hundred OSURA members attended the annual Income Tax Seminar.
- Members worked with personnel in the OSU Office of Human Resources to revise the OSU/OSURA *Retirement Handbook*.
- An annual Operating Fund budget of 2007-2008 of \$20,655 was approved by the Executive Board. OSURA is in good financial shape – at the end of the 2007-2008 year we will have an approximate balance in the Operating Fund of \$20,000, a Big Ten Meeting Reserve of \$4,000, a Life Membership Fund of \$78,000, and an Endowment Fund (part of OSU's Endowment) with a market value of approximately \$87,000.
- The Bylaws Committee dealt with only one significant matter during the year: A proposed change to the Bylaws to recognize properly the Cultural Arts, Social, and Travel Committees, to reflect current practice concerning the name of the Program Coordinating Committee, and to confirm without ambiguity the membership of the Executive Board.
- A Communications Policy was adopted pertaining to the information to be presented in the OSURA newsletter, on the web site, and in e-mail messages sent to members.
- One hundred thirty-five members have opted to discontinue receiving the newsletter by U.S. mail, electing instead to read it online.
- For the past two years, gifts to the OSURA Endowment Fund were solicited in the mailing of membership renewal letters. Each year the gifts received have totaled over \$3,000.
- No individual requests for assistance were received by the Friendship Committee during the year.
- Approximately 20 convalescence cards were mailed to ailing members; 250 condolence cards were mailed to families of deceased OSU retirees.
- The Friendship Committee developed a card that informs survivors of the possibility of an OSU death benefit and provides information for contacting the OSU Office of Human Resources. Beginning December 2007, these cards were sent to families receiving condolence cards.
- Membership renewal efforts for Annual and Life memberships were successful with OSURA's total membership in May 2008 at 3,159 – an increase of 206 over May 2007.
- At the request of the Executive Board, the Membership Committee discussed the pros and cons of a proposal that all OSU retirees be considered members of OSURA, not just retirees who pay annual dues or are Life members. An ad hoc committee was established to analyze the proposal and report recommendations to the Executive Board.
- An OSURA Outstanding Service Award to be presented annually to individuals in recognition of their outstanding service to retirees and retirement causes was inaugurated.
- The Membership Committee proposed that the Budget/Finance Committee consider dues increases for Annual and Life memberships.
- During 2007-2008, 24 events were sponsored by the Travel and Cultural Arts Committees, ranging from OSU campus tours to Columbus ballet rehearsals, one-day trips within and without Ohio, and multi-day excursions out of Ohio and internationally to Europe and Great Britain. Some 566 persons participated in the 24 events. The Social Committee arranged eleven lunches – nine with speakers covering a range of topics. The luncheons are very popular, with approximately 600 participants during the year. The Social Committee's Holiday Buffet and the Summer Picnic each drew approximately 60 participants. Special Interest Groups – Book Club, Bridge Group, Litter Pickers, Photography, and Tertulia Breakfast – engaged just over 600 OSURA members during the year. The grand total of OSURA members who participated during 2007-2008 in events sponsored by the Travel, Cultural Arts, and Social Committees and the Special Interest Groups is almost 1,900.
- A gala banquet and program was held at The Blackwell on April 13 – 25 years after the first OSURA organizational meeting on April 13, 1983. Two hundred fifty-eight persons made reservations to attend the celebration.
- The Ohio State University provided monetary, material and moral support to OSURA, including office space and equipment, funds for printing, postage, and communication, and a half-time staff member who serves as OSURA Office Manager.

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Have you paid your dues for 2008-2009 and/or submitted the Membership Update Form?

If not, we hope you do: Contact the OSURA Office.

You are important in fulfilling the mission of The Ohio State University Retirees Association.

## Description of Events

See Pages 10 and 11 in the OSURA Directory or the OSURA web site for "Travel and Event Policies and Procedures."

- **Procedure for Reservations:** See Page 3 of this newsletter.
- **Challenge Levels:**
  - 1 – Minimal walking/standing, may include a few stairs
  - 2 – Moderate walking/standing, could include a few sets of stairs
  - 3 – Moderate walking/standing, includes climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain
  - 4 – Lots of walking/standing, includes climbing stairs or hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure

Note: Most trips will allow travelers to remain on the bus, if desired. Disabled persons should refer to Page 10 in the OSURA Directory for information on assistance.
- **Events Marked with \*:** Participants must sign Disclaimer on Event Roster on the day of the event.
- **Registration closes:** This is the deadline for reservations because it is the date vendors must be paid in full for the event.
- **Refund Deadline:** Reservations must be cancelled by this date to receive a refund of payment/deposit; cancellations after this date will be reviewed by the arranger and the OSURA office for refund decisions.

### JULY 17 (THURSDAY)

#### LUNCH BUNCH

We are privileged to have as our speaker in July, Murray Ebner who is Holocaust survivor. Mr. Ebner was imprisoned in four death camps and is the only member of his family to survive torture and being killed by the Nazis. He will speak about his experiences as a 13-year-old in Poland at that time and how it has affected his life.

Time and Place: 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

### JULY 22 (TUESDAY)

#### TERTULIA BREAKFAST

A group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month for breakfast and conversation. Why not join them?

Time and Place: 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club

Cost: Breakfast on your own

Arranger: William Riley (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

### JULY 23 (WEDNESDAY)

#### BRIDGE GROUP

You are cordially welcome to join this group for a good game of Bridge.

Time and Place: 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village Dublin, North CR

Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber

### JULY 24 (THURSDAY) \*

#### STONE LAB ON GIBRALTAR ISLAND

*Challenge Level 3*

A two-hour guided Science and History Tour of Gibraltar Island will include Perry's Lookout, geologically significant glacial grooves, Stone Lab buildings, and the outside of Cooke's Castle. The second hour will focus on current Lake Erie research being conducted at Stone Lab on topics such as mayfly

populations, aquatic invasive species, and the federally threatened Lake Erie water snake.

Depart: 6:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$80 (coach fare, Jet Express, research boat, lunch on Gibraltar, bus driver tip)

Refund Deadline: **July 10**

Arrangers: Ruth Conone and Katy Rasor (*Travel Committee*)

### AUGUST 3 (SUNDAY) \*

#### WOOSTER LIGHT OPERA

*Challenge Level 1*

This operetta in three acts by Bela Jenbach and Heinz Reichert with music by Franz Lehár made its world premiere in Deutsches Kunstiertheater, Berlin, February 16, 1927; the U.S. Premiere will be August 3, 2008, Wooster, Ohio. Operetta Story: Aljoscha, the son of Russia's czar, has grown up with an intense distrust of society and dislike of women. For political reasons, the time has come for the czarevitch to marry. His uncle, The Grand Duke, arranges for an attractive dancer, Sonja, to disguise herself as male and join a troupe of dancers called in to entertain Aljoscha. His annoyance upon discovering her identity turns to feelings of friendship, and eventually to love — a love that is threatened when his uncle convinces him that he is but one in a long string of lovers for Sonja. Sonja proves he is her first and only love and they flee to Naples. Their idyllic life is challenged when the Czar dies and duty calls.

Depart: 8:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$94 (bus transportation, opera ticket, brunch at Wooster Inn, snack, bus driver tip)

Refund Deadline: **July 18**

Arrangers: Tom Hubbard and Ruth Conone (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

**AUGUST 8 (FRIDAY) \***  
**ROSEMARY CLOONEY HOUSE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC AUGUSTA, KENTUCKY**

*Challenge Level 2*

Visit the quaint river town of Augusta, Kentucky. A local guide will board the bus to narrate a tour of Augusta before a buffet lunch at the Parkview Country Inn. Then tour Rosemary Clooney's beloved riverfront retreat, now a museum honoring the singer-actress. The house boasts the world's largest collection of *White Christmas* memorabilia from the 1954 film starring Clooney, Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Vera-Ellen. Hundreds of items relating to Rosemary's life and career are on display. There will be time on your own to visit places of interest in town.

Depart: 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50 (motorcoach transportation, museum admission, tour guide fee, buffet lunch, gratuities, snacks)

Refund Deadline: **June 24**

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Barb Preston (*Travel Committee*)

**SEPTEMBER 10-11 \***  
**FOCUSING ON FORD**

*Challenge Level 2*

Tour the River Rouge Ford Assembly Plant in Dearborn, have dinner at the Edsel Ford Mansion in Grosse Pointe, and tour the Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. The Henry Ford is the complex formerly known as the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. There will be lots of history to be remembered as well as new knowledge to acquire.

Depart: 7:00 a.m., September 10, from Fawcett Center

Return: 7:00 p.m., September 11

Cost: \$249 single occupancy; \$186, double; \$162, triple; \$151, quad (bus transportation, one dinner, one breakfast, admissions to three events )

Refund Deadline: **July 20 Note: Date changed**

Arrangers: JoAnn and Richard Rueger (*Travel Committee*)

**OCTOBER 8 (WEDNESDAY) \***  
**CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD AND STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS**

*Challenge Level 2*

Enjoy spectacular fall foliage on the Akron Adventurer train from Rockside Station through the Cuyahoga Valley to the Stan Hywet historic house museum and country estate. (Don't forget your camera!) We will be conducted on a private tour of the house, savor a box lunch from the Mustard Seed Market, and have time to stroll the gardens, conservatory, and butterfly aviary before boarding the train for the return journey.

Depart: 6:00 a.m. from the Fawcett Center

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$60 (bus and train fare, admission to Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, box lunch, snacks, tips)

Refund Deadline: September 8

Arrangers: Hazel Benson, Sylvia Jackson, Linda Price (*Travel Committee*)

**OCTOBER 10 (FRIDAY) \***  
**DRACULA, BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL**

*Challenge Level 1*

Unable to live, unwilling to die, Dracula dwells between two realms, cloaked in contradiction. A story of forbidden passion, immortal beings, and love that transcends time is beautifully brought to the stage in this BalletMet favorite.

Depart: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center (car pool)

Return: 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$12 (ticket and compensation for gas and parking for drivers with three or more passengers)

Refund Deadline: October 3

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

**OCTOBER 22 (WEDNESDAY) \***  
**HOLMES COUNTY AMISH BROWN EGG TOUR**

*Challenge Level 3*

Our annual trip to Mt. Hope, Ohio, on their weekly auction/flea market day includes a side trip to Ashery Bulk Foods and Heini's Cheese, full Amish farm buffet at Mrs. Yoder's, ice cream at Ashery; afternoon tour of Behalt, colorful 265 ft. mural-in-the round depicting Amish and Mennonite heritage in the world's largest Amish community, video, tour of Amish school, pioneer farm.

Depart: 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$42 (deluxe motorcoach, admission, Amish farm buffet, dozen brown eggs per household, ice cream cone, gratuities)

Refund Deadline: Noon October 15

Arrangers: Jim Portman and Lorren Still (*Social Committee*)

**OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 2 \***  
**CELEBRATIONS IN MEXICO**

*Challenge Level 3*

A study tour to Mexico at the most exciting time of the year, Days of the Dead. Visit two studio homes, (Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera), the Saturday Bazaar, and cultural and historic sites in Mexico City. Oaxaca is the center of a large indigenous area, and home to museums and archeological ruins. Also visit small villages, each known for its distinctive art or craft. Tour the mountain-top archeological site of Monte Alban and observe Days of the Dead cemetery and family home celebrations.

Depart: TBA October 24 from Columbus International Airport

Return: TBA November 2

Cost: \$2,695, double occupancy; \$350 single supplement (round trip air fare from Columbus, lodging, admission fees, 22 meals, ...) Deposit of \$800 per person; final payment due August 22

Registration: **Open until July 15 based on availability** ← **NOTE CHANGE**

Arranger: Vivian B. Harvey and Carol Baker (*Travel Committee*)

### **NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 6 \*** **BRANSON CHRISTMAS**

*Challenge Level 2*

Start the Christmas season in Branson, Missouri, with their wonderful Christmas shows: See nine shows, *Yakov Smirnoff, Mickey Gilley, Dalena Ditto, The Platters, Jim Stafford, Shoji Tabuchi, Roy Rogers, Tony Orlando & the Lennon Sisters, and The Branson Belle*. Eat great meals. Find time for shopping.

Depart: 7:00 a.m. November 30 from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:00 p.m., December 6

Cost: \$954 double occupancy; \$1152, single (bus transportation, lodging, breakfasts, 4 dinners, shows, snacks) **Note: Rate change** – Cost of transportation has increased; there will be no further increases.

Refund Deadline: August 1 **Note: Date changed**

Arrangers: Richard and JoAnn Rueger (*Travel Committee*)

### **APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2009 \***

#### **FRANCE MAGNIFIQUE**

*Challenge Level 3*

Bask in the rich culture and romance of fascinating France. On this special tour you will explore captivating Paris, picturesque Provence, and the fun-

filled French Riviera. Highlights of this 12-day tour include Paris, Seine River Cruise, Parisian Cabaret Dinner, Omaha Beach, Amboise, Winery Tour, TGV Train, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Nice, and Monaco. Full itinerary available from the OSURA office. To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session on August 7, 1:30 p.m., in the Whetstone Branch Library meeting room, 3909 North High Street.

Depart: TBA April 23 from Columbus International Airport

Return: TBA May 4

Cost: \$3,949, double; \$4,749, single; \$3,919, triple (round trip air from Columbus, 10 breakfasts, 7 dinners, sightseeing per itinerary) \$450 deposit with confirmation; final payment February 1

Registration closes: October 16

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Barb Preston (*Travel Committee*)

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#### **SO YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD**

The following events are in the planning stages – preparations are not far enough along to accept reservations, but are listed here so you can pencil in your calendar those which interest you. When all details are in place (cost, times, content, ...), they will be listed in the OSURA Calendar on Page 3 of the newsletter; until then, if you want information, contact the arranger.

- September 25, Coping with Change XI, Fawcett Center (Marie Travis and Diane Selby, Arrangers)
- November 19, Objects of Wonder from OSU Collections, Columbus Museum of Art (Odette Blum, Arranger)
- December 12, LaComedia Dinner Theatre (Betty Maynard and Gladys Murray, Arrangers)

Note: The New York City trip planned for March 22-26 has been cancelled since no escort was available.

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#### **FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETING, June 3**

- The Committee is working on a document titled "Long Term Care – Some Basics & Caveats for OSURA'ns." Among elements it will note are gender differences, time likely to be spent in a facility, and an increasing trend toward home-health care. After it is reviewed by the Ohio Department of Insurance, the document will be made available to OSURA members.
- Estate Planning is the topic for a seminar planned for next spring (tentative meeting date of April 2, 2009).
- A graduate student from the College of Education will be seeking 40 (OSURA) volunteers for a study on how seniors make decisions.

#### **Legislation Update:**

##### Ohio

- HB 315 is still in the FIRES Committee – status is unclear, but meetings for assessment of support continue. Meetings of the stakeholders are to continue with Rep. Scott Oelslager over the next months, with common ground being sought.
- HB 270 which would curtail re-employed retirees returning to the same position shortly after retiring is expected to soon find its way onto the FIRES calendar.

##### Federal

- There is confusion as to whether all state retirees will be eligible for the federal Economic Stimulus Package.



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OSURA

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**FRANCE MAGNIFIQUE  
APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2009**

*Paris, Omaha Beach, Amboise, Avignon, Provence, Nice, Monaco and more...*

Bask in the rich culture and romance of fascinating France. Begin in Paris with an evening cruise along the River Seine and a special dinner at the Paradis Latin, Paris' oldest cabaret theatre. A panoramic tour of Paris includes the architecture of the Arc de Triomphe and the Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame. Time is available for an optional tour of the Louvre museum. Then journey to the Normandy coast for a visit to the Memorial Peace Museum and the U.S. Military Cemetery in Omaha Beach. Journey south for a tour of the Chateau du Clos Luce, where Leonardo da Vinci spent his last three years, and view a display of da Vinci's early inventions. Continue traveling in the Loire Valley to enjoy a tour and tasting at one of the most well-known wineries in Vouvray. Then board the high speed TGV Train as it departs for the magical region of Provence and its capital, Avignon, where a delightful walking tour explores the town's hidden treasures. In Aix-en-Provence enjoy a tour highlighting the markets and monuments of this ancient city. Learn the secrets of perfume making in Grasse followed by a visit to the quaint village of St. Paul de Vence. Then it's off to Nice for two nights. A tour of the Principality of Monaco highlights the famous Casino of Monte Carlo and the Cathedral of Monaco.

**Double \$3,949; Single \$4,749; Triple \$3,919  
Deposit \$450; final payment due February 1, 2009**

Cost includes: round trip air from Columbus, transfers, lodging, luggage handling,  
10 breakfasts, 7 dinners, sightseeing per itinerary, cancellation waiver and insurance

Full itinerary available from the OSURA office

Registration closes October 16 or earlier if OSURA spaces are filled

**To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session on August 7, 1:30 p.m.,  
at the Whetstone branch library meeting room, 3909 North High Street**