



Newsletter

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July 2009

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

You will find the details later in this newsletter, but as I write, the smiles and good memories linger from our Annual Meeting June 9. It was wonderful to be with friends and colleagues to celebrate a very productive 26th year for OSURA. Tom Willke has been a most able president and a thoughtful, elegant leader. Perhaps his greatest contributions have been the series of insightful article-letters he wrote about 403(b)s, the urgency of protecting Defined Benefits, and other critical financial issues. We are pleased that he has agreed to return occasionally as a guest columnist. Thanks, Tom.

Thanks, too, to our committee chairs and their members. We have provided stimulating, interesting programs and travel, have welcomed more new members, and have worked to make ours a caring community.

We have a corps of very important representatives who participate in allied organizations and keep a watchful eye on the political happenings in our university, state, and in the U.S. Others have been careful stewards of our resources, bringing us successfully through, what have been for some, difficult and devastating times. Talented people develop our directories, newsletters, and membership materials, which communicate activities and important issues.

We are grateful to all who made the past year such a good one, and are pleased that our strong committees and leadership are positioned for the next year.

OSURA Volunteer Center: The development of a way to bring together opportunities in the community and university and our talented, interested members is our next big project. President Gee enthusiastically raised the possibility of such a center and has provided resources through Joyce Beatty and the Office of Outreach and Development. Phil Saken has been assigned as our liaison and we are positioned to put our dream into reality.

Our community and university have a rich variety of needs that could be met by volunteers and we have retirees who have many skills and talents to share. Already many retirees volunteer generously but we need a vehicle to connect even more of our members to meaningful opportunities. The advantages to our volunteers and the programs that use us are obvious, and we will have a means to demonstrate our contributions and partnership with the community.

The first step has already been accomplished with the involvement of the University's Office of Outreach and Engagement. Our next step is to assemble a small group to identify our potential and develop the details of an effective, efficient office. I am hoping we can be functioning by the end of fall quarter.

Interested? If you are interested in being part of this important and, we hope, short-lived planning group, please call or e-mail me and we will begin the process.

We have a strong board and great committees. I am looking forward to this 27th year of OSURA and am humbled to follow the wise folks who have brought forward one of the strongest and most vital retiree organizations in the country. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions; so do not hesitate to contact me. I realize a good number of our members live outside Central Ohio and would particularly like to hear how we can better serve you.

Nancy Wardwell

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OSURA News

Officers

President

Nancy S. Wardwell

Vice President/president-elect

Marie T. Taris

Secretary

Richard M. Hill

Treasurer

C. Thomas Ridenour

Communications Secretary

Carlene Hamilton

Past President

Thomas A. Willke

Executive Board Members at Large

Clarence J. Cunningham

Howard L. Gauthier

Joseph A. Lipsky

Penelope F. O'Neil

Joyce A. Smith

James Tootle

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-

Judith A. McMahon

Historian

Fern E. Hunt

Office Manager

Kathi Hess

ANNUAL MEETING

June 9

There were 123 OSURA members and guests (including 13 past presidents) who attended the Annual Meeting at the Faculty Club. Highlights of the year and a synopsis of the speech by Gene Smith, athletic director and associate vice president, The Ohio State University, appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Here is a brief report of other items on the agenda.

Bylaws Amendments

The proposed amendment to Article V of the OSURA bylaws was adopted. That article now reads:

Article V – Dues

Dues shall be set by the Board.

This simplified the language to eliminate the need for the Board to meet during a specific month and permits the Board to set Life Membership dues as well as annual dues.

Results of Election

President Thomas A. Willke passed the gavel to Nancy S. Wardwell after expressing his appreciation for the privilege and pleasure he had by serving as president this past year. He complimented the volunteers for the time, vision, wisdom, and skills they had given the Association as well as gratitude to those in the Office of Human Resources who provide so much support to OSURA.

Incoming President Wardwell announced the results of the election and introduced the Executive Board. Marie Taris (who Nancy says will be a hard act to precede) will serve as vice president/president-elect in 2009-2010; Tom Ridenour and Joe Lipsky were re-elected as treasurer and member-at-large respectively. Joining the Board as members-at-large are Howard L. Gauthier and Jim Tootle. Shirley Chase has completed her term as member-at-

large, but will continue as chair of the Endowment Committee. J. Robert Warmbrod, immediate past president, will leave the Board.

Outstanding Service Award

Judith A. McMahon received the Outstanding Service Award. She served as office manager for The Ohio State University Retirees Association from 1993 until her retirement this year. The proclamation noted that her service to the Association over her 17-year-tenure had exemplified the highest standards; that her care and concern for the Association's programs and objectives was unflinching throughout; and, that she was a steadfast friend to all its members over those years.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Cardwell, Shirley A., June 4, University Hospitals, age 72

Conti, Giuseppe, June 5, Athletics, age 81

Dagefoerde, Richard O., May 25, Dentistry and OSURA, age 80

DiOrio, Jewell, June 4, OSURA, age 76

Eader, Margaret Patton, May 27, Nursing, age 61

Ishler, Lonnie P., June 2, Facilities, age 64

Kessler, Ruth M., May 29, Law

Lanier, William H., May 14, University Hospitals and OSURA, age 81

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.



Membership renewals and update forms are due!

OSURA Calendar

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

- Jul 16..... Lunch Bunch, 11:15 a.m., Buckeye Hall of Fame Cafe, 1421 Olentangy River Road –
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Jul 22..... Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin
- Jul 24..... A Touch of Portsmouth Tour, depart 8:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
- Jul 28..... Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club
- Aug 7..... Washboards and Quilts, depart 8:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
- Sept 15-19..... Michigan: Frankenmuth, Mackinac Island, and Upper Peninsula, depart 7:00 a.m. September 15
from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 14..... Sternwheeler and Ohio Rivers, Marietta, Ohio, depart 7:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center –
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Apr 17-25, 2010 . Springtime Tulip River Cruise, Holland and Belgium, depart TBA from Columbus
International Airport**

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; 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.**

SO YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD

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

- September 24, Coping with Change XII (Nancy Wardwell, Arranger)
- December 4, LaComedia Dinner Theatre (Sylvia Jackson and Barb Preston, Arrangers)
- December 9, Holiday Buffet, Antrim Park Shelter House (Penny O'Neil, Arranger)

ON "VACATION"

- **The OSURA Book Club** is on summer hiatus until September 16. During this time lots of reading will be going on, which should lead to interesting books for all of us to read. Do think of joining the group. Contact Lee Hill (614-459-4743 or hill.30@osu.edu) for meeting information and other questions.
- **Lunch Bunch** will meet in July, but not in August; will return September 17.
- **Photo Society** will be back in October.

- Hear about the emergence of **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AS THE FLAGSHIP INSTITUTION IN THE STATE OF OHIO.**
- Attend two sessions on topics of interest and concern to retirees.
- Get advance information on health care plans for 2010.

**COPING WITH CHANGE XII
September 24, 2009**

Annual Meeting – President's Highlights

Issues

- The Ohio State University, through the Office of Human Resources, provided fiscal and moral support to OSURA with office and meeting space, equipment, funds for printing, postage, and communication, and a half-time office manager.
- Dues will be increased from \$12 to \$15 with a corresponding increase in Life Membership fees, to cover the increased costs for OSURA events, from \$135 to \$170. Other minor Bylaw changes were made.
- Matters of concern and discussion by the Executive Board included the improvement of the University's optional 403(b) program under the new Federal regulations, an increase of discount opportunities for retirees, and an increase in opportunities for OSURA volunteers to assist the University in its mission.
- To expand its mission to assist members in personal need, the Executive Board decided to increase publicity in the newsletter and to increase relevant resources of the Friendship Committee.
- Along with its continuing surveillance of pension and legislative issues relative to pensions and health benefits and relaying that information to the membership, OSURA is increasing the effort to build coalitions with other retiree organizations to protect retirees' interests.

Programs

- The Coping with Change conference had 268 registrants.
- An extra seminar on 403(b) investments, held because of popular demand after the Coping with Change seminar, drew an estimated 50 attendees.
- The Income Tax Seminar had 65 attendees.
- The Annual Business Meeting is expected to have over 100 registrants.
- The OSURA Outstanding Service Award will be given to one recipient at the Annual Meeting.
- The Lunch Bunch continues to draw 60 to 70 attendees every month at the new location.
- The new Estate Planning Seminar had 109 registrants.
- The Holiday Buffet and the Summer Picnic each drew about 60 attendees.
- Twenty-four events ranging from campus tours, BalletMet dress rehearsals, Opera Columbus performances, and one-day trips to multi-day excursions to other states, Mexico, and France attracted over 700 participants.
- The Special Interest Groups – Book Club, Bridge Group, Litter Pickers, Photography and Tertulia Breakfast – engaged almost 600 attendees during the year.
- There were a total of over 3500 participants in OSURA events this past year.

Activities

- Members of the Benefits Committee attended and actively participated in STRS, OPERS, OCHER, ORTA, PERI, and other relevant retiree associations. They monitor Ohio and Federal legislative issues of concern to retirees and report to the membership in the newsletter. The committee has representatives on OSU's Faculty Compensation Benefits Committee and the Staff Compensation and Benefits Committee. Members have been working with the Office of Human Resources to improve the optional 403(b) defined benefits program and to identify and increase the discounts available to retirees.
- Members of the Benefits Committee, under the auspices of OCHER (Ohio Council for Higher Education Retirees, i.e., from the state universities of Ohio), arranged an all-day conference of pension officials, lobbyists, and others to exchange information on pension and related legislative developments.
- A monthly ten-page newsletter goes to all members. This year 224 members saved us postage by opting to read it on the website instead. The website generally logs 100 visits and 200 page views per week.
- A guide with information on long-term care was prepared for the membership. It was featured on the front page of *Resources*, the quarterly publication of the Office of Human Resources. *Resources* carries articles from OSURA in every issue.
- The Endowment Committee received gifts of over \$4,000.
- The Friendship Committee mailed approximately 200 convalescence and condolence cards to members and families of deceased members. That committee and the Board have been exploring ways to provide more assistance to members with special needs.
- The Membership Committee's efforts were successful with OSURA'S total membership at 3,322 in May 2009, an increase of 163 over this time last year. The membership total will decrease in summer as many of the first-year complimentary members do not renew, but it will increase as others retire.

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Engagements and Actions for Public Retirement Systems

On May 19, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees held a one-day conference, "Engagements and Actions for Public Retirement Systems." Dr. Louis DiOrio and Dr. Richard Hill, of OSURA, were the principal organizers.

The speakers were Terri Bierdeman, who is responsible for the legislative matters at the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS); Beth Almeida, executive director of the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS); James Miller, consultant to two of Ohio's state pension systems and to other organizations; Linda Brookhart, executive director of the (Illinois) State Universities Annuitants Association; Ann Hanning, executive director of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association; William Leibensperger, vice president of the Ohio Education Association; Michael Nehf, executive director of STRS; Aristotle Hutras, director of the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC); Laura Ecklar, director of communication services for STRS; and Larry Lewellen, associate vice president for Human Resources at The Ohio State University.

The event was a stimulating and sobering seminar on very complicated matters presented by true experts. While it would be impossible to recount all that was discussed, a few of the important points are:

- "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." This quotation from Margaret Mead set the theme for a discussion on the need for working with coalitions if we are to make our voices heard. Coalitions can provide help to a group in the form of advice, studies, and so on, and they assist in balancing priorities and equities, sharpening the focus of effort in attempting to achieve a good result. STRS works with many groups, such as the Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security, the Public Healthcare Roundtable, the National Council on Teacher Retirement, the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, and the Council of Institutional Investors, depending on the issues of concern.
- NIRS has issued a research report entitled "A Better Bang for the Buck: The Economic Efficiencies of Defined Benefit Pension Plans." The report shows that economic efficiencies allow defined benefit (DB) plans to cost roughly half as much as individual defined contribution (DC) plans to achieve the same level of retirement income for any specific retiree. This occurs because of three factors: (1) DB plans can more easily pool the longevity risk, which causes DC plans to prepare for living to a very advanced age; (2) DB plans can maintain a diversified portfolio, whereas DC plans are usually managed to become highly conservative as an individual ages; and (3) DB plans more easily permit professional management of the funds. This report is available on the NIRS website.
- Ohio's state pension systems have the economic impact of a business with an \$800 million per month payroll spread throughout the state. Moreover, if retirees are confident that their money is safe and that monthly checks are assured, their spending will continue even during hard economic times. This can provide a flywheel effect for the rest of the economy thus helping to minimize downturns.
- Important issues in the upcoming debates on a national healthcare program include eligibility and access, provider payments, requirements that employers continue existing healthcare benefits, prescription drug subsidies, and the wisdom of the government setting prescription drug prices.
- Mandatory Social Security, which would require all public employees to be part of the Social Security system, would increase the longevity of the Social Security system by only two years, but it would devastate Ohio's public pension systems. Social Security reform will likely not be considered this year by Congress, but it must be faced soon.
- Many STRS retirees are affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Although bills to repeal these provisions have literally hundreds of congressional co-sponsors, including President Obama when he was a senator, there is little likelihood that very many of the co-sponsors actually support the bills. Their support is said to be of a cosmetic variety. No repeal of these "penalties for public service" is likely in the foreseeable future.
- Our sister state of Illinois reported a deteriorating pension system. Illinois may be a few years ahead of Ohio in this area.
- When dealing with "pension envy," framing the issue is important. For example, responses to these two questions are significantly different: (1) "Is it fair that public employees get such great benefits?" (2) "Wouldn't it be good if all employees got the great benefits that public employees receive?"
- COLAs, contribution levels, retirement formulas, and more are on the table as STRS and the General Assembly attempt to maintain the soundness of our pension system. Change is coming and all of Ohio's pension systems will receive the full attention of the General Assembly once the state budget has been

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More OSURA News

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

We congratulate our colleagues who retired from The Ohio State University in May 2009.

Alvarado, Linda, Harding Hospital * **Cheney**, Dale, Rio Operations Headquarters * **Clayton Bridges**, Joyce, University Hospitals East * **Curtiss**, Martin, Rio Operations Headquarters * **Davis**, Johnny, Campus Dining Services Administration * **Davis**, Donna, Campus Dining Services Administration * **Deinlein**, Beth, Physics * **Finch**, Donald, Office of Information Technology Administration * **Flinn**, William, Human and Community Resource Development * **Franklin**, Gary, Ross Heart Hospital * **Guess**, Tom, Security and Protective Services * **Harper**, Michael, Rio Operations Headquarters * **Hill**, Nancy, Student Health Service * **Howie**, Michael, Anesthesiology * **Hoza**, William, Office of Information Technology Administration * **Johnson**, Diane, University Extension County Operations * **Jordan**, Rhonda, Harding Hospital * **Kelly**, Joan, University Hospitals * **Lipsey**, Linda, Veterinary Hospital * **Love**, Tina, Student Life Human Resources * **Mannering**, Bonnie, University Hospitals * **Massey**, Mary, University Hospitals East * **Medlin**, Lillie, University Hospitals * **Moore**, Sherri, Athletics * **Patterson**, Keith, Cancer Hospital and Research Institute * **Robison**, Frank, University Registrar * **Scofield**, Ethel, Student Health Service * **Susi**, Michael, Rio Operations Headquarters * **Turano**, Karen, OSU Family Practice Services * **Waggoner**, Carol, University Extension County Operations * **Wicker**, Janice, Athletics * **Wilson**, Danny, Student Financial Aid * **Withers**, John, Security and Protective Services

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.

ENGAGEMENTS AND ACTIONS ...

Continued from Page 5

dealt with. ORSC, created in 1968 to assist the state legislature, the governor, and other public officials in the formation of sound public pension policy, will play an important role.

- A time of change in the pension system is a time of danger since there are some who will work for changes that would advantage themselves and not the retirees. Improper access to the billions of dollars in Ohio's pension systems by intrusion into basic pension plan operations would be detrimental to the interests of the retirees.
- STRS is governed by a board elected by its members supplemented by public appointees. The right to be self-governing must be earned every day. Any mismanagement, real or perceived, would be particularly harmful at this time.
- STRS members are not especially happy these days. Change is coming and for the first time it will be a reduction, not an enhancement, of benefits. Responsible criticism of the STRS Board's actions and the system's performance are always appropriate but wild, irresponsible criticism can be misused during a time of change. Logic and merit does not always trump emotion when legislation is drafted.
- Politics is a contact sport. To have influence, you must contact your state representative, your state senator, and your governor.
- Each of the organizations mentioned above has its own, easy-to-find, website. The websites are a rich source of additional information.

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE UPDATE

1. A new long-term care insurance (LTCI) "Shoppers Guide" (December 2008) has been published by the Ohio Department of Insurance. To secure a copy go to www.ohioinsurance.gov – click on Communications, then Consumer Publications, then Order Department. Copies will be available at our Fall Coping with Change Conference.
2. Latest cost estimates for long-term care (Genworth Financial)
 - a. Private room in a nursing home\$67,000/yr
 - b. Semi-private room\$60,000/yr
 - c. Assisted living facility (one bedroom) . \$30,000/yr
 - d. Certified home health aide
50 hrs/week)\$52,000/yr
 - e. Homemaker services (50 hrs/wk)\$44,000/yr
3. Sixty percent of those at age 65 will require some long-term care — with an assumed stay in a nursing home to be 2.5 years (much less for men) and the average length of time for home custodial care is 4.3 years. (These are just rough estimates.)
4. The Ohio Dept of Insurance (ODIC) has developed a new partnership arrangement to protect assets when one finds it necessary to use Medicaid for long-term care. Essentially, premiums paid for insurance can be protected. See www.ltc4me.ohio.gov for details.
5. ODIC expects LTCI premiums to rise 1-5 percent per year in the future due to the present economy.
6. OPERS announced that their members with group policies with Aetna will have the option of changing them for Prudential or going to an Aetna private plan. There should be minimal changes in benefits and premiums.

“Building Leaders for Tomorrow”

Gene Smith, athletic director and associate vice president, The Ohio State University, spoke at the Annual Meeting of The Ohio State University Retirees Association on June 9. Here is some of what he had to say.

The athletic program at Ohio State is self-supporting: No tax dollars, no student fees, no University funds. In addition it has provided \$26 million dollars to the greater University.

The program is doing well: There are 36 sports and over 900 student athletes (497 of whom carry 3.0 or better GPAs – the average GPA for all athletes is 3.02). There were 177 athletes among the Ohio State graduates, some of whom had returned to complete the degree requirements after a break to pursue a career in professional sports.

There are three goals for the athletic program:

1. Get their degree – the most important.
2. Develop their God-given gift of athletic talent.
3. Provide competent, caring coaches and staff.

With regard to No. 3, Dr. Smith said the coaches and staff have a responsibility to these young people and their parents. They have recruited them in their living rooms and promised to help them to grow as people and need to make sure they feel comfortable in the culture and environment at Ohio State. About 200 new athletes join the program each year and come at all levels of maturity and non-maturity. The first three weeks are a critical time in which the students are evaluated to determine their needs and strengths to survive in the city that is The Ohio State University. (The University would be among the sixth or seventh largest city in the state.)

This was a great year in competitions. Dr. Smith pointed out particularly the women's basketball and men's tennis records, as well as the wrestling team which is second in the country for two years in a row.

Athletics is one of the very few incubators in higher education. Among the 900 student athletes, 87 are international students, 102 honors, and 3 potential Rhodes Scholars. The coaches and staff work to make sure they assess these talents and skills and surround the students with people who can help them have the opportunity to follow their dreams.

Dr. Smith took questions from the OSURA members:

- What is the biggest issue facing the NCAA?
 1. Cost containment. Of the 343 Division I schools, 21 percent of the funds supporting the athletic programs come from the universities' general

funds. Ohio State has been cutting costs (e.g., media guides) to send a message, “if OSU can do it, other universities can.”

2. The second issue would be unscrupulous influences that exist among our society – the negatives influencing our young people, those interested in them as products or potential revenue and that is difficult to get our arms around.
 3. Third, gender equity. Holding strong to the principles of gender equity. Ohio State is in a leadership role here.
- How are you servicing the debt on the stadium?
We are paying \$17.2 million a year on the \$190 million debt on the stadium. The stadium is a huge revenue source and was a good investment. Football alone brings in \$33.5 million directly; in addition there is indirect revenue such as merchandising. The President's Club is another source of revenue: Ohio State is the only school where one can make a donation to a particular college and receive the opportunity to purchase season tickets. The Schott was another good investment. The athletic program brings \$100 million a year to the community largely because of these two facilities.
 - Do you see the Big 10 adding another team?
I think it will, but it will be a long time. It makes sense to balance the schedule, but we need a school that will bring value to the market through the Big 10 Network. We need to go into a market that we don't control TV-wise now.
 - One of your predecessors said the AD's main job is hiring and firing coaches. Do you agree?
That's not my main job, but hiring and firing not just coaches, but other staff (e.g., sports information director, IT people) is part of the job. Coaches are great not just because of what they do, but because of the people around them.
 - Is there a relationship between OSU and Nationwide Arena?
We currently work collectively with Nationwide; we drive a lot of business there. Had we won our bid for the Women's Final 4, those games would have been played there rather than at the Schott. We are in the midst of creating a basketball tournament and made the decision to go to the Nationwide Arena. Concerts and other ancillary events are part of the revenue, but a strong tenant is needed.

Description of Events

See Pages 12 and 13 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 12 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 16 (THURSDAY)

LUNCH BUNCH

Our speaker will be OSURA member Dick Hill on "The Mummy's Eye." Under certain natural conditions, human soft tissues, the eye included, may remain remarkably preserved for a millennium or longer. Through modern tissue management and analytical methods, dietary deficiencies, chronic disease (e.g., TB, cancer), genetic and metabolic conditions (sickle cell anemia, diabetes mellitus), cardiovascular disorders (atherosclerosis), and more are being revealed. Similarly, the eye is now adding to that list (e.g., cataract, trachoma), all of which leads to a growing understanding of contemporary challenges through those that plagued ancient civilizations so long ago.

Time and Place: 11:15 a.m. (lunch will be served at 11:30), Buckeye Hall of Fame Cafe, 1421 Olentangy River Road

Cost: \$10 cash for sit-down lunch

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

JULY 22 (WEDNESDAY)

BRIDGE GROUP

Spend a nice summer afternoon playing Bridge with OSURA friends.

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

Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber (*Bridge Group SIG*)

JULY 24 (FRIDAY) *

A TOUCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Challenge Level 2

A guide will board the bus to tell us about the 50-plus scenes on the Floodwall Murals that chronicle more than 2,000 years of Portsmouth and Scioto County history. Then we will tour the 1810 House, a historic old farm homestead that represents the courage of pioneers who cleared, settled, and cultivated the wild forest near the mighty Ohio River. After lunch on your own at the historic Portsmouth Brewing Company, we will visit the Southern Ohio Museum. The exhibits

include the Anna Louise Stanton Doll Collection; Carl Ackerman Collection of Historic Photographs; Ohio Designer Craftsman Best of 2009; Collection of American scene paintings by Portsmouth native Clarence Carter; and Art of the Ancients: The Ohio Valley, a collection of 10,000 of these objects.

Depart: 8:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: Approximately 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$38 (bus transportation, admissions and tours, bus driver tip – lunch not included)

Registration Closes: **July 6**

Refund Deadline: **July 6**

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Gladys Murray (*Travel Committee*)

JULY 28 (TUESDAY)

TERTULIA BREAKFAST

Good food, good conversation, good camaraderie!

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

Cost: Breakfast on your own

Arranger: William Riley (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

AUGUST 7 (FRIDAY) *

WASHBOARDS AND QUILTS (LOGAN AND ATHENS, OHIO)

Challenge Level 2

Watch some fascinating factory work and listen to a washboard band at the Columbus Washboard Company established in 1895 and the only manufacturer still operating in the USA today before having a buffet lunch at The Olde Dutch Restaurant. Some time will be allowed to peruse an antique market and craft mall next to the restaurant before traveling to Athens and the biannual QUILT NATIONAL to view quilts as works of art at the Dairy Barn Arts Center.

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

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$45 (bus transportation, tour fees, buffet lunch, snacks, and all tips)

Refund Deadline: July 17

Arrangers: Rose Yonka and Carol Baker (*Travel Committee*)

SEPTEMBER 15-19 (TUESDAY-SATURDAY) * THE BEST OF MICHIGAN

Challenge Level 2

We will arrive in Frankenmuth to spend the afternoon browsing at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and the other shops and attractions in this fascinating village. That evening we'll enjoy a family-style dinner at Zehnder's Restaurant. The next day we will travel northward to the Straits of Mackinaw for a three-night stay. We will take a ferry ride to Mackinac Island for a sumptuous breakfast at the Grand Hotel. A self-guided tour of the hotel is included followed by a horse-drawn carriage ride with a narrated tour of the island. In the afternoon we will have time to explore the area on our own before returning via ferry to the mainland. We will travel to the Upper Peninsula with our first stop at Tahquamenon Falls, the second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi River. After lunch, we'll continue to Whitefish Point to visit the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. Then we will board a boat for a cruise on St. Mary's River as we enjoy a buffet-style dinner and a narrated ride through the Soo Locks. Following breakfast the next morning, we will depart for home with many fond memories.

Depart: 7:00 a.m. September 15 from Fawcett Center

Return: Approximately 7:00 p.m. September 19

Cost: \$781, double, triple, or quad occupancy; \$959, single (bus transportation, lodging, 4 breakfasts, one lunch, 4 dinners, tours, admissions, tips, luggage handling, travel insurance). Refund (less \$64 insurance fee) after July 20 will be given only for illness or emergency situation.

Registration Closes: July 20

Refund Deadline: July 20 (less \$64 insurance fee)

Arrangers: JoAnn Rueger and Betty Maynard (*Travel Committee*)

OCTOBER 14 (WEDNESDAY) * STERNWHEELERS AND OHIO RIVERS MARIETTA, OHIO

Challenge Level 2

Step back in time as we experience some of Ohio's early history. We travel to Marietta at the junction of the Muskingum and Ohio Rivers. One the state's oldest

settlements, it was also an important link in the Underground Railway. We will see some of the historic sights in the town before we board the Valley Gem Sternwheeler and savor a lavish luncheon while listening to the swish of the paddlewheel. We travel up the Muskingum River as the captain regales us with stories of its history and, following a trip through lock #2 (Devol's Dam), return to the dock in Marietta.

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

Return: 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$66 (bus transportation, admissions, lunch, bus driver tip, snacks)

Registration Closes: September 16

Refund Deadline: September 16

Arrangers: Hazel Benson and Rose Yonka (*Travel Committee*)

APRIL 17-25, 2010 * SPRINGTIME TULIP RIVER CRUISE FEATURING DUTCH AND BELGIAN WATERWAYS

Challenge Level 3

Unpack once for a relaxing 7-night river cruise on the waterways of Holland and Belgium. Visit the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens with its enormous, colorful tulip fields. Admire Holland's windmills of Kinderdijk. Other highlights of this tour include Amsterdam, Volendam, Arnhem, Middelburg, Ghent, Bruges, and Antwerp. To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session on August 13, 1:30 p.m., at the Whetstone Branch Library meeting room, 3909 North High Street.

Depart: TBA April 17

Return: TBA April 25

Cost: \$ TBA per person, double cabin only (round trip air fare from Columbus, transfers, luggage handling; 7-night river cruise, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners; sightseeing per itinerary; cancellation waiver and insurance) \$485 deposit due with reservation form by September 15; *first-come, first-served*; final payment due December 1. Call OSURA office (614-292-2916) for registration packet (includes full itinerary)

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

PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from Page 4

- Board members have been working with University officials to increase the volunteer opportunities for members to assist the University in its mission.
- Volunteers staffed an information table about OSURA at the annual faculty and staff "Hidden Benefits Fair" offered by the University.
- The Executive Board and the Benefits Committee met monthly and the other committees met on a regular schedule or as needed.
- 80 different individuals served on committees, as a convener of a Special Interest Group, on special projects, as an Association officer, or as a member-at-large on the Executive Board.



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OSURA

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SPRINGTIME TULIP RIVER CRUISE featuring Dutch and Belgian Waterways APRIL 17-25, 2010

Savor springtime in Holland and Belgium with a cruise that is sure to leave truly memorable impressions. Admire the colorful glory of the blooming Dutch tulip fields and be astonished by the number of windmills. Winding waterways lead to such well-known Belgian cities as Ghent and Antwerp. The tulip time cruise begins in Amsterdam, the 800-year old thriving capital of Holland. Travel to the little fishing town of Volendam where you can still find fishermen dressed in traditional caps and baggy-legged trousers and to Arnhem, location of the favorite summer retreat of the Dutch royal family. The ship docks in Middelburg, capital of the Dutch province, Zeeland, and the city known as "monumental city" because over 1,100 monuments dot its landscape. Arrive in the Imperial city of Ghent and then Bruges, one of Europe's most perfectly preserved medieval cities. The ship docks in Antwerp, Belgium's second-largest city, boasting beautiful Gothic and Baroque architecture and best known for its diamonds. A stop in Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage site, allows you to experience Holland's largest concentration of windmills, many still operating, and get a revealing glimpse into Holland's age-old battle with the sea. Visit the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens, a kaleidoscope of color in bloom with more than seven million tulips and other flowers on exhibit.

\$ TBA per person, double cabin only

Deposit of \$485 per person due with reservation form by September 15

***first come, first served* Final payment due December 1**

Call OSURA office for registration packet (includes full itinerary)

Cost includes: Round trip air from Columbus, transfers, luggage handling, 7-night river cruise, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners, sightseeing per itinerary, cancellation waiver and insurance

To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session on August 13, 1:30 p.m., at the Whetstone Branch Library meeting room, 3909 North High Street