Public Radio in Oklahoma

The next general meeting of the OU Retirees Association will commence at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14th, in the second-floor conference rooms of the First Baptist Church’s Family Life Center, 300 W. Comanche St. in Norman. Snacks and beverages will be available free of charge to all members and guests in attendance, and a brief business session will follow the day’s program, with important updates on such matters as retiree benefits and health insurance, plus the election of officers for 2018-19.

Presenting the program at the June general meeting will be Dick Pryor, General Manager of KGOU Radio since November 2016 and a veteran of more than forty years of experience in television, radio, public relations, law, and government service. The title of Pryor’s presentation is “Seeking the Truth: KGOU Radio and Public Service Media,” and he will focus primarily on “explaining KGOU, NPR, and the role of public media/radio in our community and society,” he writes. During the Q&A following his talk, he will also “touch on media ethics, editorial decision-making, and how we operate to serve the public in an era when professional journalism is being challenged.”

Pryor’s connection with OU and KGOU began in the early 1970s, when he and former Norman High classmate Tim Stephenson enrolled at OU and promptly volunteered their services to the campus radio station as unpaid sports broadcasters. “I still have the tapes,” Pryor says, “and they’re awful.” He went on to earn both a B.A. in Journalism and later a J.D. from OU, served as sports director at Norman’s KNOR for two years in the late 1970s, did on-camera sports reporting and sports anchoring at KFDX in Wichita Falls for 12 years, then returned to KNOR in 1981 to help launch an all-sports network that later became the Sports Animal. In the 1980s he returned to television, working as a sports anchor and reporter at Tulsa’s KJRH and at OKC’s KOCO-TV.

The year 1990 was a big one for Pryor: he started law school, began anchoring the news at OETA, and took on a public-relations job with the OKC 89ers baseball team, often doing radio play-by-play with famed former Major Leaguer Bobby Murcer. He continued to anchor at OETA throughout law school, eventually logging some 25 years there in such positions as deputy director, managing editor, news manager, and host. Non-OETA duties through 2015 have included service as an Instructor of Mass Communication Law and Radio News at OU, chief of staff for Oklahoma’s lieutenant governor, and employment-law and business coaching for corporate executives, managers, and human-resource professionals. In 2009, to his great surprise, Pryor was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, an honor that “stunned” him but also gave him “a new sense of responsibility to the profession.”

In August 2015 Pryor left OETA to become director of client services for Candor Public Relations in OKC. That same year he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of OU’s Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, and in late 2016 he came full circle by returning to KGOU, this time as General Manager rather than an unpaid walk-in and volunteer announcer.
OURA Executive Committee, 2017-2018

President: Charles Gilbert, 329-9272, mcgilbert@sbcglobal.net
President-Elect: Daniel Hough, 615-9829, dhough6@gmail.com
Immediate Past President: Jackie Farley, 590-7940, jackiefarley@yahoo.com
Secretary: Nancy Loyd, 830-0961, nlloyd@ou.edu
Treasurer: Nancy Leonard, 623-2457, nleonard@ou.edu
Program: Sonya Fallgatter, 364-6883, sfallgatter@ou.edu
Program: Suzanne Harrell, 401-0158, sharrell@ou.edu
Membership: Brad Hawkins, 517-5551, bhawkins1948@att.net
Benefits: Renda Passek, 447-3672, jpassek@att.net
Benefits: Luanne Howk, 250-7978, lhowk@ou.edu
Scholarship: Peter Vail, 364-9307, pvail@ou.edu
Communications: William Riggan, 329-1994, wmriggan@att.net

Website: www.ou.edu/retirees

Benefits Update

The latest news from the OURA Benefits Committee co-chairs:

• Retirees covered by Cigna have access to several tools such as Tele Health, Chronic Health Support, Nutrition, and an on-site representative. To learn more about Cigna, including insurance programs and phone/online contacts, log on to the OU Human Resources website, www.hr.ou.edu. Retirees covered by BC/BS can find similar information at this same website.
• In order to reduce the Cigna plan’s costs for unnecessary ER visits, there is a $60 charge per visit at certain urgent-care facilities for retirees covered by Cigna.
• The Cigna formulary list will be updated July 1. Participants need to be aware of possible forthcoming changes in prescription costs.
• OUHHR encourages Cigna participants to utilize all HR resources if they have any issues with claims or are having catastrophic health events. Contact Myouinsurance@Cigna.com or call Employee Assistance at 1-877-622-4327. For additional assistance, contact OUHHR representatives Lee Camargo-Quinn (lcarmagoquinn@ou.edu) or Marcy Fleming (marcyfleming@ou.edu).
• Employees who elected the Special Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program have now retired. The average annual total of Norman Campus retirees is 145.
• Fidelity and TIAA workshops are available. Contact the OU Benefits Office at hr.ou.edu/Retirees/Retiree-Insurance-Benefits or at 405-325-1826 for information about times and locations.
• OUHSC reported its first-quarter (2018) health-insurance costs as coming in below budget. First-quarter health-cost numbers for the Norman Campus were not yet available as of late April.
• A total of 5,405 flu shots were administered in the combined OU system over the past nine months.
• The OURA Executive Committee is working with OU’s IT administrators to expand retirees’ access to more of the programs, apps, software, and hardware already available to active employees. Stay tuned for updates on this.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Oklahoma offers a variety of exciting noncredit courses to mature learners (age 50+) taught by great OU faculty and community members. OLLI at OU members are invigorated by learning, discussion, and interaction with each other. Courses are held on OU’s Norman campus and at the Health Sciences Center in OKC.

To become an OLLI at OU member or to receive more information about upcoming courses, call (405) 325-3488 or visit the website at www.pacs.ou.edu/olli.

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.
Call to Order: The quarterly OURA Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Immediate Past President Jackie Farley at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10th, in OU’s second-floor conference room at Madison Square. In addition to Jackie, officers present were Dan Hough and Nancy Leonard, along with committee chairs Sonya Fallgatter, Suzanne Harrell, Renda Passek, Luanne Howk, Bill Riggan, Brad Hawkins, and Peter Vail, plus ex-officio member Grettie Bondy.

Guest Speaker: Eddie Huebsch, OU Interim Vice President and Chief Information Officer, attended the meeting to discuss the various IT services and software available to OU retirees, including: lifetime Microsoft Office 365 Email and Calendar, OU Wi-Fi, OU VPN (virtual private network, used for secure internet access off campus), and discounts for equipment and services in IT Store/Service Centers in the Student Union and in NEL. Some software available to current OU employees is not available to retirees, including MS Office 365 applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Adobe Creative Cloud, and Lynda.com (for access to training materials). Huebsch was asked to check into prices for retirees to personally license MS Office 365 and Adobe Creative Cloud, and also to explore the possibility of creating a mass email list of retirees for the sharing of OURA information.

Secretary: Nancy Loyd’s minutes of the February 2018 Executive Committee meeting were approved as published in the March 2018 issue of The Banner. Her minutes from the March 2018 general meeting were approved for publication in the June 2018 issue of The Banner.

Treasurer: Nancy Leonard provided statements of the OURA General Operating Fund and Endowed Scholarship Fund as of 03/31/2018. An abridged version of these reports is found on page 4 of this issue of The Banner. The committee agreed to promote annual donations to the scholarship fund at the September general meeting. The Scholarship Committee will be asked to coordinate the Association’s marketing efforts, which could include donor envelopes and cards at general meetings and/or in the newsletter.

President: On Charles’s behalf, Jackie appointed a Nominations Committee--Dan Hough, Charles Gilbert, Peter Vail, Sonya Fallgatter--to identify a slate of officers and committee chairs for presentation at the June general meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at that general meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Sonya announced that Dick Pryor, General Manager of KGOU, will be the guest speaker at the June general meeting. For the September general meeting, Jim Miller, the “Savvy Senior” columnist, will offer a presentation and display samples of “Gadgets and Gizmos for Easier Aging.” The December meeting will feature a special holiday program. Suzanne added that, at the request of Nancy Loyd, we may want to invite OLLI representatives to a future meeting for a discussion of their programs and their Fall 2018 schedule.

Membership: Brad reported that he and others hosted an OURA information booth at the Health and Information Fair as part of OU Staff Week in late April. He suggested new promotional items for the Board’s consideration, and stated that we need an ad hoc committee to plan recruiting activities. A recent coffee session for new retirees was very successful in welcoming new members and encouraging their engagement in OURA. On behalf of Nancy Loyd, Suzanne showed the Board both a new postcard introducing new retirees to the OURA’s range of activities and listing the next general-meeting date, and a thank-you letter that will be sent to members who contribute to either the OURA’s operating fund or the scholarship fund.

Benefits: Luanne reported, in response to a query at the March general meeting, that there are no changes to PayFlex this year. She noted that OU’s Employee Benefits Committee is now placing substantial emphasis on wellness, and many online resources are available at the OUHR website, including webinars that are open to retirees. The Blue Cross / Blue Shield Silver Sneakers Program is not available under OU’s BC/BS plan for retirees.

Book Club: Peter stated that the OURA Book Club discussed Nickolas Butler’s novel Shotgun Lovesongs at the May meeting and were reading The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi for the June meeting. Dates and times for the Club’s upcoming meetings are given on page 7 of this issue of the newsletter and are also available on the OURA’s web page.

Day Trekkers: Grettie announced that the next Day Trekkers event will take place on Tuesday, June 19th; see the OURA web page and also page 7 of this issue of the newsletter for details.

New Business: The Executive Committee voted unanimously to contribute $300 to the OU Suit Up campaign, which sponsors clothing scholarships for two students each year. This is the third straight year the OURA has donated to the program.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Harrell for the OURA Secretary
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION
Treasurer’s Report – March 31, 2018
Condensed version. Complete report available from the Treasurer upon request.

General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2017 $ 16,705.28

Deposits:

Dues Income, July2017-Mar2018 2,250.00
Advertising 200.00
Gifts, July2017-Mar2018 4,667.00
Total Deposits $ 7,117.00

Expenses:

Room Rental 600.00
Postage (Banner + Other) 258.96
Sooner Suit-Up 300.00
Printing 1,154.00
Miscellaneous 177.65
Total Expenses $ 2,490.61

Scholarship Fund:

2017 Scholarship Award 300.00
Transfer from General Fund 10,296.03
Total Fund Balance $ 10,596.03

General Fund Balance as of March 31, 2018 $ 10,735.64
Less: Prepaid Dues for FY19-FY25 (1,500.00)
Less: 2-Year Expense Reserve (3,000.00)
Total Reserves $ 4,500.00

Operating Balance as of 03/31/2018 $ 6,235.64

OURA Scholarship Fund Update

In 2013, the OURA established an academic scholarship to be awarded to one or more deserving students each year. By late December 2017, donations from Association members, officers, and committee chairs, with the invaluable help of a matching challenge contribution by former OURA President Grettie Bondy, had surpassed the $10,000 mark, allowing the OURA to establish in January 2018 the UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND at the University of Oklahoma Foundation. From this point forward, the annual interest earned by the Endowed Fund will be used to underwrite each year’s Scholarship award to a worthy OU undergraduate student. Also from this point forward, we will refer to the award as the OURA / Grettie Bondy Endowed Scholarship, honoring not only Grettie for her generosity and service but also her mother and family for inspiring her lifelong support of education.

Although the OURA Scholarship Fund is now securely established as a Permanent Endowment, the Fund’s Principal Account is at present only slightly above the minimum required level of $10,000 and needs additional donations in order to ensure its ability to generate sufficient annual interest and to support at least one scholarship each academic year. Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted at any time and are fully tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to the OU Foundation, and the memo line should indicate that your gift is intended for the OURA Endowed Scholarship Fund, #42197. Please mail all donations to: Treasurer, OU Retirees Association / 201 East Lindsey / Norman OK 73019. Also, retirees who participate in each year’s Campus Campaign may designate the OURA Endowed Scholarship Fund as the beneficiary of their contributions.
Call to Order: The regular quarterly meeting of the OU Retirees Association was called to order by President Charles Gilbert at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8th, at the Family Life Center of Norman’s First Baptist Church. Approximately 60 members and guests were in attendance, and Charles asked each table’s occupants to spend a few minutes getting acquainted with one another. In addition, five new members introduced themselves to the group. Program Committee co-chair Sonya Fallgatter introduced the day’s speaker, Dr. Ken Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Geology at the Oklahoma Geological Survey, who gave an informative and humorous program on cruising the rivers of the USA. A brief Q&A session followed Ken’s presentation.

Secretary: Nancy Loyd’s minutes of the December 2017 general meeting were approved as published in the March 2018 edition of The Banner. Nancy thanked those who had provided canned goods for the food drive benefitting the OU Food Pantry.

Treasurer: Nancy Leonard noted that the March 2018 issue of The Banner contains the Association’s most recently updated budget information. She also informed us that the Association had reached the endowment level for the OURA Scholarship Fund. Although its official title is The University of Oklahoma Retirees Association Endowed Scholarship Fund at the University of Oklahoma Foundation, we will refer to the annual award underwritten by the Fund as the OURA / Grettie Bondy Endowed Scholarship, honoring not only Grettie for her generosity and service but also her mother and family for inspiring her lifelong support of education.

Committee Reports

Program: Sonya announced that Dick Pryor, General Manager of KGOU Radio and former news anchor for OETA, will speak at the June 2018 general meeting.

Membership: Committee chairman Brad Hawkins informed the group that the OURA will again be represented at the Health Fair during Staff Week in late April. Past President Jackie Farley reported that she and other Board members met at Old School Bagel with several new retirees at our first New Members Welcome coffee, an encounter she felt was successful and informative for all parties. Some good suggestions came from the new retirees, and Jackie expects several new OURA interest groups to be formed in the near future.

Communications: Committee chairman Bill Riggan explained that the March newsletter went out a few days late due to OU’s Document Services closure during the recent ice storm on the very day the issue was scheduled to be printed. He also noted that a recent email message identifying him as the sender and concerning weight loss did not come from him but was instead the work of some low-tech hacker in Japan; if you received such a message, you should delete all traces of it, run a full hard-drive scan with your anti-viral/anti-malware software, and update your email password as soon as possible.

Benefits: Committee co-chair LuAnne Howk reported that 126 employees had accepted OU’s 2017 retirement incentive. Some 498 people will be eligible for retirement in 2018, but as yet there has been no word on whether an incentive will again be offered. The HSC has changed from Cigna to Blue Cross / Blue Shield for current employees, but the Norman campus has stayed with Cigna for current employees and for retirees under 65. Flu vaccines are still available at Goddard.

Interest Groups: The Book Club is reading The Long and Far Away Gone this month and will meet at Norman’s west-side library. Contact club chairman Peter Vail or view the OURA web page for meeting information. Grettie Bondy passed out a flyer with information on the Day Trekkers’ next adventure, set for March 27th, when the group will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Norman Firehouse Arts Center for a short talk on the history of the town’s Duck Project, then begin hunting around town for the fiberglass ducks that have been placed in city parks as part of the Norman Public Arts Program.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Loyd, Recording Secretary
Images from the March 2018 Meeting

Top row, left: Past President Jackie Farley and current OURA President Charles Gilbert. Top row, center: OURA Secretary Nancy Loyd, thanking members for their contributions to the OU Food Bank. Top row, right: Program Committee co-chair Sonya Fallgatter, introducing the March meeting’s speaker. Center row: Dr. Ken Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Geology with the Oklahoma Geological Survey, presenting a program on river-cruise opportunities in the U.S. and Canada. Bottom row, left to right: OURA Book Club director and OURA Scholarship Committee chair Peter Vail, Benefits Committee co-chair Luanne Howk, and Membership Committee chair Brad Hawkins, presenting their respective reports to the membership.
A LETTER FROM TWO O.U.R.A. PRESIDENTS

Dear Retirees: Our organization is of crucial importance to the OU retiree community, so we need to become listed members of OURA and maintain ourselves as such. This is our connection with University affairs and with the larger OU community.

- Perhaps the most important challenge is staying updated on how our OU benefits are changing. We have a voting member, and therefore a voice, on the University-wide Employee Benefits Committee, where employee and retiree benefits are discussed every month.
- We offer a student scholarship each year via an Endowed Fund established by individual contributions from OURA members, officers, and committee chairs.
- We support the Suit Up program that assists students who need good new clothes for job interviews.
- We hold quarterly general meetings with varied, informative programs about Norman community activities, city and state government, changes in OU structure and personnel, college development, personnel benefits, and travel possibilities, and at least once a year we also feature performances by OU Fine Arts students.
- We sponsor a lively Trekkers group, which undertakes day trips to interesting metro-area locations.
- We have an active Book Club that meets monthly and even hosts author visits from time to time.
- Ours is a democratic group, and its officers, committee chairs, and members respond to changes and requests. Everyone has a “say.”

Please keep your membership active and up to date, and encourage your fellow retirees to do the same.

All the best,
Jackie Farley, Immediate Past President; M. Charles Gilbert, President

JUNE 2018 ADVENTURE
OURA DAY TREKKERS

Mark Tuesday, June 19th, on your calendar and plan to join us for a trip to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Regular admission there is $12, but for senior citizens and college students it’s $10. We’ll be viewing the Dale Chihuly exhibit, “Magic & Light,” as well as two other exhibits which either opened recently or will soon do so: “The New Art: A Milestone Collection Fifty Years Later” (opened in February 2018) and “Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning Art from Paper” (to open on June 16th).

Let’s meet at 9:30 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Norman Masonic Lodge, 1700 N. Porter Avenue and carpool/caravan from there to the museum. After our visit, we’ll decide on lunch, either at the Museum Café or at another place of the group’s choosing.

As always, this adventure is open to all OURA members and to their families and friends: everyone is welcome. And if you do plan to attend, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we’ll be sure to wait for you if you’re running a bit late.

Grettie Bondy
405-447-8818, gbondy@ou.edu

OURA BOOK CLUB

At its May 15 meeting the OURA Book Club discussed Nickolas Butler’s novel Shotgun Lovesongs, about four young men who grew up together, went their separate ways, then reunited for a wedding in the small Wisconsin town where they started. For the June 21 meeting, Club members are reading Paolo Bacigalupi’s dystopian novel The Water Knife, which deals with the dwindling supply of water in the west and with the struggles and intrigues among the “haves” and “needies.” The selection for July 13 will be David Grann’s Killers of the Flower Moon, a New York Times bestseller subtitled “The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI.” All meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. at Norman’s west-side library, and OURA members and non-member friends alike are most welcome to attend. Club chairman Peter Vail (pvail@ou.edu) can provide further information as needed.
Wish to continue as a member of OURA?
Here’s how to bring your membership up to date . . .

Postal subscribers: Look at your mailing label above. If the date atop your name is 06/30/19 or later, your dues are paid and current. An earlier date indicates that your membership has expired or will soon do so. If that is the case, simply fill out the coupon below and send it with a check for the amount due ($10/yr per person).

E-subscribers: You will receive an email notice if your membership has expired or will soon do so.

Clip and mail:

To: Treasurer, OU Retirees Association
201 East Lindsey, Norman, OK 73019

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Street, City, State, Zip: ______________________________________________

New member: ___ Renewal: ___ E-mail: ___________________________ Phone: ___________

I wish to receive The Banner via E-mail: _________ U.S. Mail: _________

Enclosed is a check for $_____ ($10.00 per person per year) payable to “OU FOUNDATION”