



### **“Lessons Learned from the Opiate Epidemic”**

November 14 luncheon speaker  
is Lorrie Lewandowski

Lorrie Lewandowski received a Masters Degree in Social Work from Ohio State University and is currently licensed as an Independent Social Worker, Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist and Chemical Dependency Counselor in the State of Ohio. Over the past 23 years, Lorrie has worked in both clinical and prevention settings with adults, youth, families and communities. She was hired as Associate Director of the Wood County Alcohol Drug Addiction Mental Health Recovery Board in 2013. She became an adjunct professor for Bowling Green State University in the School of Social Work in 2010 and taught Cultural Diversity, Oppression and Social Functioning. On the state level, she was a member of the board of the Alcohol Drug Addiction Prevention Agency Ohio (ADAPAO) for eight years. Her life long interest in the field of prevention and treatment has compelled her to ask the “why” question regarding adult and youth high-risk behaviors and has caused her to become a strong advocate for developing systems that contribute to the wellbeing of those living with mental illness and the disease of addiction.

Lorrie will speak to us about the perfect storm that caused the development of the opiate epidemic, the trajectory of the epidemic over the last 10 years, daily impact in Wood County and Ohio and local problem solving approaches. □

**Luncheon reservation and membership forms are on page 7.**

# REPORTS

## Summary of Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) Board Meeting September 20, 2016

Roger Anderson attended the OCHER Board meeting in at STRS Headquarters in Columbus. President Roger Anderson opened the meeting. He recommended that Richard Hill, OSU, past HPA representative and reporter on Legislative issues and STRS Board meetings, be inducted into the OCHER Hall of Fame. Hill retired from the OCHER Board effective, May, 2016. The motion to approve the recommendation was unanimous. Nancy Wardwell passed out the OCHER Annual Report. The minutes of the May 17, 2016 were approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5,610.96 in the OCHER account as of September 20.

Michele Hobbs presented the OPERS Report. There are a number of legislative issues that OPERS is monitoring. House Bill 520, sponsored by Reps. Kirk Schuring (R. Canton), and Dan Ramos (D. Lorain), contains a number of suggested minor changes in the pension programs for all five Ohio retirement systems. The first hearing on the bill was held in the House Health and Aging Committee on May 4. The bill is expected to come up during the lame duck session of the state legislature after the November election. OPERS is working with the other pension systems and Rep. Schuring to resolve concerns centered on the Alternative Retirement Plan mitigating rate. House Joint Resolution 6 would have placed a proposal on the November ballot to prohibit state pension systems and state agencies from investing in companies with business operations in countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism. The Ohio Retirement Study the Council has recommended against this resolution as have the pension systems. Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Company will present to the OPERS Board 50 year actuarial projections of Base Retirement Benefits.

Carl V. Leier, of the Ohio State Retirees Association who is one of OCHER's representatives to the Health Care and Pension Advocates Board was introduced. At the September 6 HPA meeting, the STRS monthly timeline (August, 2016-June, 2017), for pension and health care discussions/recommendations/decisions was presented. The challenges facing the STRS Health Care Program were presented by Greg Nickell and STRS staff. These challenges are: the increasing age of retirees with extended retirement years; reduced investment returns; and the cost of health care.

Marla Bump, Director of Government Relations for STRS was introduced. At the national level there has been no action on the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA), or the Secure Annuities for Employment Retirement Act, both of which STRS opposes. No action is expected until after a new Congress convenes. Bump reported that the STRS Board has hired a consultant to do an Asset Liability Study. The STRS Board will also be doing a five year review. In September the STRS Board started reviewing the STRS Health Care Program. Five faculty members have filed a class action suit (Clark vs. STRS), in a State District Court against STRS, challenging the mitigating rate. The mitigating rate is 4.5% charged to the STRS's employer contribution for contributors who chose an Alternative Plan rather than the STRS pension plan. The case is at the discovery phase. At the state legislative level, STRS has met with Representative Schuring, sponsor of HB 520. He has agreed to maintain the 4.5% mitigating rate which is in the bill. There will be no vote on the bill until the lame duck session of the legislature after the November election. HJR 6 seems to be dead for 2016. The Governor has appointed his representative to the STRS Board.

**[Editor's note:** HJR 6, if passed by a three-fifths majority of both Houses, would have been placed on the ballot in November, 2016 as a Constitutional Amendment. The amendment would require state agencies and pension funds to end investments in companies with specific business operations in Iran, Sudan, Syria, and Cuba. ]

Dr. John Cavanaugh, Executive Director of ORTA, made a few remarks. He said the former director of PERI has formed a new organization supposedly to better represent members of all five pension systems. He has sent letters to OPERS and ORTA members using the logo of the new organization and the logos of OPERS and ORTA seeking membership contributions to his organization. ORTA has sent him a letter requesting that he "cease and desist" sending letters to ORTA members. His organization so far is not officially sanctioned by the state of Ohio. Dr. Cavanaugh pointed out that HPA is an essential organization and needs to be supported.

After lunch the OCHER Board heard from Greg Nickell, Director of Health Care Services for STRS. Nickell reported that the STRS Board devoted two days at their meeting in September to examine Health Care to gain an understanding of options for achieving a sustainable health care program. On Thursday the Board discussed what members valued in STRS's Health Care Plans; why Retirees opt-out of STRS's Health Care Plans; and How are Retiree Health Care Benefits Provided in Other States." On Friday the STRS Board discussed how the STRS Health Care Plans Measure Up; examined Health Care Pathways; evaluated the pros and cons of exchanges; and looked at the Minnesota Health Savings Plan for Active State Employees. With the 2017 changes in the STRS Health Care System, Segal and Associates estimate that the duration of the

*continued on page 8*

## Update on Classified Staff Council (CSC)

No report was available for this newsletter.

## Update on Administrative Staff Council (ASC) by Judy Donald

Observer for BGSU Retirees Association

### September 16, 2016 meeting

Margo Kammeyer, Tri-Chair of ASC, called the meeting to order.



Judy Donald retired from Continuing & Extended Education.

The guest speaker was Aaron Kane, Parking Services. Some of the items he discussed were (1) BGSU is moving to a digital license plate recognition software in Fall 2017 (faculty/staff can register 2 vehicles, but students only one; if you have a rental car, you can register that car just for the time that you have it); (2) departments will have the ability to purchase a one-day permit online without needing a paper printed pass; (3) kiosks will be changing for pay and display, to

pay by license plate which will include an app where you can add more time to your parking account from your phone; and (4) they are working on this for Firelands but nothing has been decided.

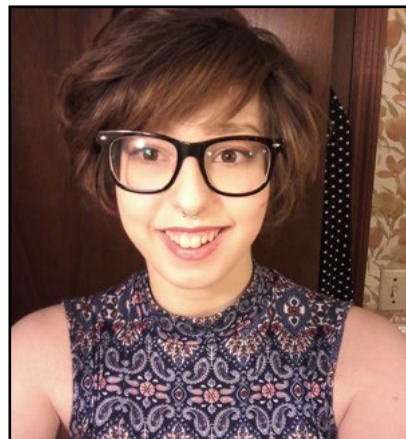
In the meeting with HR, tuition compensation for retirees and retiree dependents was discussed. This will be the same as current employees and their dependents. A new policy is being implemented for administrative staff who teach courses and will go into effect in Spring 2017. The university did not issue letters this year to staff telling them of their pay increase and new salary for the next year, but did load the increase into everyone's pay beginning September 1.

Since this was the first meeting of the academic year, there were no committee reports.

The scanning of the archived ASC files is complete; now a decision needs to be made on where to store the documents and how to access them.

Next meeting is October 6, 2016 in 201 BTSU with Sandy Heck, Human Resources, as the guest speaker. □

## BGSU Retirees Association Scholarship Recipient



Mary Elizabeth Krutsch is one of the 2016 recipients of the BGSU Retirees Association book scholarship. She writes of herself:

“I’m from Hilliard, Ohio, near Columbus, and I’ve been studying Language Arts Education at BGSU since 2015. I decided to attend this school because it’s a smaller sized university, and it has a great education department. I’m employed through the Office of Residence Life, and when I’m not working I enjoy reading, spending time with friends, and fencing.”

Mary attended the September luncheon and is shown below with Karel King. □



**The BGSU Retirees Association will be  
Celebrating the Holiday Season with Ralph Wolfe  
on Thursday, December 15**

It's become a tradition! Ralph Wolfe has once again generously extended an invitation to BGSU Retirees Association members and guests to attend a holiday gathering at his home on Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Known by many as "The Squire of North Baltimore", Ralph has hosted BGSU Retirees Association members at his beautifully decorated home each holiday season since 2010. His lovely historical home is decorated with festive touches from top to bottom, inside and out, and is a joy to tour. (see photo below from December 2014.) These social events have become very popular in recent years as a time to stay in touch with former BGSU colleagues and to welcome new retirees to BGSU Retirees Association. Come celebrate the holidays with friends and enjoy Ralph's hospitality.

Please bring a beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. To assist Ralph in preparation, please RSVP to Jan Finn at 419-352-0592 or email [jfinn@bgsu.edu](mailto:jfinn@bgsu.edu) by December 12. Please indicate if you're interested in arranging transportation. □



Photo by Wally Pretzer

**Mark Your Calendars**

**November 14, 2016** Lorrie Lewandowski

**March 13, 2017** BG High School Madrigal Singers

**April 10, 2017** Joint meeting hosted by UT Retirees Association

**May 8, 2017** Don Scherer

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## President's Message

Our lives fly by in a blur of activities and we wonder where the time has gone. Weeks zip by and we wonder what ever happened to so and so.

Friends come into our lives to fill a purpose. We may need to be their rock in times of trouble or sickness or vice versa. Friends may come to us to be spouses or partners. No matter what role a friend is to play we need to realize how valuable they are.

BGSURA has had a good friend all these years--her name is Margaret Tucker. She has worked hard for us pitching in wherever needed. I am pleased to have worked with her in my time at WBGU-TV. Since retirement I am happy to have worked with Margaret on various retiree projects. I am proud to call Margaret a friend.

Margaret is now in home hospice and we her fellow retirees wish her grace and peace.

*Chris Sexton*

*P.S.* After the above was written, the following message was sent to BGSU Retirees on October 4, 2016: I'm sorry to announce the passing this morning of Margaret Tucker from congestive heart failure. Her beautiful and tireless spirit will be missed.



• To reach Chris Sexton:  
csexton@wcnet.org  
or call 419-354-2834.

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## MILESTONES: Ed and Jan Stockwell's 60th Wedding Anniversary



Ed and Jan Stockwell, Bowling Green, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 18th, 1956, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Dorchester, Mass.

Ed is a retired sociology professor at BGSU, and Jan is a retired Physical Therapist who worked at various nursing homes in and around Bowling Green. The couple has three children: Ted, a retired paramedic in Cleveland; Christopher, an employee of the BG Children's Resource Center; and Susie Socha, a Color Chemist for a major paint company, who lives with her family in Vermilion, Ohio. There are four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

□

Editor's Note: We would like to recognize and share significant milestones in the lives of our members. Please submit information to me at [edalton@bgsu.edu](mailto:edalton@bgsu.edu) and it will be published as space permits.

# PASSINGS

For the period July 8 - September 21, 2016. Photos are included when they were available.

■ **LINDA BABCOCK**, 69, passed away July 24, 2016, in Deshler, Ohio. She retired from the Popular Culture and Music Libraries.

■ **PIETRO 'PETE' BADIA**, 86, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of psychology, died August 21, 2016, in Franklin, Ohio. He taught at BGSU from 1963-1998.

■ **JOANNE CAMPBELL**, 76, passed away on September 14, 2016, in Findlay, Ohio. She worked as a library assistant in the University Libraries from 1957-1965.

■ **MARY FORRESTER**, 87, died September 21, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She served BGSU as Health Center Nurse.

■ **DAVID GLASMIRE**, 92, Professor Emeritus of music performance studies, died August 10, 2016, in Lakeside, Ohio. A trombonist, he taught in the College of Musical Arts for 31 years, as a full-time faculty member from 1958-1983 and before that as a part-time faculty member between 1950-1955.

■ **CARL HALL**, 86, died September 20, 2016, in Toledo, Ohio. Professor Emeritus of art he was a faculty member from 1957-1986. He founded the design program in the School of Art and helped introduce the hot glass program.

■ **ROBERT HEIDLER**, 83, Assistant Professor Emeritus of libraries and learning resources, died August 27, 2016, in Michigan. He joined the University Libraries Curriculum Resource Center in 1968, retired in 1998, and continued to work until 2001.

■ **KENNETH ROTHROCK**, 76, of Waterville, OH, died July 17, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ohio. Associate Professor Emeritus of sociology, he served the university for 28 years as a faculty member and Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences.

■ **HOWARD WILLIAMS**, 89, passed away on September 11, 2016, in Tontogany, Ohio. He served as an engineer for the university. □



Editor's note: Margaret Tucker passed away as the newsletter was going to press. Her obituary, written by Frances Brent, may be found at [www.sent-trib.com](http://www.sent-trib.com), [BGIndependentMedia.com](http://BGIndependentMedia.com), or [DunnFuneralHome.com](http://DunnFuneralHome.com).

## Book Publication Announced

BGSU Retirees Association member Glenn Varney announces the publication of his new book which may be of interest to our members. The title is "Grasp the Situation: Lessons Learned in Change Leadership." Anyone wanting more information may contact Glenn at [gvarney@bgsu.edu](mailto:gvarney@bgsu.edu) or 419-261-7023. □



## **OCHER Report** *continued from page 2*

health care funding is extended four years to 2038, assuming a 7.75% rate of return on STRS investments. The four year increase is projected based on the non-Medicare subsidy reduction and the elimination of the Medicare Part B premium reimbursement.

Nickell said under current assumptions, the pension fund is not projected to be 85% funded until 2042. Nickell said the STRS Board plans major health care program changes in 2019. He presented a chart approximating the incremental costs of waiting beyond that date to sustain the health care fund through 2045. He summarized the actions STRS could take in 2019 to provide a sustainable health care program. Under subsidy, the subsidy multiplier could be reduced for all participants; the subsidy could be increased at a fixed rate rather than the actual trend; and STRS could provide the same subsidy amount regardless of Medicare status. Under eligibility, STRS could eliminate all subsidies for non-Medicare enrollees; and/or increase the years of service required for subsidy. Under Plan Design, STRS could significantly reduce coverage through very high deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums. Under funding, the current plan requires 1.64% of payroll to fully fund in 30 years.

The STRS Board was presented with four pathways examined by staff: the current program with 21 years solvency; 30 years of funding; 50 years of funding; and perpetual solvency. Key takeaways from the STRS meeting are that: current funding levels will deplete the Health Care Fund before employer contributions can be reestablished to it; modifying the health care program to achieve 50 years of solvency increases the likelihood that employer contributions to the health care fund can be reestablished in time to maintain ongoing solvency; changes to subsidy and eligibility are the best options for achieving longer-term solvency. Nickell provided a time-line for STRS Board Discussions and Decisions on Health Care Options and a page summary of key program changes in STRS Health Care Programs for 2017. These program changes will be made available to retirees in mailings or on-line information in October, 2016.

Jim Kweder, Chair of the OCHER Advocacy Committee presented the OCHER Policy Priority Recommendations passed by the Board at the OCHER May meeting. The OCHER Board agreed to add one more advocacy recommendation to our list: to monitor any plan by the Medicare Trustees to make a major increase in the Medicare Part B premium for 2017.

Campus and association reports were given.

There being no further business, a motion was approved to adjourn. The next OCHER Council meeting will be November 15, 2016. □