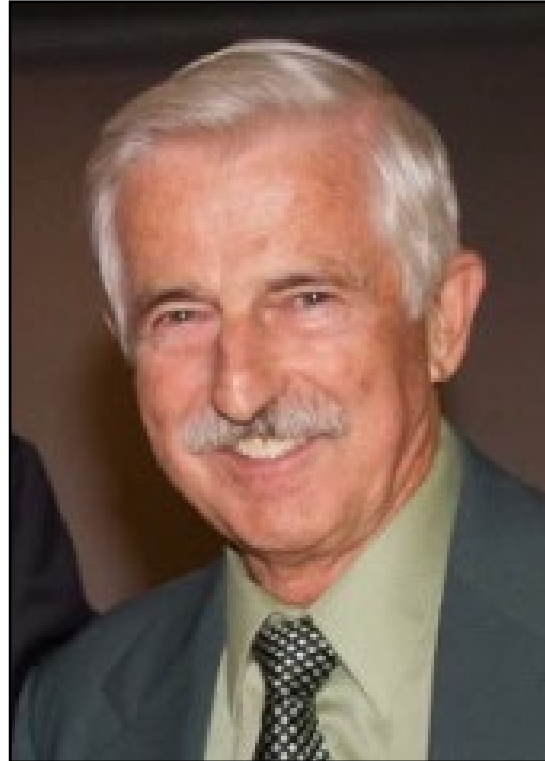




## **“So Many Stories, So Little Time”**

**Tom Walton  
will speak  
at  
November 11  
luncheon**



Thomas Walton, now that he no longer works for a living, is a baseball player, a certified high school baseball umpire, an unabashed fan of Bowling Green State University and BGSU athletics, a hiker of national parks, an aficionado of his mother’s family business, aka Ballreich Potato Chips, and a hopelessly doting grandfather to his six grandchildren.

When he did go to work every day, he was Editor and Vice President of the Toledo Blade. In retirement he still writes a humor commentary column for The Blade and produces a weekly radio segment for National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” every Monday afternoon on WGTE in Toledo.

He grew up in Tiffin, Ohio, and in the nearby community of Sycamore, home to Bowlmor Lanes and the tallest grain elevator in Wyandot County. His first job: a pin setter at Bowlmor for 10 cents a game.

Tom graduated from Clay High School in Oregon and then earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and political science at BGSU too long ago to recall the exact year. During college he worked for one Great Lakes shipping season as a porter on the Edmund Fitzgerald.

He joined The Blade in 1965 and stayed for 42 years, retiring in 2007. His service with the company included 14 years in Monterey, California, at a newspaper then owned by the owners of The Blade. He became Editor of The Blade in 1989. His association with The Blade is now at 54 years and counting. He has won multiple awards over the years for his writing, but he is perplexed as to why. □

**Luncheon reservation form is on page 4.**

**Please note new information for making reservations.**

# REPORTS

## SUMMARY OF OCHER Council Meeting September 17, 2019

by David Hyslop

The September 17, 2019 meeting was held at the STRS Office in Columbus with 20 members in attendance. Karel King and Dave Hyslop represented the BGSU Retirees Association. Steven Howe, president, convened the meeting and shared the agenda and the minutes from our last meeting on May 21, 2019. These minutes were approved with no changes.

A number of reports were given by members of the Council, and representatives of OPERS and STRS; the key points shared within these reports include the following:

- **Treasurer's Report** – James Lapp, treasurer, shared the current summary showing a balance of \$6,159.15. Dues from three institutions (including BGSU) have yet to be received when this report was prepared.
- **OPERS Health Plan** – Allen Foster (OPERS Director of Benefits and Donna Castiglione (Assistant Director of Member Services) shared a report covering the following:
  - Open enrollment packets were mailed in late September and early October and are available online
  - Medical Mutual Express Scripts will continue to be used
  - Data on enrollment and deductible costs for 2020 were explained
  - Members enrolled in the dental plan will incur a small (6.6%) increase in premiums in 2020
  - The OPERS Board has been meeting frequently to study the Health Care Fund solvency and will be preparing recommendations to share with members in the near future
- **Legislative Report** – Marla Bump, director of Government Relations for STRS, gave an update on legislative meetings and highlighted the following:
  - No changes will be forthcoming to the STRS Health Care program
  - No actions have been proposed to include mandatory coverage legislation by Congress
- **STRS Health Care Update** – Greg Nickell, director of Health Care Services for STRS, gave an update on the STRS Health Care program and shared the following:
  - Effective January 1, 2020, a 24-hour nurse line will be available for non-Medicare members
  - Will be increase in 2020 for out-of-pocket cost for Express Scripts Drug Plan
  - In 2020, more than 90% of enrollees will see no premium increases
  - 2020 will mark the 5th year in a row premiums for Aetna Medicare Plan have not increased
- **STRS Board Report** – Gerald Newsom, as a member of the STRS Board, gave background information on meetings held in the last several months to study investment returns and projected funding ratios. The projected returns show a slightly less amount than was originally projected and can impact on actions to protect the long-term stability of STRS benefits
- **Campus Reports** – Representatives from University of Akron, BGSU and Cleveland State University gave reports on campus activities for their colleges and meetings of their retiree associations.
- **Induction into OCHER Hall of Fame** – with unanimous approval, Roger Anderson was recognized for his long service and leadership with OCHER over a number of years. Roger has served as a member of OCHER for over 15 years, serving two terms as president, in addition to serving a term as secretary and vice president. He has also provided significant leadership to the OCHER Board in his work representing BGSU. □

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR REMAINDER OF 2019-20 PROGRAM YEAR

March 9, 2020 Student musicians from College of Musical Arts

May 11, 2020 Catherine Smith, BGSU Aviation Technologies, on BGSU Aviation Studies program

# PASSINGS

For the period July 1 - September 24, 2019. Photos are included when available.

◆ **Raymond Abair**, 84, passed away August 24, 2019, in Toledo, Ohio. He retired in 1997, after serving as biological instrument design and fabrication technician, Department of Biological Sciences.

◆ **Kathryn Baltz**, 59, passed away on September 19, 2019, in North Baltimore, Ohio. She worked for the University and retired after 29 years of service.

◆ **Mary C. Chambers**, 84, died September 18, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She was an administrative secretary in the mathematics and statistics department from 1965-1999. Her daughter Kathy Beattie also retired from BGSU.

◆ **Derek Dickinson**, 80, died July 29, 2019, in Bonita Springs, Florida. The assistant director of the Field House and director of procedures and standards, he earned a Ph.D. in EDAS in 1978 from BGSU. He began work at the University in 1968 and retired in 2002.

◆ **Frederick Fether**, 87, died on September 20, 2019, in Ohio. He was the Director of Purchasing during his long career at BGSU.

◆ **Ivan Hammond**, 78, professor emeritus of music

performance studies in tuba, died August 30, 2019, in southern Indiana. He taught at the University from 1967 – 1993.

◆ **James E. Hof**, 94, passed away July 9, 2019, in Cary, North Carolina. He was a retired emeritus faculty/Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs. During his tenure at BGSU, he served as Director of Admissions, Instructor of Speech, Director of University Relations, Alumni Director and Vice President for development, alumni and athletic programs.

◆ **Barbara Y. Keller**, 80, passed away September 20, 2019, in Maumee Ohio. A resident of Bowling Green, Ohio, she was Dean of Students during her 36-year tenure at the University. Barbara served as a board member of the BBSU Retirees Association, and this past summer was elected co-president of the organization.

◆ **Ronald L. Russell**, 89, passed away on September 12, 2019, in Nokomis, Florida. He was Dean Emeritus of Education and Allied Professions (now the College of Education and Human Development) and served the University from 1978-1994.

*continued on page 4*

			
Raymond Abair	Kathryn Baltz	Mary Chambers	Derek Dickinson
			
Fred Fether	James Hof	Barbara Keller	Ronald Russell
			
Donald Sternitzke	Thomas Wallace	Judith Weaver	George Woessner

## The BGSU Retirees Association will be Celebrating the Holiday Season With Ralph Wolfe on Thursday, December 12

For the tenth year, Ralph Wolfe has generously extended an invitation to BGSU Retirees Association members and guests to attend a holiday gathering at his home on Thursday, December 12, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. His address is 134 South Main Street, North Baltimore.

His lovely historical home is decorated with festive touches from top to bottom. Come celebrate the holidays with friends and enjoy Ralph's warm 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 [jfynn@bgsu.edu](mailto:jfynn@bgsu.edu) by December 9. Please indicate if you're interested in arranging transportation.

### **PASSINGS** continued from page 3

- ◆ **Donald Sternitzke**, 88, professor emeritus of economics, died July 31, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He taught at the University from 1967 - 1991.
- ◆ **Thomas Wallace**, 79, passed away August 1, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He served the University as building maintenance supervisor at the Ice Arena.
- ◆ **Judith 'Judy' Weaver**, 69, passed away on September 14, 2019, in McClure, Ohio. She retired after serving 26 years as Cook for the University.
- ◆ **George 'Bill' Woessner**, 82, passed away September 24, 2019. In Bowling Green, Ohio. Prior to his retirement, he worked in Dining Services for over 30 years.
- ◆ **Warren J. Wolfe**, 95, emeritus professor of French, in the Romance Language Department, passed away on September 21, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He taught at BGSU from 1961 - 1987.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to space constraints, the masthead was not included for this issue. Please refer to the August issue for that information.

### **Reminder about Lunch Reservations**

Our policy is that persons making a lunch reservation but unable to attend are responsible for paying for their reservation since we have to pay the Country Club for the number of reservations made. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

### **Reservation -- BGSU Retirees Association Luncheon at Bowling Green Country Club Monday November 11, 2019. Cost \$15.**

**Reservation deadline Wednesday November 6.**

**11:30-noon: check in, socializing. Noon: buffet luncheon including dessert**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations @ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

1. Reservation by mail:

Send reservation form and check payable to BGSU Retirees Association to:

Stan Lewis

620 Nokomis St, Tecumseh MI 49286

2. Reservation by email:

Send message to [slewis@bgsu.edu](mailto:slewis@bgsu.edu). Pay by cash or check at the door.

If you make a reservation but are unable to attend, you are responsible for paying for your reservation. Please send a check as in #1 above. Thank you.

#### **Luncheon Menu**

*Roast turkey breast  
Baked ham with pineapple  
Redskin seasoned potatoes  
Glazed carrots  
Garden salad  
Rolls & butter  
DESSERT  
Beverages*