

Lunch form on page 3

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April 9 deadline for April 14 joint luncheon

POLITICAL scientist Melissa K. Miller will examine Hillary Clinton's fight for the Presidency during her presentation in Bowling Green on Wednesday, April 14, at the luncheon for BGSU and University of Toledo retirees. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m.

The BGSU Retirees Association is host for the luncheon at Stone Ridge Golf Club, 1553 Muirfield Dr. Serving begins at noon. Cost is \$17.



• Test-driving the equipment for Dr. Melissa K. Miller's PowerPoint presentation April 14 are Dr. Miller, Dr. Ted Groat, BGSURA vice-president, and Dr. Roger Anderson, a past BGSURA president.

PHOTO BY JIM GORDON

25 party-goers at Feb. 26 BYOB gathering sets record!

By WALLY PRETZER

KUDOS to Sue and Bill Rock, who walked through the snow to attend BGSURA's fourth cocktail party, held at the lovely home of Elaine and Elmer Spreitzer in Bowling Green from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. A party highlight was the arrival of the Wizard of Oz, Bob Clark, who blew in like a snowy tornado and who was, he said, "a good man but a bad wizard." Nevertheless, he performed his wizardry well as he delighted the other 24 attendees at the party. Who were these "Munchkins" greeting the Wizard?

Imbibing and eating delicious appetizers (which they themselves had brought to the party) were Betty Jean and Roger Anderson, Charlie Applebaum, Beth Casey, Joan and Jim Gordon, Peggy and Ted Groat, Lee and Milt Hakel, Joyce and Paul Mueller, Kathleen Tweney and Vic Norton, Diane and Wally Pretzer, Sue and Bill Rock, Elaine and Elmer Spreitzer, Jean and Ron Stoner, and Hem and Harender Vasudeva. The

total of 25 constituted a record-breaking attendance! Wally has apologized for neglecting to take a photo of the couple who braved the elements, namely Sue and Bill Rock; all others were photographed.

Looking in from the outside was a jolly snow figure observing how these Munchkins pleasingly became "full" because of the Wizard's spells. Where and when will the fifth cocktail party be? Phone or email Wally (419-352-8057 or dpretze@bgsu.edu) if you would like to host the next such event.

Following the "chat-filled" party, several munchkins wended their way to the Black Swamp Players' delightful, fast-paced production of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" at the First United Methodist Church, where they could see the Wizard (Bob Clark) perform his wizardry by granting the Tin Man a heart, the Scarecrow a brain, the Lion courage, and Dorothy a return home to Kansas! □

Photos of party-goers on page 2



• Elaine and Elmer Spreitzer



• Lee Hakel



• Ron and Jean Stoner



• Ted Groat and R.K. Clark, as the Black Swamp's Wizard



• Milt Hakel and Kathleen Tweney



• Harender and Hem Vasudeva, Beth Casey



• Roger and Betty Jean Anderson



• Charlie Applebaum



• Diane and Wally Pretzer



• Vic Norton



• Peggy Giordano



• Jim and Joan Gordon



• Joyce and Paul Mueller

Hospital to investigate omission in directory

WOOD County Hospital will investigate why the institution is not listed in the *Aetna Medicare Plan Provider Directory*, which STRS retirees received late last month.

Stanley R. Korducki, Hospital president, and Karol D. Bortel, finance vice-president, said in a statement, "Wood County Hospital accepts all major insurance plans including Medicare HMO & PPO plans. We have been made aware that Wood County Hospital is not listed in the latest edition of the *Aetna Medicare Plan Provider Directory*."

The hospital administrators continued, "Please be assured that services are covered at Wood County Hospital and that claims will be processed accordingly as we investigate the cause of the omission. Questions may be directed to Patient Accounts (419.354.8911) or Finance (419.354.8860)."

Coincidentally, a story in *The Wall Street Journal* March 19, under the headline "Health Insurers Toughen Stance In Disputes Over Hospital Rates," began, "Health insurers are fighting demands by hospitals for sharply higher reimbursement rates by threatening to drop the hospitals from their health plan networks."

BYOB partying at the Spreitzers . . .



• Carole Bradford, Linda Hamilton, Nancy Leetch, Emmy Hann



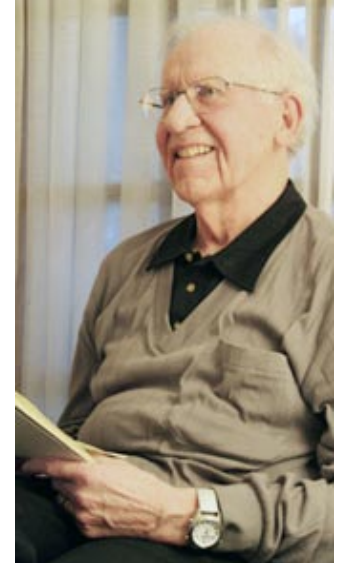
• Diane Pretzer, Jim Gordon, Norma Stickler



• Judy and Clif Boutelle, Helene and Morris Weinberger



• Eldon Snyder



• Wally Pretzer

They have a way with words

THE sixth BGSURA-sponsored book discussion took place from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, at the home of Clif and Judy Boutelle. They had chosen William Kent Krueger's *Iron Lake*, the first in a series of murder mysteries with the former sheriff of Aurora, Minnesota, "Cork" O'Connor, as the main character.

In 2008 Krueger gave a promotional talk

regarding *Red Knife*, the eighth book in the series, at the Wood County District Public Library. Judy and Clif know the author personally, having met him and communicated both by phone and email.

Those participating in this record-breaking attendance at a BGSURA book discussion included, in addition to Clif and Judy, Carole Bradford, Jim Gordon, Linda Hamilton, Emmy Hann,

Nancy Leetch, Diane and Wally Pretzer, Eldon Snyder, Norma Stickler, and Helene and Morris Weinberger. The Boutelles served angel food cake with raspberries and whipped cream, brownies, and herbal tea. Even though they were not the fictional Rose's sugar cookies shaped like Christmas trees, they were, indeed, delectable delights for the beginning of Spring, 2010. Wally, as BGSURA's

Activities Coordinator, encourages anyone who would like to host a book discussion to phone or email him (419-352-8057 or dpretze@bgsu.edu). The host/hostess chooses the book to be discussed and offers light refreshments.

– Wally Pretzer

Reservation for the BG-Toledo Luncheon at Stone Ridge Golf Club, 1553 Muirfield, Bowling Green

Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Reservation deadline Friday, April 9.

11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon. \$17 per person.

Name(s) _____

Number of reservations _____ Vegetarian option(s) _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____. PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO HAROLD LUNDE, BGSURA TREASURER,

880 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402-1602. DEADLINE FRIDAY, APRIL 9.

E-mail: hlunde@bgsu.edu.



• Dr. Miller

Snapshots from the March 11 joint BGSURA-Wood County Retired Teachers Association luncheon at 1st United Methodist Church



• Attendance about 120 for Don Bright's Irish stew buffet with "all the trimmings"



• Roger Anderson, a BGSURA past president; Harold Lunde, BGSURA treasurer; Charlie Applebaum, BGSURA computer fixer-upper; David Hyslop, former BGSURA board member; Susan Vetter

• Marilyn Ward



• Below, Joyce Kepke, Tom Hern, Al Kepke



• Carole Bradford

• Mike Nehf, executive director of the State Teachers Retirement System



• Mike Nehf, STRS executive director; Bernie Scott, WCRTA past president



• Mike Nehf, Laura Ecklar, STRS director of communications; Patricia McGinnis, retired Conneaut principal, former BG City Council member

More snapshots from the March 11 joint BGSURA-Wood County Retired Teachers Association luncheon at 1st United Methodist Church



• Donna Schmidt, WCRTA vice-president, and Ramona Cormier, BGSURA president



• Tom Bennett



• Laura Ecklar, STRS; Dale Schmidt, WCRTA president



• Tom Stubbs, a past president of BGSURA



• Carol Lininger, who tends the BGSURA Web site

Shen Yun Performing Arts at the Stranahan May 14



• As one much interested in Chinese culture, Wally Pretzer, as BGSURA's activities coordinator, said he "hopes that you will join Diane and him to attend a Shen Yun Performing Arts event at the Stranahan Theater in Toledo on Friday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m." Ticket prices are listed at \$36, \$56, \$66, \$76, and \$110, depending on the seats that you choose, but there is a 10 percent discount for groups of 10 or more. Pretzer said Shen Yun "presents dancers in dazzling costumes with spectacular backdrops. In addition to

classical dances, there are ethnic and folk dances and story-based dances, as well as singing and a full orchestra." Shen Yun is a New York-based company which has performed in more than 100 countries. Pretzer said five persons have already expressed interest in attending. Those who may be interested should let Pretzer know by Friday, April 16, by phone at 419-352-8057, or by E-mail to dpretze@bgsu.edu). Pretzer said he plans to arrange for dinner at a Chinese restaurant in the Maumee area prior to the performance.

Meet-and-greet help sought for BGSU Commencements

VOLUNTEERS are needed for May Commencements Friday, May 7, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 8, at 9:30 a.m. and 1 and 4:30 p.m. All ceremonies are in Anderson Arena at Memorial Hall.

Volunteers will take tickets, seat disabled persons, distribute programs, direct visitor traffic, and assist at the overflow site in Olscamp Hall.

Volunteers working more than one ceremony will be offered a free lunch.

On-line sign-up is at <https://reslife.bgsu.edu/forms/volunteer-springcommencement.php>.

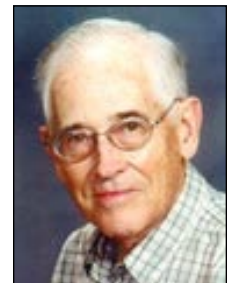
Organization expert receives Lifetime Achievement Award

DR. Glenn Varney, professor emeritus of Management, has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Organization Development Network, an international professional organization which honors those who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and contributed significantly to the field of organization development.

The award was presented at the organization's annual conference last October.

Dr. Varney is a principal of The Change Management Center and past Graduate Director of the Master of Organization Development Program and The Institute of Organizational Effectiveness (IOE) at Bowling Green State University.

The award honors a globally or nationally recognized individual whose achievements over the course of a lifetime have demonstrated a dedication and commitment to the field of organization development, enhanced the effectiveness of the field, and furthered the field of organization development.



Calendar

April 9 – Reservation deadline for the April 14 Stone Ridge luncheon for BGSURA and Toledo retirees. 11:30. Dr. Melissa Miller, BGSU political scientist, is the speaker.



April 16 – Deadline for reservations for Shen Yun Performing Arts program at the Stranahan on May 14. Call Wally Pretzer at 419-352-8057 or E-mail dpretze@bgsu.edu.

April 21 – Meeting of the BGSU Retirees Association Board of Directors, 1:30 p.m., Room 2, College Park Office Bldg.

May 14 - BGSU Retirees Assn. luncheon at Stone Ridge. Honor Flight program.



BGSURA Officers

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Editor, **Jim Gordon**
419-352-8175 • jgordon@bgsu.edu

THE State Teachers Retirement Board held its monthly meeting on March 19. Following the regularly scheduled meetings, a report titled "Board News" is posted on the STRS Ohio Web site, as well as mailed to a number of members and education organization representatives who have requested it. As a member of STRS Ohio with an e-mail address on file, you will also receive this report each month. The March report follows.

MARCH BOARD NEWS

PENSION COMMUNITY CONTINUES IN HOLDING

PATTERN

Though recommendations relative to maintaining long-term solvency were submitted to the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) from the state's five public plans in September 2009, legislation has yet to be introduced. ORSC staff, however, anticipates having a bill before the council members in April, at which time staff will review the bill and provide its recommendation. A vote by ORSC members regarding their recommendation for passage and/or changes to the bill would then likely take place in May. While formal introduction of a bill and committee hearings in the Ohio House of Representatives could occur this spring, it is more likely that serious discussion on the bill will occur after the November election.

IMPACT OF HPA'S PROPOSED PENSION PLAN CHANGES

REPORTED AT MARCH MEETING

At the February 2010 board meeting, the Healthcare & Pension Advocates for STRS (HPA) presented an alternative proposal for pension benefit changes to the State Teachers Retirement Board for its consideration. At the March board meeting, staff reported on the impact the two major components of HPA's plan would have on the solvency of the pension fund and on STRS Ohio members.

The primary differences between the plan approved by the Retirement Board on Sept. 1, 2009, and the HPA plan is that the HPA plan calls for a longer phase-in of additional service required for full retirement benefits and provides for a different cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). In the HPA plan, current retirees would receive a 2% COLA, beginning on July 1, 2011. New retirees after that date would also receive a 2% COLA, but it would be deferred for 36 months from the date of retirement or until age 60, whichever comes later. The STRS Ohio staff analysis showed the cost of the longer phase-in for retirement eligibility

is paid by a less valuable COLA for all new retirees because of the deferral period. The HPA plan does result in total additional savings of \$60 million to the pension fund, and would reduce the funding period for the pension fund to 32.9 years versus 33.4 years under the board's adopted plan. During the discussion, staff reminded the board that additional pla

n design changes may be necessary if economic and demographic assumptions are not met (e.g., investment return rates or mortality rates), and any plan components are removed or weakened and/or implementation dates change during the legislative process.

At its April meeting, the board will receive an update regarding the ORSC meeting being held earlier in the month and further discuss the HPA plan.

HEALTH CARE PROGRAM CHANGES RECEIVE INITIAL REVIEW

At its March 2010 meeting, the Retirement Board took its first look at possible changes for the 2011 STRS Ohio Health Care Program. At this time, no changes are anticipated for the Medical Mutual Basic or Plus plans, the Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO) or the health care plans offered by Kaiser and Paramount. For the AultCare PPO plan, there may be a change to the family deductible and out-of-pocket maximums. Staff is also looking into expanding the Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO) to Medicare Part B-only enrollees in 2011 if premiums are less than what can be offered through the Plus Plan.

The board will be asked to finalize calendar year 2011 plan changes at its April meeting, as well as approve plan premiums for 2011 at its June 2010 meeting.

The board was also presented with a timeline for a long-term health care strategic planning process that would begin this fall. As noted in the February Board News (<https://www.strsoh.org/boardnews/Feb10.html>), without significant changes in premiums, program eligibility or plan design, the STRS Ohio Health Care Program cannot survive in the long term. During the next 18 months, board and staff will focus on designing long-term strategic solutions while taking into consideration any changes that come out of national health care reform that could reshape STRS Ohio's options.

PENSION CHECKS MOVE TO DIRECT DEPOSIT IN OCTOBER

Every month, STRS Ohio pays benefits to more than 125,000 individuals by using safe, secure and reliable direct deposit for their payments. Unfortunately, benefit recipients who still receive paper checks can be impacted by delayed mail delivery or lost or stolen checks. When a paper check is lost, it can take 10 to 15 days to replace it.

To ensure the timely delivery of pension payments to benefit recipients, the Retirement Board approved a requirement for monthly benefit payments to be paid by direct deposit, effective Oct. 1, 2010. Timely deposits are made on the first banking day of the month - even when benefit recipients are out of town or unable to go to the bank. Benefit recipients who reside outside of the United States are exempt from this change.

Individuals who still receive paper checks will be sent a direct deposit form to complete and return in the coming months. Benefit payments can be deposited to a checking or savings account. Check memos will continue to be mailed when the net benefit amount changes (e.g., when withholding tax is changed or the annual cost-of-living adjustment is paid). Benefit recipients can also continue to use the Personal Account Information section of the STRS Ohio Web site to view monthly pension payment information, including all deductions.

ELECTION BALLOTS MAIL APRIL 2

The 2010 Retirement Board election packet will mail on April 2. It will include information about the three candidates - Mark Hill, Dale Price and James A. Stoll - who are running for the two contributing member seats on the board, as well as voting instructions. The top two vote-getters will win the seats.

Those eligible to vote in this election include all STRS Ohio contributing members, individuals who have contributions on deposit at STRS Ohio and disability benefit recipients. VR Election Services is conducting the election.

The deadline for voting is May 3. Results of the election will be announced following certification of the election results by the board of tellers on May 8.

RETIREMENTS APPROVED

The Retirement Board approved 123 active members and 107 inactive members for service retirement benefits.