



May 7 luncheon guests: Grand Royale Ukulelists of the Black Swamp

The Grande Royale Ukulelists of the Black Swamp (GRÜBS) cover pop, rock, swing, folk, country, and show tunes, and perform original songs, too. Playing a variety of ukes to support their rich vocal harmonies, they get audiences tapping their toes, singing along, and asking for more!

The GRÜBS began when Jason Wells-Jensen left a ukulele and some ukulele CDs under the Christmas tree for his wife Sheri. Anne Kidder and Geoff Howes soon succumbed to uke magic too, and the quartet was born. Sheri specializes in finger-picking her tenor ukulele, Jason plays the bass ukulele, Anne plays baritone, soprano and soprannissimo ukes, and Geoff plays resonator, arch-top and 8-string ukuleles and occasional harmonica. All four members sing lead, harmony and backing vocals.

The GRÜBS debuted in 2013 at the Downtown Bowling Green Art Walk. Complementing their cover songs with a growing number of originals, they released a self-titled EP in 2013, a holiday CD titled *Uke Tide* in 2015, and the album *If You Think That Way* in 2016. They have performed in BG at the Stones Throw, Sunset Bistro, the Farmer's Market, the Black Swamp Arts Festival and Art in the Park, and at Coffee Amici in Findlay, the Leisure Time Winery in Napoleon, Rhythm on the River in Grand Rapids, Friday Night Live in Tiffin, the Fayette Opera House, and many public and private events.

Luncheon reservation form is on page 8.

REPORTS

Update on Classified Staff Council (CSC)

by Terry Carver, Observer for BGSU Retirees Association

February 21, 2018 meeting

Announcement: Meeting with Interim President Rodney Rogers (now is the 12th BGSU President, as of February 23, 2018!) on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018 at 2:00 pm Chart Room – possible discussion points (Leave Bank, HB meeting, hearing process, red circled, Core Values, CSC voice for all classified staff)

Reports

- Treasurer Report- Faith – The Endowment is now over \$102,000, which is used for Classified Staff educational scholarships
- Firelands – Kathy Dean is the new Firelands Rep, reporting that there are 28 Firelands Classified Staff members



Terry Carver retired from Recreation & Wellness (formerly Recreational Sports).

Chair's Report

- Note of thanks from Center for Community & Civic Engagement – Report of MLK, Jr Day of Service by Roger Heminger
- The BGSU shuttle service has been outsourced by a Texas business. The 4 full-time classified employees will continue to be employed at BGSU. The 8 part-time drivers plus one intermittent driver will be offered employment with the new company, but the rate of pay will be lower and the benefits reduced/not offered. The 7 student employees will not continue as drivers. This goes into effect this summer. Note: This is bad for OPERS contributions to our retirement funds!
- Chairs of all constituent groups will give presentations at each Board of Trustee meetings
- CS Handbook revisions are back with HR

Old Business - updates

- Chair elect – Danielle Burkin and Toni Jacobs will be co-chair elects for the remainder of the year
- Friday facts – additional topics – introduce CSC members – take photo
- Shirt status – voted on logo and sleeve length; color to be determined after samples are presented

New Business

- 1,400 potential students attended on President's Day; 4,000 total including families!
- Talk to your constituents – what do they want from CSC members?
- Records Management information was distributed
- May's Award Ceremony – Planning – Outstanding Awards notices have been sent to CSC listserve
- OSCE representative from CSC – Faith Olson-Elsea to be the new rep starting in July; also need an alternate
- Roger Heminger to chair the Outstanding Team Award Committee

March 21, 2018 meeting

Guest speaker – Lt. John Stewart, BGSU Police Department– Financial Peace University

John showed a DVD clip of Financial Peace Government by Dave Ramsey. Lt. Stewart volunteers to facilitate the 9-lesson course on campus and explained how that works and shared handouts.

Announcement: April 21, 2018, Feed the Starving Children Mobile Meal Packet making, from 10 am to noon at the Stroh Center. The goal is to package 120,000 mobile meal packets. Attend as a classified staff group that Saturday.

Chair's Report

- Meeting with President Rogers and Vice President Stoll on 2/27/18. President Rogers was receptive to concerns brought to the table; VP Stoll had reservations
- Leave Bank review and CS Handbook revisions: HR declined to meet about these. F. Olson-Elsea will continue to ask for a meeting to ask questions and explain CSC's stance.

Old Business - updates

- Shirt status: decided on color to get order in time for the May Award Program
- CSC list of representatives and open positions – Elections: need to fill 9 positions for a total of 18 positions for 2018-19

New Business

- Theme and program for May 16th CS Awards Ceremony – Let Gratitude Be Your Attitude
- o Mark Henning to transmit ceremony to Firelands
- Gift cards for Maguire family – second round to help with medical expenses
- Firelands trip next year – Mark Henning has a 12-passenger van. Need one additional car to transport all CSC members that can attend. Planning to go in October 2018. □

REPORTS

Update on Administrative Staff Council (ASC)

by Judy Donald, Observer for BGSU Retirees Association

January 4, 2018 meeting

Beth Detwiler, Chair of ASC, called the meeting to order.

The guest speaker was Suzi Saunders, HR Training Specialist, BGSU Human Resources Office. She presented a professional training session on 10 Common Communication Mistakes to ASC. She also mentioned that HR offers dozens of professional development training sessions, both in person and online. For a list of trainings, please refer to their website.

Chair Report

From Board of Trustees Meeting December 8, 2017:

- President Mazey resigned and last day, effective December 31. Provost Rogers is now Interim President
- Posthumous Degree: Steven Paul Krakoff-Doctor of Education in Leadership Studies
- Proposed Appointments to the Public Advisory Council for Television (PACT)
- Approval of Graduate Student Senate Updated Constitution and Bylaws
- Approval of Verizon Wireless Easement
- Approval East Wooster Street Right-of-Way
- Approval of Demolition of Harshman Residence Hall
- Approval of Falcon Tuition Guarantee Plan
- Approval of Namings in the Robert W. and Patricia A. Maurer Center

From HR Meeting: Received new updated handbook and provided it to the Amendments Committee for their review.

Committee Reports

Amendments & Policies-Will be reviewing the handbook and making recommendations by the end of the month.

Awards & Recognitions-The Awards Banquet is Tuesday, May 15th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the BTSU Ballroom.

Outreach & Activities-No report. No January social.

Professional Development-Professional Development application deadline is January 9, 2018.

February 1, 2018 meeting

Beth Detwiler, Chair of ASC, called the meeting to order.



Judy Donald retired from Continuing & Extended Education.

The 1st guest speaker was Leah Howell to talk about Student Organizations on campus. Currently, there are 382 active student organizations on campus. Every organization is required to have a faculty or staff advisor, which is an opportunity for any staff member, who is interested, to serve as an advisor. Please contact Leah if you are interested in becoming involved in serving or assisting with these organizations.

The 2nd guest speaker was Drew Small, Office of Admissions, who discussed the upcoming President's Day Open House. Currently, there are 616 students registered, which includes over 100 from out of state. They are currently seeking volunteers to assist with this event. You can sign-up on the link on the 2/1/18 campus update.

The 3rd guest speaker was Dr. Rodney Rogers, Interim President. He said that BGSU is currently in a period of transition in senior leadership transitions but during this time, the university continues to drive forward on several key initiatives. He answered a few questions from the group such as about the Falcon Tuition Guarantee program, the

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BGSURA Newsletter

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(419) 372-9696
www.bgsu.edu/retirement
E-mail: retirees@bgsu.edu
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Benevolence **Jan Peterson**
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Program **Ellen Dalton, Barbara Moses**
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REPORTS

Summary of Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) Board Meeting

November 28, 2017

written by Roger Anderson

Roger Anderson and David Hyslop attended the OCHER Council meeting in Columbus at STRS Headquarters. President Nancy Wardwell presided. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5,691.02 in the OCHER account as of March 27, 2018.

Michele Hobbs presented the OPERS Report. As of September 30, 2017 total assets were \$83.7 billion with \$12.6 billion in the Health Care Fund. The Pension Fund is 80% funded, and the Health Care Fund is 65% funded. Ninety percent of OPERS members receiving pensions live in Ohio.

Gerald Newsom, OCHER Representative to STRS and HPA, gave his report. The STRS Board held a retreat in January. At that time Board members were asked to grade their responses to three major decisions they had made in the past year: changing assumptions on the mortality tables and future investment returns; ending the cost of living adjustments to pensions for five years; and reducing the subsidies STRS pays towards health insurance. Board members were unhappy with their decisions, but said they were necessary.

Newsom said the major news coming from the March Board meeting was the positive turnaround in the Health Care Stabilization Fund. As of January, 2018 overall enrollment in the STRS Health Care Program is down from 127,402 in 2017 to 124,215 with the major drop coming from non-Medicare enrollees. Cuts in STRS subsidies in 2017, better than expected claim demands, pension and Health Care investment returns of 15.8%, and federal government repayments, led to the Health Care funding ratio increase from 80% in January, 2017 to 153% in January, 2018. Assets in the Health Care Fund increased 14.6% in 2017. If present assumptions hold, the Health Care Fund will remain solvent over the lifetime of current STRS members. Newsom said the STRS Board discussed what to do with the windfall and decided to leave the present system as is. The Board also discussed whether to place a greater percentage of their investments in lower risk funds compared to higher risk funds. Investment returns would be lower with lower risk. Also discussed was a plan to create separate investment funds for the pension system and for the Health Care Stabilization Fund. Further discussion will be held on lower versus higher risk investments and separating pension and health care funds investments.

The annual survey of STRS members completed at the end of October, 2017 revealed that 95% of retirees were very favorable or somewhat favorable towards STRS. That number was only 82% for active teachers. Sixty-six percent of retirees said the STRS Board was headed in the right direction, but only 50% of the active teachers agreed with that statement. Ninety-three percent of retiree households have at least one other source of income beyond their STRS pension. STRS pensions, on average, provide 58% of total household income.

Gordon Gatien, Government Relations Officer for OPERS presented his report. He said one of the OPERS Board members had resigned so a special election will be held to fill the position. He said the OPERS Health Care Program is doing well, and the vender/connector has changed its name to VIA Benefits. Gatien said OPERS is trying to improve communications with its 220,000 members. He welcomed suggestions to improve communications.

House Bill 413 designed to limit OPERS COLA increases to 2.25% a year, is most likely dead for the year. The Aging and Long Term Care Committee which has held several hearings on the bill will not hold any more hearings. PERI has vigorously opposed the bill.

After lunch the OCHER Board heard from Greg Nickell, Director of Health Care Services for STRS. He reported on the January 1, 2018 Actuarial Valuation of Retiree Health Care Benefits conducted by Segal Consulting. He said at the beginning of 2017, liabilities in the Health Care Stabilization Fund totaled \$4.024 billion with assets of \$3.222 billion. In 2017 as a result of the freeze in subsidies for non-Medicare members and the 6% cap on subsidies for Medicare members, health care costs were reduced by \$1.656 billion. Per capita claims dropped 587 billion. All changes results in a reduction of liabilities to \$2.416 billion. Assets are now \$3.691 billion. If investments average 7.45% in the future the Health Care Fund will remain solvent until 2054.

Marla Bump, Director of Government Relations, STRS, summarized information provided at the winter meeting of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators and the National Council on Teacher Retirement which STRS staff attended in Washington, D.C. at the end of February. Bump said that Senators Sherrod Brown and Robb Portman had been appointed to the Congressional Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multi-Employer Pension Plans. The committee was established by the Bipartisan Budget Act passed in February. November 30 is the deadline for the committee to issue its findings and recommendations. The Ohio Retirement Study Council held its first meeting of the year on March 8th. There

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REPORTS

Administrative Staff Council *continued from page 3*

Winter Session (courses and services available). He also welcomed those with any other questions or concerns to contact his office.

Chair Report

From HR Meeting: Received clarification regarding compensation of administrative staff employees coming to work during an emergency and deemed an essential employee. This is in reference to a policy that was in place 10 years ago but no updated policy is currently in place.

From University Council:

-February board meeting will determine when the president search will begin

-Two Dean searches in progress

-New BGSU homepage will be updated this spring, will be more admissions-focused

Committee Reports

Amendments & Policies-Reviewed the handbook and prepared document of suggested changes which will be sent to HR by ASC Chair.

Awards & Recognitions-Nomination forms are being revised and will be sent out soon. The Awards Banquet is Tuesday, May 15th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the BTSU Ballroom.

Outreach & Activities-There were 29 new hires in 2017. Positive feedback on the welcome bags. February social hour is Wednesday, Feb 5, 5-7, Campus Quarters Sports Bar. ASC/CSC/Faculty Senate Basketball Doubleheader is Feb 3, Free/discounted tickets. ASC Bowling night, Friday, March 16, RSVP link should be available soon.

Personnel Welfare & Compensation-Meeting after Feb's ASC meeting to discuss this year's Adm Staff Compensation Request.

Professional Development-Had eight applications for the spring and granted all \$200 for their professional development for a total of \$1600. Granted \$400 for fall which equals a total of \$2000.

Student Scholarship-Working on getting silent auction items for Awards Reception and 50/50 sales began today. Both activities are fund-raising for the ASC scholarship fund.

Judy was unable to attend the March ASC meeting. ☐

Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees *continued from page 4*

were short presentations on the Iran/Sudan Divestures; the July 1, 2017 STRS Actuarial Valuation; the STRS Health Care report of June 30, 2017; recent changes to STRS Board travel policy; and a review of a set of STRS administrative rules. The Council also reviewed a letter from State Auditor David Yost that asked Council whether they should do an experience study for the five retirement systems more than every five years. The committee concluded that the five year review was sufficient and conducting reviews more frequently was not consistent with the long-term framework of the systems. Bump said that although the Unrelated Business Income Tax on public investment returns was not included in the federal tax bill, it could come up in future tax bills proposed in the House.

President Wardwell asked Board members to consider nominating individuals to serve as Vice-President for 2018-2019. Steven Howe, University of Cincinnati, has agreed to serve as President. Michele Hobbs has agreed to continue to serve as Secretary, and James Lapp is willing to continue serving as Treasurer for the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned. ☐

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 14, 2018 Luncheon: Grande Royale Ukulelists of the Black Swamp

May 22, 2018 Social event at Chris and Ellen Dalton's house 4:00-7:00 p.m. (see page 8)

June 15, 2018 Tour of Schooner Farms 1:30 p.m. (more info on page 8)

Save the date: August 21, 2018 Reception at BGSU President's House 4:00-6:00 p.m.

"Early Bird" Membership Renewal

* Name _____
* Address _____
* City _____ * State _____ * Zip _____
* Phone _____
* E-mail _____

*** IMPORTANT:**
The information with an * asterisk will be used to compile a 2019 BGSURA Directory. Please circle any information you do **NOT** want to appear in the Directory.

How would you like your BGSURA Newsletter delivered to you? email U.S. Postal Service
How would you like your BGSURA Directory delivered to you? email U.S. Postal Service
Check All That Apply/Applied: OPERS STRS
 Administrative Classified Faculty

No. of years at BGSU _____ Date you retired _____
Dept./Office from which you retired _____

Please sign me up as a:
 Full member, until June 30, 2019...\$16.
 Associate member (Spouse/widow/widower of retiree), 1 year \$8.
 Life member \$200.
 Associate Life member \$100.

- TO JOIN or RENEW -
Make check payable to BGSURA and mail it with this form to:
BGSU Retirees Association
Room 37, College Park Office Bldg., BGSU
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201

PROGRAM COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S LUNCHEON MEETINGS

- September 10, 2018 Mayor Dick Edwards with selected city personnel
- November 12, 2018 Toraigh: musical group led by Bob Midden
- March 11, 2019 Julie Broadwell & Alex Solis speaking about Not In Our Town
- May 13, 2019 Montana Miller speaking about the influence of social media on society

PASSINGS

For the period January 1 through March 20, 2018. Photos are included when they were available.

■ **NEAL CAROTHERS**, 65, died suddenly on January 29, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He was professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics. He served as department chair from 1997-2007 and retired in 2012, after 25 years of service.

■ **DARREL FYFFE**, 76, passed away on January 11, 2018, at his home in The Villages, Florida. He was professor emeritus of Science and Math Education and retired in 1993 after serving BGSU for 23 years.

■ **LAURA HILLARD**, 91, passed away January 30, 2018. She served the university as a custodian retiring in 1978.

■ **JANE E. JIVIDEN**, 82, died January 28, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She was a secretary at BGSU for over 25 years.

■ **MARJORIE 'MARGE' MILLER**, 85, assistant professor emeritus of family and consumer sciences, died on February 3, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She taught at the University from 1973-1996 and was a current board member of the BGSU Retirees Association.

■ **BERNICE NEWMAN**, 93, died February 12, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She was a food service employee and retired from the university.

■ **RANDY L. ROACH**, 61, passed away on January 17, 2018, in

Waterville, Ohio. He retired from BGSU after serving 31.5 years as a carpenter.

■ **RONALD C. SMITH**, 84, passed away March 9, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He served BGSU as stockroom manager in the Chemistry department.

■ **LINDA S. SNYDER**, 64, passed away on January 23, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She retired in 2014 as an administrative assistant in Student Financial Aid and had earlier worked in areas including the provost office, Canadian Studies and the University Bookstore.

■ **KRISTIN VESSEY**, 78, passed away on January 11, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. A professor emeritus, she conducted research and taught in the Department of Biological Sciences from 1972-1998. She later transferred to the Center for Environmental Programs, where she taught until her retirement in 2006.

■ **CLYDE WILLIS**, 80, dean emeritus of the College of Health and Human Services, died January 22, 2018, in Tega Cay, South Carolina. A specialist in speech pathology and audiology, he joined the College as dean in 1984 and retired in 2002. The Clyde R. Willis Faculty Development Award is named in his honor. □

				
Neal Carothers	Darrel Fyffe	Laura Hillard	Jane Jividen	Marjorie 'Marge' Miller
				
Bernice Newman	Randy Roach	Linda Snyder	Kristin Vessey	Clyde Willis

President's Message

The last luncheon of our social year is in May and I'm not sure how it got here so fast. Another event that is speeding our way is the May 8 primary election. Voters will be choosing the candidate for the November mid-term elections.

Every election is important but primaries are rather special. This is when we "weed-out" or "pare-down" the list of candidates who want our votes to move on and the 'the' candidate in the fall. It's a preliminary job interview if you will. No matter your political affiliation this is the time to pay attention, compare and contrast candidate's platforms. Come fall if you didn't vote in May and November and you're not satisfied with the outcome you don't have too much room to complain.

Now I'll pay close attention to my balance and flexibility as I step down from my soapbox. I look forward to seeing you at the May luncheon. Enjoy the summer if and when it arrives because before you know it Labor Day will be over and Christmas stuff will be all over town.

Chris Sexton



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

Celebrate the spring season with BGSU Retirees Association members and guests at the home of Chris and Ellen Dalton on Tuesday, May 22nd from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. This event provides an informal setting to stay in touch with former colleagues and to welcome new retirees to the group. Please bring your own beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and an appetizer to share. Please RSVP to Jan Finn at jfinn@bgsu.edu or call 419-352-0592 by Saturday, May 19th. Chris and Ellen reside at 870 Scott Blvd. in Bowling Green. Park in their driveway or on the north side of the street only, please. If you don't mind a short walk, you may park in the hospital parking lot off Wooster St.

Please join us on June 15th at 1:30 pm for an overview and tour of Schooner Farms ("Inspired by Nature") owned by Becky and Don Schooner. Their small farm is nestled at the corner of ST RT 235 and US 6 in Weston, Ohio. It operates as a sustainable non-conventional farm where they practice bio-intensive gardening, permaculture and use hugelkultur mounds for crops. While they are not certified organic, like many other small farms they choose to farm at a higher standard. In 2017, they proudly became a Certified Naturally Grown Farm. Their philosophy is to improve the soil and work with nature to grow food the way it was intended. Refreshments will be served after the tour. Please RSVP to Jan Finn at jfinn@bgsu.edu or 419-352-0592 by June 12th.

Save the date:

We have been invited to a reception at BGSU President's House on Tuesday, August 21st from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

**Reservation -- BGSU Retirees Association Luncheon at Bowling Green Country Club
Monday May 14, 2018. Cost \$15.**

Reservation deadline Wednesday May 9.

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:

Barbara Moses

734 McKinley Dr, Bowling Green OH 43402

2. Reservation by email:

Send message to bmoses@bgsu.edu. Pay by cash or check at the door.

Luncheon Menu

Mushroom chicken

Beef burgundy

Au gratin potatoes

Green beans almondine

Garden salad

Rolls & butter

DESSERT

Beverages