



Bowling Green State University Retirees Association
University Relations, Mileti Center, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403

Greetings and salutations to our more than 400 BGSU retirees!



By Sam Cooper,
temporary president,
BGSU Retirees
Association

Questions?

Additional information may be obtained by writing to the Retirees Association, Mileti Center, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403, or by calling Sam Cooper at 352-5386.

AS ONE of more than 350 retired Bowling Green State University faculty and administrative staff members, I'd like to introduce you to a new venture, a new organization, which has come to our community — one which you've probably been reading about. It's the Bowling Green State University Retirees Association, (occasionally referred to as BGSURA). I will try to tell you a bit of its background and purpose and, more importantly, try to persuade you, as one of the 400, to join with us during the next two months so that our new association will be in place and officially functioning by July 1.

Already underway are efforts to establish a retirees association in each of Ohio's 15 public universities whose retired faculty and staff are members of Ohio STRS or Ohio PERS. This endeavor is being carried out by an organization already established and functioning called the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER), which is composed of two retirees from each of the Ohio Public

Universities. I was invited to its initial meeting and formation about a year ago (and accepted with some reluctance and reticence) and have since become a charter member representing BGSU. I have been converted (brain washed?) to believe that it is a worthy and constructive organization for the welfare of the thousands of Ohio's public university retirees

OCHER has two essential functions: (1) to be an advocacy voice for higher education retirees in Ohio public higher education and (2) to assist in bringing into being a network of retiree associations and carry on institutional communication

among them for the benefit of all public universities retirees and their welfare. Elsewhere in this newsletter there are more details about OCHER.

There were already about six retirees associations functioning in Ohio, several with real vitality (Ohio State and Ohio University) and several more in the process of being revitalized. The others, like BGSU, are currently in various stages of establishing their retirees organizations. Their experience, format, and activities have provided models for the BGSU Retirees Association.

• continued on page 2



First Charter Member of the BGSU Retirees Association, Jack Raney, receives a special membership certificate from Sam Cooper, temporary president. Raney, who celebrated his 105th birthday in April, was BGSU's architect and a faculty member from 1939 until he retired in 1960.



PHOTO BY CLIFTON P. BOUTELLE / UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Members of the Board of Directors for the BGSU Retirees Association include (seated, from left) Duane Tucker, WBGU-TV; George Horton, education; Sue Hager, HPER, secretary*; Robert Keefe, HPER; (standing) Thomas Kinney, English; Robert Thayer, music; James Gordon, journalism, newsletter editor*; and Sam Cooper, HPER, president*. Other board members, who were unable to be present for the meeting, are Elizabeth Neidecker, interpersonal communication; Cliff Long, math; Reginald Noble, biological sciences; Elmer Spreitzer, sociology; Thomas Stubbs, HPER*; and Wendell Jones, music*.

* Executive Committee members

Cooper welcome

• from page 1

Following my involvement with OCHER, I returned to the BGSU campus to explore the climate and receptiveness of BG's retirees to the idea of a retirees' organization. After talking to perhaps several dozen retirees, there was reason to believe that there was acceptance and readiness for the right kind of organization. (It was to be more than "an organization which would have an annual potluck picnic or form a bridge club," as someone said.)

Thereafter, the idea and concept was presented to the BGSU administration and "tried on for size," so

to speak. It received eager endorsement from President Olscamp and others. Agreements were reached and steps to implement the formation were taken.

An organizing committee of retirees was designated several months ago to establish the appropriate retirees organization. The committee reconstituted itself into a temporary board of directors, with temporary officers and executive committee. A constitution and by-laws were developed and adopted, and the Bowling Green State University Retirees Association is now a *fait accompli*. The Constitution and By Laws are included in this newsletter.

What remains to be

done now is to obtain members for the new association. On a following page is an application for membership and the procedures. I trust all the eligible retirees will read the application and join the BGSU Retirees Association and that this will be the beginning of a satisfying and rewarding experience with other BGSU retired friends, associates and colleagues in the years ahead.

ALTHOUGH the Association is autonomous and self-perpetuating, nevertheless it is to have a close liaison with the University. This liaison is to be through the Office of Uni-

versity Relations and Vice-President Phil Mason. He has assured us of his enthusiastic support and will assist us in firmly establishing the Association into the years ahead.

There is an old truism that says something to the effect that "an organization is only as good as you make it." I hope all of BGSU's retirees will join me and make our Association one of which we can be proud.

Samuel M. Cooper

• Dr. Cooper is a professor emeritus and former chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education. He retired in 1975

ORTA: Competitors or allies?

WILL BGSU's new Retirees Association compete for members with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association and local chapters?

Many retired BGSU faculty and staff members will continue to be members of ORTA, observed Sam Cooper, temporary president of the BGSU Retirees Association. He pointed out that the executive director of ORTA was a guest at a meeting of the Ohio

Council of Higher Education Retirees, adding that the members and officers of OCHER maintain contact with ORTA. "Each would be more allies than competitors," Cooper said.

"Should a major goal of OCHER soon be realized, there will be retirees associations at each of Ohio's 15 public universities. It is hoped that this will not dilute ORTA membership and that university retirees will continue to belong to both."