



**Luncheon speaker on
November 9 will be
attorney
Alan Mortensen**

**"What is happening to the chil-
dren of Sandusky County?
Knowing and proving are
two different things"**

Alan W. Mortensen practices law in Salt Lake City, Utah has been his home since graduating from Gibsonburg High School in 1984. Mr. Mortensen still considers himself to be an Ohioan and loves Bowling Green. He spent countless nights playing pickup basketball in the Anderson Arena and attended Buckeye Boys State on the BGSU campus. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and is licensed in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. He has been admitted in Courts across the Country, including Ohio, Alabama, Texas, Washington, Oregon and California. He has also successfully appealed cases to the Utah Supreme Court, the Utah Court of Appeals, and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Mortensen has recently been handling a case on behalf of the victims of the Clyde Ohio Childhood Cancer Cluster in Sandusky County. He was on the victims' Steering Committee of Asiana Flight 214 aviation disaster in San Francisco. He was the lead attorney in the Guatemalan Air Disaster where several service missionaries from Utah, Illinois and Guatemala were killed and injured in a Cessna Caravan. Mr. Mortensen was also one of the lead attorneys in the Crandall Canyon Mine Disaster case in Huntington, Utah, that received significant national exposure.

Mr. Mortensen received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Political Science from the University of Utah. He also holds an Associate's degree in Philosophy and Spanish, which he speaks fluently. He attended the University of Wyoming College of Law, where he graduated with honors and was a member of, authored, and edited the Wyoming Law Review. He lives in Bountiful, Utah with his wife, Robyn, and their five children. □

Reservation form for the November 9 luncheon is on page 8.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, there is a form on the BGSURA web page.

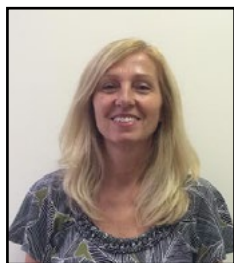
REPORTS

Update on Classified Staff Council (CSC) by Linda Hammer Observer for BGSURA

August 2015 meeting

Chair Report (J. Garber): Jeremy Joseph (ASC Chair) is interested in holding Tri-Chair meetings, which include J Garber (CSC), J Joseph (ASC), and the Faculty Senate Chair.

HR Meeting (J. Garber): A competency based progression program is being considered for Classified Staff. It would include special training, classes, conferences, etc. Retire/rehire was discussed, in particular the length of time they must wait before working at BGSU again (or not).



Linda Hammer is retired from Recreation & Wellness (formerly Recreational Sports).

Committee Reports

Human Resources has formed a Bonus Policy Committee which includes Sandy Heck, Viva McCarver, Jan Garber (CSC Chair), and Jeremy Joseph (ASC Chair). The Community Committee is given the charge to plan two Brown Bag Lunch meetings Fall and Spring Semester. HR would like to present on more than just the employee medical benefits. OPERS was suggested as a great topic.

Good of the Order: A report on the Shuttle Bus service was provided: Chris Powers and Aileen Berry are co-supervising the Shuttle Buses and drivers; adding the Sebo Center to the day route; drivers have been instructed to refrain from giving their name to any irate student (privacy protection); no drivers are to ever be on the cell phones while driving; Chris Powers proposed that students be hired as shuttle bus drivers; the East (green) route is now making stops at Meijer and the Huntington Building; students want the "2- RIDE" van to return for campus safety during the night hours

A campus wide forum is to be held regarding WGBU-TV on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 7:00 pm in 101 Olscamp. Specialized WGBU-TV pens were distributed to meeting attendees.

September 2015 meeting

Presentation from Smoke Free Campus Group: BGSU currently is under the "Clean Air Policy." The Smoke Free Campus proposal will take into account: e-cigarettes, vaporizers, hookahs, tobacco and all smoking products. There won't be any designated smoking places on BGSU owned or leased properties. Since this is not illegal, there are no fines. The focus is on education and the campaign to promote health and safety to students and staff and encourage people to quit smoking. This committee has met since April 2015 along with

Campus Operations (litter control). The aim is for Fall 2016 implementation. Email to cleanair@bgsu.edu with any questions. Due to Federal policies marijuana is not legal on campus even if it passes locally

This committee asked for CSC support and to write a Clean Air letter to President Mazey (tabling until October)

Chair Report (J. Garber): Jan is on a committee for Disability Voluntary Self ID.

Holiday Schedule Change: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are off this year, instead of the following Monday

HR Meeting (J. Garber):

HR is looking into whether bus drivers should share their names with students who have bus concerns.

There are 24 Red Circled employees (those who have reached the top of their rank) and after the 2% increase there will be 11 more new ones.

HR never saw the sign for Barnes and Noble coming to campus. There are ongoing negotiations with the Bookstore.

WBGU TV: President Mazey is wanting to use the money, if spectrum is sold, to benefit students; gifts to WBGU are up substantially

Supervisors are not getting yearly training. HR is looking into hiring a training expert to create on-going supervisory training modules.

Committee Reports

Salary Compensation Committee (G. Houtz): Will meet next week. Financial Aid is changing the FASFA timelines for BGSU.

OSCHE Summer Conference (K. Newman): Financial issues at other institutions were discussed. One Stop Shop was not a good idea at other institutions. Most are closed during the winter holiday break. Sinclair Community College is going to charge a spousal surcharge when they could have Health Insurance elsewhere. Akron has an interactive employee advisory online. Next meeting is October 23rd in Columbus.

Bonus Committee: Bonus Policy proposal was distributed. Supervisors would need to write a nomination on an online form. Bonus amount could be \$250 - \$2000. Questions included subjectivity, who has available funds, and grant restrictions (for some areas). Council members were asked to look it over and send questions and ideas to Jan Garber by next week. The Bonus Policy proposal is going to the CSC Salary Compensation Committee next week.

Good of the Order

WBGU TV is still on the air. Kids Extravaganza is Saturday,

continued on page 5

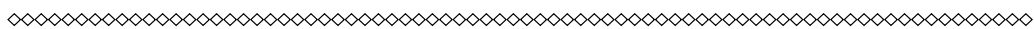
Faculty Senate Report

by Ellen Williams, Representative for BGSURA



Highlights from the September 8, 2015 meeting included:

- Chair of Faculty Senate this year is Allen Rogel. Rogel reported that this would be the first year that Adjunct Faculty would have two seats on Senate. He stated that the administration and BGSU-FA would be working on contract negotiations this year.
- President Mazey shared enrollment data noting that the freshman class had a 12% increase over last fall and was the best academically prepared class admitted to the University. Graduate enrollment has increased by 13% this year. Retention is at an historical high at 77.5%. She extended thanks to Provost Rogers, Associate Provost-John Fisher, Director of Advising -Andy Alt, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Planning-Cecelia Castellano and to all faculty and staff who helped with enrollment and retention efforts. Mazey stated that the FCC had informed the University last spring that they would be undertaking a reverse auction to purchase spectrum. The Administration will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees on the WBGU issue at the September Board meeting and a vote would be taken at that meeting. The President congratulated the College of Education and Human Development for recently ranking 7th in the country and first in Ohio on a list of highest paid education majors, post graduation.
- Provost Rodney Rogers indicated that the positive enrollment numbers have provided resources for a number of renovations conducted this summer, as well as the renovation of 98 classrooms to update technology teaching tools. He credited the enrollment of many new students to the outcomes of the Trustees Innovation Fund and the development of new programs such as Forensic Science, Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigations, as well as new accredited programs in the College of Technology, Architecture, Engineering and the Computer Sciences. The Trustee Innovation Fund will be accepting new program proposals (until October 10th) for the 2017 academic year. The Provost announced that House Bill 64 (passed this summer) will freeze tuitions in Ohio universities as well increase the state share of funding from the State of Ohio. As part of House Bill 64, universities are being asked to report on what they are doing to reduce student costs in order to complete graduation earlier. (e.g., BGSU had made it possible for students to rent textbooks as opposed to buying them.) The University is also looking at reducing the cost of summer tuition. House Bill 64 also calls for the evaluation of student performance in all courses. Courses with low enrollment will be evaluated to consider collaborations with other institutions. Rogers reported that there are currently 127 BGP courses offered this fall. He also noted that 1100 College Credit Plus seats are being used this Fall. When asked how young some of the College Credit Plus students were, he indicated that he was aware of one Junior High School student who had taken coursework in the College of Musical Arts. The representative from Firelands indicated that there were currently two seventh graders and four or five eighth graders taking coursework through College Credit Plus at Firelands.
- Due to an invalid election earlier this year, it was necessary to rerun the election of Vice Chair of the Senate. Rachelle Hippler was elected as the Vice Chair for Faculty Senate this year.
- Guest speaker, Colleen Boff (Associate Dean for University Libraries) noted that libraries are in a process of change and that the BGSU Libraries want to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the faculty in teaching, research and publishing. They are conducting a survey and requested faculty support and participation.
- Guest speaker, John Ellinger (Chief Information Officer) reported on the current status and options related to Drop Box and university computers. He also reported on the use of Canvas for online teaching. □



Summary of OCHER Board Meeting
September 15, 2015

Roger Anderson and Karel King attended the OCHER Board meeting in Columbus at STRS Headquarters. President Roger Anderson presided at the meeting. Past President Nancy Wardwell distributed the OCHER Annual Report, 2014-2015. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4,398.48 in the OCHER account as of September 15th.

Michelle Hobbs, of the Ohio State University Retirees Association gave the OPERS report. As of August 1, 2015, OPERS investments were \$89.5 billion. In 2014 OPERS was 83.8% funded with an amortization period of twenty-one years, based on the Government Accounting Standards Board guidelines. In 2014 OPERS paid out \$5.1 billion in pension benefits and \$1.7 billion in Health Care Benefits to more than 203,000 retirees or their beneficiaries.

Analysis shows that the OPERS Health Care Connector will provide a majority of the 145,000 retirees over 65 with better and more affordable health care compared to the old plans. In 2014 OPERS established a 115 Health Care Trust to prepare for the new Health Care Plan. With the Our Way Financial Initiative about twenty-seven percent of new retirement applications were filed online compared to ten percent before the plan was initiated.

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REPORTS (continued)

OCHER Report (continued from page 3)

Dick Hill from OSURA presented the STRS Board Meetings Summary and the Legislative update. As of July 30, STRS investment assets were \$74.488 billion, up 1% from June 30 with a closed amortization of thirty years. Assets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 were up 5.45%. The investment value as of that date was \$74.2 billion, down \$600 million from the previous year because STRS paid more in benefits than they collected in contributions. Investment gains made up the difference. Hill referred to two editorials in The Columbus Dispatch, "Pensions Edging Up," July 1, 2015 and "Don't Interfere With Pensions," September 14, 2015 which were very positive about Ohio's public pension systems. The September editorial recommended that Ohio politicians not interfere with Ohio's public pensions. The editorial went on to say "the money in them doesn't belong to the public, it belongs to the workers and retirees who have paid into the system over many years." Governor Kasich in September had called on OPERS to "look for responsible ways to divest in companies that do business in Iran."

Hill said Modern Health reported in July of this year that, after a period of no-growth, health care spending in the second quarter of 2015 had increased 4.9%. The Boston Globe reported that more consumers are going to walk-in clinics than the emergency rooms of hospitals. The Federation of State Medicare Reports has launched a web site doc.info as a publically accessible physician search tool. A September 3, 2015 article in the Wall Street Journal reports that top investment officers of the California State Teachers' Retirement System have discussed moving \$20 billion (12% of their portfolio) into U.S. Treasury notes, hedge funds, and other investments to better their returns when stocks decline. The final decision to move assets will be made in November. Nationally, public pension funds earned just 3.4% in the last fiscal year.

Hill reported that in June the STRS Board recommended that the mitigating rate for STRS members who are in alternate retirement plans (ARP) be increased. The mitigating rate is a portion of the employer contribution that is used by the retirement system to offset the negative impact of pension employees who are participating in a defined contribution plan. In 2014 the STRS Board's actuarial consultant recommended a 1% increase in the mitigating rate for participants in STRS's Defined Contribution Plan from 4.5% to 5.5%. Before the Board took action the Ohio General Assembly, in the biennial budget passed in June, placed a moratorium on any increase until July 1, 2015.

This summer the OCHER Board was asked to pay dues of \$500 to the Healthcare and Pension Advocates to STRS. The OCHER Board members approved contributing the \$500 by e-mail vote. Dick Hill pointed out that HPA is a forum of eleven stake-holder organizations, including OCHER, and others such as the Inter-University Council of Ohio, representing the public universities' Presidents; the Ohio Education Association; the Ohio Retired Teachers Association; the Buckeye Association of School Administrators; the Ohio Federation of Teachers; and others. HPA is co-chaired jointly by a representative of employees and a representative of employers. Monthly meetings are arranged by the HPA project manager. Although HPA has no official relationship or authority, it has provided considerable feedback to the STRS Board. Hill pointed out that OCHER's participation in HPA over the years has provided insight and input, and as stakeholders in STRS Health Care and Pension futures, the \$500 we contribute over the years has proved to be of good value.

Jim Kweder from Cleveland State University presented the OCHER Advocacy List for discussion. He covered the seven issues related to the retirement systems; the five issues related to the public universities; and the six issues related to OCHER. President Anderson passed out a sign-up sheet for members to join the OCHER Advocacy Committee. Seven members signed up. They will discuss the eighteen issues presented by Kweder and recommend additions and deletions. President Anderson will provide time at the November meeting for the Advocacy Committee to meet.

After lunch the OCHER Board heard from Greg Nickell, Director of Health Care Services for STRS. Nickell pointed out that the STRS's Health Care framework was established in 2011 with Medicare as the cornerstone. Currently, STRS's Health Care Plan is solvent for nineteen years. The goal for 2016 is to increase that to 30 plus years.

Nickell said that in 2016 the health care multiplier will be 2.1 percent subsidy for retirees, the final phase of a plan to reduce the subsidy from 2.5% in 2011 to 2.1%. He noted several changes in the Aetna Health Care Plan for 2016. The in-network deductibles will go from \$300 down to \$150. The out-of-pocket limits for out-of-network charges will increase from \$2000 to \$2500. The coinsurance percentage for out-of-network charges will go from 6% to 8%. The Medical Mutual Plus Plan has been eliminated. Under the Basic Plan the deductible maximum will increase to \$2500 up from \$2250 for in-network. Out-of-pocket costs maximums will increase to \$6500 from \$3700. Deductible costs for out-of-network will increase to \$5000 from \$4500. Out of pocket cost maximums will go to \$13,000 from \$7400. Nickell said Express Scripts in 2016 plans to increase the deductibles for covered brand-name drugs to \$225 from \$200, and maximum annual expenses to \$4850 from \$4700.

Open enrollment packets will be mailed the middle of October. Plan selection changes can be made between November 1 and November 24. Starting this year open enrollment materials can be obtained online by going to STRSOH.org and setting up an online personal account. Nickell said STRS has no plans to change its Health Care Plan in the near future. He did say it might be an advantage for spouses of retirees to use the State Exchange System to save money. □

Sept. 19, 11am – 2pm ☐

Update on Administrative Staff Council (ASC) by Judy Donald Observer for BGSURA



Judy Donald is the BGSURA representative to ASC.

September 3, 2015 meeting

Jeremy Joseph, Chair of Administrative Staff Council, for the 2015-16 year, opened the meeting. He had recently met with HR and stated that the floating holiday has been changed in December so employees will have December 24 and December 25 off. At next month's meeting, October 1, the speakers will be Viva McCarver, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Sandy Heck, Associate Director Human Resources and Benefits, who will be able to address any questions or concerns.

At the June meeting, a Historian position was voted and approved. Tom Siebenaler, College of Business, was appointed to that position. He updated ASC on what he has collected/organized over the summer.

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

Jeremy Joseph shared a Bonus Policy that he would like council to review. This policy is a way to recognize exemplary work-related achievements that exceed standard job requirements. There are eligibility requirements and criteria to be met to receive this bonus. Further discussion will occur at a future meeting.

Next meeting is October 1, 2015. ☐

Mark your calendars for the remainder of the 2015-16 program year

March 14, 2016:

Jon Sprague, Director of the BGSU Center for the Future of Forensic Science

April 11, 2016

Tom Henry, Toledo Blade, on Lake Erie water issues (this will be a joint meeting with the UT Retirees)

May 9, 2016:

Jerry Wicks, BGSURA member, The Future of Passenger Rail in Ohio

BGSURA Newsletter

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BGSU Retirees Take on Taxing Job

If you're a senior citizen, low to moderate income, and need help preparing your income tax return, one good place to go is the Wood County Senior Center. There a group of Tax Aide volunteers is ready and willing to help you, from early February to early April. Among them are BGSU retirees Tom O'Brien (retired math professor), Leo Navin (retired economics professor), Gaylyn Finn (retired Treasurer), and Chris Dalton (retired from chemistry/Finance and Administration). Tom is the local coordinator and Leo is the electronic return originator--he actually files the returns.

The Tax Aide program is a joint effort of AARP and the Internal Revenue Service. Tax Aides must pass a certification test each year. At the Wood County Senior Center the Tax Aides work in a small basement room. Computers on which returns are prepared are loaned by BGSU, and the loan includes an on-call tech person to help set them up and troubleshoot problems. Software is provided by AARP/IRS. Up until the past two years, the computers were networked to each other and to a server and a printer. Now the software is available to Tax Aides online. Returns are e-filed. Tax Aides also assist with state and school district returns.

Senior Center personnel participate by scheduling clients. Facilitators have the important task of greeting clients and making sure they have necessary paperwork and receipts organized so that when the client meets with the Tax Aide counselor they are ready to go. Several Facilitators are also BGSU retirees: Joanne Navin (retired from Student Health Center) and Jan Finn (retired from Academic Enhancement).

Norma Best (retired from the Bursar's Office) was involved with the Tax Aide program for 25 years, serving as a Counselor until her eyesight got poor and then serving as a Facilitator. She "retired" two years ago.

At the end of the tax season, everyone involved with the program gets together for a celebratory pot luck dinner.

The group is always looking for volunteers. Anyone interested in learning more about the Tax Aide program can call Tom O'Brien at 419 352 0754 or Leo Navin at 419 352 6165. Volunteers do not need to be BGSU retirees. Tom says that many in the group have been doing this for multiple years because they not only enjoy the camaraderie of working together but also get quite positive response from clients. Plus you get a nice shirt. ☐



Above: Leo Navin, Tom O'Brien, Chris Dalton, Gaylyn Finn.



Right: Facilitators Judy Hoffer and Barbara O'Brien.

PASSINGS

For the period July 14 - September 19, 2015. Photos are included, when they were available.

■ **MARVIN ‘CHRIS’ ADLER, 88**, passed away on August 15, 2015, in Bowling Green, Ohio. A lifelong Custar resident, he worked for 20 years at Campus Operations, in the field of refrigeration/air conditioning.




■ **DORIS KING BARR, 88**, died August 14, 2015, in Port Charlotte, Florida. She worked in the bursar’s office from 1963-1987.

■ **ROBERT MAZUR, 77**, professor emeritus of art, died August 15, 2015, in Bowling Green. He taught at BGSU from 1965-1998.

■ **RALPH WARREN, 81**, ssociate professor emeritus of art, died August 15, 2015 in Florida. He taught and served as gallery director for the Fine Arts Center, from 1971-1994.

■ **JOHN WEINERT, 83**, passed away on July 30, 2015, in Sarasota Florida. He served BGSU as head coach of the Men’s Basketball Team, from 1976-1986.

■ **DELORES WICKARD, 85**, died September 19, 2015, in Bowling Green. She served BGSU in food service for 26 years, retiring in 1995. □

				
Marvin ‘Chris’ Adler	Doris King Barr	Robert Mazur	John Weinert	Delores Wickard

BGSU Retirees Association Celebrates 20th Anniversary



This photo of the founding board members was taken on September 14, 2015. (see 1995 photo on page 8)
 Standing, back row: Bob Thayer, Elmer Spreitzer, Eldon Snyder, Kevin Gordon & Melissa Gordon-Johnson (representing Jim Gordon), Margaret Tucker (representing Duane), Reginald Noble, Dr. Mazey.
 Standing & seated, front row: Lyn Long (representing Cliff), Sue Hager, Dick Horton, Don Bright, Carol Jones (representing Wendell).

President's Message

Do you remember the game called "Telephone" from our younger years? Well, all during September Jan Peterson and I have played a grown-up version of this game with various university offices. The BGSURA office phone was disconnected around Labor Day and finding out the Who and Why turned into a game of Telephone.

I have since discovered that the Who was the budget person at Human Relations. H.R. pays our phone bill. The Why is very interesting and was certainly a surprise to me. It seems that "someone" called H.R. and told them BGSURA no longer existed. The H.R. person figured if we no longer exist why continue to pay for the phone. I assured H.R. that BGSURA definitely is alive and well and celebrating our 20th anniversary this year.

It is amazing how fast a phone can be turned back on. If you need to reach us by phone the number is still 419-372-9696. Call and leave a message and we'll call you back as soon as possible.

Chris Sexton



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

Below is the founding board in 1995, thanks to the Center for Archival Collections. (see 2015 photo on page 7)

Front row: Sue Hager, Bob McGeein, Tom Kinney, Romona Cormier, Eldon Snyder, Don Bright.

Back row: Sam Cooper, Tom Stubbs, Dick Horton, Wendell Jones, Elmer Spreitzer, Duane Tucker, Jim Gordon.



**Reservation -- BGSURA Buffet Luncheon at Bowling Green Country Club
Luncheon Monday November 9, 2015. Cost \$15**

Reservation deadline Wednesday November 4.

11:30-noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Buffet luncheon

Name(s) _____

Number of reservations @ \$15 _____

1. How to pay by mail:

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ PAYABLE TO BGSURA

Send reservation form and check to:

Gaylyn Finn, BGSURA Treasurer

966 Deer Ridge Run, Bowling Green OH 43402

2. Reservation by email: gfinn3@woh.rr.com. Pay by cash or check at the door.

Luncheon Menu

*Roast turkey breast
Pork Roast
Green Beans Almondine
Red skin seasoned
potatoes
Tossed Salad
Rolls and Butter
DESSERT
Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea*