School Daze

By Nancy Wardwell

It’s that time again. Children are wondering what their new teachers will be like and who their new classmates will be. For parents, every store has displays and deals on school supplies to fill the annual lists from school – and teachers, churches, and other organizations are gearing up to help supply what some parents cannot.

In 1779 the Continental Congress called for a survey of the “Northwest Territory” which included what became the state of Ohio. The new laws created townships, reserving a portion of each township for local schools – land grants.

It wasn’t until 1825 that the Ohio government created a common system of schools and financed public education with a ½ mill property tax.

Currently 2/3 of all property taxes in the state go to fund education. Twenty years ago the Ohio Supreme Court found that our system of funding schools is unconstitutional – that relying on property taxes unfairly favors districts with higher property values.

After the Great Depression many could not pay their property taxes. In 1934 the attempt to remedy this was to institute a state sales tax of 3% on certain goods to help pay for education.

This tax has changed at least 25 times since 1934 and the money is no longer for the sole purpose of education.

In 1975 the legislature created the Ohio Lottery with “net proceeds...to be used solely for the support of elementary, secondary, vocational and special education programs.” In its 43 years the profits have been over $20 billion – but these dollars only replaced the dollars, which were then removed from the education budget and placed in the state general fund.

Crawford School is one of only 32 active one-room schools remaining in the U.S.

How to pay for education has long been an issue, but in 1976 it got even more complicated with House Bill 920. Perhaps influenced by California’s “Prop 13”, Ohio froze property taxes at the amount they were assessed in the original year of assessment – so even if the property value increases, the tax does not increase. There is no built-in factor for inflation – which forces districts to put levies on the ballot periodically, thus making Ohioans face more tax levies than any other state.

Into the complicated stew are rollbacks, discounts (including the Homestead Exemption for seniors over 65), changes to the Tangible Personal Property Tax (PPT) – and then the unfunded mandates – costs that are out of the control of local school boards.

The next generation of citizens is taking their places in their new classrooms, pulling out their wide-lined paper and new #2 pencils – but in this article we haven’t begun to consider curriculum: What and how we teach what to whom – and who decides what and how we teach!

Many studies have shown the value of education in a strong economy and community. Back in the early common schools the basic curriculum was reading, writing, mathematics – and deportment. The vast changes in population and technology demand attention. "Time makes ancient truths uncouth" is carved over a doorway in the former College of Education’s Ramseyer Hall. Now, all we need to do is figure out what is best for our children and community!

All things considered, how does education in Ohio compare to other states? Ask Google that question to find there are several rankings – and Ohio ranks mid pack – 22nd to 25th among the 50 states.

For additional reading about the history of public education there are numerous articles and studies online. Thanks here to a 2016 report compiled by Jayne Geneva for Cleveland Heights of the University Heights City School District.
The end of summer brings students back to OSU and local schools, and of course, the start of Buckeye football. Summer is great time to spend with family and friends, travel, garden, explore nature, etc. While the OSURA board did not meet in July, many of the committees did meet to plan the many upcoming events. Thanks to the many OSURA member volunteers for making these events happen.

Coming up on September 26, 2018 is the OSURA Fall Conference. This conference is only possible because of the efforts of Rachael Turner and her OSURA volunteer committee members planning throughout the year for this daylong event. Behind the scenes the committee carefully looks at your evaluations and suggestions from past conferences. First, the date has to be carefully coordinated with other OSU and OSURA events and availability of the Fawcett Center. A long list of keynote speakers, topics, presenters and tours has to be whittled down to a short list, discussed and booked. The result is the OSURA Fall Conference that offers members a unique venue to reconnect, learn, interact and have fun. This year’s program offers many opportunities for lifelong learning with informational and fun sessions throughout the day and behind-the-scenes tours of OSU facilities. With over 200 members attending, the conference is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and establish new friendships with fellow retirees. Meet the members of the OSURA board and the volunteers that make this and other OSURA events happen. Remember that this event could not happen without the support of the vendors who set up informational booths at the conference. So please check out the information from these vendors. If you have not already registered, please go online or call to register.

Finally, if you have any comments, suggestions, questions, want to volunteer, serve on a committee, etc., please send me an email: osurasocial@gmail.com. We are always looking for new ways to serve our members.

You are invited!

PROVOST'S DISCOVERY THEMES LECTURER PROGRAM

DJ Patil
“Big Data, And How It Can Solve The World's Most Pressing Problems”

These lectures are always free and open to the public, and hopefully interesting to a broad audience. We would like to invite retirees back to campus to enjoy them.

Wednesday September 19, 2018
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. (doors open at 2:45)
Mershon Auditorium

Registration is required, though the lecture is free and open to the public. Paid visitor parking is available at the Ohio Union South Garage. Please visit the lecture webpage for more information.
## Welcome New Retirees

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<td>Shannon L. Lee</td>
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<td>Evelyn Leonard</td>
<td>Fawcett Center for Tomorrow</td>
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<td>Deborah Lee Smith-Shank</td>
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MEMBERS REALLY ENJOYED THE SAFARI IN JULY AT The Wilds.
**Calendar of Events**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**September 4**
Benefits Committee
*Time/Place:* 9:15 a.m., Longaberger

**September 11**
Board Meeting
*Time/Place:* 9 a.m., Longaberger

**September 19 (Wednesday)**
Membership Committee
*Time/Place:* 10 a.m., Longaberger

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**September**

Lunch Bunch
No program this month. See you October 18th for another fine presentation.

*Contact Person:* Elenore R. Zeller
*(Social Committee)*

**September**

Dinner Series
No program this month. Look for our presentations to continue on October 25th with NASA’s Future in Space Astronomy—Realizing the 30-Year Vision.

*Arranger:* Carol Newcomb-Alutto
*(Dinner Series SIG)*

**Tertulia Breakfast** is one of the oldest OSURA activities. Join us at the Faculty Club the fourth Tuesday of every month.

**September 13 (Thursday)**
Photo Society

*Program:* Members’ Theme Presentations—Recent Best 8 Images. Limit images to 8. Send digital files in a Power Point file (alternately in .jpg 96 or 72 dot/inch format) to jhuston1@columbus.rr.com or mail files on a new CD to arrive 3 days before the meeting (J. Huston, 4095 Fenwick Rd., Columbus OH 43220), or bring prints (at least 8”x10”) to the meeting. New members welcome.

*Dues:* $10 is due at this time; make check to: OSU Photo Society, mail to Martha Warren, Sec./Treas., 3502 Wenwood Dr, Hilliard, OH 43026; or bring to the meeting

*Time/Place:* 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6 p.m., dinner; 7 p.m., program; OSU Faculty Club. You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 614-292-2262 by September 10.

*Cost:* On your own; ranges from $10-15

*Program Chair:* Jack Nasar
*(Photographic Society SIG)*

**September 15 (Saturday)**
Walking/Hiking Group

*Challenge Level* 2-4

Everyone welcome. Join us at Blendon Woods Metro Park, 4265 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, Westerville. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes. It’ll be good to see everyone again!

*Time/Place:* 11 a.m. at the Nature Center

*Arranger:* Hallan Noltimier
*(Walking/Hiking SIG)*

**September 19 (Wednesday)**
Book Club

*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I.* by David Grann. This is a tragic story of the cold-blooded murders of dozens of Osage Indians who had become rich when oil was found on tribal lands in Oklahoma. The F.B.I. finally acted under J. Edgar Hoover, and with undercover agents discovered the mastermind behind the conspiracy to decimate the Osage and steal their oil.

*Time/Place:* 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill of Arlington Party House, Lafayette Drive. Call Lee Hill (614-459-4743) for directions.

*Arranger:* Lee Hill
*(Book Club SIG)*

**September 25 (Tuesday)**
Tertulia Breakfast

Please join OSURA members and friends for breakfast and conversation.

*Time/Place:* 8 a.m., OSU Faculty Club

*Cost:* On your own

*Arranger:* Jerry Dare
*(Tertulia Breakfast SIG)*

**September 26 (Wednesday)**
Bridge Group

Join us—enjoy the fellowship, and have fun playing a good game of bridge at the same time.

*Time/Place:* 1 p.m., Friendship Village of Dublin, North CR

*Arranger:* Steve Miller
*(Bridge Group SIG)*

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**September 10 (Monday)**
Bus Tour of Columbus: A Magical History

*REGISTRATION CLOSED*

*Meet by:* 1:30 p.m. at Columbus Historical Society, 717 W. Town Street

*Return:* approximately 4 p.m.

*Arranger:* Rai Goerler
*(Cultural Arts Committee)*

**September 13 (Thursday)**
OSURA Gallery Hop

*Challenge Level* 2

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Visit four top Short North galleries—Hammond-Harkins Gallery, Sherrie Gallerie, Marcia Evans Gallery, and Sharon Weiss Gallery. The last two are neighbors and will be visited during the same hour. Enjoy refreshments, including a light lunch, as you view the exhibits and learn about the galleries and artists.

*Meet by:* 11 a.m. at Hammond-Harkins Gallery, 641 N. High Street

*Return:* Hop will end at approximately 2 p.m.

*Cost:* $5; Includes refreshments at galleries

*Registration Deadline:* Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 10.

*Arranger:* Les Benedict
*(Cultural Arts Committee)*

**CHALLENGE LEVELS**

1. **Light** — may include a few stairs.
2. **Moderate** — may include a few sets of stairs.
3. **Moderate +** — may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.
4. **High** — may include lots of walking, climbing stairs, hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure.
### September 26 (Wednesday)
#### 2018 OSURA Annual Fall Conference
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Time/Place:** 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m., Fawcett Event Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road  
**Cost:** $25 members – includes continental breakfast and lunch; $10 extra for optional tours  
**Registration Deadline:** September 4. Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu, or call 614-292-2281 (1-800-762-5646), or send in the registration form with your check to Customer Service c/o OSURA, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210  
**Parking:** Free  
**Arranger:** Rachael Turner (Conference Committee)

### October 24 (Wednesday)
#### USPS Postal Processing & Delivery Center Tour
**Challenge Level 3 (walking at least a mile on concrete floor) REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Ever wonder what happens to a letter after you drop it in a mailbox? Join our behind-the-scenes tour of the USPS Columbus Processing Center. We'll watch as humans and robots sort and process some of the millions of letters and packages that run through the facility each year.  
**Meet by:** 12:45 p.m. at USPS CityGate P&D Center; 2323 CityGate Dr., Columbus 43219  
**Return:** approximately 2:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 19  
**Arranger:** Susan Berntson (Cultural Arts Committee)

### October 11 (Thursday)
#### Whistle While You Walk
**Challenge Level 3 REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Tour the American Whistle Factory (americanwhistle.com), lunch on your own cost at La Chatelaine, 627 N. High Street, Old Worthington (lachatelainebakery.com) and take a guided walking tour of Old Worthington led by Stephanie Haueisen (worthingtonhistory.com)  
**Meet by:** 10:15 a.m. at 6540 Huntley Road, between 161 and Schrock Road. Participants will drive to La Chatelaine between 11:30 a.m. and noon  
**Return:** approximately 2:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** $9; includes factory and walking tours  
**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 27  
**Arranger:** Diane Driessen (Cultural Arts Committee)

### October 26 (Friday)
#### BalletMet – Lineage: A Collection of Short Ballets
**Challenge Level 1 REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
The performance begins with the spirited freshness and athletic work of George Balanchine’s Square Dance, then the melancholic beauty of Christopher Wheeldon’s After the Rain. Finally, delight in the musicality of Justin Peck’s In Creases, in which two grand pianos provide the backdrop for powerfully energetic movement.  
**Time/Place:** Performance begins at 11 a.m. Davidson Theatre, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St.  
**Doors open at:** 10:15 a.m.; general admission  
**Cost:** $19 (admission ticket)  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 19  
**Arranger:** Raimund Goerler (Cultural Arts Committee)

### November 1-13
#### Spain’s Costa del Sol & The Portuguese Riviera
**Challenge Level 2 REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
A buffet luncheon followed by the classic play White Christmas (lacomedia.com)  
**Meet by:** 9 a.m. Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road  
**Return:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** $70; includes buffet lunch, show admission, motor coach transportation, snacks, and tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 25  
**Arrangers:** Alabelle Zghoul, Deb Zang, and Jessica Pritchard (Travel Committee)

### November 28 (Wednesday)
#### La Comedia Dinner Theater–White Christmas
**Challenge Level 2 REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Springboro, OH  
**Meet by:** 9 a.m. Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road  
**Return:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** $70; includes buffet lunch, show admission, motor coach transportation, snacks, and tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 25  
**Arrangers:** Alabelle Zghoul, Deb Zang, and Jessica Pritchard (Travel Committee)

### December 12 (Wednesday)
#### Oglebay Christmas Lights
**Challenge Level 2 REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Wheeling, WV  
**Meet by:** 9:30 a.m. Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road  
**Return:** 11 p.m.  
**Cost:** $85; includes admissions, lunch, buffet dinner, light show, motor coach transportation, snacks, and tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by December 1  
**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Norma Harper (Travel Committee)
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Jerry Dare

Jerry Dare is currently putting together a replica bicycle as ridden by Greg Lemond in the 1987 Tour de France. It is one of many he has worked on through the years. Bicycling has been a fun activity for Jerry and he has met many interesting people on a bike. Although he did not learn to ride until he was 43, he has since spent many hours on them, riding and leading bike tours in the Columbus area and has been a rider on TOSRV 22 times.

During his working years at The Ohio State University he was on the faculty of the Department of Radiology with administrative duties as well as teaching students. He also had many stints in other departments and colleges in teaching about radiology. Outside OSU work included the Ohio China Council, Radiological Society of North America, American College of Radiology, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Nano-Imaging and American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

Of note on the OSU campus, in 1974, Jerry, as Chair of the Activities Committee for The OSU Faculty Club, introduced the first servings of intoxicating beverages in The Club!

Jerry has spent many an hour with OSURA. He and his wife, Bette, are Life Members. Jerry is a long-time attendee and current leader of the Tertulia Breakfast which meets monthly at the Faculty Club and is also a committee member of the Lunch Bunch which meets at MCL. He encourages anyone not familiar with these two SIG groups to try one or both. He has also been twice Member-at-Large on the Executive Board. Photography is one of his hobbies, as the Association’s archives will attest.

Jerry and Bette have two sons and a nearly eight-year-old granddaughter, all of whom live out of state.

Retirement years have been spent travelling the world as well as enjoying cultural programs when home. They enjoy the Columbus Symphony, Opera Columbus, Columbus Jazz Orchestra and the Columbus Museum of Art as well as exploring the new restaurant scene in town.

Jerry has always enjoyed being a grill master and continues his grilling skills while living now at Goodale Landing in the Westminster Thurber Retirement Community.

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SPOTLIGHT ON Communications Committee

Spreading the word about an organization to its members and the public is a vital part of the organization’s work. Such is true of The Ohio State University Retirees Association, and it falls to the Communications Committee for fulfillment. The committee’s mission reads, “...Is to disseminate information about OSURA and retirement life to members, the University community, and others. In conjunction with other OSURA committees, we produce the monthly newsletter, the yearly directory, a website and other electronic media, pamphlets, and material informing Ohio State retirees.”

The monthly newsletter is the most frequent: approximately 4,000 copies are printed in each of the 12 months; about 1500 members choose to receive the issue electronically. It is the committee’s goal to have the newsletter on the web by the first week of each month; print and mail editions may take up to two weeks longer because they are sent by third-class mail, and delivery time is sacrificed in favor of cost. A member of the committee coordinates the material (which is supplied in large part by the other committees) and submits it to an independent designer. A few years ago OSURA began paid advertisements in the newsletter, and this has proved very productive and positive, again offsetting some of the costs of publication and dissemination.

The organization’s web site (osura.osu.edu) is an increasingly important medium. It contains (but is not limited to) general information about OSURA, its constitution and bylaws, directory of Board of Directors members, ability to join or renew membership, discounts available to members (from how to get a Buck ID card to buying a car), current and past issues of the newsletter. The Facebook page has been a valuable tool for those who choose to use it. It is a “group” page, closed to all but OSURA members, and provides opportunity to share information. Some members raise questions and can have a conversation on topics of interest. To gain access, log on to Facebook and select Ohio State University Retirees Association.

In conjunction with the Membership Committee, the Communications Committee helps prepare a directory which includes not only the names and contact information of the members (to the extent that an individual opts in or out) but policies and procedures of the Association, such as travel, communications.
FROM: The Benefits Committee

Is Your Doctor the Best for You?
By Gemma McLuckie

My father could remember the name, address, work history and probably favorite food of everyone he ever met, so when he began to have memory gaps, he was especially distressed. At last he consulted his doctor, a specialist in geriatrics. The doctor immediately put him on a medicine. The problem with this speedy response? The doctor had not conducted even the most basic screening for Alzheimer symptoms. He heard “memory loss” and made a huge assumption. A neurologist later determined another condition was causing my dad’s difficulties.

There were other times when I felt the doctor made overly-rushed decisions. However, my parents were reluctant to change to another practice. An e-newsletter article, Nine Signs You Should Fire Your Doctor, in Next Avenue (June 19, 2018) from PBS reminded me of my family’s situation. I wish I had had the warning signs to back me up.

The warning signals, according to the article by Hilary Thompson, include:

- You don’t feel heard. Doctors should actively listen during today’s all-too-short appointments.
- You have a personality conflict. Aspects could include concerns about the physician’s dedication to you and your ability to trust him or her.
- Your doctor is too stretched to serve you. Watch for difficulty booking appointments.
- You’re not healing. If a treatment is not working, go outside your doctor’s practice for an unbiased second opinion.
- Your doctor doesn’t provide complete education about your medications, conditions and treatment options.
- You can’t be honest. You must give your doctor the full picture, even your secrets. That trust ensures that you are more likely to keep your appointments and follow instructions.
- Your doctor is too aggressive, suggesting extreme treatment options without first trying the least invasive and disruptive approaches.
- Your doctor refuses to coordinate with other specialists. Care coordination is especially important if he or she is your primary care physician (PCP).
- You feel bullied. Be wary if your doctor pressures you to undergo a treatment or take a medicine.

As the Next Avenue headline notes, Not all physicians are right for all patients. Sometimes it’s time to look for a new one.

Next Avenue nextavenue.org is an archive of thousands of articles on health, money, work and purpose, living, caregiving, and technology.

STRS
By Gerald Newsom

Private pension funds have been in the news lately, since the fund that insures the pensions is in danger of running out of money. Some 1.3 million retirees across the country might see their benefits cut or abolished entirely unless there’s a taxpayer bailout.

While retirees from these private companies and OPERS and STRS retirees all have threats to their pensions, there are important differences. Public pensions in Ohio have no insurance fund backing them. A bailout of public pension systems is not being considered and it is up to our elected Boards to find solutions. These generally are not popular; note protests at recent STRS Board meetings. A recent study found that Ohio was the fifth lowest state as measured by the growth from 2003 to 2016 in promised pension payouts; that’s very good if you’re concerned about the financial future of the state’s pension systems, but bad news if you’re anxious about growth in your pension.

One suggestion to the STRS Board is for them to outline what conditions would be needed for the COLAs to be reinstated. This is an attractive idea; we could watch as conditions change and in the not-too-distant future hope to see the pension system approach the target. However, there are other ideas on what should happen if/when the pension’s finances are much improved. COLAs could be reinstated for the first “x” amount of each pension (where x is to be determined), an advantage for those with smaller pensions. An issue lurking in the background is that of generational equity. While I was employed at OSU, my payments to STRS were mostly less than 9% of salary, never going above 10%. When finances looked rosy in 2000, the retirement formula was changed so when I retired I received a more generous pension. In recent years, however, active teachers have their STRS contributions increased to 14% of salary, much more than I paid, and the pension formula was changed in 2012 to reduce the stipend for new retirees. One can picture active teachers arguing that they have taken a double hit, and when the STRS balance sheet looks much better reducing employee contributions should take priority over reinstating COLAs. The STRS Board will have to decide what is fair to both active and retired teachers.
The Dinner Series offers some of our most interesting lectures. Rather than meeting every month here is the new schedule:

**October 25**  NASA’s Future in Space Astronomy—Realizing the 30-Year Vision

**January 24**  It’s All About the Economy

**March 28**  The Power of a Pet

**April 25**  Treating Valvular Heart Disease — A Personalized Approach