Little Libraries

By Nancy Wardwell

What with eBooks and audiobooks we just don’t need “real” books anymore. Independent bookstores closed at an alarming rate – even several large bookstore chains went out of business. But hold on – don’t underestimate a nation of readers! In the last few years book sales are up and even new “indie” bookstores are opening – and public libraries are building and growing.

During this same period – since about 2009, a new, wonderful book movement has been growing, and by 2020 there are three times as many Little Free Libraries as public libraries in the U.S. and they are in all 50 states. Worldwide there are more than 100,000 registered LFL in 104 countries!

The Little Free Library phenomenon began in Hudson, Wisconsin. The first box was built by Todd Bol, built to resemble a one-room school and in memory of his mother who was a schoolteacher. People loved it, so he built more. Construction is still pretty much do-it-yourself.

You can buy them, there are kits and plans. Some are crafted to resemble the houses they sit in front of – and all are committed to the motto “take a book, leave a book” and with the purpose of sharing good books and bringing communities together.

By 2012 there were over 4,000 Little Free Libraries and it became registered as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. The organization relies on volunteer “stewards” to construct, install, and maintain the book exchange boxes. To legally use the name Little Free Library the box must be registered – and it will appear on a Little Free Library world map (littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap).

It is delightful to drive around neighborhoods and see all the boxes – and know that inside apartment and condo complexes there are book-sharing boxes also. Honestly, not all book boxes are registered, but together, all contribute to our appetite for another good book – and to the sense of community we all cherish.
Dear Friends:

This entire fiscal year of OSURA activities has been heavily modulated by the pandemic of COVID-19. Without opportunity for face-to-face interactions, we find ourselves wallowing through our meetings via ZOOM. Yes, you only have to change your pajama tops. Our cars stay idle in the garage or carport. The catastrophe that resulted was an excessive exposure to Blue Light emission from video screens, both monitors and televisions alike. My sleep therapist required that I must stay off the screen at least 3 hours before bedtime and get eyewear to filter the blue light. Yes, the increase in technology does make life sometimes easier or more perplexing.

OSURA travels have been stymied during this time but hope for the return of travels may be near. Alabelle has been planning, prospectively. The cultural arts scene of concerts and museums was reduced to a virtual form. The virtual format has allowed me to see the Mona Lisa better than my many previous onsite visits to The Louvre. The Columbus Jazz Orchestra is still embracing the virtual presentations but The Columbus Symphony is planning a regular program for the upcoming season. Much transition is going about. The restaurant scene is showing some signs of revival for those that haven’t gone under. My old workout place for 40 years, Premier at Sawmill, has gone under during this pandemic. Yep. Things aren’t what they use to be. June 30, 2021 is the date for OSURA’s Annual Meeting. There will some minutes that you will have to review and approve. A featured speaker is in store for you. And yes, it will be in ZOOM session. See you there.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA
**Welcome New Retirees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Lynne Ayers</td>
<td>Business Advancement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol A. Dean</td>
<td>University Hospital East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Lyle Hoover</td>
<td>Dentistry</td>
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<td>Jennifer Jane Lewis</td>
<td>Specialty Care Network</td>
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<td>James G. Mergner</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<td>Harold Wayne Poston</td>
<td>Transportation and Traffic Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim G. Thompson</td>
<td>UniPrint</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie R. Winston-Stoner</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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**FROM: The Benefits Committee**

**STRS News**

By Jerry Newsom

Over recent decades, private pensions have mostly changed from defined benefit (DB) systems to defined contribution (DC) plans. DB plans, such as STRS, provide monthly stipends that do not expire; living longer means you receive more payments. A DC plan is like a 401(k) or 403(b), where the employee may have more control over how funds in the plan are invested, but on retirement one starts drawing down of the fund. If the fund runs dry, payments stop. Public pensions have mostly stayed as DB plans.

In a DB plan, the retiree should (in theory) not share in the risk of the pension fund going broke. The employer and/or an insurance fund should continue paying the pension. Businesses understandably prefer not to carry that risk, and a DC plan keeps employers in the clear. For STRS, a public DB plan, who assumes the risk? The answer is a bit complicated. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (which sets accounting rules) in its Statements No. 68 and 75 requires employers to carry their share of unfunded pension liability on their books, and if you look at OSU’s annual financial report, the university’s share of OPERS’ and STRS’ net pension liabilities is right there ($3.72 billion on June 30, 2019) as an OSU liability. But it seems very unlikely that it would ever come to that. Should a prolonged and deep recession strike, STRS could take back previous COLAs, the legislature (having some responsibility since it set up and oversees the state retirement systems) could provide funds or cut pension payments, or (following recent precedent) the federal government could bail out struggling funds. It could also lead to replacing our DB plan with a DC plan. These are serious considerations in a few states whose pension plans are in serious trouble. However, the strong recovery after the deep losses in March of 2020 makes all these scenarios even less likely for STRS.

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**Of interest to many in STRS and OPERS...**

By Diane Selby

The U. S. Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) has reintroduced the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021, to fix the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) for future retirees and provide meaningful relief to current WEP retirees.

The legislation establishes a new, fairer formula that will pay Social Security benefits in proportion to the share of worker’s earnings that were covered for Social Security purposes. This provision is coupled with a benefit guarantee ensuring no benefit cuts relative to current law for all current and future retirees. Current WEP Retirees will receive $150 a month in relief payments.

The bill has 139 original sponsors – OPERS has signed on as a supporter of this bill.

You are urged to contact your U.S. Representative today and register your support for this legislation. Say you want them to support the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act and sign on as a sponsor. Ask them also to call for a vote out of Committee and to the full House.

To find contact information on your Representative call 202-224-3121 or visit https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.house.gov__;!!KGKeukY!m2ZvKL09tDf72sQL96Mxzv8hRvuOXO4yaJUt8XcXduGN4Cxf62zgGStSc8leEu8jeQ$ and insert your zip code in the “find your representative” box on the web page. Call or email your representative.

From the PERI 2nd Quarter Newsletter 2021
OSURA News

Scrapbooks, Spoons and Scarlet and Gray

OSURA Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 30, via Zoom
11:30 a.m.

Take time to review the past and look to the future at the OSURA Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 30, via Zoom. We will recall this most unusual year, especially the response to the pandemic challenge. Members took advantage of the many connections offered by OSURA under President Jerry Dare. They even became experts in Zoom!

Our guest speaker, Kevlin Haire, assistant archivist for University Libraries, uses new technology to preserve the past also. She’ll tell us how “Scrapbooks, Spoons and Scarlet and Gray,” three fun Curator Talks, fulfill the goal of educating the public about Ohio State’s traditions.

The meeting will include business matters and installation of new board members, plus a surprise announcement of the OSURA Outstanding Service Award recipient.

Time: 11:30 a.m. via ZOOM
Registration Required: Register at osura.osu.edu to receive link.
Contact Person: Gemma McLuckie (mcluckiegemma@gmail.com – Executive Board)

From the ByLaws Committee

To be considered by the OSURA Membership at the Annual Meeting, June 30, 2021:

1. **Proposed to amend Article VII, Section 3: Actions of the Board**
   Add the phrase “Challenges to the” in order to making the title consistent with the content of this section.

2. **Proposed to amend Article VII, Section 4: Quorum**
   - Change in the first word from “The” to “A”
   - Insert the phrase “for a Board Meeting” to clarify that this section refers specifically to Board meetings.
   - Delete the word “voting” to be consistent with the guidance from Robert’s Rules of Order.

3. **Proposed to amend Article VIII – Meetings**
   - Insert the word “membership” to clarify that this Article refers to those meetings that are open to all members of OSURA.
   - Insert the word “active” to clarify that only members who are active (defined in Article IV, Section 1) shall be included in determining a quorum.

*To help place these amendments into context, the reader will find the text of Article VII and VIII online at osura.osu.edu*
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 1 – VIRTUAL
Benefits Committee
Time: 9:30 a.m.

June 8 – VIRTUAL
Board Meeting
Time: 9:30 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

June 22 (Tuesday)
Tertulia Breakfast – In Person
Contact Jerry to announce intent to attend by JUNE 3.

Time/Place: 11:45 a.m., OSU Faculty Club
Cost: On your own
Organizer: Jerry Dare (dare.1@twc.com)

Book Club
Having successfully used the You Are There Play format to “meet,” and with next year’s books chosen from over 90 possible titles annotated in The Big List of Choices (providing a variety of personal reading pleasure), the OSURA Book Club, while on summer hiatus until September, always welcomes new members. Contact Lee at hill.30@osu.edu.

Arranger: Lee Hill
(hill.30@osu.edu – Book Club SIG)

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 30 (Wednesday)
OSURA Annual Meeting – ZOOM
The meeting will explore “Scrapbooks, Spoons and Scarlet and Gray” during 2020-2021. Following a business program and installation of new officers, Kevlin Haire, assistant archivist for University Libraries, will talk about preserving OSU history, with examples of fun Curator Talks from the Archives. Also on the agenda we will be honoring the OSURA Outstanding Service Award recipient.

Time: 11:30 a.m. via ZOOM
Registration Required: Register at osura.osu.edu to receive link.
Contact Person: Gemma McLuckie
(mcluckiegemma@gmail.com – Executive Board)

September 22 (Wednesday)
2021 OSURA Annual Fall Conference
See current and future newsletters for more information.

October 3 – 17
Exploring Greece and its Islands
Arranger: Alabelle Zghoul
(azghoul4660@wowway.com – Travel Committee)

Any questions regarding events or meetings, contact the arranger directly or osura@osu.edu

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.
Fall Conference Program | September 22, 2021

KEYNOTE

• “Soaring and Diving with the World’s Most Vertical Person” – Kathryn Sullivan, geologist and astronaut, was on three Space Shuttle missions, including the mission that launched the Hubble Space Telescope, first American woman to walk in space, first woman to dive to the deepest place in the world’s oceans, and former president and CEO of COSI.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

• Movement vs. Exercise And Why Both Are Important: Jeff May, Jr., group and personal trainer, will share how to incorporate more functional movement into your routine, and experience a fun and upbeat workout (good for all fitness levels).

• Traveling with OSURA: Alabelle Zghoul, registered nurse, nurse educator, chair-OSURA Travel Committee, will discuss past and future travels with OSURA.

• A Good Time is Guaranteed for All: OSU Student Life in the Sixties: William J. Shkurti – Vice President for Business and Finance, Emeritus, Adjunct Professor in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, will take you on a magical mystery tour of an exciting decade when being young and in college meant you were entitled to have a good time.

• Mobility-Assistant Service Robots: Yuan Zheng – Emeritus Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering at OSU, founder and CEO of ZiiROBOT located in the OSU Research Park, will introduce you to service robots, and particularly robotic technologies, which may benefit those who need assistance in mobility, and current trends in the related markets.

• Learning to Age with an Attitude: ‘Flo & Friends’ Cartoonist on Becoming Part of Her Own Demographic Group: Jenny Campbell – freelance cartoonist and children’s illustrator for 33 years, most notably, writes and draws, “Flo & Friends,” a daily and Sunday strip featuring an ensemble cast of senior citizens, will give you a look at how and when this all started 34 years ago and the work that has ensued. Then it’ll focus on “Flo & Friends,” and the strange story of how it got syndicated; the challenge of having to be funny 365 days a year; and what it’s been like, personally, catching up with the characters age-wise.

• Images from The Museum of Biological Diversity: Ardine Nelson – Professor Emerita, Department of Art, will share one of the best-kept secrets on campus, the Ohio State Museum of Biological Diversity and the three collections she was given permission to view and make images of, as well as give you insights into “how to” make such images.

• The Impact of the Great Lakes on our Region and Beyond: Christopher Winslow – Director, Ohio Sea Grant College Program, will discuss the ways in which the Great Lakes impacts the environment, research and education, economics, health, recreation, and tourism.

• Seeking Truths In Chinese Exemplars: From Premodern Prisons To The Pandemic Lockdown: Yin Zhang – Associate Professor, History; Director, Institute for Chinese Studies, will invite you to think about how to draw on the history of premodern political culture to better understand Chinese state-society relations today and to look at how physical suffering and injustice remained central to how people negotiated with imperial authority.

• Silent But Not Silenced: The OSU Men’s Glee Club In COVID Times: Robert J. Ward – Professor of Conducting and Ensembles, Director of Choral Studies and the OSU Men’s Glee Club, will offer beautiful music and will share the story of virtual choir rehearsals, sustaining the community during the pandemic, and its plan for moving forward.

• Lessons We Can Learn From Past Pandemics Leading to the Rise of Public Health: John Brooke – Arts & Sciences Distinguished Professor of History; Warner Woodring Chair in American History; Professor of Anthropology; Director, Ohio State University Center for Historical Research, and James Harris – Lecturer, OSU Department of History, will shine a light on the lessons we can learn from past pandemics and the rise of public health, and how understanding this history can better shape our response to the current crisis.

• Orton Hall: The Magic is in the Details: William Ausich – Academy Professor of Earth Sciences and Director Emeritus of Orton Geological Museum, will share the unique architectural characteristics of Orton Hall, opened in 1893 and named for the first president of OSU, and houses the School of Earth Sciences, the Orton Memorial Geological Library, and the Orton Geological Museum.

• Preparing for End of Life: Jessica N. Roshon – Attorney with the firm of Taps & Sutton, LLC, co-author of the Ohio Medicaid Manual, member of the Columbus Bar Association, the Women Lawyers of Franklin County, and the Ohio Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, will help you make life easier for your family by learning what you should be doing now to organize important documents and papers and be sure your wishes are followed later.

• Healthcare and Benefits: STRS – This session will include any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2022 and an update on the status of their retirement in general. OPERS – This session will include any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2022 and an update on the status of their retirement in general.

TOURS

• Billy Ireland Cartoon Library Museum
• Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory
• WOSU — the new building
As many small businesses have faced daunting challenges over the past year, much is the same for a long-standing and unique tradition that is The Ohio State University Faculty Club. Throughout the pandemic the club’s board and operational leadership have focused on the future. By making sacrifices, offering inventive programming and with the support of its membership base, the club’s road toward a full re-opening is taking shape.

Throughout the coming summer months, the club will focus its programming on the utilization of its recently restored Mirror Lake Terrace, where members can be assured of proper social distancing while they enjoy the culinary talents of the club’s new executive chef, Jeff Oden, as they relax in the comforts of the picturesque South Oval. As summer turns to fall and the air becomes crisp with the smell of falling leaves, the club is looking forward to opening its doors once again to Buckeye football fans both for indoor and outdoor dining as one of the most unique tailgate spots on campus.

The Faculty Club is a campus community based private club, open to all walks of campus life. OSURA members are encouraged to join and can begin enjoying the Club’s many services, programs and event opportunities for as little as $25 per month. For more information contact Sara Tennyson-Harlan at 614-292-2262 or Sara@Ohio-StateFacultyClub.com.

Jeff White
Executive Director
The Ohio State University Faculty Club
The OSURA online Directory was launched in early May. Hopefully, many members have checked it out on the OSURA website at OSURA.osu.edu. OSURA is fortunate to be able to take advantage of the Alumni Association’s online directory function as a means to look up address, phone and email information of other members of OSURA. But we know that many members have found the paper directories of prior years to be easier to use.

Let us give you the background. When OSURA transferred from the Office of Human Resources (OHR), we gained considerable support from the Alumni Association but we had to forego the availability of a dedicated staff person. That person had managed the annual task of information collection, compilation and printing of our comprehensive directory. OHR published its last edition in 2016, the year we transferred our affiliation to AA. By 2018, discussions about producing another directory were well underway in the Membership Committee meetings, including exploration of paper and online versions. We opted to tackle a paper version, using the efforts of our committee members to handle all the tasks. Volunteers began gathering contact information and permissions from members and formatting all that data into a print version. After many months of dedicated effort, we finally published the 2019 Directory late that year.

We continued to have an eye on providing an online directory, which could have the advantage of up-to-date information. We began discussion with the AA in the fall of 2020. We were delighted to find that the capability had already been developed and was in use by other societies and clubs. So we agreed to utilize this technology. The Membership committee hopes you will explore the usefulness of our new online directory. Feedback can be directed to our email at osura.membership@gmail.com.