

OSURA

News



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

June 2023

2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210 | P.O. Box 14533, Columbus, OH 43214
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It's Fair Time!

By Nancy Wardwell

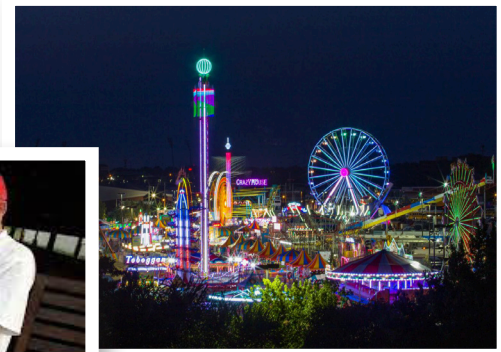
As fairs go, the Calhoun County, MI fair is pretty small - but ever since I won a blue ribbon with my 4-H project I've been hooked. Ohio alone has 94 county and independent fairs that start this year on June 10th with the Paulding County Fair - and conclude October 14 with the Fairfield County Fair. Our biggest county fair is in Canfield - and it happens to be the 3rd largest county fair in the whole country!

In the beginning, fairs can trace roots back to biblical times. Soon they became festivals, often around holy days and temporary markets. (Some fairs of Europe were the beginnings of great cities. Paris is one!)

Fairs in America didn't begin until early in the 19th century when farmers were urged to showcase their livestock and crops - and new technologies. Agricultural and mechanical fairs promoted modern farming. The fairs combined socialization and amusement with learning - and selling.

State fairs are giant versions of county fairs. There are 48 state fairs (including one in the District of Columbia). The first state fair was in Syracuse, NY, 1841.

In 1845 the Ohio Legislature created the Board of Agriculture, and one of their first acts was to create a District Fair at Wilmington. That and a subsequent fair in Xenia proved so successful that a full state fair was warranted. Camp Washington, 2 miles east of downtown Cincinnati, was the site in 1850 of our first state fair. Railroads offered strong support and transportation. Exhibits traveled free - and exhibitors paid 1/2 fare. The



state fair was held in other cities, including Cleveland, Dayton, Newark, Zanesville,

Toledo, and Mansfield before it landed in Columbus. Its first location in Columbus was where Franklin Park is now. Finally, in 1886 the fair moved to its current grounds. The main entrance was located at the southwest corner along Woodward Avenue.

The Ohio State Fair is one of the largest fairs, with around 982,000 visitors - and we come up on all the "best fairs in the country" lists as one of the very best, but there are eight state fairs that draw more than a million visitors - and Texas and Minnesota entertain over 2 million visitors each year - and contrary to expectations, Minnesota outdraws Texas by several hundred thousand!

By 2023 the harness track is gone, the concert schedule has expanded, so have the commercial opportunities, and the Midway has added bigger, scarier rides. If you wander past the horse shows you can find the sheep and cattle and hogs. If you hit the right days there are alpaca, and best of all, the goats!

The Dairy Building still has the butter cow and the best cheese sandwiches. I'll try to limit myself to one funnel cake this summer - but no promises on corn dogs!

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OSU Foundation
OSURA Endowment Fund
Number – 605419
OSURA Fund to Combat Student
Food Insecurity – 316596
osura.osu.edu

FROM: The President

Greetings to my OSURA colleagues,

This letter for the June Newsletter is probably my last. Sally Dellinger, your next OSURA President, will probably take over for July.

I am currently working on an Opinion Column submission for the Columbus Dispatch. It concerns SB1 and SB83 for the State of Ohio Legislature. Our Executive Board for OSURA, of which I am Chair, represents retired OSU faculty on STRS and retired OSU staff on OPERS. We have discussed SB1 and SB83 and wish to publicly comment on these two bills. Another legislative change has been proposed to alter the regulation of public school. That is out of our bailiwick.

Our major concerns on SB1 and SB83 are focused on the future of ALL Ohio universities and colleges if all of the details of the two bills are adopted by the legislature. Ending faculty tenure is one of our concerns. Freedom of speech by faculty and students is another.

Enough. Stay well.

Hallan C. Noltmier
President of OSURA



Vote for Your Candidates

Members of OSURA are invited to vote for candidates for new members of the Executive Board. You can add a write-in candidate in place of one of the candidates that appear on this slate. Members can vote on-line or on this paper ballot.

To use an **on-line ballot**, you should look for an email around June 1. That email will have a link to the electronic ballot. The electronic ballots will be **accepted until June 9, 2023**.

If you choose the **paper ballot**, please make your selections on this ballot and return it by U.S. postal mail to:
OSURA, P.O. Box 14433, Columbus, OH 43214.

Please mail your ballot **no later than June 7, 2023**.



Welcome New Retirees

Nebila Mohamed Abdulwahab
University Hospital

Jessie Patricia Abraham
Ambulatory Services Hospital

James Allen Beck
Medicine

Antho Christof Brooks
Brain and Spine Hospital

Jo Ann Coffey
James Cancer Hospital

Douglas Robert Danforth
Medicine

Joan Lee Duffey
WOSU Public Media

Elizabeth Anne Eastwood
Health System Shared Services

Doris K. Edwards
Health System Shared Services

Catharine M. Ferritto
University Hospital East

Richard Charles Freemal
Chief Information Officer

Hannah Marie Gehman
FAES

Michael Keith Gibboney
Chief Information Officer

Andrea Brigitte Gorzitze
FAES

Debra Mae Ibok-Ette
University Hospital East

Natalie LuAnne Johnson
Ross Heart Hospital

Mary Ann Jones
Student Life

Peggy E. Lambert
FAES

Karen Melinda Lawson
University Hospital

Charleen MacEwan Lewis
OSU Harding Hospital

Kathy Jo McNutt
Human Resources

Laura Lee Meadows
University Hospital

Karen Marie Meyer
Lima

Dennis R. Morrow
Public Safety

Walter Jerry Mysiw
Medicine

David George Nohle
Medicine

Michele Rae Peddicord
James Cancer Hospital

Cynthia Marie Reed
James Cancer Hospital

Dawn M. Romie
Health System Shared Services

Steven Michael Romig
Chief Information Officer

Barbara Sarna
University Hospital East

Johnathon Dwane Smith
James Cancer Hospital

Kevin Lee Stubbs
Engineering

Gay Louise Thompson
Business and Finance

Benjamin Clyde Walters
Health System Shared Services

James Nelson Williams
OSU Harding Hospital

Catherine A. Yee
Health System Shared Services

Password RESET

Have you been asked to reset your password to log into OSURA pages?

A few people have been required to reset their password when logging into the OSURA pages to register for events or access the online directory. If you get a message that your password has expired when you attempt to log in to the system, you will need to choose a new password to gain access. You are encouraged to use the Alumni/Friends Login button when logging in to register for OSURA events or access the online directory because the password you choose using this method to log in should not expire. This allows you to use the same password for a long time.

We were not able to get a firm answer on the cause of the reset, but the assumption by the Engagement Center is that this reset may be due to a change in password requirements. If your current password does not meet the current requirements, you will be instructed to choose a new password. If you have any issues or questions, please reach out to the Engagement Center at **614-292-2281**.

From our Book Club

Having successfully used the *You Are There Play* format to “meet,” and with next year’s books chosen from our over 90 possible titles annotated in The Big Book List (providing a variety of personal reading pleasure), the “curtain” is coming down on our virtual theatre, and it will go up again in September.

The OSURA Book Club is on summer hiatus until then.

Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 6 (Tuesday) Benefits Committee

Time/Place: 9:15 a.m.

June 13 (Tuesday) Board Meeting

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m.

June 28 (Wednesday) Membership Meeting

Time/Place: 10 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

June Book Club

Having successfully used the *You Are There Play* format to “meet,” and with next year’s books chosen from our over 90 possible titles annotated in *The Big Book List* (providing a variety of personal reading pleasure), the “curtain” is coming down on our virtual theatre, and it will go up again in September. The OSURA Book Club is on summer hiatus until then.

Contact: Lee Hill
(rmhlmh@att.net – Book Club SIG)

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 14 (Wednesday) OSURA Annual Meeting and 40th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate our “40th Anniversary” with fellow members of OSURA! Following a brief business program, we will install our new officers. Our speakers this year will be some of our past presidents who will share their experiences in OSURA – perhaps there will be a few things you didn’t know about. Anything is possible! We will also honor the OSURA Outstanding Service Award recipient. Don’t miss it... join in the celebration!

Time: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Cost: \$20; cost includes light lunch
Registration Required: Register at https://connect1.osu.edu/alumni/OSURA_Annual_Meeting_2023 or call 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646.

Contact Person: Sally Dellinger
(dellinger.1@osu.edu – Executive Board)

Upcoming Events

Look for more information in future newsletters.

Cooking Demonstration and Tasting

July 19 (Wednesday)

NEW

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join OSU Extension Educator and Registered Dietitian Jenny Lobb to learn what is in season in the summer and various ways to use a selection of summer produce items. Jenny will also give some food preservation tips for those who want to put away their harvest to enjoy summer flavors throughout the year.

Time/Place: 12:45 p.m., Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Building, 2548 Carmack Road. Enter Waterman Farms from Kenny Road, first building on the left, enter through the double doors, park in the gravel lot unless accessible location is needed.

Cost: No cost

Registration Deadline: Register at go.osu.edu/OSURAJuly19 or email OSURA.membership@gmail.com by July 17.

Arranger: Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com)

Here is a link to our events:

<https://osura.alumni.osu.edu/events/>

Registration Instructions

- 1. Registrations requiring payment:** Registrations can be made by going online to osura.osu.edu or by calling 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646. Your registration is not complete until payment is made, so have your credit card ready. Checks are no longer being accepted.
- 2. Registrations NOT requiring payment:** Registrations will be made through the Arranger’s email provided in the description of the event.

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.

 2023
**FALL
CONFERENCE**

September 20 (Wednesday)

See current newsletter issue detailing the sessions.



OSURA members met in the County Extension Building for a demonstration of food available in the spring.



Rich Nagle, Assistant Vice President and Chief Information Officer of OSU, spoke to the Dinner Series guests about Cybersecurity.

FROM: The Benefits Committee

OPERS Report

By Darian Torrance

OPERS In-person Presentation – OPERS has been presenting updates to members in seven Ohio cities this spring. At the Dublin, Ohio presentation, staff from OPERS presented an update to members in the Central Ohio Area. During the first part of the presentation, OPERS staff provided basic information about OPERS and described the positive economic impact that OPERS pension and health care payments have in Ohio. Of the annual \$7.04 billion in pension payments and \$591 million in healthcare paid by OPERS, approximately \$6.3 billion of that amount stayed in Ohio. OPERS staff stressed the importance of setting up an on-line account with OPERS so that a member can be notified electronically if there are any changes to their account, including changes to bank accounts for pension payments. Tax information can also be obtained by reviewing an account on-line, and is available earlier than information sent to members in the mail.

Karen Carraher, Executive Director of OPERS, provided members with information about how OPERS operates and gave updates on plans for the future, including:

- There are no plan changes to Healthcare and Defined Benefit funds in the works.
- OPERS is considered a mature system. The number of active members to retirees is 1.3 active members to 1.0 retirees.
- Any changes to contribution rates (employee and employer) and plan changes must be approved by the Ohio Legislature.
- COLA increases are made on the member's anniversary date (effective date), not at the beginning of the year unless the member's effective date was in January.
- At the end of 2022, the Defined Benefit fund amortization period was 16 years. By statute, the amortization period must be 30 years or less.
- At the end of 2022, the Healthcare fund solvency period was 29 years.
- OPERS uses a "smoothing" method of reporting gains and losses over a 4-year period. So, only a fourth of the gains and losses in a given year are recognized.
- OPERS does not have an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) portfolio. Investments are made to maximize returns for the pension and healthcare funds.
- OPERS is concerned about bills that have been introduced in the Ohio Legislature that may restrict OPERS ability to make investments. They oppose legislation that restricts their ability to invest. In particular, House Bill 4 will restrict investments and proxy voting.
- The best time to contact OPERS by telephone is on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday early in the morning.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM | September 20, 2023

Keynote

The Power of Connections — Melissa S. Shivers, Senior Vice President for Student Life

The old saying goes “You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone,” and this concept was made all the more meaningful over the past several years. The pandemic ushered in major increases in feelings of isolation, loneliness, uncertainty and anxiety...but it didn’t stop there. In fact, even since the nation came out of the worst of the pandemic, 55% of Ohio State students screened positive on a scale of loneliness and 44% of undergraduates report they do not have a strong social network, even in this digital age. This keynote presentation will include current Ohio State students, while taking a look at the value and benefits that come from making connections with others, what may be stopping some people from doing so and ways that the broader Ohio State family, including retirees, can do to re-ignite the power of connections among students, faculty, staff and our collective communities.

Breakout Sessions

1. Learn What’s Coming Down the Road – This presentation will highlight the work of OSU’s Center for Automotive Research (CAR), an interdisciplinary research center in the College of Engineering. CAR focuses on energy, safety and the environment with the goal of improving sustainable mobility. You’ll also hear about current research being studied at CAR including automated and connected vehicles, electrification, safety and security, propulsion, systems control and smart mobility.

2. Get Your Hands Dirty – Chadwick Arboretum and Master Gardener Volunteers, Pam Bennett, Master Gardener Volunteer Program director and OSU Extension Educator, will share things you’ll want to try to get the results you desire for your garden.

3. Aminah Robinson’s World – Gisela Josenhans, Columbus Museum of Art Docent and personal friend of Aminah Robinson, will provide an insider’s view of Aminah Robinson’s World, one of Columbus’ treasured artists. Aminah’s life stories of family and community captured in her artwork will be shared.

4. Metro Parks and RAPID5: A Combined Vision – Tim Moloney, Executive Director, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, will explore how the Metro Parks is working with every community to link all of the river corridors into one unified park system. This journey will look at the five river corridors and find ways to improve access, protect the natural environment, and create opportunities for partnerships.

5. Wake Up to Better Sleep – Jane E. Acri, LSW, COAA Community Education Program Manager, will offer clues for the causes of sleeplessness and will provide resources to manage sleep disorders.

6. You Have Nothing to Lose (Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation) – Brian Leonard, Community Outreach Coordinator for Lifeline of Ohio, will provide information and support regarding someone’s decision to heal and save others’ lives. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and have conversation on the topic.

7. Russian War & Aggression in Ukraine – Marianna Klochko, Associate Professor of Sociology in the OSU Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, will highlight some aspects of the history of Russian aggression, provide a brief overview of the current situation as well as potential outcomes of the conflict.

8. Women Journalists – Past, Present and Future – Dr. Felicia Ross, Associate Professor, School of Communication, The Ohio State University, will present the current, past and future paths that female journalists have had to take to make contributions to journalism. It will highlight well-known and not so well-known female journalists.

Lunch Program

Creating the Future: Music Education in a Multimedia Age Interest in classical music is rising among Millennials and Gen Z – especially in digital spaces. The future of choral music resides in the melding of analog experience and digital connection. The Ohio State University Chorale, directed by Professor Robert Ward, will remind us of the majesty of classical music and help us understand the impact that multimedia is having on young people’s interest.

9. Chair Yoga for Everyone – Jeanne Joseph, Wellness Director, Friendship Village of Dublin, will provide an introduction to chair yoga and its benefits for persons of all ages and abilities. This presentation will include demonstrations and give attendees opportunities to practice various moves.

10. Navigating Personal Cyber Security 2023 – Kevin Arnold, Chief Information Security Officer for OPERS (retired), will cover what steps you should already be taking and what additional measures are needed to protect your finances/electronic assets in today’s changing cyber world. Also included will be CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency, or government-issued cyber-currency), Identity Theft, and safe personal electronic practices (computer, phone, home networks), Dark Web, and tactics used by today’s hackers.



In Memoriam

Norman Kent Booth

April 3 | Landscape
Architecture, 75

Judith Lang

April 16 | Business and
Finance and OSURA, 63

Maurice Lee "Pete" DeShazor

April 16 | Athletics, 85

Bonnie Lititia Littleton

April 10 | Plant Pathology –
Wooster, 91

Roy L. Donnerberg

January 19 | Medicine and
OSURA Life Member, 95

Ivan I. Mueller

April 12 | Geodetic Science
and OSURA Life
Member, 93

Kathleen "Kay"

L. Donnerberg

March 24 | OSURA Life
Member, 97

William Phillips

May 6 | OSU Extension
and OSURA, 99

William Dee Imes

April 3 | Athletics, 79

Hubert William "Bill"

Porterfield

February 27 | Plastic
Surgery, 93

Moira Teague Kelsey

April 22 | OSUMC, 65

11. So Much Presidential Trivia = Too Much Fun – Jeri Diehl-Cusack, retired librarian, public speaker, and avid historian, will test your knowledge of presidential history and other quirky details about the 45+ men who have served as our country's commander-in-chief. Be prepared to learn a little and laugh a lot! (*Remember, Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms!)

12. Fly Me to the Moon-Ohio State in Space – Bruce McPheron, OSU Professor of Entomology and Dean's Chair in International Programs, Executive Vice President and Provost Emeritus, will share the role of Ohio State in various aspects of space ventures. Did you know that Starlab will circumnavigate the earth at an altitude of about 250 miles, but it will have its feet firmly on the ground here in Columbus with a mirror image terrestrial analog facility that will serve as the test bed for all experiments going to space? Come and learn more.

13. Funding Pension and Health Care – An OPERS representative will provide financial and statistical information for 2023. This is your opportunity to hear the most current, accurate information directly from OPERS leaders.

14. Government Relations: The Opportunities and Challenges – Marla Bump, Director, Governmental Relations, STRS Ohio; Gordon Gatien, OPERS Director, External Relations. The Ohio retirement systems are all creatures of statute. As such, building positive relationships with state lawmakers is essential. Our speakers will discuss how their respective systems approach this relationship building, and the opportunities and challenges that are inherent in that task. They will also talk about legislation that is pending before the legislature at the time of the meeting that is of interest to the OPERS and STRS.

15. Cryptocurrency Confusion – Dr. Amin Shams, OSU Assistant Professor of Finance, will address the wild, mysterious world of blockchain, bitcoin and cryptocurrency's future. Come find out what all the talk is about.



Registration begins in August

The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.
Customer Service
Longaberger Alumni House
2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

Of the 11 members of the STRS Board, 4 are appointed by state officials, 5 are elected by active teachers, and 2 are elected by retirees. In November 2021, the Board was asked by two members, Wade Steen (appointed by Governor DeWine) and Rudy Fichtenbaum, to invest some of their funds in a group called QED. STRS investment staff and two independent consultants argued QED was a new company, with no track record and no assets and apparently consisted of just two people (whose names could not be made public). The other nine members of the Board most definitely did not like the idea and it went nowhere. In the months that followed, dark money was used to mount a campaign to oust those elected members of the Board who did not support QED as they came up for re-election. Last spring, 3 members were defeated; "reformers" as they are described took their seats last September, making the Board 6 against and 5 in favor of major changes. The term of Board member Arthur Lard, who opposed QED, is up in September and his defeat would give reformers a 6-5 majority. As this spring's election got underway, a very large number of emails

were sent out with many very misleading claims about how badly run STRS is; external consultants, whether hired by STRS or other agencies, consistently give STRS high marks. Just before the election results were revealed, DeWine announced he was replacing Steen on the Board, so even if Lard was defeated the QED opponents would retain their 6-5 majority. DeWine's statement explaining why he removed Steen said the governor was concerned that Steen "was viewed as acting as an advocate for a specific investment firm ..." [read QED]. DeWine added, "I am not for tipping the scales in favor of select money management firms." However, the emails designed to make teachers angry about STRS had their effect, and Lard was soundly defeated. Then Steen announced the governor has no authority to remove him and he wasn't going anywhere. So as of this writing, the future of STRS is unclear. Last fall I asked a senior person at STRS if the legislature might intervene if the Board opted to invest much of their funds in QED, and the answer was that they didn't think the legislature would save STRS from itself. I never dreamed that the governor would intervene to attempt such salvation.

