

OSURA News



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

March 2024

P.O. Box 14533, Columbus, OH 43214
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BIG “TEN” Conference – More than Sports!

By Nancy Wardwell

This July, OSURA is hosting the annual conference of the Big Ten Retirees Association. The conference rotates among the member universities. Last year it was held at the University of Wisconsin. Sally Dellinger, as our President, is heading the 2024 Planning Committee.

Have you noticed the change in the logo? It is now a stylized “BIG,” representing the growth from the initial 9 institutional members to 18 in 2024. It was the excesses of football that stimulated the president of Purdue to call together other university presidents to create policies to regulate intercollegiate athletics.

From 1880 to 1905, more 350 college football players died and more than 1,100 were injured. Eligibility of student-athletes was one of the main topics. The Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives was formed, later known as the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), and became the conference’s academic counterpart.

Known now as the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the member universities educate more than 600,000 students with 5-7 million alumni. According to Wikipedia, the institutions award 29% of Agriculture PhDs, 18% of Engineering PhDs, and 18% of humanities PhDs in the United States.

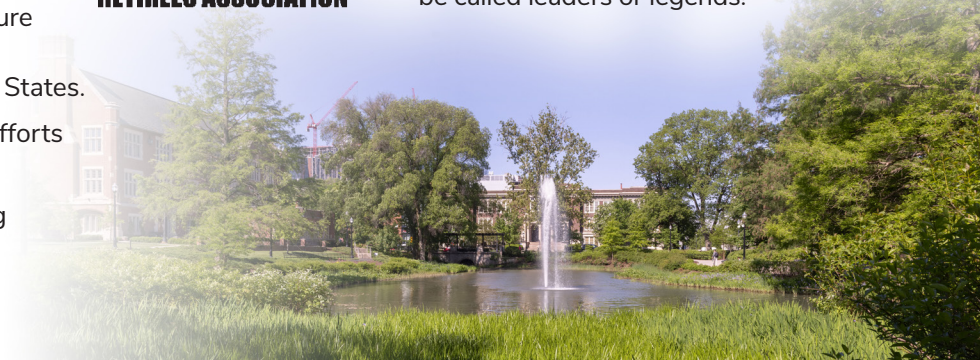
The Big Ten’s academic collaborative efforts of members includes:

- Cooperative purchasing and licensing
- Course sharing
- Professional development programs

- Library resources
- Information technology
- Faculty collaboration
- Part of Google Book Library Project whose goal is to “create a comprehensive, searchable, virtual card catalogue of all books in all languages”!
- Cancer Research Consortium, of which “The James” is a part

Clearly, in Ohio the athletic arm of the Big Ten dominates, and football is the enormous force – but the conference oversees 28 Division 1 Sports – 14 for Men and 14 for Women.

In the interest of accuracy, nowhere are Retirees officially a part of the Big Ten structure, but they have been meeting annually since they first met at OSU in 1992. The retiree association rotates among the member schools sharing ideas, information, and support – and already embracing the new, west coast members. Because of the costs of travel, no doubt we will be divided into regions – but be sure they will NOT be called leaders or legends!



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Benefits Committee—7

Officers

- President**
Sally E. Dellinger
- Vice President/President-Elect**
Sandra I. Bell
- Secretary**
Pamela "PT" Thomas
- Treasurer**
Hamilton Joel Teaford
- Immediate Past President**
Hallan Noltmier

Members at Large

- Julie Carpenter-Hubin
- Mary Jo Fresch
- Paula G. Hook
- Gail Capel Stephenoff
- Peter R. Thomison
- Darian M. Torrance

Committee Chairs

- Benefits**
Carol Newcomb-Alutto
- Budget/Finance**
Gerald H. Newsom
- Bylaws**
Marie T. Taris
- Communications**
Nancy S. Wardwell
- Conference**
Sally E. Dellinger
- Event Planning**
Cultural Arts & Travel –
Constance Alexa Oulanoff
and Robert Furbiee
Social – Elenore R. Zeller
- Friendship**
Sally E. Dellinger
- Membership**
Karen S. Bruns
Gemma B. McLuckie
- Social**
Elenore R. Zeller

Representatives

- Bucks for Charity Drive**
David Crawford
- Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee**
Evelyn B. Freeman
- Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees**
Nancy Wardwell and
Gerald H. Newsom
- Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**
Darian M. Torrance
- Public Employees Retirees, Inc**
Douglas E. Torrance
- Special Interest Groups**
Lynne M. Bonenberger
- State Teachers Retirement System**
Gerald H. Newsom

Historian

- Raimund E. Goerler

Emeritus Academy

- Mary Jo Fresch

Newsletter Editor

- Nancy S. Wardwell

FROM: The President



Sally Dellinger

March is here. What comes to your mind at this time of year? You may be anxiously awaiting the buds to appear on flowering trees. Some may already be making plans to have their lawn mowers sharpened. And then there are some who immediately think of basketball



and March Madness. Starting with the teams being selected of which there are 68 for the men and 64 for the women, then those get dwindled down to 32, then 16, and so on. And that's where the alliteration begins, hence Sweet Sixteen - Elite Eight - Final Four. Wonder what could be used with that first group...“Simply 68” or “Super 64”? Enough already. For me March Madness is an example of what happens when people work together. Having played basketball for Ohio State prior to Title IX, I know what a team is. No, there weren't any big championships for women when I was playing but that didn't mean that each game wasn't important and that we didn't work as hard as possible for success. Win or lose, we were successful because we were a team. A team is a group of individuals coming together as one working toward a common goal. This is exactly what your Board does at each meeting throughout the year. This is what your Conference Committee does every time they meet...discussing potential topics, considering prospective speakers, making decisions. The concept of “team” is the basis for EVERY group that OSURA offers...from the Benefits Committee, Event Planning, Membership, Social and others. Now here's my question.....WHAT TEAM ARE YOU ON?

Sally Dellinger
President of OSURA

PS. ALERT: We are accepting nominations for the 2024 Outstanding Service Award! It is presented at the Annual Meeting in June. Deadline is April 30!



WE ARE HARD AT WORK!

The Conference Planning Committee is hard at work discussing and selecting topics and speakers that will attract you and bring you to the Fawcett Center on September 18, 2024 for the 26th Annual Conference. The committee reviews topics that relate to Ohio State: Health, Culture, and Retirement. We hope you will find our work has paid off by joining us on Wednesday, September 18. The theme this year is “New Beginnings,” which the committee considers when selecting topics for the sessions.

Welcome New Retirees

Denise Mattox Boley

East – Post Anesthesia Care Unit

Martha Anne Bollinger

FAES – Wooster Campus

Arnel Nerit Capulong

Student Life

Yvonne Coler Cason

Business and Finance – CFO Office

Donald Dean Draper

Health System Shared Services –
Security

Duane Leonard Lumpkin

Administration and Planning –
DPS University Police

William Edward Maher

Infectious Diseases

Larry Gene Piper

Health System Shared Services –
Facilities Outreach

Bridget Elizabeth Thongsavanh

University Hospital – Brain and
Spine East

Douglas L. Zeigler

Health System Shared Services

MLK Day of Giving

In February our Secretary, PT Thomas, challenged the OSURA Board and members to join the MLK day of giving. This group packed snack packs for elementary school children. We are looking forward to our next opportunity to work beside OSU students.

Craft Group

The OSURA Craft Group does not have a standing meeting schedule—the day of week and time of day may change. Many meetings have taken place on the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month. Next month's meeting is set by the attendees at the "current meeting." If you're interested in obtaining more information on our craft projects and meeting dates, please send an email to marycull.4@gmail.com and put "Craft Group" in the subject line. You will be placed on our e-mail list!

Arranger: Mary Cull (Craft Group SIG)

Dinner Series

Our OSURA Dinner Series is looking for individuals interested in taking over the series. This includes organizing and communicating with speakers, the Faculty Club and our OSURA members the times and topics for the dinner lectures. There are usually 2 in the fall and 4-5 in the winter/spring months. These are open to all OSURA members and friends.



Once a Girl Scout Always a Girl Scout!

We'd be honored to have you share this with your group of OSU retirees, of which I am one. I should look into joining your group.

I spent almost 30 years at the Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory office. Now, I'm in my encore career at Girl Scouts.

The Columbus Metro library contacted us and wanted to partner on a Girl Scout history presentation.

Join us on Girl Scout Sunday, March 10th, for The History of Girl Scouts in Columbus at the Columbus Metro Library for a presentation by the GSOH archivists, The Cultural Assets Team. The 1:30-3:00 presentation is suitable for adults and older girls. <https://events.columbuslibrary.org/event/10146741>

— OSURA Member Nancy Cruickshank

Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 5 (Tuesday) Benefits Committee

Time/Place: 9:15 a.m.,
Longaberger Alumni House

March 12 (Tuesday) Board Meeting

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m.,
Longaberger Alumni House

March 27 (Wednesday) Membership Committee

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m.,
Longaberger Alumni House

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Photo Society

No meeting in March.

Arranger: Nancy Verber (nwverber@gmail.com) – Photographic Society SIG

March 7 (Thursday) Walking/Hiking Group – Highbanks Metro Park

Challenge Level 2-4

Meet at the Nature Center, then join us for a 3-mile hike. The trails we will be on are not pet-friendly. However, there are many trails that do accept pets if you would like to come and walk those trails and join us at a nearby restaurant afterwards. Questions? Contact Sandy Bell...info below

Time/Place: 1 p.m., 9466 Columbus Pike (US Rt 23), Lewis Center
Arranger: Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com / cell 740-833-6374 – Walking/Hiking SIG)

March 20 (Wednesday) Lunch Bunch – *Total Eclipse of the Sun*

Join us as Jerry Newsom (Professor Emeritus in Astronomy) shares his expertise about the eclipse that's coming to us in April. He'll give tips on things we need to know about the day.

Time/Place: 11:15 a.m., MCL Cafeteria, Kingsdale

Cost: On your own, order through cafeteria line starting at 11:15 a.m., activities begin at noon.

Arranger: Elenore Zeller and Steven D'Ambrosio (Steven.dambros@gmail.com) – Social Committee)

March 28 (Thursday) Dinner Series

Ellen Mosley Thompson will present an update on global warming and the Byrd Polar Research Center.

Time/Place: 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. lecture; OSU Faculty Club

Cost: \$43 (service charge included)
Registration Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 25.

Arranger: Carol Newcomb (clhotak@gmail.com) – Dinner Series SIG)

Book Club

March's virtual play is based on the book *Suspect* by Scott Turow. A private investigator named Pinky, in dire need of a career rehab and boost, helps an attorney try to clear a female police chief of sexual misconduct charges made by male officers (a reverse of the usual). Pinky's unorthodox views and methods of work, while wading through lies all around, add new meaning to the word "suspect."

Got Gmail? Been missing us? Well, we've been missing you—your emails are bouncing back as "Undeliverable." Please stop forwarding your @osu.edu email to your Gmail account—it has glitches! Please send your direct Gmail address to Lee (SIG Leader) at rmhlmh@att.net, if you wish to remain on the Book Club's email address list.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 6 (Wednesday) Emeritus Faculty Lecture Series

Mark L. DeBard, Clinical Emergency Medicine, will explore "*Medical School Admissions: A Look Behind the Curtain.*"

Time: 4 – 5 p.m.

Cost: Free and open to the public
Registration: Register at <https://oaa.osu.edu/emergitus-academy-lecture-series-registration>

Contact: Mary Jo Fresch (fresch.1@osu.edu)

March 15 (Friday) BalletMet – *Asian Voices*

Challenge Level 2

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Yin Yue, director of YYDC of New York, creates a world premiere. Ma Kong returns with the Columbus debut of *Flights of Fancy* and Edwaard Liang's *Seasons*.

Time/Place: Box office opens at 9:30 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Performance begins at 11 a.m., Davidson Theater, 77 S. High St.
Cost: \$23 (admission ticket)

Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 6. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

Arranger: Brenda Hosey (Bhosey1@columbus.rr.com) – Cultural Arts Committee)

March 20-23 (Wed. – Sat.) Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossoms

Challenge Level 3

REGISTRATION – open until filled

Discover the beauty of our nation's capital in early spring when the cherry trees are in full bloom. Stay overnight in Old Town Alexandria and explore the iconic sites in and around Washington D.C. Take a trip to Mount Vernon.

Meet by: 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, Prime Tours, 565 Metro Place South, Dublin, OH

Return: approx 8 p.m. Saturday, March 23
Cost: \$1398 double, \$1870 single, (\$1238 Triple/quad); includes; motor coach transportation, 3-night lodging, 3 breakfasts, 1 dinner, Cherry Blossom walking tour, all the major memorials, Washington's Mount Vernon, all Museums, Arlington National Cemetery, United States Capitol Tour or if



Here is a link to our events:
<https://osura.alumni.osu.edu/events/>



The February Lunch Bunch loved making "My Own Blankets" for foster children.

possible, The White House, Ford's Theater and Peterson House

Registration: Contact Prime Tours at 614-766-5553 for more information.

Arranger: Constance A. Oulanoff (Travel/Cultural Arts Committee)

April 3 (Wednesday) Emeritus Faculty Lecture Series

Joseph Donnermeyer, Environmental and Natural Sciences, "Who are the Amish and Why are They Growing so Fast?"

NEW

Time: 4 – 5 p.m.

Cost: Free and open to the public

Registration: Register at <https://oaa.osu.edu/emeritus-academy-lecture-series-registration>

Contact: Mary Jo Fresch (fresch.1@osu.edu)

April 13 (Saturday) Franklin Park Conservatory & Columbus Cherry Blossom Festival

Challenge Level 3

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Celebrate Nature Clothe in Kaleidoscope Spring Splendor inside & outside FPC. Experience colorful Chihuly Glass Art Exhibit and demo. Cherry trees are in full bloom! Spectacular Greater Columbus Cherry Blossom Festival—enjoy the music, exhibits, and more.

Meet by: 8:30 a.m., at Franklin Park Conservatory front entrance

Return: 6 p.m.

Cost: \$40 Non-Members of FPC, \$24 FPC Members; cost includes admission fee, lunch, and docent fee.

Registration: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 22....

and choose your lunch: (1-Signature Club

Sandwich, 2-Smoked Turkey Sandwich, 3-Greek Hummus Wrap (Vegetarian), or 4-Seasonal Salad with Grilled Chicken)

Refund Deadline: March 22

Arrangers: Nancy Hughey, Darian Torrance, Marlinda Iyer (Marlindaiyer@yahoo.com – Travel/Cultural Arts Committee)

April 26 (Friday) BalletMet – Romeo and Juliet

Challenge Level 2

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NEW

Dashing sword finds, ballroom grandeur, and a romantic balcony scene evoke the essence of Shakespeare's iconic play. The ballrooms of Verona are filled with refined elegance and pure emotion as the star-crossed lovers tell their story.

Time/Place: Box office opens at 9:30 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Performance begins at 11 a.m., Ohio Theater, 39 E. State St.

Cost: \$25 (admission ticket)

Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by April 19. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

Arranger: Brenda Hosey (Bhosey1@columbus.rr.com – Cultural Arts Committee)

May 16 – 17 (Thursday, Friday) Weston, West Virginia Trip

Challenge Level 3

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NEW

Visit Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum (TALA), an example of Gothic Tudor Architecture and of the masonry skills of European craftsmen. TALA has something for everyone: history, architecture, and the evolution of mental healthcare. We'll visit the Museum of American Glass, have a guided tour of the

Blenko Glass Factory, and observe glass blowing at the Appalachian Glass Factory.

Meet by: 6:30 a.m. May 16, Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)

Return: approx 7 p.m. Friday, May 17

Cost: \$219 double, \$278 single; includes; transportation, lodging, admissions, snacks and tips

Registration: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by May 9.

Arranger: Alabelle Zghoul (alabelle.zghoul@gmail.com -Travel Committee)

Registration Instructions

- 1. Registrations requiring payment:** Registrations can be made by going on-line 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.



OSURA Spotlight

Meet **Brenda Hammond!**

When my husband was drafted during the Vietnam War, I needed to look for a job. His mother worked at Ohio State and she encouraged me to look for a job at The OSU Medical Center, which I did and was hired in Hospital Administration. I stayed there until Dr. Bernadine Healy was recruited as the first female Dean in the College of Medicine. I was fortunate to get the job as her Administrative Assistant.

College Deans are responsible for hiring department chairs, and the hiring process was one of my duties. There was lots of turnover at that time, and I met many people campuswide during the recruiting process. Dr. Healy was also a medical consultant for CBS; so, our staff worked with the CBS team and Marketing Communications to get her segment taped. One of the highlights of my time in the Dean's Office was meeting Sarah Ferguson, Dutchess of York who came to the College to give a talk to the medical students.

When Dr. Healy left Ohio State, I took a position with the Department of Anesthesiology. I stayed there



Brenda Hammond

until the Division of Orthopedics became a department, and I went to work for their newly-recruited chairman. I remained there until I retired in 2014 with 35 years. I was blessed to develop friendships with many wonderful people campuswide.

Fresh into my retirement my mother moved back to Ohio from Florida. Maybe I should have moved to Florida to help take care of her! I also was fortunate to be able to help with the care of my only grandchild, Ellie. Those activities kept me pretty busy for a few years.

One of my friends belonged to OSURA and invited me to go on a bus trip to the Wilds. I joined OSURA to be able to go and never looked back. The day trips alone are worth the membership cost. Going to Lunch Bunch and hearing their guest speakers is a highlight, as well as the annual conference.

I am currently on the Membership and the Conference Committees. During COVID both of these committees met by Zoom. While many people struggled with what to do while homebound, we were business as usual—even held the annual conference web based! I also belong to the Craft Group. We have done service projects such as Girls Love Mail campaign (writing letters to breast cancer patients), Snowflake Campaign (making snowflakes for Childrens Hospital patients), Christmas Card trees for nursing home patients—just to name a few.

I'm looking forward to what is in store for the future.

In Memoriam

Barbara Andersen

January 11 | OSU Newark, 87

Robert B. Anderson

January 23 | Labor Education, 92

Victor Lee Aranda

January 17 | 77

William Charles Boss II

January 8 | Athletics, 70

Jerome Cunningham

January 19 | Radiology, 84

Nitin Desai

January 2 | Food Science and Technology, 75

Tammy Fields

January 14 | OSUMC, 65

Robert "Butch" Edward Harshaw

January 26 | Supervisor –
Mail Services, 72

Jeffrey C. Klipstine

February 2 | Transportation and Traffic
Management, 74

David R. Miskell

January 15 | OSU Cooperative
Extension, 92

Herbert Wood Ockerman

January 11 | Food Science and
Technology, 91

George Rice

January 16 | Print Shop, 83

Larry Allen Sachs

January 9 | Allied Medicine – DREME, 79

Thomas Shannon

January 29 | Athletics, 89

Kathryn Thompson

January 22 | OSUMC, 69

Eric Todd

January 22 | Office of Distance
Education and eLearning, 63

Patricia Zidar

January 6 | OSUMC, 86

FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

The 1959 Broadway musical *Fiorello* told the story of how Fiorello La Guardia took on corruption in the Tammy Hall machine. In one song, corrupt officials were called to testify. Question: “We wonder how you managed on the salary you make to acquire a new Rolls Royce.” Reply: “I’ve been taking empty bottles to the grocer and each nickel that I got was put aside.” The lyrics keep coming to me as I read campaign pitches for the challenger for this spring’s active member seat (retirees won’t vote in this one). The campaign promises to fund a permanent 3% COLA in part by abolishing bonuses paid to STRS investment staff. Annual bonuses amount to 0.01% of assets, which granted is more than nickels from bottle deposits, but the impact is similar. Independent consultants consistently rate STRS investments as among the best in the country, and threats to fire the investment staff to save money pose the very real threat of a significant drop in investment earnings, which pay most of our retirement benefits. While it’s easy to offer simple fixes to complex problems when

one is out of power, if the critics gain a majority of the Board, they will need to offer specific detailed proposals. Consultants can then calculate the likely effect. A closely watched metric is the funding period, how long it will take for projected assets to equal liabilities; it has dropped dramatically from 40 years in 2013 to about 11 years now. A court concluded in early February that Wade Steen (former STRS Board member appointed by the governor but then removed last May) could reclaim his seat. If a three-judge panel agrees, then critics of STRS will have a Board majority, but even without Steen, critics are poised to take over the Board this fall. If the new Board makes major changes, we’ll see in coming years if the funding period keeps decreasing, or if finances start to deteriorate and the funding period stops improving.

STRS Fact

Last academic year, **121,789 females** were in the STRS defined benefit plan vs. **45,737 males**.

OPERS Report

By Darian Torrance

The OPERS Board met on January 16 & 17, 2024 to approve the following:

- The Board Chair and Vice Chair were approved. Chris Mabe was elected as Chair and Stewart Smith is the new Vice Chair.
- The 2024 Annual Investment Plan and 2024 Dynamic Asset Allocation changes were approved. Allocations for the Defined Benefit Plan were changed slightly to decrease the percentage invested in Public Equity by 2% and increase the percentage invested in Fixed Income investments by 2%. The Health Care Fund investment allocations were changed to decrease the percentage allocated to Public Equity by 1% and Alternatives by 3%, and to increase allocations to Fixed Income by 3% and Risk Parity by 1%.

The Board received presentations from internal staff and external consultants on the following:

- Fiscal Year 2023 Returns – preliminary results for 2023 (as of December 31, 2023) show that OPERS Defined Benefit Plan had a return of 11.1% and the Health Care Plan had a 13.8% return. The benchmarks for the DB plan are 6.9% and for the Health Care Plan is 6.0%.
- “As of December 31, 2023, the net assets of the Defined

Benefit Fund and the Health Care Fund stood at \$98.8 billion and \$12.7 billion, respectively.”

- The amortization period for the Defined Benefit Plan is expected to decline by one year from 16 to 15 years, and the funded ratio will remain at approximately 84%. The Health Care Plan is expected to remain solvent for 22 years.
- Economic Outlook – Internal Economist, Nick Kotsonis, presented his view on the economy. From his analysis, the US Economy is still at risk of a recession.
- Economic Outlook – External Economist, Gabriela Santos from JP Morgan Asset Management, presented a more positive outlook on the economy. She focused primarily on fixed income equities and national private markets. By the end of 2024, she expects growth of two percent, four percent unemployment, and no recession.
- NEPC Investment Consultants provided an investment market outlook for 2024. The “Magnificent Seven” companies (Amazon, Alphabet, Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Nvidia and Tesla) make up 28% of the S&P 500 Index. The Fed holds a third of the US Government debt, with foreign owners the second highest holder of US debt. There is a growing awareness of the impact of artificial intelligence and what that might do to affect labor productivity and the economy.

The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.
P.O. Box 14533
Columbus, OH 43214

Retirees Surpass Bucks for Charity Campaign Goal

By David Crawford

Thank you OSU retirees for your generosity and tradition of giving to the Buckeyes for Charity drive, which wrapped up at the end of the year. Retirees gave \$76,400 for 2023, exceeding our campaign goal of \$75,088. OSURA, as in past years, was the third highest donor group among the 30 university departments and colleges participating in the drive. The College of Arts and Sciences and Wexner Medical Center were the two leading donor groups.

Donations to Buckeyes for Charity supports 850 nonprofits across the state. Causes include food security, health and wellness and services, housing, animal welfare, education, advocacy programs, social justice and the environment.

These nonprofits and the University are grateful to OSU retirees and others who donated more than \$1.1 million for the drive.



Bucks
for **Charity**