Pelotonia: One Goal

By Nancy Wardwell

The ads are cropping up everywhere. Thousands of cyclists from all over the world are gearing up (so to speak) to come to Columbus and ride in the largest single-event cycling fundraiser to benefit cancer research: The Pelotonia 2024. On August 3rd and 4th, 6,500 riders will be crossing Ohio on routes ranging from 20 to 190+ miles for the 16th annual event in support of the “ONE GOAL”: funding innovative cancer research and cycling toward a cancer-free future.

Since the 2008 founding of Pelotonia, more that 40,000 riders have represented more than 70,000 donors to raise more than 260 million dollars, of which 100% has gone towards cutting-edge cancer research.

Thanks to the riders and their supporters, the Pelotonia Research Center opened in June of 2023 – a five story, 305,000 square foot, state of the art, interdisciplinary facility located in “Carmenton,” our new interdisciplinary Innovation Center, on campus at the corner of Kenny Road and Lane Avenue. It is named in recognition of Pelotonia’s collaboration with Ohio State, and it provides new spaces, technologies and resources needed for workers to work across disciplines – the kinds of collaboration that provides new ways of looking at cancer, heart disease, mental illness, aging, and more.

If you have watched a road bicycle race like the Tour de France, you have seen how a pack of riders work together, changing places to “draft” one another for a while – allowing for potential energy saving – doing more than one rider can do alone! That is the magic of the grassroots organization Pelotonia – 6500 cyclists and their supporters with One Goal – a cancer-free future.
FROM: The President

July marks the beginning of the new year for OSURA. We welcome the new members of the board announced at the Annual Meeting in June: Sally Dellinger, VP/President Elect; Pamela Thomas, Secretary; Nena Couch, Catherine Montalto, and Doug Torrance, Members at Large. I look forward to working with each of you over the next year as we explore ways to make OSURA even better.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders and volunteers who have been instrumental in making this past year a success. As we close our celebration of our first 40 years, a BIG THANK YOU also goes out to those who gave extra to OSURA to help us balance our budget this year and increase our endowment to support us in the future. We cannot survive without your continued support.

Even though many committees and special interest groups (SIGs) take the month of July or even the entire summer off, there are still events happening. Be sure to check out the schedule in the newsletter.

As we begin our new year, may we look at all the possibilities that lay in front of us. I ask that you consider stepping up to help lead the organization into the next 40 years and consider these questions:

- What will the new year bring?
- How will you be a part of it?

Sandy Bell
President of OSURA

Extra... Extra! Read All About It!

The OSURA Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce the appearance of Ohio State University’s 17th President Edward “Ted” Carter at this year’s Fall Conference on September 18. President Carter will share some remarks and be in attendance at the Keynote presentation by Melissa Shivers, Senior Vice President for Student Life. Don’t miss this opportunity.
Welcome New Retirees

Sau-Tuen Belinda Chick  
The James
Katrina Cornish  
FAES – Horticulture and Crop Science
Janice Marie Dicarolis  
FAES – Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
Craig James Forsyth  
ASC – Chemistry and Biochemistry Administration
Jacqueline Joyce Gargus  
Knowlton School of Architecture Administration
Alexander X. Gerena  
The James
Lynn Anne Gervais-Weinle  
University Hospital
Karen Elaine Goodwin  
Ambulatory Services
Brenda S. Griffith  
Specialty Care Network
William Charles Griggs  
Public Safety
Blake Allen Harrison  
Medicine – Office of the Dean
Linda Kay Moore Heineike  
University Hospital
Craig C. Henry  
Administration and Planning – FOD Design and Construction
Teresa Lynn Hines  
Student Life
Brian Daniel Joseph  
ASC – Linguistics
Rebecca Yeun-Hee Kim  
Social Work
Howard Jay Klein  
Fisher College
Yuching D. Knicely  
ASC – East Asian Languages and Literatures
Ten Hwang Lai  
Computer Science and Engineering
John Rogers Lane  
University Hospital
Roman P. Lanno  
ASC – Evolution Ecology and Organismal Biology
Stuart David Lishan  
Marion Campus
Sandra J. Longworth  
The James
Fernando Martinez Gil  
ASC – Spanish and Portuguese
Anne J. McGhee  
The James
Maryjo Lynn Mundey  
Human Resources
Stephen A. Osmani  
ASC – Molecular Genetics Administration
Mary Jo Spink Patterson  
The James
Dewayne Charles Peterson  
Brain and Spine Hospital
W. Eric Pyle  
University Hospital
Vidhyanath Kajana Rao  
Newark Campus
David Roy Rich  
University Hospital
Mark L. Rudoff  
ASC – Music
Susan Elaine Scholz  
University Hospital
Douglas A. Schroeder  
Fisher College
Sharon Bergman Schweikhart  
Public Health
Teresa Sullivan  
The James
Nanette F. Taylor  
Hospital East
Yolanda Josephine Van Camp  
The James
Michael William Vasey  
ASC – Psychology
Julie M. Walsh  
Ambulatory Services
Ronnie Lee Waters  
Administration and Planning
Thomas Henry Wells  
ASC – Music
Roxann Wheeler  
ASC – English
Willard Todd Wilson  
Optometry

At the OSURA Annual Meeting on June 26

We heard an energetic presentation from Linda Logan who shared many of the aspects of working with the world of high-level athletics. No one could do it better. Thanks, Linda!

We also welcomed our new board members:

**Vice President/President-Elect:**  
Sally E. Dellinger

**Secretary:**  
Pamela “PT” Thomas

We also acknowledged the work of Steven D’Ambrosio by presenting him with the Outstanding Service Award. Elenore Zeller made the presentation with her, as always, heartfelt words.
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**July**

**Benefits Committee**
No meeting this month – will meet again August 6

**July**

**Board Meeting**
No meeting this month – will meet again August 13

**July 17 (Wednesday)**
**Membership Committee**
**Time/Place:** 9:30 a.m., location TBA

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**Walking/Hiking Group**
No hike this month, but get out and take a walk with friends and your dogs.

**Arranger:** Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com /cell 740-833-6374 – Walking/Hiking SIG

**Dinner Series**
New programs and speakers coming in the fall.

**Lunch Bunch**
No gathering this month, see you in the fall.

**Arranger:** Elenore Zeller

**Photo Society**
See you in September; but in the interim visit our exhibit in the Faculty Club gallery and see what our members have created.

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

**Book Club**
Your summer may feature a family reunion, and, also, the news of the world doesn’t stop, so why not read *Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents— and What They Mean for America’s Future* by Jean M. Twenge? It may give you insight, understanding, and even forbearance for their opinions. Think of it as a “smoother.”

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

**Craft Group**
Our group has a varied schedule, so if you’re interested in obtaining more information contact Mary Cull at marycull.4@gmail.com.

**Arranger:** Mary Cull (marycull.4@gmail.com – Craft Group SIG)

SPECIAL EVENTS

**July 18 (Thursday)**
**Coffee Hour for New Retirees**
**Time/Place:** 9-10 a.m.
Longaberger Alumni House and via Zoom. If you would like to participate, contact Sandy Bell. Information below.

**Arranger:** Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com - Membership Committee)

**July 19 (Friday)**
**Wright Patterson Air Force Museum and Hawthorn Hill**
**Challenge Level 3**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
Enjoy a self-guided tour of the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, with the option of a guided tour at 10 a.m. Continue on to lunch at nearby Packy’s Restaurant. Then travel to Hawthorn Hill (home of the Wright Brothers).

**Meet by:** 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center
**Return:** 6 p.m.
**Cost:** $103; cost includes transportation, admissions, lunch, tips, and snacks.

**Registration:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by June 19.
**Refund Deadline:** June 19

**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Esther Ober (jjpritch6@gmail.com - Travel/Cultural Arts)

**August 15 (Thursday)**
**Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Christmas Story House/Museum**
**Cleveland, OH**
**Challenge Level 2**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
Learn history of the best-known and influential artists, engineers, producers and other notable figures who have major influence on the development of rock and roll. See the original props, costumes and memorabilia from the film *Christmas Story* as well as hundreds of rare behind-the-scenes photos.

**Meet by:** 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)
**Return:** 7 p.m.
**Cost:** $138; cost includes admissions, lunch, transportation, snacks, and tips.

**Registration:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by July 15.
**Refund Deadline:** July 15

**Arrangers:** Alabelle Zghoul and Betty Hniesik (alabelle.zghoul@gmail.com - Travel/Cultural Arts)

**October 10 (Thursday)**
**Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Excursion**
**Pennsylvania, OH**
**Challenge Level 2**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
Enjoy fall colors on a two-hour round-trip train excursion through the picturesque Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Depart from and return to the depot in Peninsula, Ohio. Boxed lunch included. An extra stop along the way home to be announced.

**Meet by:** 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)
**Return:** 5 p.m.
**Cost:** $110; cost includes transportation, excursion tickets, boxed lunch, snacks, and tips.

**Registration:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 3.
**Refund Deadline:** September 3

**Arrangers:** Marianne Robinson and Lynne Bonenberger (lynnebonenberger@gmail.com - Travel/Cultural Arts)

Here is a link to our events:
[https://osura.alumni.osu.edu/events/]
Interesting OPERS Facts from 2023

By Darian Torrance

- Of the 220,845 OPERS retirees, 196,880, or 89.1%, remained Ohio residents as of December 31, 2023.

- Pension benefit payments of $6.5 billion were distributed throughout Ohio to retirees and their beneficiaries, representing the OPERS impact on the state’s economy.

(Facts from the OPERS 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report)

The OPERS Board met on May 14 and 15, 2024 to approve the following:

- Employer and member contribution rates for calendar year 2025 for local employers, which will remain the same as last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer Rates</th>
<th>Member Rates</th>
<th>Total Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local (Non-Law/Non P.S.)</td>
<td>14.00%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>18.10%</td>
<td>13.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>18.10%</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


“Key results of financial activities for fiscal year 2023 include the following:

- Total net position increased by $8 billion from $106.8 billion in 2022 to $114.8 billion in 2023.

- The defined benefit portfolio returned 11.26%, the health care portfolio returned 13.97%, and the defined contribution portfolio returned 18.08%.

- The member and employer contributions for the year increased by $243.8 million, or 6.1%, compared to 2022.

- Health care expenses decreased $46 million, or 7.8%, in 2023 compared to 2022.

- The number of new retirees in 2023 decreased by 18.6% to 6,919, compared to the 8,498 members who retired in 2022 (Traditional Pension Plan).”

- “As of the December 31, 2023 valuation, based upon the funding value of assets, the funded ratio of the defined benefit portion of OPERS is 84% and the number of years needed to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is 15 years for all plans (Traditional, Combined and Member Directed) in total.”

- Meketa, OPERS’ newly selected investment consultant, reported that OPERS will soon begin a comprehensive asset-liability study that may result in a new long-term policy portfolio. “Based on Meketa’s 2024 Capital Market Assumptions, the OPERS DB investment portfolio is well structured to perform above its 6.90% actuarial objective over the long term.”

- The Defined Contribution (DC) Plan currently offers investment options that include ten target date funds and seven standalone funds. This summer, OPERS will be adding four new actively managed account options. Members can choose passively or actively managed funds. New active investment options include: U.S. Large Cap, U.S. SMid Cap, MSCI ACWI ex-U.S., Core Bond, and Stable Value, as well as Schwab Brokerage accounts.

- At the end of 2023, 17,133 members (1.6% of OPERS members) have selected a member-directed plan, with a total of $2,461,965,215 invested in Target Date and Standalone funds.

- Karen Carraher, OPERS Executive Director, reported that OPERS and Ohio Deferred Compensation (ODC) have continued discussions regarding OPERS providing services for ODC for human resources, printing services, mail processing and information technology services.

- Health Care Rates for Dental and Vision insurance, as well as the Health Reimbursement Arrangement base allowance for members, effective January 1, 2025. “Premium rates for insurance are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Option Dental</th>
<th>2025 Premium</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$40.11</td>
<td>2.5% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>$23.82</td>
<td>2.5% increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Option Dental</th>
<th>2025 Premium</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$23.80</td>
<td>2.5% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>$14.46</td>
<td>2.5% increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Option Vision</th>
<th>2025 Premium</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$4.64</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>$3.59</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Option Vision</th>
<th>2025 Premium</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>$1.36</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2025 Approved HRA Base Allowances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Medicare HRA Benefit Recipient</th>
<th>2025 Monthly Base Allowance</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>16.7%*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicare HRA Benefit Recipient</th>
<th>2025 Monthly Base Allowance</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Pre-Medicare HRA base allowance was scheduled to reduce to $1,000.00 per month effective January 1, 2025. Maintaining a monthly allowance of $1,200.00 in 2025, is therefore expressed as an increase in the expected base allowance next year.”
Theme: New Beginnings

Registration Information: Registration begins Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10 a.m. and will close on Wednesday, September 11 at 5 p.m.

There are two ways to register:

1. Go on-line to https://osura.osu.edu and find the event registration link – if you are first-time online user, you must create a password with your email to join the OSUAA online community. There are two login options – Alumni and Friends, or Ohio State Web Login.

OR

2. Call the Engagement Center at the Alumni Association to register and pay over the phone at either 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646. This may be the easiest.

Review the sessions – make your selections, then beginning August 5th, go online, (or call) and make it official. Registration is not complete until payment is made, so have your credit card at the ready. Checks are no longer accepted.

Full session descriptions are in the June Newsletter on pages 6 & 7.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Breakout Session: Group 1 – (10:30-11:15A)
Choose One
1. Discovering Public Art in the Ohio Judicial Center
2. Sound Innovations: A Glimpse into Modern Hearing Solutions
3. The Life of an OSU Cheerleader
4. Driving As We Age

Breakout Session: Group 2 – (11:30A-12:15P)
Choose One
5. The Sports and Society Initiative
6. The Next Big Thing for Columbus: A New Iconic Home for the Columbus Symphony
7. Indoor Gardening: A Hobby for All Seasons

Breakout Session: Group 3 – (1:30-2:15P)
Choose One
9. Redistricting Reform in Ohio: Where Did It Go Wrong? And How Will the Citizens’ Initiative Fix it?
10. Linking Plant Phytochemicals to Human Health
11. The STEAM Factory at Ohio State
12. A Glimpse of OSU Through Photos

Breakout Session: Group 4 – (2:30-3:15P)
Choose One
13. OPERS
14. STRS: How Did We Get Here?
15. The Next Frontier of Radiation Therapy: Proton Therapy and FLASH
16. The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

Optional Tours: (select one)
Additional $10 per person
T1 – Energy and Advancement and Innovation Center
T2 – Driving Simulator Laboratory
T3 – Department of Theatre and Film, and Media Arts

Lunch
L1 – Turkey Brioche
L2 – Chicken Caesar Salad
L3 – Vegetarian Option – Chef’s Selection
L4 – Gluten/Nut Free Option – Chef’s Selection

LUNCH MUSICAL EVENT
120 Years of Jazz
Presented by the jazz ensemble under the direction of Michael Smith
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

When May began, the critics of STRS had their board majority and looked poised to enact their agenda. There was concern that this might mean giving a shadowy group called QED management over most of STRS’s considerable assets. My STRS report in the OSURA Newsletter in January 2022 described the proposal, which was almost universally regarded as absurd. QED was new, with no track record of investing, no experienced investment staff, and no assets. The STRS world changed dramatically on May 8, when Gov. DeWine released an anonymous 14-page memo that claimed to document the history of efforts to have QED gain control of most of STRS’s assets. The 14-page memo, which must have been written with much input from staff at STRS since they had access to many internal communications, portrays a small group pushing QED that worked to discredit STRS in the eyes of its members. The techniques included inciting anger in retirees over their loss of COLAs, claiming it was due to mismanagement by STRS through poor investing, high fees, and excessive bonuses. The strategy apparently was that discrediting the board and STRS staff would lead to the election of new board members, who would then vote to invest in QED. The memo makes compelling reading, but it provides only one side of a dispute, much claimed supporting documentation is not yet public, and those accused of misdeeds vigorously dispute claims in the memo. The Ohio Attorney General is suing two members of the STRS board to have them removed for failure to exercise fiduciary duty. In the course of that court case, I hope many undisputed facts will emerge. The Secretary of State is investigating those who campaigned for candidates for the board for failure to file campaign finance forms as required by law, and the possibly illegal payment by the Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association (ORTA) of the legal fees for a board member who was removed from the board by the governor (he won the suit and got his seat back). All active teachers and STRS retirees have a vested interest in seeing that management of the nearly $100 billion in STRS assets is guided by prudence. The OSURA board has directed me to read a statement at the next STRS board meeting that OSURA strongly urges STRS not to change how they do investments at least until the Attorney General’s lawsuit is heard a year from now.

STRS Report

In 2022, STRS paid $7.1 billion in pensions; PERS paid $7.0 billion and the other three Ohio public pension plans paid a total of $3.0 billion.

In Memoriam

James L. Battersby  
May 12 | English, 87

Frank Edward Battocletti  
May 28 | Electrical Engineering, 90

James Burt  
April 18 | Veterinary Radiology, 90

Ronald Hammond  
April 26 | Field Crop Entomologist, 73

John Heinz  
May 8 | Clinical Chemist, 77

Bessie Hittle  
May 16 | Muskingum 4-H, 85

Carl J. Jankowski  
May 5 | Athletics, 90

Sidney T. Johnston  
May 6 | 90

Gary W. Jollay  
May 15 | Security OSUMC, 73

Kerry Ketting  
May 5 | Veterinary Ophthalmology, 77

Max Mohler  
April 9 | Regenerative Agricultural Farm Lima, 86

Betty Jean Mongolier  
May 15 | Dean’s Office – Arts and Science, 88

Sophia Osborne  
May 23 | OSUMC, 88

Lynn Ralston  
May 23 | Facilities Operations and Development, 81

Dale Ricker  
May 9 | OSU Extension, 72

Gary Rine  
May 19 | Business and Finance, 60

Mary Schiller  
April 17 | Medical Dietetics, 87

Judy Mabrey Von Blon  
May 12 | OSU Lima, 81

Richard Walrath  
May 15 | Budget and Finance, 93

Beverly Jeanne Weber  
May 26 | 88

Leland Zilles  
April 13 | Veterinary Medicine, 87
The OSURA Benefits Committee wants you to know...

By Nancy Wardwell

Ohioans, especially those who are members of the State Teachers Retirement System, have been concerned at serious criticisms and troubling allegations made by a few against one of the best retirement systems in the U.S. Gerald Newsom, our longtime OSURA representative, made the following presentation to STRS Board on 21 June 2024:

"My name is Gerald Newsom. I retired in 2004 after 35 years on the faculty of The Ohio State University. I’m here representing the Ohio State University Retirees Association, known as OSURA. The 14-page memo released by Governor DeWine on May 8th reads like a powerful indictment of plotting behind the scenes at STRS. The memo appears to contain extensive references to supporting documents, but we have not seen these and until we do it’s hard to draw firm conclusions. Should these documents validate the claims, whoever compiled the memo has done a real service to STRS and its members. But we have to remember these are still just accusations. Maybe many of the details will not be public until the lawsuit in summer 2025 brought by Attorney General, unless the recently appointed subcommittee of the Ohio Retirement Study Council releases more details. While this cloud hovers over STRS, it is vital that the STRS board continue to follow the precedent of having the board, in conjunction with investment advisors, determine asset allocation, while our professional investment staff continue to manage investments within each asset class. The STRS board should not be picking investment managers, and external groups with no strong track record of quality management should participate in such management. That was also made clear at last week’s ORSC meeting. OSURA strongly urges the STRS board to follow its fiduciary duty here."