



Volume 1, Number 1 July 2009

From The President

Greetings Retirees:

The Austin Peay State University Retirees Association (APSURA) held its Inaugural Reception for faculty, staff and administrators on June 22, 2009 at the Pace Center at Emerald Hill. It was an especially exciting moment for the **ad hoc** committee members who attended our meetings (the meticulous minutes recorded by Hester Crews as can be seen on our website) and gave so much of their time and energy to establish our organization and to make our first event such a success. Since this note **From the President** is our organization's first communication as an official part of the University, I feel it is important to thank publicly all those involved. Listed below are the retirees who formed the **ad hoc** committee and who elected the officers and board members.

Ad hoc Committee, Elected Officers, and Board Members:

Gerald Beavers	Vice President
Al Bekus	President
Wayne Chaffin	Treasurer
Aleeta Christian	Board Member
Hester Crews	Secretary
Meredith Gildrie	Committee Member
Richard Gildrie	Committee Member
Annelle Gracey	Committee Member
Ann Harris	Board Member
Howard Winn	Board Member
Mitch Robinson	VPFA and University Representative

Mitch was extremely helpful in framing our bylaws and in giving helpful advice on a number of issues.

I would like to thank President Hall for his complete support and encouragement during our formative process, and his presence at the reception just made our gathering all the more special.

The Austin Peay State University Retirees Association will be under the auspices of University Advancement under Executive Director Roy Gregory who has been an exceptionally strong supporter of our endeavors. I would like to thank him for his volunteering to have his staff create and mail out the invitations, and for his office to incur the costs for the catering of the reception. Chrissy Booth deserves a special thanks as well for her pleasant and efficient attention to all the program details. I would also like to thank Sheila Ross and her staff for being so gracious in allowing us to use the Pace Center.

I was most pleased to see so many retirees at the reception. Your presence made all of our work worthwhile. In several cases it was the first time I had seen some friends and colleagues since my retirement. There were many, many happy and excited greetings among the retirees, and it was obvious to me why our Association will become such a benefit to retirees, to the University, and to the community as well. When such a group of individuals works together

to achieve a goal we are certain to succeed, and there will be a variety of programs and activities we will initiate. Thank you, retirees, for making our gathering such a success. (*Photos of the reception can be seen at the website on the Photo Album link.*)

It was also encouraging to see several of the present University administration attending the reception. It is clear that our organization has your support.

Before I change direction and discuss our plans for the future, I would like to thank those retirees who filled out the a membership registration form at the reception and who made a donation that will help fund the Association for the coming year. Wayne Chaffin, our treasurer, has our account open and balanced, and your donations have been recorded and deposited.

Enclosed with this **Message from the President** is a membership form to join our Association (the form is also on our website). It is the same form that was available at the reception so if you filled one out then you do not need to fill out another one. I sincerely hope that we receive a strong response, since we wish to represent all APSU retirees as we plan our future events and activities. In fact, by becoming a member of the Association you will have an active voice in what we do. And even if you do not participate actively in all the events, or might no longer be living in or near Clarksville, receiving the Newsletter and having access to our website will keep you up to date on what is going on. There might be something that strikes your fancy which you may wish to take part in. Simply go to the APSU home page, then to the A-Z Index, and finally to "Retirees Association." I am certain you will be pleased with our website created by Gerald Beavers working with Steve Wilson, web designer from the Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Clearly the website is one of the highlights of our early achievements, and Gerald deserves the accolades for his creative work. Also from the same office we would like to thank Rollow Welch who took the photographs at the reception.

One last point about the membership registration form included with this first copy of the **Newsletter**: even if you do not plan to join APSURA at this time it would help us a great deal if you returned the form with your present address and your year of retirement, since we need to have an absolutely accurate mailing list, and the year of retirement is missing for many of you.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our most recent retirees (2009):

Glenn Carter
John Foote
Betty Joblin
Ramon Magrans
Sallie M. Noel
Robbie D. Robinson

Now to the future: I personally look at retirement as a second career. It can be creative and wonderfully rewarding. When we retire we do not necessarily have to sever our ties with the University, nor lose contact with our colleagues and friends who are also retired. It gives all of us an opportunity to reconnect and to enhance our values and priorities.

APSURA will serve in a number of ways to bring retirees together in a variety of social gatherings and University and community functions. The Association will also hold informative programs dealing with financial and medical issues on both the state and national level for both retirees and those planning to retire.

One of our key interests is volunteerism, and as we move into our first year of activity, we plan to identify areas in which retirees can make a significant contribution to the University and to the community.

There are two things that we must do first, however.

- 1) We need to receive your completed membership registration form by **August 15**.
- 2) We will hold our first membership meeting on **August 26, 2009**, Convocation Day.

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

11:00 a.m. Retirees are invited to the Faculty Picnic on the Campus grounds
1:00 p.m. Initial membership meeting in Morgan University Center Rm 213

The officers and Board members are looking forward to seeing you on August 26.

Before concluding this first edition of our **Newsletter**, I would like to mention the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) – an international and national organization – which we will be joining shortly. AROHE is “committed to advocating for, educating, and serving retired faculty and staff in higher education. AROHE brings together the talent, knowledge, and experience of retired faculty and staff to improve their quality of life and that of the community and institutions by creating new models of retirement.” I was surprised to learn that in 2004 AROHE held its national conference at Vanderbilt. The Organization is simply doing amazing things in terms of improving the lives of retirees in the field of higher education. We will have much to report about AROHE in the coming issues of the **Newsletter**.

We already belong to the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association which has an annual meeting of the presidents every November when we discuss state and local issues related to our respective institutions.

I believe our Association can lead to a more creative and rewarding retirement for all of us, and I hope to see you at our first annual meeting on **August 26**.

Al Bekus, President

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