

## **OSU Emeriti Association: 2023 At A Glance**

### **Gary Sherrer, 2023 President**

In 1964, a song was composed by Rick Evans titled, "In the Year 2525." At that time, it seemed like such a long way off; and, of course, it still is. However, 60 years have passed since that song was written. What does that have to do with the events of 2023? Nothing, of course, but it just illustrates how quickly time passes. It seems only yesterday when Kent Sampson passed the gavel to me to be the next president of this great association! Now, as of January 2, 2024, I passed the gavel on to Mike Woods to be the next president. Kent did a great job as president and Mike will also do a super job! For me, I certainly enjoyed working with the very special group of council members and the folks of the entire association.

I always enjoyed the Monday Night Dinners. It gave Joyce and me a chance to greet the membership as they entered the space reserved for the gathering. I enjoyed meeting new members and shaking the hand of some very special friends whom I had the privilege of working with for many years at this great university.

In my mind, a couple of real highlights of 2023 were the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of our organization and the honoring of our military veterans last November. Thirty-five years of being an organized group and we are still going strong!

The cost of our Monday Night Dinners remained at \$15 per person as a generous Emeriti Member donated \$1,000. The cost of the meals actually runs more than that and an increase may have to be addressed by the council for the coming year.

The number of our members actually decreased somewhat in 2023, as the membership rolls were purged and several of our folks passed away. We still have a good number at just under 400.

During the past year, we had to find new office space as remodeling was done on the first floor of the Alumni Center. We were pleased to find a quiet space on the second floor where only our office equipment will be housed under lock.

Our Ambassador Program was started up again for the year under the leadership of Chairperson Joyce Sherrer. We had two ambassadors work with the Alumni Association for each of the home football games. Our job was to help greet the Alumni Association Members as they entered the Alumni Center for pep rallies before the football games.

I mentioned earlier that Kent Sampson did an excellent job as our 2022, Emeriti Association President. He also did a superb job as chairperson of the group that took on the responsibility of revisions for the constitution, by-laws, and policies and procedures.

The association's financial position remains strong. Our December 31, checking account balance was \$2,597.60. We have 2 CDs at \$5,142.95 and another that will mature in March of this year and presently sits at \$5,030.88. Our OSU Foundation Endowment Account has a balance of \$64,731.86, and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$55,336.28.

Our partnership with OLLI is great, and Robyn Davis is a delight to work with!

All in all, I believe our wonderful association had a splendid year! As I have stated before, our membership has terrific people who dedicated the best part of their lives to our great university! I believe this organization will stand strong for many years to come and will continue to do great things for Oklahoma State University!