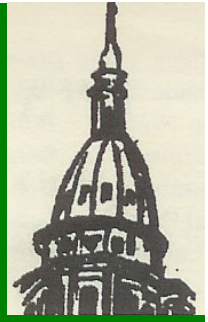


MICHIGAN STATE  
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# SPARTAN SENIOR

A newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

Summer 2015, Vol. 36, No. 7

## Brenda Spackman Honored as Volunteer of the Year 2015

At our May luncheon, Brenda Spackman was named Volunteer of the Year for 2015. Brenda spent most of her time at MSU working in the office of the Vice President for Finance. Upon retiring, she became a member of the MSURA Membership Committee, sending out greetings and a questionnaire of interests to all new university retirees. She also has served as head of the MSURA effort to help the Old Newsboys Association in its annual fundraising drives to pay for shoes and socks for area young people in need. When asked about the history of her efforts with the Old Newsboys, she provided the following narrative:



L to R: Ron Smith, Brenda Spackman, L. Patrick Scheetz

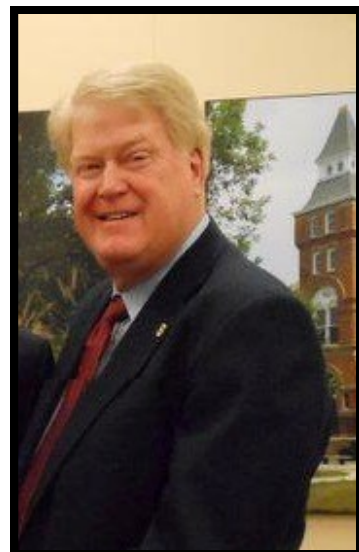
“I became involved in 2006 when Don Jost was President of the Retirees Association. At one of our MSURA meetings, I mentioned that it sure would be nice to get the retirees involved in the Old Newsboys Association. For many years, former newsboys would be at my work site one day, on-campus hawking their spoof edition of the Lansing State Journal for the Old Newsboys Association. Then all of a sudden they were no longer hawking the paper on campus. I knew that organization needed the money but still no one was on campus. Who knew the campus better than us retirees, I thought. Also, if you remember, that was the time the availability of jobs was becoming tighter and tighter and the need for shoes and socks and, in those days, boots just kept growing. Those of us who worked on campus were so blessed to have jobs that I thought this would be a good organization in which to become involved. Who better to help than the young people who might some day be paying tuition at MSU that would, in turn, pay many of our salaries. Also, my husband had been involved for many years and I knew of the need in the Lansing area. But it really concerns me because all the people who have helped me on campus are getting older, just like me, and either are gone for the winter or just do not like getting out when it is so cold. I really need new retiree volunteers who would be willing to help on campus just that one day. It has really been touching to me. Several times, I have had people come up to me when I am hawking the paper to say that the Old Newsboys Association was there when they were growing up and helped their family through difficult times. So that is how I got involved with the Old Newsboys.”

We congratulate Brenda on her many jobs that have been well done!

## President's Message: Thanks for a Fine Year!

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the MSU Retirees Association for this last year. But the bulk of the commendation for achievements this year should go to your Board of Directors and other MSU retirees who pulled the bulk of the load. Check out the list of Board Members, Officers, and other special assignments on page 2 of [our website](#). Thanks to you; thanks so much for all your accomplishments this year, including a Big Ten Conference of Retiree Associations to be held on August 14-16, 2015. Angela Brown is Chairperson. Job well done!

Elected at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the MSURA on May 4 were: Angela Brown (President), Rick Vogt (Vice President), Gale Gower (Reelected Secretary), Nancy Craig (Reelected Board Member), and Mike Gardner (Board Member). The following remained on the Board for 2014-16: David Brower (Treasurer), Louise Selanders (Board Member) and Jerry Hull (Board Member).



L. Patrick Scheetz

This year's MSURA *Volunteer of the Year Award for Meritorious Service* was awarded at the annual luncheon meeting to **Brenda Spackman**. See her picture and story on page 1 of this newsletter and on our website. Brenda has managed the Old Newsboys campaign on campus for many years, and she has supervised the letters and surveys to all new MSU retirees, among many other achievements. Congratulations, Brenda.

Recently, the MSURA Board of Directors created an endowed student scholarship that, when fully funded, will award an annual scholarship to an MSU student who most likely will be child, grandchild, or a relative of an MSU employee or retiree. In just a few months, the board has already raised \$40,200 – which means we are less than \$10,000 away from fully funding the endowment! More on this in your mail soon.

Did you know that kids who hear stories about their family history have a stronger sense of their own well-being? Please make family storytelling part of your life -- no matter how old your kids are.

So it is time to turn over the reins of the MSU Retirees Association to a new and outstanding team of retirees with Angela Brown as your leader! Please welcome Angela and give her your fullest support. Thank you.

—L. Patrick Scheetz

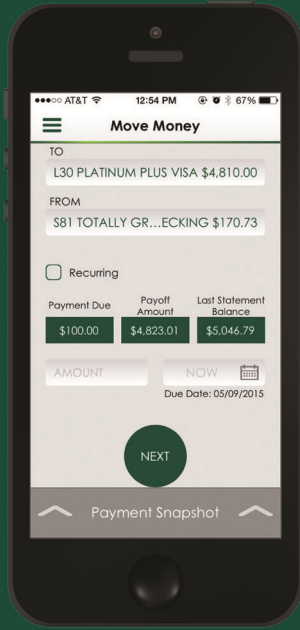
### Would You Like to Participate in a Book Club?

Would you be interested in a book club? Such a group could meet to discuss mysteries, autobiographies, historical fiction, and history; as well as any other types of book that interest the members. Members could also share books. If this interests you, please contact Rebecca Townsend at [townse44@msu.edu](mailto:townse44@msu.edu). If a book club materializes, it will become a special interest group of the MSU Retirees Association. Please note that any special interest group of this association is free to welcome any person who is not affiliated, and has not been affiliated with MSU, and is not a retiree, to participate in group activities.

### News from Special Interest Groups

The Opera Special Interest Group recently met to view a filmed performance of the opera *The Death of Klinghoffer*, by John Adams, with an introduction presented by Mark Johnson, Professor of Music Emeritus.

Please send news of Special Interest Group activities to [aleblanc@msu.edu](mailto:aleblanc@msu.edu).



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## Volunteers Come Forward to Help With Newsletter; Editor Will Remain

Earlier this year, I announced my intention to step down as Editor of the Spartan Senior at the end of our publication year because of increased family business duties and the generally high time demands of the editorship. For the last four years we had tried without success to recruit an Underwriting Manager for the newsletter. If we could fill the Underwriting Manager position, that person could take over the responsibility of maintaining a close and supportive relationship with our sponsors, and possibly even recruit some additional sponsors. Late this Spring our prayers were answered when new retiree Jacquie Babcock agreed to serve as Underwriting Manager for the Spartan Senior. Jacqui brings a distinguished record of service to this new responsibility. Jacqui began her service at MSU 47 years ago in the Registrar's office, and she retired as Chief of Staff at the Center for the Study of Curriculum in the MSU College of Education. Although this job focused on science and mathematics, Jacqui has built her life as a volunteer around service to the arts. She has held board positions with Pro Symphony (fund raiser for the Lansing Symphony), and Friends of Kresge Art Museum, and now serves as President of Friends of Theatre at MSU. She also volunteers at Wharton Center and is a member of Friends of MSU Horticulture Gardens. We also needed to fill out our team of proofreaders, because our current excellent proofreaders are sometimes traveling and unavailable for the very quick turnarounds that are needed to meet our publication schedule. We are happy to welcome Rebecca Townsend, Angela Brown, and Rick Vogt to our proofreading team. They will join our continuing proofreaders Patrick Scheetz and Anders Johanson. With such a high quality group of people stepping up to help with our newsletter, I have volunteered to continue as Editor. It has always been a pleasure to serve in that capacity.

—Al LeBlanc

## Quilting Interest Group Now Forming

Please email Ann Booren ([boorena@msu.edu](mailto:boorena@msu.edu)) of your interest, and what you would want to get out this group. Here are some suggestions for how the group might operate: Come and everyone works on their own projects; we offer some quilting lessons; we do group projects and make quilts to give away; we have fabric exchanges; we do a little of all of the above; or other suggestions. I welcome your input

We will meet the 2nd Monday of the Month  
1-4 PM  
University Lutheran Church  
1020 S. Harrison Rd., EL

—Ann Booren

**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
SUITE 22 NISBET BUILDING MSU  
1407 S. HARRISON AVE  
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