



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

January speaker will tell how to take charge of your own health

Dr. Marilyn Rotherth, former Dean of the MSU College of Nursing, will explain how seniors can take charge of their own health at our January meeting on Monday, Jan. 11.



Dr. Rotherth served as Dean from 1993 to 2006 and was involved in research for 20 years including studies funded by NIH.

She was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 1991 and during her career she has witnessed dramatic changes in how health care is provided.

Informed patients can make a huge difference in the quality of their health care, and Dr. Rotherth has focused on patient/provider decision making throughout her career.

As always, our meetings take place on the second Monday of the month in the Community Room of the MSU Federal Credit Union at the intersection of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. Refreshments are served at 1:30 with the presentation beginning at 2.

Where Community Room, MSU Federal Credit Union, corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope
When Monday, Jan. 11
Time 2 p.m., refreshments at 1:30 p.m.



SANTA'S ELVES From left to right: Tom Hazlett, Fred Honhart, Larry Koster, Patrick Scheetz, Darryl Warncke, and Tony Bauer. All are MSU retirees, except for Larry, who is an MSU alum.

Santa's workers make toys for disadvantaged kids

The [R. J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project](#) provides, without charge, wooden toys, memory boxes, and games, hand crafted by volunteers, for children who are disadvantaged, homeless, needy or in crisis. These volunteers are the "Toy Makers" for disadvantaged children of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. They work towards a "wish list" provided by the Lansing Salvation Army, CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Services), Ele's Place, and the Kiwanis Club. Small, unpainted cars are made for children at the Ann Arbor Children's Hospital and the Child Life Dept. and Mary Free Bed Re-Hab Hospital at Lansing's Sparrow Hospital.

You can visit the R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project at 16991 Old U.S. 27 Suite A (N East Street) in Lansing. Volunteers work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Come for a tour and meet several volunteers who enjoy their volunteer work!! Work ceases each day from 9:45 to 10:15 AM so that volunteers can solve all the "world's"

problems! One night each month, volunteers gather for a meal together with other volunteers and spouses at a local restaurant.

The Scheffel Toy Project relies on contributions to buy materials for making special toys for children in need. It relies solely on volunteers, so there are no salaries. All monetary donations are used to pay for supplies (lumber, glue, nails, paint, wheels, etc.), building rental and utilities to make toys for children. The R. J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Volunteers work one, two, or three mornings a week.

From 2011 through 2015, more than 45,664 wooden toys were built by the volunteers. In 2015, 10,746 toys were made, and this was the largest number for any one year in project history. On July 30, 2013, the toyshop suffered a fire and production could not be resumed until January 2014 at a new location.

February Speaker to chronicle history of MSU campus facilities

Ron Flinn, our February 8 speaker, is writing a book on the history of MSU campus facilities from 1939



Ron Flinn

to the present, a period of dramatic growth and change. Ron began working for Building and Utilities as a student employee when he arrived at MSU in September 1957. He became a full-time employee upon his graduation in 1960.

He has been involved with all facility activities including construction, maintenance and demolition from 1957 through 2014, from quonset huts to construction of the FRIB.

During his career he moved from student engineer to Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities and pulled together most of MSU's facility responsibilities.

He is licensed to practice engineering in the state of Michigan and has been active in his professional organization with papers and presentations. He was awarded the APPA (Leadership in Educational Facilities) Meritorious Service Award in 1998, its highest recognition.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Monthly meetings are at the MSU Federal Credit Union Community Room, Farm Lane & Mt. Hope Road • 1:30 p.m. Refreshments, 2 p.m. Program
Monday, March 7, 2016
Suzanne Cross on American Indian Women's Heart Health Awareness Healing Through Culture and Art Shawl Collection
- **Monday, April 11, 2016**
Gary Hoppenstand and Etta Abrahams on Films of the Cold War
- Annual meeting at Kellogg Center, Lincoln Room
11:30 a.m. Registration, 12:00 Lunch
Monday, May 2, 2016
Annual meeting and luncheon with entertainment by Bill McHarris

Note to those who may be designing a possible masthead for this newsletter

The deadline for submitting designs to be considered as a possible masthead for this newsletter is 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 31. Please send any designs you wish to have considered via e-mail to aleblanc@msu.edu.

We are moving to new design and production software and we know that jpg file formats will be acceptable. If we can view it and print it, it will be considered.

Designers may wish to include the MSU Retirees Association logo as part of their design, and they are welcome to do this. The logo is a block S circled by the spelled out name of the association. You can view it on page 9 of our November-December expanded edition of 2015. I can send you an electronic copy of this logo if you request it via e-mail. *Al LeBlanc, Editor*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Angela Brown

A very special "Get Well" message goes out to Dugald "Scott" MacMillan. In November, Scott was involved in a serious accident at the Mid-Michigan's Physicians Office Building. Scott is making daily improvement and welcomes cards and visitors. Scott, we are thinking of you and wish you the best.

Work continues on finalizing the awarding of the first MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship. Many thanks to MSU Office of Admissions and MSU Development for their guidance and support. Also, thank you for your generous donations to this scholarship which will provide financial assistance to MSU students whose parents or grandparents are employees or retirees of MSU.

A special committee has reviewed the organization's by-laws for updates. Proposed changes will be published in a future newsletter for your review. Proposed changes will be voted on at the May, 2016 annual meeting.

During the holidays MSURA gave back to the community in several ways. Thank you to Brenda Spackman for organizing MSURA's participation in the Old Newsboys fundraiser. Also, thank you to all MSURA members for volunteering for this important yearly project. Funds collected will go towards clothing items for children in need. Also, thank you to MSURA members who volunteer for the R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project. Wooden toys and gifts are donated to Lansing area children.

Looking for a new hobby or friendly folks to get together with? Join one of the MSURA special interest groups. There is something of interest for everyone. Or start your own group. Visit the webpage for a list and description of all the groups.

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday. We wish you the best in 2016. Happy New Year!



Share Your Knowledge

Pass the legacy of MSUFCU along to your family

Your grandchildren love to spend time with you. Take time to share your knowledge of money and open an MSUFCU kid's savings account for them today!

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517-333-2424



A big thank you to all our Old Newsboys (and Newgirls)

A special thanks goes to the following MSURA people and their friends or spouses for helping on December 3, the day of the 2015 Old Newsboys sale. We thank Rudy Abood, Jacqie Babcock (new), David Brower, Nancy Craig, Jim Detjen, Mary Faloon (new), Fred Graham, Carolyn Graves, Jim Graves, Nikki Johnson, Vern Johnson, Rosemary Pavlik, Bruce Smith, Joan Smith, Ron Smith, Sara Stid, Rick Vogt, and Bob and Darlene Wenner.

As you know, in most years the sale happens when the weather is bitter. But these volunteers have committed to come regardless of weather, and they do come. This year the weather was almost balmy and, for that, we were most thankful.

However, even though the economy has improved, more children than ever are being referred to the Old Newsboys for new shoes or boots. All of the money raised during the sale of the spoof edition of the Lansing State Journal is combined and used to help meet this need for children within a 25-mile radius of Lansing.

At this point, I do not know if the goal of \$165,000 was met but the campaign is optimistic because some money is still coming in. *Brenda Spackman, Coordinator, Old Newsboys Campaign*



Join me in welcoming Cheryl Pell, our new design & production specialist

Back in the day, when I first became editor about six years ago, we had a wonderful volunteer who designed and produced our Spartan Senior newsletter. I would write articles and invite content, send this to Stephanie Barch, and she would use her consummate knowledge of PageMaker software to produce an



Cheryl Pell

attractive newsletter for us to send to the printer. PageMaker was considered the first powerful desktop publishing software, but it declined over the years and eventually disappeared from widespread use. We then went over to Microsoft Publisher software, and while I had the benefit of taking a formal class on Publisher, Stephanie bought a copy of the software and taught it to herself! Her mastery of this new software was impressive, but I am sorry to say that we lost Stephanie's services a couple of years ago when she suffered a severe stroke.

I have been designing and producing the newsletter myself since that time, and you may have noticed my very simple approach to design! It is simple because I don't know how to make it more complex.

Our association board has recently expressed interest in considering a new masthead for the Spartan Senior newsletter. The MSURA Communications Com-

mittee thought it would be nice to invite interested readers to submit designs.

Cheryl Pell, a recent retiree from the MSU School of Journalism, saw this invitation and decided to submit some designs, including a redesign of the last newsletter.

She sent the result to me and offered her services as a volunteer! I was excited to share this with our board, and with permission of our President Angela Brown, I have appointed Cheryl as design and production specialist for the Spartan Senior newsletter.

Her masthead is being used on this issue's front page.

Cheryl joined the MSU faculty in 1987 to become the first full-time executive director of the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association, an organization that promotes excellence in student publications. She stepped down from that position in 2012. Pell and a colleague, Darcy Greene, founded the MSU student affiliate of the Society for News Design in 1995, and since that time they have taken MSU students all over the country to conventions and various newspapers. Pell was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2007, received a Distinguished Academic Staff Award in 2004, the Journalism Education Association Medal of Merit Award and the National Scholastic Press Association Pioneer Award. *Al LeBlanc, Editor*

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Lessons on Investing – Did you know?

StraightLine is a financial education and management company that was created to be a fiduciary. A fiduciary ALWAYS acts in the best interest of its clients – a rarity in the financial services industry. Many firms do not accept or abide by this standard. Be sure to ask your advisor if they do!

Straight to the Point

Each newsletter we will strive to provide timely updates on the news and events impacting investments.

Market Update - Markets seem to be experiencing a sense of déjà vu, as we once again approach a Federal Reserve meeting. Market volatility has picked up recently. This, coupled with year end tax loss selling, is adding pressure to parts of the market, while stocks in general have not fared too well since the October rally. The Fed seems set to move on short-term interest rates and markets have once again priced in a rate hike.

Investment Implications - Expect volatility until the conclusion of the Fed meeting, December 16th. If the Fed does as expected and raises rates, we'd be on the lookout for a Santa Clause rally into the end of the year. The energy sector is once again suffering as investors shed positions and take losses. This could be a good buying opportunity for those willing to take a long-term position and stomach the volatility. Stocks in general should do well in the near term, as markets approach oversold territory.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your investments.

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