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SPARTAN SENIOR

A newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

November-December 2014, Vol. 36, No. 3

Q: Can all retirees use all the electronic resources in the MSU Library?

A: Yes, but it will sometimes require us to use a workaround.

We were disappointed to learn from one of our members that non-faculty retirees do not have full access to MSU Library electronic resources. Angie Brown, Vice President of the MSU Retirees Association investigated this problem with Cliff Haka, Director of Libraries, and Steve Sowards, Head of Library Collections. They explained that the library does not own the electronic resources it makes available; it pays for a license that allows it to make these resources available on a strictly controlled basis. The library signs a legally binding contract each year, and must follow the terms of that contract. Most of these licensing contracts specify that electronic content may only be made available to active members of the university community, and this has been defined as faculty and current students. The library has tried many times, without success, to have the licensing agreements broadened.

Fortunately, a workaround is available that will allow non-faculty retirees to gain access to more electronic resources, and that workaround is to come to the library and use the resources in person. Go to the computers on the main floor of the main library near the reference desk. They are about halfway between the front and back entrances to the library. Ask for help at the reference desk if necessary. Sowards also advised that the Library of Michigan (the state government library in downtown Lansing) offers the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a collection of online databases for citizens of Michigan. This is paid for with state and federal funds. You can find a list of the "MeL Databases" at <http://www.mel.org/Databases>. While not as extensive as the MSU resources, MeL is worth becoming familiar with. Login access is based on a Michigan driver's license or state ID card. We are sorry that we were unable to secure full access to electronic resources for non-faculty retirees, but we thank librarians Haka and Sowards for explaining ways for these retirees to gain more access.

Nominations Sought for Volunteer of the Year

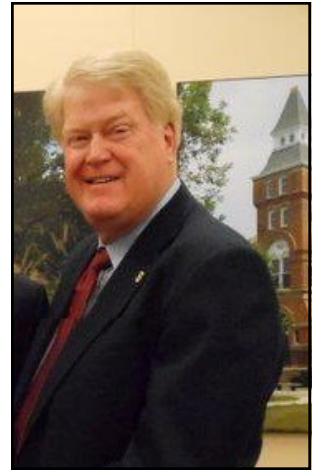
Each year at the Annual Luncheon in May we give an award to a retiree or surviving spouse who has contributed outstanding service to this association, the university, the community, or all three. Please send nominations to Ron Smith at smithro6@msu.edu by February 1, 2015. Please list reasons why your nominee should be considered. You can see past winners at the MSURA website.

Future Meetings of MSURA

November 10: Renee Rivard on Benefits; December 8: MSU President Lou Anna Simon
All meetings in Community Room of MSU Federal Credit Union at Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. Refreshments at 1:30, program at 2:00.

President ' s Message: Future Leaders of MSURA

Participation by recent MSU retirees on committees and with MSURA office duties is an excellent way to become familiar with the MSURA. What does the MSURA do for me? How may I help with MSURA operations? Who are the people running the MSURA? How might I get to know them and determine if I would like to work with them? Each year, several officer assignments, committee leadership positions, and Board of Directors positions become available for members to fill. Please consider self-nomination for working with the MSURA and to decide if more active involvement might be for you. Outstanding leadership and representation by the MSU Retirees Association is very important to



L. Patrick Scheetz

MSU retiree members. Are you willing to volunteer your services? Respond to Liz Thomas, Office Manager, e-mail at: msura@msu.edu or leave a message at: (517) 353-7896; or send e-mail to: Patrick Scheetz, President, at scheetz@msu.edu or e-mail: Angela Brown, Vice President, at browna@msu.edu. A volunteer is needed to supervise a photo contest for MSU retirees. Any MSU retiree willing to manage this task should respond via e-mail at: msura@msu.edu or leave a message at: (517) 353-7896. Thank you. — L. Patrick Scheetz, MSU Retirees Assn President)

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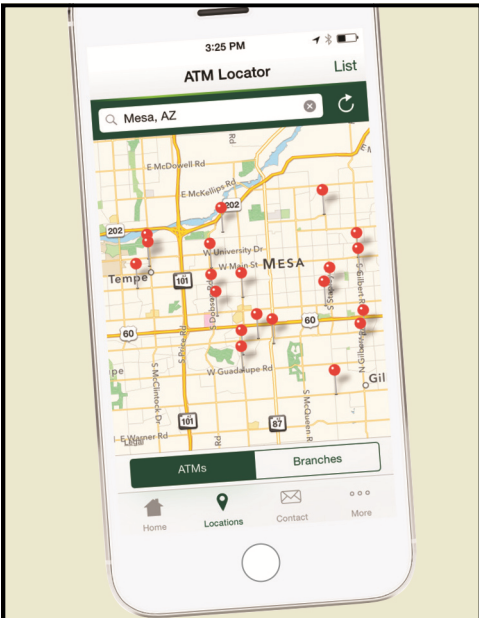
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Make check payable to **MSU Retirees Association**. Mail to: Dave Brower, MSURA Treasurer, Suite 22 Nisbet Bldg., MSU, 1407 S. Harrison Ave., East Lansing, MI 48823-5239.



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Retirees Generous in Support of MSU

Congratulations! Last fiscal year the MSU Retirees contributed \$6,243, 567 in gifts and pledges to Michigan State University. Since fiscal year 2009 our retirees have contributed in gifts and pledges \$22, 275, 116. Thanks for making MSU's retiree giving a leader in the Big Ten.

— Chuck Webb, MSU Retirees Assn. Development Director

We Hear from Retirees

As you can see, being a "working retiree" has been my answer to retirement. It involves more than having fun, being happy, and enjoying myself, for teaching has always been challenging, frustrating, and rewarding. Keratoconus and other eye problems have taken their toll so that I can no longer grade as many students' papers as I once did. Fewer classes, however, have helped immensely. I still love the person-to-person engagement in the classroom, hallway, and office. This fall, I begin my 41st year at James Madison College and my 53rd year of college teaching.

—Ron Dorr, Professor of Writing and Humanities, Jas Madison College

Our November Speaker Renee Rivard is Well Versed in Benefits Management



Renee Rivard serves as Director of Total Compensation and Wellness in the MSU Human Resources department. Before coming to MSU in 2001, she had served in HR positions at St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing and later with the Sparrow Health System. Originally from Bad Axe, Michigan, she now enjoys working on her 60 acre farm that grows soy beans and hay, and spending time with her three grandchildren. She is an accomplished horseback rider and owns six horses as well as a boarding facility for horses. It is nice to know that our benefits manager is a well rounded person who also gets to spend quality time outside of her office duties!

Health Benefits Committee Is Here to Help

One of the responsibilities of the Health Benefits Committee is to represent your needs as we provide input to the University. If you have concerns, questions or rumors to check out about your benefits please send an e-mail to committee chair Marilyn Rothert at marilyn_rothert@comcast.net. In using this e-mail address, please note that there is an underline between Marilyn and Rothert.

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