

OKLAHOMA – Fred J. Fortney, State Representative

The Oklahoma Retirees met in Oklahoma City on April 16, 2004 for their spring meeting. Seventy two retirees and spouses were in attendance. The speaker for the event was State Representative Clay Pope from Kingfisher County. He reported on the state funded conservation programs and the increase that will occur. He also responded to questions relative to the proposed state tax deduction to \$7500 for federal employees. The bill is still in committee and needs grass roots support to get action.

Bud & Val Rhoades continue to live in Ardmore. Bud plays golf several times a week. They spend time visiting children, one at Temple, Texas and the other at Elmore City, Oklahoma. Val has recently undergone back surgery and is doing well in her recovery.

Tom & Jerry Perryman have moved from Altus to Norman. Their daughter and three grand sons live in Norman. Tom says they have given up the RV and plan to spend more time at home. Jerry has had colon surgery, which was benign, and is doing well. Their son is in a total care facility nearby, but as parents, they spend a lot time with him.

Bob Wingo lives on a farm near Hennepin. He had worked in watershed construction at Ada, Okmulgee, Davis and retired in 1986 as Conservation Technician at the Duncan Field Office. Immediately after retiring he owned and operated the grocery store at Hennepin. He has sold the grocery store and devotes his time to a cow and calf operation of black limousin cattle. He and his wife, Jean, do some traveling and will soon be making a trip to Iowa to visit relatives.

Paul Nelson now lives at Guthrie, with a home on the Cedar Valley Golf Course, where he and his wife play golf quite often. About two years ago he was diagnosed with cancer of the colon and has gone through treatment that appeared to be successful. Recently he has had a reoccurrence and will start another round of treatment in the near future. He said they gave up their travel home when he started treatment.

Nancy Wycoff was Area Clerk at the Claremore Area Office when she retired four years ago. Her husband, Michael, retired last October and they have been on a cruise to Hawaai and are

leaving soon on a trip to North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. She has four grandchildren who live nearby that she enjoys tremendously.

Gayle and Alberta Brown live in Hardesty. Gayle and his brother farm irrigated wheat and soybeans and he looks after their rental property. Alberta recently retired as Secretary for the Hardesty school and is now a travel agent. They visit a daughter in Dallas and a son in Chattanooga, Okla, where he is Principal and basketball coach. Last year they traveled to Alaska, and to Copper Canyon, Mexico in August and plan to go to Australia in May. Gayle is chairman of the administrative counsel of the Hardesty Methodist Church. He approaches all his responsibilities with the same dedication he did as Conservation Technician at the Guymon Field Office.

Robert Kuntz retired from the Chickasha Watershed Planning Office and has lived on his farm near Rush Springs until recently and they have now moved to town. He does a lot of fishing and they travel. They spent time in Colorado last summer. He was injured in an automobile accident about a year ago and he is still recovering from that.

John Beard writes us that he is still in Paris, Texas. He says it is 20 years since he retired as Area Conservationist at Hugo and he and Billie moved to Paris. They traveled a lot with their fifth wheel travel trailer for 8 years before Billie's Rheumatoid arthritis (30 years of it) made them stop their travels. She is now in an assisted care facility as she is confused and suffers from acute dementia. John goes every day to feed her and give encouragement. He has become a wood carver, selling some of his pieces when they were in McAllen, Texas. Also he is a good bird watcher and gardner. He says to tell everyone hello.

Archie Welch has wanted to come to one of the meetings for some time but his poor eye sight, caused by macular degeneration, prevents him from driving, but this year his son, Dickie, brought him to enjoy visiting. Also Amos Barnard, Stillwater, cannot drive after eye surgery but his son, Ray, brought him to the meeting again. Thank you Dickie and Ray.

IN MEMORIUM: Frederick Boss, Muskogee; Edgar McVicker, Burneyville; Gladys Panter, Pryor; Wayne Force, Perry.

