

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

October 2014

On October 24, 2014, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Forty-five people were in attendance. They were: **Don and Darlene Bartolina, Kenneth and Rebecca Blan and guest Linda Byford, Bob Bumgarner, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Duane Crider, Bob and Betty Day, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Lloyd Garrison, Sandra Hough and guest Linda Martin, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Gordon and Minnie Carol Moebius, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, John and Joy Pewthers, Stan and Fredia Rice, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Jim and Terry Smith, Bob Smith, Betty Todd, Marcella Wagner, and Loran Zweiacker.**

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees President **Dan Runnels** called the meeting to order. He asked that everyone keep **Eddie Day** (brother of **Bob Day**) in their prayers. He is battling bone cancer. Also **Bill Porter** in the State Office has been diagnosed with cancer. **Stan Rice** provided the blessing for the meal.

Secretary/Treasurer **Sandra Hough** said she mailed 326 notices about our meeting. Five were returned, five were re-mailed and one of those returned. It is difficult to keep up with address changes but the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS retiree website (www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/) has been helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes and pictures from each of the meetings. Special thanks to **Bill Porter** for his work in keeping the website up to date.



Bob and Betty Day

It was announced that **Mike Thralls**, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for 17 years, retired 9/1/14, due to medical conditions. **Trey Lam**, Garvin County Conservation District board member and former President of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, has been selected to serve as the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Executive Director replacing **Mike Thralls** effective November 17, 2014.

Don Coffman, Cherokee, OK sent a note with a change of address; advised he was 5 weeks behind in alfalfa & wheat farming, had a heart operation six weeks ago and is doing great now. He had hoped to make the meeting and see everyone. **Wes Oneth**, McAlester, OK sent an email with a new address. He wanted to give the crowd a big hello since he could not attend. His "senior" grandson from Denver, CO is taking a tour of OSU and granddad has to be there to show him around the campus.

Randy Freeland presented a power-point "Do You Remember". Those in attendance were asked to name the person being presented an award. The presentation was from pictures taken at the 1979 State-Wide Awards Program held in Stillwater.

Randy is also the Oklahoma representative to ARCSE and uses information gathered at the meeting to provide news articles for the newsletter sent to members of the organization every other month. Dues are \$18 per year and he has membership applications for anyone interested in joining.

Chris Shepherd introduced himself as a first time attendee. He has a cow/calf operation and now resides in Lookeba, OK. He was raised in Clinton, and served as District Conservationist at Fort Cobb, Watonga and El Reno. He retired as the District Conservationist at El Reno.



Chris Shepherd and Sandra Hough

Bobby Smith continues to pastor the First Baptist Church in Wakita, Oklahoma. Along with an SCS career, Bobby has recently completed his 45th year in the ministry.



Otho Lamar and Bobby Smith

Everyone was challenged to personally contact retirees who have not been attending the meetings and invite them to attend our next meeting or even better yet, bring one or more with them to the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, **April 24, 2015**, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required. We even let active employees join us.