

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

April 2017

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 28, 2017. Thirty three people were in attendance. They were: **Don Bartolina, Steve Chessmore, Duane Crider, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred Fortney, Randy Freeland, Roberta and Jim Frie, Harry Fritzler, Sandra and Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Bill Knight, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Minnie Carol and Gordon Moebius, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Eunice and Glen Mullen and daughter Marilyn, Don Qualls, Fredia and Stan Rice, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Terry and Jim Smith, Milly and Bob Smith, Betty Todd, and Darrel Wells.**

President **Gordon Moebius** called the meeting to order. **Bob Smith** provided the blessing for the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Following the meal, President **Gordon Moebius** again called the meeting to order. First time attendees introduced themselves: **Bill Knight** currently resides in Shawnee. He worked in watershed operations in Oklahoma for 20+ years before resigning in 1982. He worked in the Marlow and Clinton Watershed Offices. He has a land survey business in Shawnee: Knight Land Survey.



Don Qualls and Bill Knight

Secretary/Treasurer **Sandra Hough** said 313 notices about the meeting were mailed, 4 returned and 1 re-mailed. Correct addresses are needed for **Greg Kindell**, **Ronald Goedecke**, and **Robert Graves**.

The group was reminded that our website www.joepad.com is current. It is helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. It has pictures, minutes and attendees from each of our meetings.

Recent retirees include: **Ronnie Warren**, Soil Conservation Technician, Altus Field Office retired in December 2016; and **Cassandra (Sam) Sites**, Financial Management, Stillwater State Office, retired January 2017.

Fred Fortney read a list of retiree deaths since October 2016: They were: **Wes Fuchs**, 89, Fort Worth, former State Soil Scientist in Stillwater, retired in 1986 in Temple, TX 11/29/16; **H. F. Borcharding**, Duncan, husband of **Sandi Borcharding**, retired Duncan RC&D Secretary, 12/4/16; **John Cagle**, 87, Stillwater, retired State Office Geologist, 12/24/16; **Leland Burns**, 93, Cheyenne, retired Watershed Inspector, retired at age 50, 1/25/17; **Kenneth Thornbrough**, 77, Mountain View, Worked in WS Office in Clinton and as Soil Conservation Technician in Mtn. View, left SCS to be a construction contractor, 2/18/17; **Mark Rose**, 56, Maryland, Director of Financial Assistance Programs Division within the Deputy Chief for Programs Area, formerly Great Plains RC&D Coordinator in Oklahoma, formerly from Ohio, died in service, 2/21/17; **David Ankle**, retired Resource Specialist in Perry, retired 1992, 2/21/17; **Betty Day**, 88, Clinton, widow of **Bob G. Day**, former engineer who passed Oct. 2015, 3/7/17; and **Eddie Moffer, Jr.**, Grapevine, TX, former Project Engineer at the Clinton WO, 4/25/17. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred Fortney** offered a prayer.

A note from **Joann Leaverton**, widow of **Ervin Leaverton**, had been received asking the group to keep her son **Mike** in their prayers. He is currently at MD Anderson in Houston undergoing treatment for acute leukemia. **Sandra Hough** has contact information if anyone needs it.

President Moebius announced that according to the by-laws, officers are to be elected at the spring meeting and take office at the fall meeting. Current officers who wish to continue to serve in their capacity may do so. The current president, **Gordon Moebius**, and vice-president, **Dan Runnels**, expressed a desire to relinquish their offices to others. Secretary/Treasurer, **Sandra Hough**, agreed to continue serving unless there is someone who would like to assume her duties. **Duane Crider** has agreed to serve as president and **Chris Shepherd** has agreed to serve as vice-president for the coming year. No other nominations were presented and these officers were elected by acclamation. Thank you to **Gordon**, **Dan** and **Sandra** for serving this organization during the preceding year. Without volunteers to serve, this organization would fold.

Wayne Fjeseth is the Acting President for The Oklahoma Conservation Museum group and provided an update on the recent activities. The museum will be named The Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society. The Oklahoma Historical Society will accept and display artifacts that are donated. The details of the written agreement are currently being worked out. There will be an independent board and a non-profit corporation. Prior to that being put in place, the Oklahoma Historical Society will be able to accept monetary contributions on behalf of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society. When the agreement is in place and details worked out, the announcement will be made to the public. Please continue to talk to others about artifacts that might be available for loan or donation once the mechanism is established. **Tom Lucas**, who originally presented this concept, continues to work on this project and can be reached at 580.727.4397 or tom.lucas717@gmail.com.

Glen Mullen suggested a book titled **Worst of Hard Times**. It is about the hardships of the Dust Bowl. **Dan Runnels** reminded the group that April 27, 2017, was the 82nd Anniversary of the creation of the Soil Conservation Service.

Attendees were asked to fill out a slip of paper telling about their retirement years. Following are those submitted.

Bobby Smith continues to serve as an interim pastor to Baptist Churches in the Medford Area. **Stan and Fredia Rice** work part time, volunteer at church, travel, enjoy grandkid's activities, and spoiling their 1st great granddaughter. **Darrell Wells** does a lot of fishing, hunting, and gardening. **Donald Qualls** said he also does a lot of fishing, hunting, but added "sleeping". Pretty nice retirement, huh?



Stan and Fredia Rice

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, October 27, 2017**, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral now opens at 10:00AM so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30AM. Put it on your calendar now! Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.