

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

April 2018

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 27, 2018. Thirty five people were in attendance. They were: **Don Bartolina, Dick and Avon Bogard, Lester Brockman, Larry Caldwell, Steve Chessmore, Duane Crider, Brad Elder, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Sandra and Terry Hough, Bill Johnson, Otho Lamar and Bobbie Steenbergen, George Moreland and Betty Gilbert, Glen and Eunice Mullen, John and Joy Pewthers, Eddie and Linda Rathbun, Stan and Fredia Rice, Chris Shepherd, Jim Smith, Gene Spurlock, Ed Stinchcomb, and Keith and Phyllis Vaughan.**

Duane Crider called the meeting to order. He asked if anyone knew of a retiree needing prayer. **Nick Lambeth** was not in attendance as he is recovering from a sore on his foot which he has had since he was in the hospital in Oklahoma City last December. He had fallen and broke a bone in his upper leg. **Chris Shepherd** offered a prayer for **Nick** and the meal.



Chris Shepherd and Duane Crider

First time attendees introduced themselves: **Ed Stinchcomb** retired as the DC at Chandler on January 1, 2018. He travels to Hollis every two weeks to check on his mother and oversee the family farm. He is also active in the Cross Timbers Prescribed Burn Association and with his Church (Henderson Hills Baptist Church). **Dick Bogard** retired as the RC&D Coordinator at

Pawhuska in January 1996. He and his wife **Avon** currently reside in Durant. He worked for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services for 16 years after retirement from NRCS. He is an active Gideon, CASA Volunteer, Volunteer for the local hospital Auxiliary, and is an active Kiwanian. He also is a 5K runner. **Gene Spurlock** told the group **Dick** had taught him to water ski at one time. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest.



Ed Stinchcomb



Avon and Dick Bogard

Many retirees have expressed their appreciation for the information presented on the website www.joepad.com . When they are not able to attend the meetings, the website provides pictures, minutes of the meeting, a list of attendees, the date and location of the next meeting, and the latest newsletter.

Sandra Hough reported that she mailed 306 notices about today's meeting. Only 1 was returned with 1 updated. Correct addresses are needed for recent retirees: **Phil Glenn**, Pauls Valley; **Larry Coppock**, Perry; **Joe Vielma**, Pawnee; **Tony Schreiner**, Frederick; **Birdie Neal**, Stillwater and **Mike Till**, Watonga.



Sandra and Terry Hough

A list of recent retirees was read by **Fred Fortney**: **Jerry Balch**, SCT, Marietta, 1/31/18, worked for the Conservation District for 23 years and then for NRCS for 14 years; **Babette Goodwin**, Personnel, Stillwater SO; **David McKay**, Resource Engineer, Woodward TSO, 12/31/17, 35 years; **Ed Stinchcomb**, DC, Chandler FO, 1/3/18, 37 years; **Steve Kelley**, DC Clinton FO, 1/3/18; **Phil Glenn**, Construction Inspector, Pauls Valley WO (2009) & Shawnee FO (2013), 11/22/17; **Larry Coppock**, Resource Engineer, Perry TSO; **Joe Vielma**, Soil Conservationist, Pawnee FO; **Tony Schreiner**, Soil Conservation Technician, Frederick FO, 17 years; **Birdie Neal**, State Office, 3/31/18; and **Mike Till**, Soil Conservation Technician, Watonga FO, 3/31/18.

Fred Fortney also read a list of retiree deaths since October 2017. They were: **Ron Treat**, 74, retired Water Resources Staff, Stillwater SO, 37 years, 1/14/18; **Anna Sue Armstrong**, 87, retired Caney Valley CD Secretary, Bartlesville, retired in 2006, 12/17; **Otis Bennett**, retired RC&D Coordinator, lived in Owasso, OK, 3/12/18; **Ruby Speed**, retired from State Office, lived in Pawnee, 101 years old, 12/16; **Allen Moss**, former RC&D Coordinator in Tahlequah, lived in Vici, OK, had 21 years of service before resigning, 4/17/18; and **Carolyn Soloman**, widow of **Leonard Soloman**, former Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. **Fred** asked for a moment of silence in their memory and provided a prayer.

Larry Caldwell presented an update on the status of the group working to establish a conservation museum. He is the NRCS Retirees representative of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) working to establish the museum. The purpose of the Oklahoma

Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) is to celebrate Oklahoma's rich conservation history by collecting, preserving, and sharing this history with the citizens of the state. More about the museum can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Randy and Bonnie Freeland brought the equipment to show the video "The Hugh Hammond Bennett Story". It was approximately 20 minutes in length. The information in the video made the entire group 'proud' to have been a part of the conservation movement in Oklahoma.

It was announced that the guest of **Otho Lamar, Bobbie Steenbergen**, was given recognition earlier in the year as a 'Distinguished Significant Woman in Agriculture'. Congratulations to **Bobbie Steenbergen**!



Bobbie Steenbergen and Otho Lamar

Duane Crider announced that his 16 year old grandson would be running the half-marathon in the Oklahoma City Run to Remember on Sunday, April 29, 2018. **Duane** and his grandson ran the relay last year. **Stan and Fredia Rice's** son will be running a 100-mile marathon on the Talihina Drive in Tahlequah.

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

Fred and Gayle Fortney volunteer at Elite Repeat, a resale shop that donates to charities. In retirement, they make an annual trip to Branson, Missouri. **Fred** spends time on gardening and

at his "hobby" farm. They both are big Oklahoma State University men and women's basketball fans. **Don Bartolina** will once again be coordinating the 67 Annual National Land and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City. He and his wife will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy in June.



Fred and Gayle Fortney

Gene Spurlock still runs a herd of cattle, has a large garden, and serves as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Chelsea, Oklahoma. **Stan Rice** still works part time as an environmental consultant. He and **Fredia** volunteer at their church and attend **Stan's** Air Force Reunion each year. They have twice been to France where he was stationed and will attend the reunion in Los Angeles this year. Still enjoying kids, grandkids, and life.

Eddie and **Linda Rathbun** live on their inherited cattle farm near Rush Springs, Oklahoma. They enjoy the farm life and gardening although back surgeries have put a hold on the gardening. They have two sons, eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, one horse, and one goat! **Glen** and **Eunice Mullen** still live in a retirement center in Yukon and will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on September 5th!

Keith and **Phyllis Vaughan** volunteer at the Our Daily Bread a local food pantry. Playing golf, and attending grandkids ball games occupy most of their time. They will be celebrating 57 years of marriage with a trip to the Holy Lands in June.



Phyllis and Keith Vaughan

Duane Crider announced to the group that he, **Chris Shepherd** and **Sandra Hough** had agreed to continue to serve as officers of the group for another year. **Chris Shepherd** will be President, **Duane Crider**, Vice-President and **Sandra Hough**, Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were offered and a motion was made and seconded to accept this proposal for officers for the upcoming year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2018, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral 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.