

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

October 2018

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 26, 2018. Thirty two people were in attendance. They were: **Ed Abernathy, Don Bartolina, Steve Chessmore, Mark Conkling, Brad Elder, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Ron Goedecke, Gayle Goforth, Mike Goforth, Sandra and Terry Hough, Otho Lamar and Bobbie Steenbergen, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Herb Moody, John and Joni Mustain, Phil and Lana Perryman, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Jim Smith, Ed Stinchcomb, Keith and Phyllis Vaughan, and Carolyn and Bob Webb.**

President **Chris Shepherd** called the meeting to order. **Chris** asked if anyone knew of a retiree needing prayers. **Everett Cole** and **Bill Petermann** and his wife were mentioned. All of them have health concerns which keep them from attending the meeting. **Chris** provided the blessing for the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.





Herb Moody

First time attendees introduced themselves: **Phil Perryman** retired as District Conservationist in Anadarko 10 years ago. He was accompanied by his wife **Lana**. **Ron Goedecke** retired as District Conservationist at Okmulgee three years ago. **Mike Goforth** is currently the Civil Engineering Technician at Perry. He previously had worked in watersheds. He brought his dad, **Gayle Goforth**, who has been retired from watersheds more years than he worked. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest in attendance.

Keith Vaughan and Ron Goedecke



**Mike Goforth, Ed Stinchcomb, and
Gayle Goforth**





Secretary/Treasurer **Sandra Hough** reported that she mailed 306 notices about today's meeting. Four were returned with 3 updated. Correct addresses are needed for: **R. C. Brinlee**, Wilburton; and **Nancy Wyckoff**, Nowata.

Fred Fortney read a list of recent retirees: **John Mueller**, State Conservation Engineer, Texas, 7/31/18, 35 yrs service, engineer in Oklahoma previously, served 4 months in 2013 as the Acting Oklahoma State Conservationist; **Mike Sheik**, DC, Enid, 7/31/18; and **Becky Hickman**, Ecological Sciences, State Office, 8/31/18.

Fred Fortney also read a list of retiree deaths since April 2018. They were: **John Wilkinson**, 83, retired contracting officer, State Office, 6/1/18, 36 yrs service, retired 7/02; **Bill Ellis**, 76, retired SCT, Seminole, 7/28/18, retired 12/02; **Don Jackson**, 88, retired DC, Stillwater, 7/12/18; **Pansy Schneider**, 83, wife of **Joe Schneider**, Grove, 7/29/18; **Wendell Morton**, 83, retired CET State Office design section, 8/14/18, retired in 1990, 31 yrs service; **Glen Mullen**, 93, retired AC, Perry, 9/16/18, retired in 1980. **Glen & his wife Eunice** had attended 19 of 21 meetings from April 2008 through April 2018. **Fred** asked for a moment of silence in their memory and provided a prayer.

At the April 2018 meeting, **Larry Caldwell** reported that the Oklahoma State University Oral History Program had completed 11 interviews with conservation leaders that will be preserved in their permanent oral history collection website (<https://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital/>). **Wayne Fjeseth**, who serves as the Vice-President for the Oklahoma Conservation Historical

Society, reported that interviews with former Oklahoma State Conservationists are being conducted. **Roland Willis** and **Bud Fountain** are among those completed. Memberships with the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society are being accepted. Membership categories are: Individual (\$25), Family (\$40), Organization (\$50), and Founding (\$100).



Chris Shepherd asked those in attendance who would like to share with the group a brief reflection of someone who had made an impression on their career with SCS/NRCS. Those volunteering to share included: **Chris Shepherd, Phil Perryman, Randy Freeland, Fred Fortney, Jim McCampbell, Otho Lamar and Carolyn Webb**. Their stories were very interesting. Come prepared to share next meeting.

Carolyn Webb and **Keith Vaughan** birthdays were celebrated by singing “Happy Birthday”. Several retirees are experiencing health issues and cannot attend the meetings but have expressed their appreciation for the website (www.joepad.com) which is updated after each meeting to include lists and pictures of attendees, minutes of the meeting, etc. **Randy Freeland** coordinates this information with his brother **Joe Freeland** who does the updates.

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

Keith and Phyllis Vaughan say they follow grandkids mostly and returned from a trip to Israel last June that they highly recommend. **Jim McCampbell** continues his work in Cleveland County buying urban development rights for open space. Retired for 22 years and active in his local NARFE Chapter, **Nick Lambeth**, continues to serve as the Financial Officer for his local American Legion Post.

Family farm and taking his grandson on his first deer hunt this fall have occupied **Steve Chessmore's** time. He has also spent time camping in Colorado this past year. **Mark Conkling** is still farming Hill Top Farm, in Thomas, Oklahoma. He plants diverse crops for soil health and cover crops for cash and grazing with his black/black baldy cows, heifers, and steers. **Otho Lamar** still lives on the farm east of Marlow, Oklahoma and raises Angus cattle on Bermudagrass and Plains Bluestem.



Harry Fritzler works on his farm raising cattle and two horses that eat "a lot". He travels as much as he can talk his wife into from her veterinarian business and plays with his 1st grandson. **Harry** donates blood regularly at the Oklahoma Blood Institute. He is also a board member of the Norman Area Land Conservancy Board. **Carolyn Webb** continues to volunteer at school, church, and serves as the Director for the City Library. She and **Bob** are just back from Ireland. She takes yoga classes and does 5 K's. Also likes to work in her garden and be involved with the local garden club.



Terry and Sandra Hough celebrated 50 years of marriage in August 2018. Congratulations! They travel to see children, grand children, and great grandchildren. (Editor's Note: they often help out one of their children's family at a private campground in Southeast Missouri. It is lots of work). **Jim Smith and his wife Terry**, just returned from a fishing trip to Alaska where they caught lots of salmon and halibut. **Terry** just retired from the pharmaceutical industry and they hope to now do a lot of things not possible during their employed lifetime.

John and Joni Mustain are two very busy people in retirement. They travel "a lot" on a Honda Goldwing or a Toyota Prius that gets 58 miles per gallon. Here are just a "few" of their many activities: vegetable gardening, canning, wood working, home remodeling, wine making, beer making, bee keeping, chicken raising, painting, and enjoying children, their spouses, and 5 grandsons. **John** is also developing burn plans and conducting burns for the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association. And **Joni** works at her church's thrift store and as an office assistant.

Open Season (November 12 - December 10) is now open for Health Benefit changes. **Randy Freeland** works closely with the Insurance Carriers through NARFE and asks you to remember a few things. Self plus one is a cheaper premium and gives you the same coverage. If you have Blue Cross and Blue Shield "Basic Option" be sure to look at the \$600 rebate they offer if you have Medicare parts A & B. Other companies have similar "perks". Check them out.



In closing **Chris Shepherd** encouraged those not currently NARFE Members to join. Just \$40 a year for a great magazine and lots of good information about your retirement benefits, including health benefits. Contact him or any other NARFE Member for more information.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2019, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral opens at 10:00 AM so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30 AM. Put it on your calendar now! Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.