

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter October 2019

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 25, 2019. Twenty six people were in attendance. They were: **Ken Awtrey, Mike and Mary Barrick, Duane Crider, Brad Elder, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Chuck Grimes, Sandra and Terry Hough, Otho Lamar and guest Bobbie Steenberg, Tim and Margaret Miller, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Phil Perryman, John and Joy Pewthers, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Jim and Terry Smith, and Ed Stinchcomb.**

President **Harry Fritzler** called the meeting to order. **Harry** asked if anyone knew of retirees needing prayers. **Nick Lambeth** is still experiencing problems with his amputated leg and infection in his other foot; **Kenneth Blan** & wife are having health issues; and **Jim McCampbell** continues to struggle with health issues. **Ken Awtrey** provided a blessing for those and the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Harry asked for a show of hands of retirees who have been retired: <5 yrs – 2; 5-10 yrs – 4; 10-15 yrs – 5; 15-20 yrs – 2; 20-25 yrs – 1; 25-30 yrs – 2; and >30 yrs – 0. One former employee was in attendance who did not retire from SCS/NRCS; however, he is a faithful attendee – **Chuck Grimes**. There were 18 retirees in attendance. Several retirees had to be reminded by others just how many years they had been retired, to the delight of all!



Chuck Grimes

There were no first time attendees. Those in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest.



Terry and Jim Smith

Sandra Hough read comments from retirees who were unable to attend. **Carolyn Webb** replied that her 80th birthday was this weekend and lots of family coming to visit. **Geri Cutler** said to tell everyone hello and she loves looking at the website and reading the minutes, newsletters, and looking at pictures. **Don Bartolina** was just too busy (he was on a cruise). **Steve Chessmore** was helping his mom with health issues.

Sandra then read a list of recent retirees: **Larry Caldwell**, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, 6/28/19; and **Terrell Howard**, DC, Arnett FO, 9/27/19, 32 yrs. service.

Sandra also read a list of retiree deaths: **Everett Cole**, 85, Soil Scientist at State Office, Stillwater, 4/29/19, 35 yrs. service; **Phil Glenn**, Construction Inspector, Pauls Valley, 7/16/19, retired 2017, served as a Soil Conservation Technician at the Shawnee FO since 2013; **Jim Beaty**, 87, Soil Conservation Technician, Sayre FO, 8/31/19, 36 yrs. service. **Chris Shepherd** offered a prayer in their memory.

There were 95 notices mailed about the meeting and none returned. There are 53 retirees who have opted to receive only email notices. **Randy Freeland** and **Sandra Hough** worked together to reduce the number of mailing notices and thereby reduce our printing and mailing costs. **Sandra** is still maintaining a list of retirees and addresses and will update addresses as they are known.

Forms were passed around for retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e. volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.) This information is used for the National and Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association newsletter. Members are reminded to look at the information presented on the website www.joepad.com. If you happen to miss our meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc.

Members were reminded that we collect \$10 per year from each member for expenses for the Association. They can be paid in April or October each year. If not already done and desired, retirees should email **Randy Freeland** randy.freeland@suddenlink.net to request an email meeting notice in lieu of a mailed meeting notice.



Betty Gilbert and George Moreland

Harry Fritzler announced that **Kevin Norton**, State Conservationist in Louisiana, was named NRCS Associate Chief on August 15, 2019. **Kevin** previously served in various locations across Oklahoma. His last position in Oklahoma was Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Congratulations **Kevin**!

Wayne Fjeseth serves on the board of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) and provided those in attendance with a copy of a status report on the Oral History Project. The purpose of this group is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's rich conservation history with Oklahomans. As of October 18, 2019, the OSU Library has posted 21 of the oral histories on their website under the Oklahoma Conservation Heritage Oral History Collection. The oral histories can be accessed at: <http://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital>. He also made available 2019 Membership forms for those interested in becoming members or renewing their membership. The SCS/NRCS Retiree group became members in October 2018. 2019

Memberships with the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society are being accepted in the following categories: General (\$25), Family (\$40), Organization (\$50), Founders (\$100), Sustaining (\$100) a new category from 2018. Checks should be made payable to: OACD with memo line: OCHS dues. Mail dues to: Kim Farber, P. O. Box 9 Drummond, OK 73735. The group voted to renew the membership and Sandra will submit the \$50 Organization dues. **Wayne** also announced that his tenure on the board is up and that **Duane Crider** had agreed to fill his position on the board.



Wayne Fjeseth

Duane Crider and his wife **Jan**, recently spent 23 days touring Europe. He mentioned several highlights including Paris, Switzerland, Germany, Italy including Rome where they saw the Pope, and Normandy American Cemetery where he saw the grave of an Oklahoman. At one point during their trip they became separated: **Duane** exited the train and before **Jan** could disembark, the doors closed and the train left the station! After lots of efforts by the tour group, they were reunited!

Dan and **Sharon Runnels** live on their Taste of Heaven Farm outside Kellyville, Oklahoma where they raise Registered Dexter Cattle and chickens. They have been following County and State Fairs lately to see some of their Dexter offspring being shown by area FFA students. They also travel the US and keep up with their granddaughter, **Catherine**. **Dan** and **Sharon** celebrated 45 years together in August.

Wayne Fjeseth spends his time with the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society mentioned earlier as well as volunteering with the Pioneer Library System.

Many of you will remember the old **Archie Bunker** statement from All in the Family of "I'm coming Elizabeth"! Well here is a real **I'm Coming Elizabeth** moment. **Ed Stinchcomb** is now **married** for the first time in his life! (He retired last year). **Ed** has moved back to his hometown of Hollis, Oklahoma to be with his new wife (**Lillie**). **Ed** said in "One - I do" his family grew by dozens. Congratulations **Ed!!!** It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.



Ed Stinchcomb

Sandra and Terry Hough recently spent 3 weeks in Piedmont, Missouri at Beaver Springs Campground helping their youngest daughter and husband who own the campground.

Ken Awtrej joined us again from deep down in Texas. He continues to consult with his local RC&D Office 2 days a week. Plays golf up to 3 days a week and works with his local church.

Cattle ranching, church activities and taking care of grandchildren keep **Tim and Margaret Miller** busy. Oh...by the way, they also just completed a new home.



Margaret and Tim Miller

It was mentioned that an article appeared in the 2019 issue of Impact published by the Oklahoma State University College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology. The article titled "Fixing Fences" is about retiree **Ron Goedecke's** invention of the Fence Bullet as a means of using steel pipe without welding. **Ron** received the Regent Business Partnership Award from OSU for 2019. Doesn't sound like **Ron** is "quite" retired.

Mike Barrick volunteers with the American Red Cross and still serves as the State Coordinator with the Baptist Disaster Relief Chainsaw Ministry. He also serves with the local food bank and his church in Locust Grove, Oklahoma.



Mary and Mike Barrick

Harry Fritzler asked the group to consider ideas for future topics at the meetings and share those with him, **Randy Freeland** or **Sandra Hough**.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, April 24, 2020**, 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.