

# PURA Annual Reports, 2024-2025

## Contents

PURA President Annual Report: 2024-25 - Marshall Martin.....2

Benefits Committee - Annual Report 2024-2025 .....6

Hospitality Committee - Annual Report 2024-2025 ..... 10

FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025 ..... 12

Media Communications Committee - 2024-2025 Annual Report ..... 13

Annual Report for the 2025 PURA Annual Spring Conference..... 14

PURA Kickoff Luncheon Annual Report 2024-2025 ..... 17

PURA Program Committee 2024-25 Annual Report ..... 19

PURA Scholarship Committee - Annual Report 2024-2025 ..... 20

## **PURA President Annual Report: 2024-25 - Marshall Martin**

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as President of the Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA) during 2024-2025. I want to thank the officers, committee chairs, and the committee members for their dedication and collaboration in support of the PURA retiree's organization. While the President may help guide and coordinate the efforts of the PURA Executive Board, the planning and implementation of the various activities is carried out by the committees. The PURA Year in Review document prepared by Historian Michele Salla provides more details on committee work and events during this past year.

While thankfully most of the stress and challenges of the pandemic years are behind us, PURA, like many volunteer organizations, continues to be challenged to ascertain the interests of our members, and garner their involvement. Attendance at the various events is recovering, but not back to the pre-pandemic levels. Hence, encouraging a return to in-person events continues to be a priority.

I assumed the role of PURA President at the Transition meeting held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church on June 5, 2024. The various committees met with about 45 people in attendance.

A key mission of PURA is to enhance the mental and physical health and engagement of members as they seek a purposeful life in retirement. Health and financial security are two primary concerns. PURA health-related activities include the offering of supplement health insurance plan choices with United Health Care, free flu shots, and wellness checkups. There appears to be support for these health-related programs with about 2,800 retirees and spouses electing a supplemental health insurance plan, about 500 benefiting from free flu shots, and 150 receiving wellness checkups. The Benefits Committee meets monthly and spends considerable effort negotiating the best health coverage at the least possible cost for PURA retirees. It has been a challenging year with the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act which reduced the annual deductible along with continued increases in health care costs has made it difficult to maintain broad health coverage at acceptable premium rates. Larry Pherson's annual report provides details on the extensive efforts of the Benefits Committee.

Educational programs offer opportunities to socialize, stay active, and informed on a variety of topics of importance to retirees. Under my Presidency, our first Monday monthly program meeting was held on July 1, 2024 at the VFW. During the year the first Monday monthly programs were held every month, except January 6, 2025 which was cancelled due to inclement weather. In-person attendance has averaged 45 people with 15-35 on-line. The best attendance was during the June and July 2024 meetings when staff from Purdue Parking provided retirees with assistance registering for campus parking permits under the new license-plate reader system. For details on the various first Monday of the month meetings at the VFW see the annual program report prepared by Bob Ritchie.

The annual Spring Conference held in April draws about 200 retirees. Under the direction of Norm Long and his committee an excellent Spring Conference is planned for April 23, 2025 at the Beck Agricultural Center. Topics will include AI, aging and health, and planning affairs for the end of life. Vendors affiliated with pension programs and financial institutions, health insurance providers, and assisted living facility representatives will be present to answer retiree questions. For details see the Spring Conference Report by Norm Long.

With support from the Hospitality Committee, PURA was represented at an information table at the Spring Fling on May 22, 2024. The Hospitality Committee also provides table decorations at monthly events and manages door prizes at the Spring Conference and September Kickoff banquet. Linda Hawkins has provided a summary of their activities.

The annual Fall Kickoff banquet held on September 9, 2024 at the Courtyard by Marriott featured Dr. Frank Dooley, Chancellor of Purdue Global, sharing insights on this unique online educational program that reaches about 30,000 students. There was ample opportunity for socializing with about 130 attending. Betty M Nelson Awards were presented to Judy Ware and Jerry Day for their service to PURA and its mission. Tom Robertson chairs the Kickoff Planning Committee.

PURA members are generous with their volunteer efforts and charitable donations in the Greater Lafayette area. In 2024, PURA members donated \$205,000 to the Greater Lafayette United Way, exceeding the goal of \$190,000. Many PURA members volunteer in the community in a host of service organizations, churches, and community events to make the Greater Lafayette area a better place for all of us to live. Lisa Duncan, Nonprofit Engagement Director for the Office of Engagement, serves as a liaison with PURA.

PURA members support student scholarships. In the 2024 academic year, the Purdue Division of Financial Aid distributed \$15,330 among nine students based on donations from PURA members to scholarship endowments. These students are studying special education, biomedical health, brain and behavioral science, computer science, political science, veterinary nursing, and engineering. They aspire to become Purdue University graduates and make the world a better place. Thus, PURA scholarship donations support the education of the next generation of Boilermakers. For details see the annual report by Melinda Bain.

The annual Big Ten Retirees Association meeting was held July 24-25, 2024 at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Marshall Martin and Charlene Sullivan attended. This provided an opportunity to learn about activities of other Big Ten retiree associations and socialize. With the expansion of the Big Ten, there are now 18 Big Ten Retiree Associations. They differ greatly ranging from only emeritus professors as members to including all faculty and staff who have retired from the academic institution. Some charge dues, publish comprehensive Newsletters, coordinate educational trips, and/or sponsor numerous social functions.

PURA member communication is an ongoing challenge. With the increasing cost of printing and postage, and insufficient volunteer editors, PURA ceased the printing and mailing of a Newsletter, as well as posting a Newsletter on its Website. Keeping the Website up-to-date is challenging, and it is difficult to drive members to view the Website on a regular basis for PURA information. Currently, a monthly “upcoming events” email blast is sent to all PURA members. Jerry Day is organizing this effort. Scott Ksander has provided technical IT communication support. Membership communication is an issue that merits serious attention and action by the Executive Board.

Financially, PURA has a positive cashflow. Lucia Anderson serves as Treasurer and provides a monthly financial report to the Executive Board. Purdue Human Resources provides an annual transfer of \$17,000.

A Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Vice-President Charlene Sullivan began meeting in January 2025. While a final report is still pending, several trends are emerging. For example, most current programs appear to be satisfying the interest of Purdue retirees who live in the immediate Greater Lafayette area. However, other opportunities should be pursued to engage retirees not only in the immediate community, but also those who may have relocated to Florida, Arizona, or elsewhere.

Affinity groups might help Purdue retirees not only in the Greater Lafayette area gather in small groups for social activities, but could be encouraged in areas such as Florida or Arizona where some Purdue retirees have relocated or spend several months in the winter. Activities might include gathering for an athletic “watch party”, shared meals, golf outings, book studies, table games, attending a concert or theater production together, etc.

Purdue campus/community day tours have been successful in the past. Reinstating them is being considered by the Strategic Planning Committee. This could include one-half day visits to campus locations or community business and cultural facilities. There may also be interest in a two-day/overnight bus tour to interesting Indiana museums, parks, sporting events, etc.

Many retirees wish to retain a contact with the department, college, or office where they worked while Purdue employees. Some retired faculty seek opportunities to attend departmental seminars, serve on graduate advisory committees, mentor students or younger faculty, or engage in some professional fashion on the campus. Others are interested in sports or cultural events. Some are able to provide donations for scholarships, endowed chairs, or other ways to enhance Purdue’s educational and research mission. Retired staff might welcome opportunities to attend a reception or social event to reconnect with former colleagues to “catch-up on the news”.

Contacts are being identified to meet with key leadership in Human Resources, Purdue for Life, Convocations, John Purdue Club, the Office of the President and Provost, and College Deans to share the role and mission of PURA and to explore areas of mutual benefit and collaboration. Other Big Ten retiree associations seem to have a closer tie with their various university organizations. Areas of mutual interest are fund raising, on campus volunteerism, sharing of mailing lists, event ticket discounts, and general socializing events.

Collectively, PURA members have hundreds of years of experience. There are many stories to tell to the campus and broader community of faculty and staff accomplishments as Boilermakers. In a recent Podcast Mike Berghoff, recent Chair of the Purdue University Board of Trustees, mentioned that sometimes Purdue is too “Midwest modest” and we need to tell our story better. Many Purdue retirees have been excellent teachers, mentors, scientists, writers, and inventors. Retired Purdue support staff have helped students register for classes, join clubs, engage in service projects, and much more. PURA should explore “This is Purdue” Podcast as a means to highlight the PURA organization and the accomplishments of its members.

PURA has an active Executive Board as well as 11 support committees. Some are more active than others. Some are in need of additional members and leadership. Based on the results of the strategic planning process, the programming efforts and committee structure should be reviewed with reorganization of some committees, and perhaps the creation of others. This also might be a good time to review, and as appropriate, update the PURA By-Laws.

On behalf of PURA, I wish to express special thanks to Amy Boyle, Vice-President of Human Resources, and her staff for providing financial and administrative support to PURA.

It has been my pleasure to serve this year as President of PURA. I have retained a relationship with former colleagues and made many new friends. This has provided an interesting, and sometimes challenging, opportunity for me to stay engaged with the Boilermaker family during my retirement.

## **Benefits Committee - Annual Report 2024-2025**

### **A. Committee Members:**

- \* Charles Brown
- \* Betty Nelson
- \* Don Gentry
- \* Larry Pherson, Chair
- \* Harry Morrison
- \* Leon Thacker
- \* Vic Lechtenberg
- \* Emily Bramson
- \* Julie Kercher-Updike
- \* Larry DeBoer
- \* Carolyn Roper
- \* Peter Goldsbrough
- \* Rick Cosier
- \* Cindy Oneal
- \* Jane Walker
- \* Scott Ksander
- \* Marshall Martin
- \* Jesse Moore
- \* Tom Turpin
- \* Norm Long
- \* William Bennett
- \* Jerry Day

\*Jim Freeland

\*Tom Robertson

\* Charlene Sullivan

\*Kate LaMar, ex-officio

\*Candace Shaffer, ex-officio

#### B. Mission/Purpose:

Purdue University Policy IV.3.1, Status and Privileges of Retired Faculty and Surviving Spouses and Children, originally issued on May 10, 1971, and revised December 12, 2001, outlines the specific benefits extended by the University. It is the purpose of the Benefits Committee to expand upon and add to the specific University policies which contribute to the wellbeing of retirees. The primary responsibilities of the Benefits Committee are to assure the provision of comprehensive, affordable medical plans for retirees, negotiate with insurance providers, evaluate changes, monitor services and investigate alternatives where advantages may be gained. The committee strives to keep retirees aware of additional University benefits and privileges and promotes program improvements where possible.

The Benefits Committee is also responsible for assuring representation on the Purdue Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee, Parking and Traffic Committee and the Retirement Plan Committee.

#### C. Committee Goals 2024-2025:

- 1) Finalize with UHC by August 31, 2024, the PURCare and PURA Medicare Advantage Plans for 2025.
- 2) Announce PURCare and Medicare Advantage Plans for 2025 to PURA membership by September 30, 2024.
- 3) Working with University Parking Staff, facilitate the implementation of LPR for PURA members by August 31, 2024.
- 4) Set Schedule for negotiating 2025 PURA plans by March 31, 2025.
- 5) Enhance the diversity of the Committee so that the Committee may better serve all current and future Purdue retirees.
- 6) Provide information to PURA Members regarding the 2025 changes to Medicare.
- 7) Develop a succession plan for the leadership of the Benefits Committee.
- 8) Continue to monitor national, state and local events having an impact on PURA members welfare and keep members informed.
- 9) Maintain and keep current the benefits Committee portion of the PURA website and conduct an annual review to ensure information is accurate and current.

10) Continue to support Road to Retirement and the PURA Spring Conference.

11) Continue to be engaged in the activities of the University Parking and Traffic Committee, the Retirement Plan Committee and the Faculty Compensation Committee.

#### D) Accomplishments 2024-2025

1) Working with University staff and healthcare consultants, PURcare and the Medicare Advantage Plans were extended for 2025. Both plans remained unchanged, but changes to Medicare had a major impact on the negotiation of premiums for 2025. Effective January 1, 2025, the coverage gap(Doughnut Hole) was eliminated, and a \$2,000 cap was placed on out-of-pocket drug cost. The uncertainties of these changes extended negotiations and led to some intense discussions with United Healthcare. The premium for Medicare Advantage increased to \$241.94, an increase of \$69.03 per member per month. The monthly premium for PURcare increased to \$355.94, an increase of 19.2%.

2) An evaluation of the negotiation of the 2025 insurance package was conducted during the Fall of 2024. Recommendations resulting from that evaluation will be utilized during the negotiation of the 2026 insurance package.

3) During 2024-25, Rick Cosier was the PURA representative to the Purdue Retirement Plan Committee, which provides guidance and oversight of the investment options offered through Purdue's defined contribution and voluntary savings retirement plans. Carolyn Roper was the PURA representative to the University Compensation and Benefits Committee, which studies policies relating to both direct and indirect compensation and benefits of the faculty. Larry Pherson was the PURA representative to the University Parking and Traffic Committee, which is responsible for a continuing review of the University's parking and transportation needs and possible solutions.

4) The following are examples of the Committee's communication and marketing efforts:

a) Implementation of License Plate Recognition for on-Campus parking.

b) Announcement of 2025 monthly premiums for Medicare Advantage and PURCare.

c) Announcement of the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act on Medicare, which eliminated the Coverage Gap(Doughnut Hole) and the implementation of a \$2000 cap on out-of-pocket drug costs.

5) The Benefits Committee portion of the PURA website ([purdue.edu/retirees](http://purdue.edu/retirees)) was continually monitored and updated.

6) The document listing the benefits that are available to Purdue University retirees was continuously monitored, updated and posted to the PURA website.

7) The schedule for negotiating the 2026 PURcare and Medicare Advantage plans is currently under discussion with UnitedHealthcare.

8) Assisted in staffing the PURA table at the Purdue Employees Benefits Fair.



9) Two new members were added to the Committee during 2024-25.

10) Coordinated with the University Parking Office, the transition to a License Plate Recognition system, which is utilized for retiree's on-campus parking.

11) Continued monitoring governmental activity relating to Affordable Healthcare, Tax Code revisions and the Inflation Reduction Act.

It has been a busy and challenging year for the PURA Benefits Committee.

## **Hospitality Committee - Annual Report 2024-2025**

### Committee Members:

Linda Hawkins – Chair

Bill Bennett

Donna Cackley

Betty Hatfield

Michele Salla

Jim Schweitzer

Terry Wade

Judy Ware

Barb Welch

Marshall Martin – ex-officio

Charlene Sullivan – ex-officio

Tom Robertson – ex-officio

### Mission/Purpose

The Hospitality Committee encourages retirees from all sectors of the University to take part in PURA's ongoing activities such as the fall Kick-off Luncheon, the monthly gatherings at the VFW, and other special events.

The Committee may serve in a liaison capacity for special events, such as the flu shot administration, health fairs, retirement receptions, etc. The Committee also strives to improve communications to retirees and pre-retirees and gather ideas that might result in interesting new programming for PURA.

The year in review:

In September, 2024, the Hospitality Committee welcomed retirees to the Courtyard by Marriott for the annual Kick-off Luncheon. We were also tasked with distribution of door prizes at this event.

Also in September and October, 2024, the Hospitality Committee assisted the Center for Healthy Living as they offered flu shots and wellness checks for retirees over a three day period at the William H. Daniel Turfgrass Center. On those three days, a total of 563 retirees took advantage of receiving flu shots with wellness checks given to 146 retirees.

In April, 2025, the Hospitality Committee greeted and guided retirees and vendors at the Beck Agricultural Center for the annual PURA Spring Conference. Again, the Committee was responsible for distributing the many door prizes supplied by the vendors.

Throughout the year, the Committee decorated tables and greeted retirees as they came to the VFW for a monthly gathering.

And before this year is over, PURA will be on campus to meet and greet retirees and those nearing retirement at the annual Spring Fling.

We look forward to a fun-filled and busy upcoming year.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025**

The PURA Treasurer tracks and handles all finance, endowments and budget reporting responsibilities. PURA continues to receive an allocation of \$17,000 from the Purdue University general fund to be used for organizational expenses. In addition to the \$17,000, there was a carry forward of \$2429.40 from the 2023-24 fiscal year. Expenses totaled \$11,446.72 through April 2025. A projected carry forward of approximately \$7000 leaves PURA in good financial shape for the coming year.

Other account balances are all positive. The Activities and Opportunities Endowment Account has a balance of \$59,778.87 and will receive an endowment distribution in May of \$3,500. The Retirement – Outside Agency Activities has a balance of \$53,932.98. The Purdue Opportunity Award – Martin and Patty Jischke account receives endowment income twice a year to support scholarships for Purdue students. Scholarship payments totaled \$3,300. Balance in this account is negative (1361.04) but will be replenished in May when endowment distributions are made.

The Finance Report will be updated in August after year-end balances are reported.

## **Media Communications Committee - 2024-2025 Annual Report**

Committee Chair: Scott Ksander

Committee Members: Julie Kercher-Updike, Tim Lange

Donna Cumberland joined the Committee briefly but had to resign due to family issues. We hope she will return again in the future.

The committee continued the monthly maintenance of the PURA website with input from the Committee Chairs. Special thanks go to the Benefit Committee for their significant work to keep that area of the website updated. PURA archives and historical information continue to be available on the website. The Committee added a backup for Julie Kercher-Updike for webmaster activities. Tim Lange will serve as backup.

The Committee handled 60 emails to the PURA population with general information and meeting announcements. Archive copies of this information at attached.

The Committee also managed over 50 emails sent to [PURA@purdue.edu](mailto:PURA@purdue.edu) and routed to the appropriate people for responses.

Submitted by Scott Ksander, Chair, May 13, 2025

## **Annual Report for the 2025 PURA Annual Spring Conference**

The PURA Annual Spring Conference was a sold-out crowd with more than two hundred registered delegates and thirty-five vendors.

The conference was held at the BECK Center, 4550 West US 52, West Lafayette, Indiana from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Numerous enhancements were implemented for the 2025 event based on interviews with vendors and evaluations from the 2024 attendees. A new 28-page attendee program booklet was unveiled, and new sponsor categories were implemented.

The day began with a continental breakfast, fellowship, and time to visit with vendors. The program opened at 9:00am with introduction and program information. Lisa Duncan from the Purdue Office of Engagement, presented an extensive list of Volunteer Opportunities for Retirees. Dr. Marshall Martin, PURA President introduced Dr. Georgia Malandraki. She presented an audio/video presentation on the topic of Swallowing Functions in Aging Ensuring Eating Safety and Enjoyment.

Following a short restroom/stretch break, Past President Melinda Bain introduced Sara Jane Coffman, a noted author, humorist, and storyteller. Sara and five others shared numerous examples on the topic of Keeping Your Sense of Humor when you work at Purdue that brought lots of laughter from the audience.

Next came a full Hot/Buffer Noon meal, fellowship, and time to socialize and visit the vendors.

The afternoon session began with Linda Hawkins and the hospitality committee awarding numerous door prizes. Amy Boyle, PURA Liaison & Vice President for Purdue Human Resources, reflected on the importance of retirees and the unique relationship Purdue has with PURA. This was supported with comments from Dr. Vic Lechtenberg offering up the ideas for future PURA efforts Building Liaisons within respective Purdue Colleges & Dept.

The afternoon program featured first, a panel discussing Your Life Will Change – Are You Prepared for those end-of-life changes? Gail Ruhl served as moderator along with panel members, Kristi Ritter, a specialist in Home Care Services; Danielle Gaylord, a specialist in home downsizing and relocation; and Laura Vogler, a specialist in elder law. Their presentation raised lots of questions from the audience. Information and additional resources related to this presentation were placed on the PURA Website and connected by a QR Code.

David Caldwell and Mike Roumbakis then demonstrated and involved the audience in many active armchair exercises and standup maneuvers.

PURA's new strategic plan was uplifted by Dr. Charlene Sullivan, PURA Chair-Elect. Dr. Sullivan followed the strategic plan with an introduction of Dr. Jamie Mohler who fascinated the audience with his presentation on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Seniors. Dr. Mohler was so well received in 2024 that he was invited back in 2025, an honor very few PURA presenters are given.

The attendees then enjoyed seeing and receiving the balance of nearly one hundred prizes. The table flowers were awarded to the newest retiree at each table, the PURA Honey was awarded to the shortest person at each table, the Purdue Maple Syrup was awarded to the person with the largest shoe size at each table.

Closing the event was the ever-popular PURA protocol of "Hail Purdue" led by Lenny Seidel accompanied by music from the Hall of Music staff, to conclude the day's event.

The PURA Student Scholarship Endowment received \$350 in sales of ornaments and \$250 in presenter honorarium.

A review of the day's speakers and their information may be found on the PURA website at [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)

If you missed this unique event, plan now to attend with us next year on April 22, 2026. Planning is already underway for yet another powerful and different agenda.

Prepared & submitted by:

Dr. Norman D. Long, Chr.

2025 Spring Conference Committee Members:

Melinda Bain

Dave/Betty Caldwell

Jerry Day

Martha Fletcher

Linda Hawkins

Berdine Martin

Debra Pontecorvo

Chris Rearick

Tom Robertson

Gail Ruhl

Scott Rumble

James Schweitzer

Carol Shelby

Terri Steele

Tom Turpin

Olivia Wood

Marshall Martin

Charlene Sullivan

Amanda Shields

Eric Smoldt

Natalia Giraldo



## PURA Kickoff Luncheon Annual Report 2024-2025

### Committee Members 2024 - 2025:

Tom Robertson, Chair  
Pam Staggs  
Lenny Seidel  
Gail Overholser (Gail left the committee in 2024)  
Jerry Day - Ex-Officio  
Marshall Martin - Ex-Officio

### Purpose:

The Kickoff Luncheon celebrates the beginning of the program year for PURA. It provides an opportunity for retirees to hear about the “State of the University” from a university administrator. If no one is available, an alternative speaker “of interest” is selected. The luncheon, also, provides an opportunity for Purdue retirees to reconnect with former colleagues and friends.

### 2024 Luncheon:

The Kickoff Luncheon was held on September 9, 2024 at The Courtyard by Marriott - Lafayette. The event began with registration and the doors opening at 11:30 a.m. Opening comments began at 12:00 noon followed by lunch (some door prizes were given out during lunch). Guests were introduced after lunch followed by the keynote speaker, and then the Betty M. Nelson Award presentation. The remainder of the door prizes were then handed out before closing remarks by Marshall Martin. The Kickoff Luncheon concluded at 2:00 p.m. Total reservations totaled 127 (109 X \$25 and 18 guests). The registration fee remained at \$25 in 2024. The registration fee helps cover food costs and using the Purdue Hall of Music staff for audio visual support. The Executive Board agreed to cover expenses above the income from registration fees.

The luncheon speaker was Dr. Frank Dooley. Frank is the Chancellor of Purdue Global. He is also an adjunct professor in the department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue. His topic was **“The State of Purdue Global - 2024”**.

### Awards:

The Betty M. Nelson Award was presented to Jerry Day and Judy Ware for their many years of service to PURA.

There were no nominations for the 2023-2024 Arthur G. Hansen Award.

Committee Members for 2025-2026:

Tom Robertson - Chair  
Lenny Seidel  
Pam Staggs  
Peggy Hoover  
Charlene Sullivan - Ex-Officio  
Marshall Martin - Ex-Officio  
Tim Luzader - Ex-Officio

Submitted 4/21/2025 by:

Tom Robertson, Chair  
PURA Kickoff Luncheon

## **PURA Program Committee 2024-25 Annual Report**

Program Committee Mission: The Program Committee provides a program for PURA members during the monthly meetings. The committee sets the meeting schedule for the coming program year, beginning in October and running through August of the following year. If the first Monday of the month falls on a national holiday, PURA, generally, does not meet that month. The annual kickoff luncheon serves as the program for September. For the Program year 2024-25, the committee asked to continue the meeting time from a lunch to 10:00 AM. The Executive Committee approved this AND agreed to pay for the refreshments. Attendance has continued to improve.

The program committee chair and members are responsible for recruiting members to serve on the committee. Committee members are asked to coordinate and host 1-2 program speakers each year. Programs were planned out for the entire program year and assigned members were encouraged to book a presenter as soon as possible to speak to the title given. Some title edits do occur. The program committee hosts are responsible for facilitating the program and introducing the speaker. Emceeding the meetings is the responsibility of the PURA president.

In-person meetings remain at the VFW, but we have retained zoom for those in the outer regions. In general, it appears that the attendance of in-person plus zoom is about the same as the attendance was on zoom alone. However, we are not back to pre-pandemic in-person attendance days, BUT progress is being made with the new time. Our program recordings are archived and available to be viewed at later dates.

Recruitment of new committee members for 2024-25 went very well and did find three new members. Thank you to the committee members for their efforts and flexibility in solidifying programs and speakers for this year and for covering for each other as conflicts arose. Planning for the 2025-26 year will be a part of the annual Transition Meeting to take place on June 4, 2025. To this point, two new members have joined the committee for the balance of the 2024-25 year and will continue onto the 2025-26 year. New members are John Sautter, Mark Russell, and Tony Hawkins.. Continuing will be Dan Collins, John Schneider, Chris Rohler, Jim Beatty, Tom Turpin, Norm Long, and Bob Ritchie (Chair).

PURA Program Committee Members and the 2024-25 Programs are included as attachments.

Bob Ritchie. Program Committee Chair  
PURA 2024-25

## PURA Scholarship Committee - Annual Report 2024-2025

### Committee Members:

Melinda Bain, Chair  
Sue Hume Graham  
Betty Nelson  
John Norberg  
Tom Robertson, Past President  
John Trott  
Tom Turpin

**Primary Goal:** The primary goal of this committee is to continue growing the PURA scholarship endowments to provide funds to assist as many Indiana students with significant financial need as possible. Committee members will fundraise for and mentor students for the two endowments: PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and the PURA Purdue Opportunity Award (POA) in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke.

**Scholarships Awarded:** Awards in excess of \$15,000 were distributed from PURA scholarship endowments for the 2024-2025 academic year. \$12,030 was awarded to the six PURA Student Scholarship Endowment recipients and \$3,300 was awarded to the three PURA POA Jischke recipients. These funds are a portion of a complete financial aid package offered to Indiana students. Student selection and award amounts are administered by the Division of Financial Aid.

The PURA Student Scholarship Endowment made awards to six students:

Oliver Bindewald, Engineering, New Palestine, Indiana  
Logan Carter, Polytechnic Institute, Munster, Indiana  
Caleb Heet, Business, Greencastle, Indiana  
Tania Mosqueda, Veterinary Medicine, Valparaiso, Indiana  
Ella Parker, Liberal Arts, Richmond, Indiana  
Anna Wilk, Health and Human Sciences, Cedar Lake, Indiana

The PURA POA Endowment in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke made awards to three students:

Suingun Par, Health and Human Sciences, Indianapolis, Indiana  
Abdulrahman Saleh, Science, Topeka, Indiana  
Camille Smith, Education, West Lafayette, Indiana

**Communication with Students:** This has become increasingly difficult this year. The Scholarship Committee lost a long-time University Development Office contact person and getting information has been a challenge this year.

**Donors and Gifts, Scholarship Balances:** With the breakdown in communication with University Development it has been difficult to get donors names and scholarship balances. The 2024 Year-End-Giving amount has not been communicated; however,

checking the Leaderboards on Purdue Day of Giving, April 30, 2025, revealed that the PURA scholarship endowments earned \$7,810 for both the endowments. That is \$1,600 more than for Day of Giving 2024. The balance in the PURA POA for Martin C. and Patty Jischke on 6/30/24 was 61,674.00 and for the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment was \$265,244.00. In addition, Sally Coffman directed her honorarium from the Spring Annual Conference to the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. PURA Board will, additionally, direct the designated appreciation amount for retiring committee chairs and members to the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. When, and if, the committee can get retro information, this report will be revised and placed in the permanent record with the Scholarship Committee documents.

Communication: The PURA scholarship endowments were kept before the PURA members in a variety of way:

Emails to PURA members:

Monthly Don't Miss Out Emails

December 11, 2024: Year-End-Giving Request from PURA President and Scholarship Committee with direct link to Purdue for Life Foundation website for making donation

April 30, 2025: Purdue Day of Giving Request from PURA President and Scholarship Committee with direct link to Purdue for Life Foundation website for making donation

Feature page regarding PURA scholarship endowments in the program for the PURA Annual Spring Conference

**Ornaments Continue:** The Purdue themed ornaments, as well as special orders, continue to be popular. From the 2024 September Kickoff Luncheon to the Spring Annual Conference in April 2025, 45 ornaments were sold adding \$675 to the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. A new Purdue ornament design was introduced at the Spring Annual conference—Purdue Seal. Prices were raised for the first time this year. The original three ornament designs (Block P, Train, and Purdue Pete) are now \$15.00 and the Purdue Seal and special orders are \$20.00. Purdue members, Purdue Women's Club members and friends still continue to request special orders.

**Committee Membership:** All members will continue with the following exceptions:

Retiring Members: Sue Hume Graham (2 years), Tom Robertson, Past President  
New Member: Marshall Martin, Past President

Respectively Submitted  
Melinda Bain  
Committee Chair

May 28, 2025