NOTE: The profile of the SUNY Oneonta Retired Faculty, Professionals & Administrators Association begins at the bottom of this page and continues on the following page.

Campus Retiree Organization Profile

SUNY Oneonta Retired Faculty, Professionals and Administrators Association

by Dick Burr, RFPAA President

The SUNY Oneonta campus has an engaged retiree group, many of whom continue to take part in college and community activities.

Retired members of the faculty, professional staff and administrators are eligible for membership in the association as are their spouses/partners. There are currently over 400 individuals on our communication list. While many of our colleagues continue to reside in the immediate area, others are scattered throughout the United States. Approximately one-quarter of all those on our list have residences in areas far removed from Oneonta.

The constitution of the SUNY Oneonta Retired Faculty, Professionals and Administrators Association (RFPAA) was adopted in 1990 and states that the purpose of our organization is to provide opportunities for socialization and personal enrichment of members; to provide opportunities for retirees to contribute their time and talents to help the university and community; and to carry out projects and
activities consistent with the needs of the members. There are no dues to be a member of the association. Attendees at programs are charged for expenses such as meals, and the hat is passed when money is needed to pay for expenses such as covering the expenses of guests at our functions and other expenses such as postage. The college president’s office has provided considerable assistance in helping prepare invitations and communications with our members.

The RFPAA has two main functions a year, plus other activities which provide additional opportunities to stay involved with former colleagues and the campus. Each June the annual meeting of the Association is held at the 284-acre College Camp, located about four miles from the main SUNY Oneonta campus. The camp became a reality in 1952 and has been used for many purposes through the years. The lodge at the camp provides a convenient setting for our annual meeting, which usually has an attendance of forty to fifty people.

A buffet lunch precedes a presentation by Dr. Nancy Kleniewski, President of the College. She provides updates covering the entire spectrum of what’s been happening during the previous year, as well as information about future plans. Additional members of the college administration attend as well and have provided information on areas such as budgets, construction and academic programs. In addition to their prepared presentation, they all welcome and respond to questions from the retiree attendees. Following these presentations, the RFPAA’s yearly meeting is held. It is at this meeting that elections for the Board of Directors take place.

The Association sponsors a luncheon each fall, prepared by students in Oscar Oberkircher’s Restaurant and Catering class. Menus reflect cuisines from different countries and are selected, prepared and served by students. The two most recent years had menus reflecting food from Ireland and Scotland. This is a popular activity of the association, with a full house of 60 attendees and a waiting list is not uncommon.

Following the luncheon, a campus tour is conducted by Tom Rathbone, Associate Vice President for Planning and Safety. Tom combines a sense of humor with a wealth of knowledge and experience as he shows retirees the campus updates and new construction.

The SUNY Oneonta Retired Faculty, Professionals and Administrators Association sponsors several other activities each year. Recent outings have seen the group trekking the short distance to Cooperstown for a tour and presentation at the college’s state-of-the-art Graduate Program facility located on the shores of Otsego Lake, which serves as the home base for the nationally-recognized Master of Arts in Museum Studies program. A luncheon visit to Brewery Ommegang in Cooperstown was also a popular activity.

Getting a larger number of members to participate in activities remains a challenge. We are currently conducting a survey, seeking the thoughts of our members about what activities they would like to pursue in upcoming years.

The RFPA Association’s website contains much useful information and may be accessed at www.oneonta.edu/rfpa. Our yearly newsletter, edited by Arleen Benedict, is on the site, which also contains a calendar of events, names of those on the executive board, and our constitution.