One of the goals of SUNY RSC is to encourage campuses to create a campus-based retiree organization to promote "retiree-campus-community" connections. There are currently about 15 such retiree organizations in the SUNY system. We plan to profile one such organization in future issues of the newsletter.

The SUNY Oswego Emeriti Association was formed in 1989 by then Vice President and Provost, Dr. Ralph L. Spencer and his Associate Provost Dr. Richard Wheeler, and several colleagues and emeriti. Its constitution, from the beginning, extended membership to all faculty and professional staff, other than clerical and classified employees, who retired from service at SUNY Oswego. All spouses, domestic partners, widows, and widowers are considered associate members and the Board of Directors may approve other persons for associate membership. The purposes of the Association are to facilitate communication and fellowship among emeriti and associate members, continue relationships between members and the College community, and involve members in services to the College community.

An annual meeting of the membership is held on the first Monday of each August to deal with the election of directors, approve a budget and program of activities for the coming year, consider amendments to the constitution, and receive various reports. It is followed by a luncheon that traces its origin to 20 years before the Association itself began.

Between annual meetings, the Board of Directors, which meets four times each year, conducts the business of the Association. There are nine directors in three classes serving three-year staggered terms. The newsletter editor serves ex officio as a director. The directors elect officers of the Board and Association at their first meeting after the annual meeting.

NOTE: The Campus Retiree Organization Profile of the SUNY Oswego Emeriti Association begins at the bottom of this page and continues on the following page...
Campus Profile: SUNY Oswego Emeriti Association continued by Vernon Tryon, Association President, and John Fisher, Professor of English (Emeritus) and Newsletter Editor

The Association conducts a number of programs, services, and activities that change over time as new interests and needs emerge.

Our Emeriti Newsletter is published each fall and spring and is mailed to all members. Memorial books for the College library are purchased for deceased teaching emeriti. We purchase a plaque each year to be placed in a campus building bearing a picture and description of the person for whom the building is named. We award a scholarship each year to a student who has financial need and is a direct descendent of a current or emeritus faculty member.

We hold fall and spring luncheons for members and associates at a nearby retirement community.

We recently completed the creation of a gallery of photographs of the people who have served the College as president or acting president, as well as a plaque listing the names of faculty who have served as chair of the Faculty Assembly.

We undertake a variety of efforts to inform students and faculty of the achievements of the founder of the College, Edward Austin Sheldon, and of the history of the College and the contributions of distinguished alumni.

Contact Us:
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http://www.oswego.edu/emeriti.html

Emeriti Association Projects and Activities

- Emeriti Scholarship Program, $1000 to direct descendants of emeriti
- Presidential Portrait Gallery completed and portraits of four who served as acting president for significant periods added to the gallery
- Building plaques with information about the emeriti whose names they bear, ongoing project with one plaque added each year
- Various presentations to highlight the history of the college and its founder, Edward Austin Sheldon, and ongoing discussions to find effective means of highlighting this information to current faculty and students
- Memorial books placed in Penfield Library to honor the memory of deceased teaching faculty emeriti
- The Emeriti Newsletter, issued fall and spring, 2011-2012 issues will feature articles related to the College’s sesquicentennial
- Annual luncheon (42 years)
- Annual business meeting (22 years)
- Fall and spring luncheons (6 years)
- Communicate with college administration about matters of concern to emeriti
- An Emeriti Association director serves as a member of the College Sesquicentennial Planning Committee
- President of the Emeriti Association participates in the presentation of awards at the annual Honors Convocation and other occasional campus events
- Created wall plaque with names and years of service of faculty who have chaired the Faculty Assembly
- Board of Directors meets four times per year

Tips for Starting Campus-Based Retiree Organizations*

by Ram Chugh, Executive Director
SUNY Retirees Service Corps

Tip #1: Identify key retirees who will champion the retirement organization at your campus.

Tip #2: Seek the support of top administrative leaders and other campus groups.

Tip #3: Research your retirees regarding their interests and needs and about their willingness to be involved.

Tip #4: Start small – be focused, flexible and inclusive.

Tip #5: Be part of the institutional organizational structure.

Tip #6: Min-Max- Minimum regulations and paperwork for retiree to complete and provide maximum flexibility in your operations and activities – tailor these to retiree convenience.

Tip #7: Matching of retirees’ interests and expertise with the service needs of the campus and community.

Tip #8: Work with the SUNY Retirees Service Corps (RSC) (www.suny.edu(retirees) and join the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) (http://www.arohe.org) to network with others.

Note: The RSC has created a guide on starting campus-based retiree organizations. It is available upon request by contacting Ram Chugh at ram.chugh@suny.edu.

* Adapted from various sources, including AROHE