

# EMERITI NEWSLETTER

OHIO UNIVERSITY

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## March Speaker

Keller Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney, will speak on “Insights into the Crime Scene in Athens County”.

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## Emeriti Luncheon, March 15, 11:30 a.m., The Ohio University Inn

### Menu

### Things to remember about the luncheon

Strawberry Salad

1. It costs \$15.

Chicken Marsala

2. Notify Tom Franz by March 8 if you will attend on March 15; (740 593-5347; franz@ohio.edu).

Vegetarian Lasagna

Roasted Red Potatoes

3. If you are signed on as “always attends” but can’t be there, notify Tom Franz by March 8 ;

Asparagus

Assorted Desserts

(740 593-5347; franz@ohio.edu).

## From Our President

At the recent Emeriti luncheon I volunteered to hang a member's coat as she was signing up for the lunch. It was a spontaneous action but it caused me to think about how volunteerism is associated with the Emeriti Association. The first opportunity is to attend the Thursday luncheon regularly. It requires little investment of time and only \$15 for the lunch. It offers important and interesting programs and a chance to interact with colleagues. The Emeriti Association also offers an opportunity to be a docent at the Dairy Barn or the Kennedy Museum, to work in the Emeriti gardens and, from time to time, to attend a special event like

the dedication ceremony of the Carlson Memorial kiosk at the Emeriti park on May 19 at 10:30 am. It will be a momentous event and will be followed by a luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association. I am sure that many of the emeriti volunteer for other organizations in Athens. Volunteerism is very important to many of our service organizations. It has been reported that involvement in such activities is healthful for the elderly, and it offers opportunities to continue to use our talents. I hope you will include the Emeriti Association as an important part of your volunteer schedule. It does not require a lot and offers a return that is well worth it. Alan Boyd

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## Emeriti Board Members

President -- Alan Boyd

Vice President and Program Chair -- Art Marinelli

Secretary - Doug Baxter

Treasurer - Leslie Flemming

Membership - Margaret Thomas

Benefits - Karen and Richard Vedder

Volunteers - Phyllis Baxter

Emeriti Park - Richard Dean

Nominations - John Howell

Website - Joe Essman

Newsletter - Patricia Black

## The Ohio Flag

Recently on a windy day the flags in front of the community center were making such a racket they attracted my attention. I knew Ohio's is the only nonrectangular state flag but I got to wondering why. When I looked it up in a variety of sources, I not only learned *why* but I learned some other interesting things.

For one thing, with its swallowtail design, it's called a *burgee*. It was designed in 1901 and adopted by the state legislature in 1902. The red, white and blue are meant to reflect Ohio's natural elements. The three red and 2 white horizontal stripes are for Ohio's roads and waterways. The triangles represent our hills and valleys. The white O represents the state's name (and some say it also represents a buckeye). The 13 stars to the left of the O stand for the original states; the four stars to the right, added to those 13 show Ohio's place in the order of admission to the Union. The

shape, lack of any wording, and symmetry allow the burgee to be flown or hung in a variety of ways and still be legible.

And finally, I learned a new word. I've been called a word wrangler, a word wizard, and a nut, but I *love* words! So, imagine my delight in coming upon *vexillologist*, one who studies, is an expert on, flags.

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## Conumdrums

Here's one – Should that be conumdrums or should it be conumdra? You know, like datum/data, addendum/addenda. My computer doesn't like either.

And have you noticed that people will say something like, "Darn! What will I fix for supper? I forgot to unthaw the chicken!"? Unthaw? Why do people say that? Wouldn't that mean to refreeze?

## Tantrum Theater

In the fall of 2015, the Ohio University School of Theater, in cooperation with the City of Dublin (Ohio) and the Dublin Arts Council, began a professional theater which is also a training facility for students at the university. Performances are held in the Abbey Theater, located in the Dublin Community Recreation Center. For now, they operate only in the summer. The 2018 season will offer two plays.

*The Cake*, written by Bekah Brunstetter and directed by Shelley Delaney, fits the time-worn phrase – “Ripped from Today’s Headlines!!”. It runs from June 6 – 24 and tells of the conflict between a same-sex wedding and the conservative faith of the family friend asked to bake one of her famous cakes for the reception. The description on the Tantrum website asks the question: “How do we love when the political meets the personal?”

*Next to Normal*, music by Tom Kitt, book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey, and directed by Robert Barry Fleming, runs from July 11 – 29. It involves one family working through problems

of mental illness, medication, and grief.

There is a website ([info@tantrumtheater.org](mailto:info@tantrumtheater.org)) but it didn’t work when I tried it. I may have mistyped, though I tried it twice. I found the information by typing Ohio University – Tantrum Theater.

Incidentally, feeding my fondness for words – the website explained the name of the theater. *Tantrum* is a collective name for a group of bobcats!

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## Unlikely Things That Actually Work

Save a couple of those plastic room keys you get at hotels. They are jim-dandy things for scraping ice off your car windows! I prefer them to a purpose-built scraper because I can get a better angle or something and the ice scrapes off better.

## Obituaries

I'm pleased to say that as this newsletter goes to press, there are no obituaries to report!

However, having them to deal with each month has made me aware of my own mortality, as did the recent death of my older brother. I was very much involved in dealing with his stay in a care facility, in trying to get him on Medicaid and the end-of-life sorting out. I had his Power of Attorney but did not realize that it died when he did. He had an account with a Columbus bank and now I'm up to my lower mandible with the Probate Court to get the money released so I can give it to the care facility which, by the way, has bent over backwards to be helpful. My point here is, if you have someone's power of attorney and need to move an account of \$500 or more, do it *before* death.

Along this death and dying subject, a friend of mine has dedicated his body to the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University as a teaching cadaver (though I don't know that that is the term used). I checked the website

but it didn't give information about this. I'll need to check with Richard to learn how he did it.

And you can learn about another option that I find intriguing by going to Bios Urn on the Internet. Through this company you can arrange to have cremated remains (I shy away from "cremains" because it causes me problems when I see packets of "craisins" at the grocery store) incorporated into a biodegradable urn which also includes a tree. I'm unclear whether it's a seed or a sapling, but the urn is planted in a chosen spot and a tree grows there as a lasting memorial.

I know that the Osteopathic College has a very solemn ceremony when a cadaver has served its purpose and been cremated. I don't know if BiosUrn can be part of that.

Ohio University

Emeriti Association

PO Box 517

Athens, Ohio 45701