

**OHIO COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION RETIREES (OCHER)  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

Tom Kane and I attended the November 19, 2013 OCHER meeting. The longest discussion centered on whether or not we should engage Alice Hobl (a web consultant) to initiate a website for OCHER. The proposed website would serve to communicate with all members of OCHER, contain related websites and be an archive for our proceedings.

Another concern of those present related to our receiving so little information about OPERS. Apparently some years ago OCHER did hear from an OPERS representative more regularly, but in more recent years the interest waned because some of the OCHER members belonged to retirement groups that included only faculty. We will invite OPERS representatives more often from now on.

Dick Hill gave his usual legislative/governmental update:

- Comparison of STRS-Ohio and Ohio PERS with peer retirement systems nationally. This study showed the relationship of STRS and OPERS to a national average of active to retiree membership. STRS (at 1.38/1.00) is below the national average; OPERS (at 1.94/1.00) is above.
- HPA updates included proposed legislation that relates to the 1% of STRS funds that fund our health care and another relates to purchases of service credit.
- HB 285 proposes “anti-double dipping” legislation
- Affordable Health Care (September material) indicated that there were mixed predictions from the press; open enrollment would start slowly; politically, ACA has weakened since President Obama first proposed it to the nation. October and November events have borne out these observations.
- Health risk of obesity - a study which showed that one could be obese, yet metabolically healthy; not obese, yet metabolically unhealthy.
- STRS Board Meeting, October 2013
  1. A survey indicated that more retirees are satisfied with their health care than actives.
  2. STRS retirees - benefits received and cost of living increases table was provided. It revealed, among other things, that more often than not, COLAs did not give us positive purchasing power.

Since Greg Nickell recently lost his father, he was not present for his usual HPA update. Some discussion ensued, however, regarding AETNA mailings, calls and visits to retirees regarding wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

George D. Beelen