November 2012

Upcoming Events

**Fall Social**
Wednesday, October 17
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Reynolds Alumni Center

**Information Meeting**
Saturday, November 3
9:30 a.m. - Noon
Reynolds Alumni Center
[open parking]

**Holiday Luncheon**
Saturday, December 8, 2012
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Reynolds Alumni Center
[open parking]

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From the President
Rose Porter

 Loving this cool weather and enjoying being outside more. What I love best is the changing seasons and thinking it is too hot, it is too cold, or it is just right. Right now, it is just right for me.

Many other changes are happening. We have started our new year with the SEC - keep watching! Another major Columbia event that occurs every fall is the United Way campaign. A letter has been mailed, signed by Chancellor Brady Deaton and me, describing this year’s campaign and the new impact emphasis. For those who choose to give, please do what you can. Our community will benefit.

The Fall Social is October 17th and always a great event for MURA members to reconnect. In addition, the Tuesday breakfast programs have started, and are drawing record attendance. Join us on the first Tuesday of the month, if your schedule permits. Also, remember OSHER’s classes for fall provide stimulating, educational learning in an open and fun learning atmosphere.

The annual MURA Information Meeting is scheduled for November 3rd. Ken Hutchinson, President Elect, and the Program Committee are planning a valuable program, targeted to retirees. The final MURA event for 2012 is the Holiday Luncheon, December 8th. Some surprises to come... We want to meet you! Come to our events and meet others involved in MURA. Your participation in MURA activities makes each event better for all attendees.

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From the Near Side ...............Valerie Goodin

Today I’m wearing a long-sleeved shirt – nuf said! Summer is over, and soup sounds good. This issue of MURA News is four pages, rather than eight. Why? The answer is, four pages does it. Memorize it. There may be a test later. ...valeriegoodin@gmail.com
The Aging Front

A Perspective

People get older. Many of them get sicker. According to Robert Rosenblatt, and others, the hard questions for this year’s election, and for voting in the years to come, will be: How much of the bill should we pay for our fellow Americans, and how much of the burden should we bear as individuals and family members?

Medicare spending in 2010 was $524 billion, or 15% of the total federal budget. The Medicare share will rise to 17% by 2020, and keep climbing as more baby boomers reach eligibility.

What Americans decide to do about Medicare spending depends upon viewpoint. For those who think Medicare is an indispensable part of the social safety net, increasing revenues through higher taxes will be essential. For those who see the growing federal deficit as a direct threat to the future of American prosperity, Medicare spending must be slowed, even if it means placing a bigger financial burden on individuals.

Increasing the eligibility age is one way to help pay these bills. However this might present a financial hardship to many older folks. Medicare can be seen as a very good deal, as beneficiaries collect healthcare valued at more than they paid in taxes. However, one must also take into account the fact that the relative value of money itself, has changed as the years have passed. The question is, will generations X and Y, baby boomer children and grandchildren, be willing to pay the taxes needed to keep their elders (parents) receiving the current standard of Medicare benefits?

As we argue over what to do about the deficit, we will be arguing over how much the baby boomers, an army of 48 million now and growing to 78 million by 2030, should be asked to bear in increased financial burdens. We also need to keep in mind that generations depend upon one another to transmit knowledge, culture and economic resources. We do not only depend upon each other, we help each other.

It seems to me that an all-generations approach is far better suited to meeting the crosscutting, complex challenges facing our society—including the aging of all members of our population, a fact that must be faced. Think carefully before you vote and use your wisdom and experience to help you make your decision. And, vote.

Breakfast Plus

Breakfast programs are moving full speed ahead! Make plans to join us.

November 6 - “My Last Lecture” Dr. Bill Bondeson, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Medical Ethics

December 4 - “The Future of Medicine: The Medical Technology, Practices and Costs We Can Expect in the Future” Dr. Richard Martin, retired cardiologist and Professor of Medicine, MU and the University of Arkansas.

Make reservations in advance with G. B. Thompson. Call him at 573-445-4339 or e-mail: gbt4cd@mizzou.edu. As usual, we meet at 8:00 AM at Jack’s Restaurant, 1903 Bus. Loop 70 East. Price is $9/each, including tax and gratuity.

On September 4th Dr. Larry Brown, professor of cultural geography, was the guest speaker at the MURA Breakfast program. He outlined the history of several individuals and the development of white extremist groups in the USA.

You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile

A few perks of being over 60!

01. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
02. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
03. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
04. People call at 9 PM and ask, “did I wake you?”
05. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
06. Things you buy now won’t wear out.
07. You can eat supper at 4 PM.
09. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
11. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
12. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.
The accompanying MURA financial report for the previous year, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, was prepared by the outgoing treasurer, Gary Zwonitzer. Thank you, Gary! Although cash disbursements exceeded cash receipts for the year by $764.94, the $7,540.65 year-end bank balance and $65,983.56 lifetime member reserves (invested in the Vanguard 500 Index Fund) are adequate to meet future needs.

In July, an analysis of member dues showed a decline in income over the last four consecutive years. Income and disbursements are being monitored for an additional year to see if the operating deficit reverses.

More financial activities in July included submitting a formal application to the Internal Revenue Service requesting that MURA be recognized as a Section 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization. An initial information tax return was also filed.

**Homecoming**

Mizzou’s 101st Homecoming is officially set for October 27. Alumni and fans are invited to come home, and cheer on the Tigers as they take on the Wildcats of Kentucky in the 2012 Homecoming football game.

For a complete listing of homecoming events, bookmark this link on your browser: [http://mizzou.com/homecoming](http://mizzou.com/homecoming)
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**MAILING Address**

My Street & number or P.O. Box  
Spouse E-mail  
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**Check all that apply for membership(s).**

- [ ] Staff  
- [ ] Faculty  
- [ ] Extension Personnel  
- [ ] Spouse  
- [ ] Other  

Total enclosed = $______  
for ____ membership(s).  

**Make your check payable to MURA, and send it, with this form, to:**

**MU Retirees Association**

P.O. Box 1831  
Columbia, MO 65205-1831