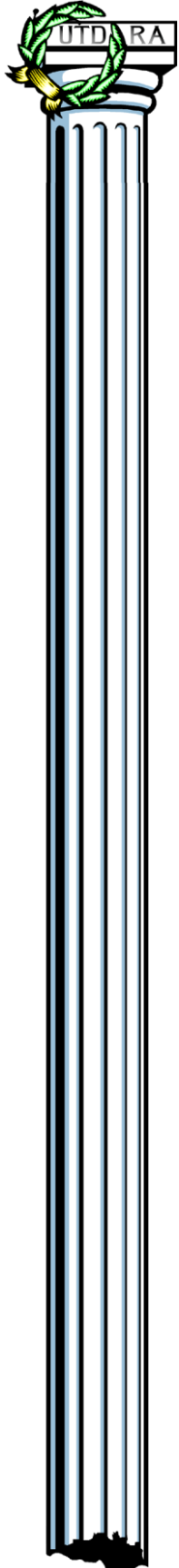


# U.T. DALLAS RETIREE ASSOCIATION

The University of Texas at Dallas 800 W Campbell MS SPN 10 Richardson, TX 75080 ph 972.883.2295  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/ra>



## From the President

July 2021

Dear Fellow Retirees,  
I hope you are all well and getting out and about as the pandemic seems to be somewhat under control. To say it has been a strange year is an understatement. Your Executive Committee has been meeting via Zoom, but with everything shut down we have not been able to do much planning. However, we did discuss when we might be able to have live meetings and when we will be able to resume our monthly luncheons at our last meeting. We decided to have a luncheon/general meeting on Monday, July 19th. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Well, it is that time of year when we vote to select new members to the Executive Committee. A slate of candidates for vacant seats follows in this newsletter as well as continuing committee members. The Slate of Candidates will be on the agenda for the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for voting on. So, please be sure to vote and if you wish, place your name on the list as a candidate.

At the end of August my term as president ends and a new president takes office. Having been president during the pandemic was not what I had hoped for. With us being shut down there was truly little to do which was disappointing. However, I am honored that you all had the confidence to vote for me and am honored to have served. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person soon.

Paul A. Oelkrug, President  
UTD Retirees

## Membership Report

June 18, 2021  
Retirees 139  
Spouses 15  
Total 154

Of the 154, thirty-eight are lifetime members, fourteen are new and two are returning, having been members previously.

Jean Stuart  
Membership Chair

### Board Officers

**President**  
Paul Oelkrug

**Vice President**  
Paul Watson

**Treasurer**  
Gwen Bowen

**Secretary**  
Sandee Goertzen

**Members at-Large**  
Teresa Johnson  
Lynn Butler  
TBA

**Newsletter Editor**  
Ekkehard Kuner

**Membership**  
Jean Stuart

**Social Committee**  
Kathy White

**Program Chair**  
Rochelle Pena

**Webmaster**  
Chris Parr

**Assistant  
Webmaster**  
Su Wadlow

### Past Presidents

Susie Kutchi  
Rochelle Pena  
David Holmes  
David Routzahn  
Mary Chaffin  
Rickie Brown  
Barbara Geiger  
Marlys Damman  
Mike Durbin  
Betty Garrett  
Sandee Goertzen  
Chris Parr  
Jo Ellen Roach  
Linda Williamson  
Jean Stuart

General Meeting was held March 25, 2021, via Zoom.



**Big News!**  
**Combined General Membership Meeting and First Monday Lunch (not on a 1<sup>st</sup> Monday)**  
**Make plans to attend!**  
**July 19, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Rockfish Grill**  
**7639 Campbell Rd.**  
**Richardson, TX**  
**RSVP to Kathy White by July 16**  
[kjw021000@utdallas.edu](mailto:kjw021000@utdallas.edu)

## Officers for 2021-2022

We need members to serve on the board of directors of our organization. It is not an onerous or time-consuming job. The Board usually meets about four times a year to plan the four general meetings and to advocate for retiree benefits. Look at the perks we enjoy - and know that all those perks are the result of work done by this and earlier Boards. They are listed below the slate of candidates. ***Please consider putting your hat in the ring - or talk to someone you know would be great for our organization. Contact Teresa Johnston ([teresajohnston13@gmail.com](mailto:teresajohnston13@gmail.com)) or Lynn Butler ([lynnkay1220@gmail.com](mailto:lynnkay1220@gmail.com)) with your nominations.***

### The Slate of Candidates will be on the agenda for the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- President Vacant
- V. President **Vacant**
- Secretary Sandee Goertzen
- Treasurer Gwen Bowen
- Membership Jean Stuart
- Newsletter Editor Ekkehard Kuner
- Webmaster Chris Parr
- Assistant Webmaster Su Wadlow
- Social Committee Kathy White
- Program Chair **Vacant**
- Members at Large Lynn Butler  
Teresa Johnston  
**Vacant**
- Past President Paul Oelkrug

### UT Dallas Retiree Benefits

The University is generous in its support of medical, dental, life insurance, and other benefits (see [Human Resources](#) for the complete package), but there are other perquisites for retirees that you may not know about, including:

- Retirees may purchase (\$18) a **Comet Card** at the Info Depot (Student Center), and they will use it to obtain many additional benefits *below*.
- Retirees may retain their [University email](#) address ([me!@utdallas.edu](mailto:me!@utdallas.edu)) to use with their own ISP (Internet Service Provider).
- [UTD RA members](#) only are entitled to **on-campus parking** upon completion of a [UTD Retiree parking sticker application](#). Other retirees pay staff rates. As with other parking passes, this is renewed annually, so keep up your membership! The silver tag permits parking in **GREEN**, **GOLD**, and **REMOTE** parking spots only. A \$2 handling fee applies.
- Retirees may purchase an **Activity Center membership** at the faculty/staff rate. Go to the Activity Center to sign up.
- If space is available, retirees over 64 can **audit courses** without charge and can even take **credit courses** without paying tuition. (Fees, however, are not waived.) See the Registrar.
- If space is available, retirees may enroll in **computer courses** offered by Information Resources.
- Retirees may attend **cultural events** (for which admission is charged) at the faculty/staff rate, and they may attend cultural events, free to faculty/staff, on presentation of their *Comet Card*.
- Retirees may purchase **discounted tickets** from the Info Depot on presentation of their *Comet Card*.
- Comet intercollegiate **athletic contests are free** to retirees presenting their *Comet Card*.
- Retirees may **check out up to five (5) books** at one time from the University Library with their *Comet Card*.
- They may purchase (student-version, discounted) **computer software** (except *Microsoft* and *Adobe*) from the Campus Bookstore **at student prices** with their *Comet Card and UTD email address*.
- Finally, retirees with *Comet Cards* get student discounts at several local [businesses & eateries!](#)

Many of these benefits were recommended to the University by UTD RA, and, although most accrue to all UTD retirees, you might consider joining UTD RA to encourage further recommendations.

## **NOTES FROM STAFF COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL ENROLLMENT**

The annual enrollment will be July 15<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> . The Benefits Fair will be available July 19-21 all virtual once again. GOOD NEWS: This will be the fourth year that we will not be having a rate increase.

### **NEW FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN**

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations has begun a new fund-raising campaign. It is called New Dimensions Campaign. The last campaign was successful and brought in \$250 million dollars and ended in 2018. This campaign's goal is \$750 million. It started May 25<sup>th</sup> with a public launch and will wrap up in 2025.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Staff are being phased back to campus in August. Each department will handle their phase back differently.

### **COMET CARDS**

There are new comet cards available. Each card will hold more information than the current cards hold. Most specifically, more student info. We are not required to obtain a new card, but if you want one, it will be available.

Sandee Goertzen, Staff Council Liaison