

RETIREE CENTER

# The Newsletter



*Hello Retirees,*

The Retiree Center piloted a new pre-retirement program this fall aimed at current WSU employees who are within 5 years of retiring. We are calling it, "*Pathways to Pre-Retirement Planning.*" The Retiree Center ran a similar program up until about 2009, and we are excited to be bringing the pre-retirement program back to WSU. We have a planning committee that has worked on creating a website, pamphlet, and in-person presentations focused on getting ready for retirement. We did a comprehensive survey of current employees and created a small focus group made up of employees nearing retirement to help us plan our content. We plan to offer two presentations each semester, and our first two were held earlier this month. On October 18th, Human Resources personnel did a presentation on "*Planning for your WSU Retirement,*" and that same day I did a presentation on "*The Retiree Center & You.*" We want to make employees aware of all that the Retiree Center has to offer BEFORE they retire. A week later, on October 25th, we hosted a Retiree Panel presentation made up of three WSU retirees (Richard Shields, Debbie Block, and Tom Grier, pictured below). The panel did a fantastic job talking about their experiences during the retirement process and their lives post-retirement. All presentations were offered in-person and via Zoom. Between the two presentations, we had close to 50 people attend either online or in person. We are hoping to attract even more people to our spring presentations. This spring, we plan to host WSU Finance Professor Rob Wolf with a presentation on "*Retirement Investing with Confidence and Success.*" Dr. Wolf will also be teaching a 5-week Senior University course on the same subject. Our second presentation this spring will be with Health, Exercise and Rehabilitative Services (HERS) professor, Justin Geier. His presentation will be focused on "*Five Reasons for Physical Exercise in Your Retirement.*" We will be inviting all retirees to join us for the presentations this spring, because I'm sure many of you would be interested in these topics. It will be great to have an audience made up of pre- and post-retirees. The pre-retirees have a lot of questions and will appreciate having current retirees there. I will email the information out to all retirees once we have the dates/times set. I hope you will be able to join us for one or both of the sessions!



Richard Shields, Debbie Block, and Tom Grier were our retiree panelists at the Pathways to Retirement presentation on 10/25.

As usual, this newsletter is filled with information about upcoming classes, programs and events. Be sure to save the date for the Living History Project Premiere event on Monday, December 4th, and the Retiree Winter Social happening on Thursday, December 7th. The social will again be held at the American Legion from 2-4pm. The Living History Premiere will be held from 3:30-5:30pm in the Stark Hall Auditorium. Three very deserving retirees will be honored with documentaries this year; Lyelle Palmer, Barbara Oertel Petersen, and Rill Reuter. I hope you will be able to come to the event to support them and the students who have worked so hard this semester creating the films. Nancy and I hope to see you soon!

- Jess

## RETIREE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

*To support the mission of WSU and enrich the campus community as well as the lives of retired staff, faculty and administration by providing institutional connections between the University and retirees who may wish to continue their intellectual and social participation in collegial life and service to the University.*

# RETIREE NEWS AND NOTES

## Advisory Board

Brian Aldrich  
Nancy Amann  
Jean Bellman  
Debbie Block  
Heather Dieterman  
Carol Galbus  
Sue Groth  
Tracy Hale  
Sandra McNab  
Nadia Miranda  
Ann Rethlefsen  
Rill Reuter  
Joanne Rosczyk  
Judy Shepard  
Richard Shields

## Contact Us

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Alumni House  
227 W. Wabasha St.

Winona State University  
PO Box 5838  
Winona, MN 55987

507-457-5565  
[Retiree@winona.edu](mailto:Retiree@winona.edu)

[www.winona.edu/retiree](http://www.winona.edu/retiree)

### Director:

Jessica Kauphusman

### Office Manager:

Nancy Amann

## SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT

Written by Jim Reynolds

As you may know, the Retiree Center maintains a display-case on second floor Somsen Hall near the President and V.P of Academic Affairs offices. There we showcase the many and varied talents of our staff, faculty, and administrative retirees. We are interested in periodically rotating what is displayed to keep things fresh and interesting. What is your talent that we can display?



The display-case is lighted and secure with a lockable sliding glass window. Shelves can be used or removed. Currently, there is a display of the scholarly works of some of our retirees, but display items can be most anything that would fit within the case: woodwork/carving, sculpture, paintings, needlecraft, photography, or various other crafts or artistry. Please give this some thought and select an item to loan the Retiree Center from your collection to add to our display-case (we will take good care of your item).

If you are interested in loaning an item to display, please contact Jessica Kauphusman, Director of the Retiree Center ([jkauphusman@winona.edu](mailto:jkauphusman@winona.edu); 457-5565; or visit at the campus Alumni House 1st floor office) to make arrangements. Thanks for supporting the Retiree Center!

## RICHARD BOWMAN

Richard Bowman professor emeritus Education published a manuscript titled "Preparing Students for a World of Continuous Societal and Workplace Disruption" in *The Clearing House: A Journal of Educational Strategies, Issues, and Ideas*, Vol. 96, Issue 5, 146-153.

**Abstract:** There is a perception that is broadly held but rarely voiced: That our political, economic, social, and academic institutions are increasingly unfit for public purpose. How students experience and prepare for a world of deep social change and unrelenting technological advances is something educators can influence profoundly. There are four mindset capabilities that serve as an illuminating lens for viewing teaching with a reassuring sense of clarity regarding how to prepare learners to adapt and embrace a world of continuous societal and workplace disruption: Psychological Safety, Empathic Concern, Step up—Step Back Leadership, and Community Problem Solving.

From the *Winonan*

## JAMES ARMSTRONG

... On September 22nd, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Jim Armstrong, author of many published books of poetry, as well as one of Winona's first poet laureates, hosted a book launch at the Marine Art Museum, for his newest book of poetry, "Empire." Armstrong was an English professor at Winona State for twenty-four years before his recent retirement.

"A lot of what goes into this book is what I learned as a teacher at Winona State," Armstrong said. "A lot of the things that I've learned as a poet come from teaching young poets how to be poets."

To read the full story, follow this link: <https://winonan.org/13972/news/jim-armstrong-launches-empire-book-at-minnesota-marine-art-museum/>

# UPCOMING DAY TRIP & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

## MN VIKINGS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Date: Sunday, November 12th - Noon Game  
Venue: US Bank Stadium  
Only 1 ticket left...[register soon](#) if you want it!



## THE LION KING AT THE ORPHEUM

Date: Thursday, March 28th - 7:30 p.m. show  
Venue: Orpheum Theater - Minneapolis  
Registration will open soon!



## MJ: THE MICHAEL JACKSON MUSICAL AT THE ORPHEUM

Date: Tuesday, May 21st - 7:30 p.m. show  
Venue: Orpheum Theater - Minneapolis  
Registration will open soon!



## SUNNY PORTUGAL

This 9-day trip will depart on April 2, 2024. The cost is \$3729 pp double. From the Portuguese Riviera to the sunny cliffs of the Algarve, venture along Portugal's stunning shoreline. Discover the charms of Lisbon. In Evora, step inside a medieval city with Roman ruins. Enjoy a leisurely 3-night stay in the Algarve region. Explore the soft sandy beaches and classic fishing villages. Take advantage of a free day to soak in the Portuguese sunshine and savor local flavors. Visit the charming town of Tavira with its Moorish inspired architecture and Renaissance style buildings. Encounter picturesque resort towns, winding cobblestone streets, oceanfront promenades, and quaint villages of perfection. To learn more: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1183283>



## TROPICAL COSTA RICA



This 8-day trip will depart on November 1, 2024. The cost is \$3029 pp double. Lush forests and stunning waterfalls... rumbling volcanoes and endless coastlines... Costa Rica is a paradise teeming with exotic plants and incredible animals. Enjoy the tranquil views of Arenal Volcano from your hotel. Explore part of the 20,000-acre nature preserve of Cano Negro on a riverboat adventure. Spend two nights in Monteverde's lush cloud forest. Experience the forest canopy on your choice of a hanging bridges nature walk or an exhilarating zip lining tour. Luxuriate at a resort for two nights at Playa Carrillo, Guanacaste, known for its breathtaking beauty and fine sandy beaches. You will find a slice of paradise and so much more.

To learn more: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1183462>

# SENIOR UNIVERSITY SNEAK PEEK SPRING/SUMMER 2024



Here's a preview of our fantastic line-up of Senior University classes for Spring/Summer 2024. Registration for courses will open in mid-November. Course catalogs will be mailed out at that time as well.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>PHYSICS EXPERIMENTS<br/>THAT CHANGED HISTORY</b></p>                  | <p><b>Richard Shields<br/>Pasteur 133</b></p>   | <p>January 18, 25<br/>February 1, 8, 15<br/>2:30-4:00 p.m.<br/>\$40.00</p>  |
| <p><b>FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE:<br/>A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW</b></p>                | <p><b>Emilio DeGrazia<br/>Maxwell 259</b></p>   | <p>January 23, 30<br/>February 6, 13, 20<br/>3:00-4:30 p.m.<br/>\$40.00</p>   |
| <p><b>JAZZ HISTORY I - 1915-1960<br/>LOUIS ARMSTRONG TO MILES DAVIS</b></p> | <p><b>Rich MacDonald<br/>Maxwell 287<br/>or via Zoom ( Hybrid)</b></p>                                    | <p>February 26, March 11,<br/>18, 25 April 1<br/>3:00-4:30 p.m.<br/>\$40.00</p>   |
| <p><b>SPRING BIRDING</b></p>  | <p><b>Julie McCormick &amp;<br/>Dedrick Benz<br/>Maxwell 259 (first hour of<br/>first class only)</b></p> | <p>April 5, 19<br/>May 3, 17<br/>7:30-11:30 a.m.<br/>\$45.00</p>  |
| <p><b>RETIREMENT INVESTING WITH<br/>CONFIDENCE &amp; SUCCESS</b></p>        | <p><b>Rob Wolf<br/>Maxwell 257</b></p>  | <p>April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29<br/>May 6<br/>1:00-2:30 p.m.<br/>\$40.00</p>  |
| <p><b>AN INTRODUCTION TO<br/>MOREL MUSHROOMS</b></p>                        | <p><b>Senior U Lite<br/>Sara Holger</b></p>   | <p>May 2<br/>1:00-3:00 p.m.<br/>Held at Whitewater State Park<br/>FREE - Goodwill donation<br/>suggested to MN Parks &amp; Trails</p> |
| <p><b>SHAKESPEARE IN<br/>PERFORMANCE</b></p>                                | <p><b>Jane Carducci<br/>Room To be Announced</b></p>  | <p>Sundays<br/>Dates and price to be<br/>determined: Based on GRSF<br/>pricing and schedule</p>                                       |

# 2023 FALL SOCIAL & CAL FREMLING RIDES

The Retiree Center Fall Social was held on Tuesday, October 10th. It was a beautiful day. We had nearly 90 retirees gather at the Legion that afternoon. There was good food and even better conversation! To see all of the pictures from this event, please visit the [Retiree Center Facebook page!](#)



Paula Heimbecker & Lori Beseler



Edwina & Duane Wolfe & Jim Mootz



Jean Bellman & Paula & Craig Scheevel



Marie & Norb Thomes



Gene Lundak & Larry Reuter



Don Scheid



Pat & John Ferden & Tania Schmidt



Ron Stevens & Jim Reynolds



Tracy Hale & Cindy Jokela

We held the September Retiree Breakfast aboard the Cal Fremling on Tuesday, September 12th. We held 2 separate rides to accommodate all who wanted to attend. The people on the first ride had to contend with a bit of rain, but the sun came out for the second ride. A good time was had by all. To see the rest of the pictures from this event, please visit the [Retiree Center Facebook page!](#)



Karen Krause & Nancy Amann



Bernard & Sandra McNab



Fran & Mike Parma

# FALL 2023 LIVING HISTORY PREMIERE

December 4, 2023 • 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. • Stark Hall 103 Auditorium

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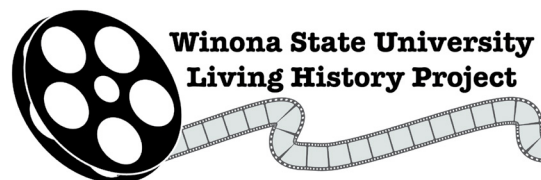
Barbara Oertel Petersen, Director Emerita  
Warrior Success Center  
35 Years of Service



Lyelle Palmer, Professor Emeritus  
Special Education  
26 Years of Service



Rill Reuter, Professor Emerita  
Chemistry  
29 Years of Service



**Winona State University**  
**Living History Project**

# RETIREE GUEST COLUMNIST - DAVID ROBINSON

## BARBENHEIMER

As I write this, fall has just officially begun, so I am unofficially declaring the end of the Big Summer Movie season. In my last column, I opined that it was time for some of the biggie franchises—movies based on cartoon super heroes, video games, amusement park rides, and the ilk—to hang it up. Specifically, I suggested that Professor Indiana Jones accept his emeritus status from a grateful university, put his whip and pistol where the grandkids couldn't get at them, and begin writing his no doubt best selling memoirs.

Apparently, Harrison Ford has taken the advice of his fellow octogenarian, having declared that he has made his last movie as Indy. Like many professors, though, he didn't retire soon enough. (Who can blame us, really? It beats the hell outta work!) "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" turned out to be one of this summer's bigger flops. So were "The Flash" and "Shazam: Fury of the Gods", both multimillion productions which are still (unlike "Aquaman" which recently surpassed the one billion dollar profit mark) under water.



I take no joy in saying hail and farewell to Dr. Jones: in his prime, he was one of the best of the lot. But I am glad to see a bit of a break in the string of Big Movies which rule the screen until the advent of Oscar candidates which begin to arrive around Halloween as the producers elbow each other to get their movies out to the public before the holiday season.

One such movie, Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," magically appeared in the middle of the infernal summer just past. Based on the life of the "Father of the Atomic Bomb," and featuring a splendid cast, the film was the fourth-largest grossing of the year thus far. It is intellectually challenging and provocative, both politically and historically, and its success may indicate that our collective minds don't turn off from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The summer's other big surprise was "Barbie," which I vowed I was going to boycott. Happily, I was wrong about it being just another knock off attempt to sell some product. It is that, in part, as Mattel's sales have reportedly soared, and not just among children. For the most part, the movie is delightful sendup of Barbieland, replete with its campers, beach houses, surfer boys and girls—anything which could be molded or shaped from plastic or cardboard and hustled out into the stores. Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling as the Princess of Pink and her sidekick, Ken, milk the attitudes and mores of this unreal kingdom for laughs and satirical fodder. The film's energy drops off a bit when the two get magically transported to the real world, or, at least, Los Angeles. Its Big Moment arrives in a speech by America Ferrera about the subordination of women. Director Greta Gerwig, who did "Ladybird," one of my very favorite "small" movies, handles the big singin' 'n' dancin' bits well, achieving a kind of droll humor along the way, a buried critique of the form.

The release of these two films at nearly the same time sparked a cultural phenomenon, dubbed "Barbenheimer," in which people committed to seeing the two movies back to back, packing theaters and (I have to imagine) causing a certain amount of cognitive dissonance in their wake. "Barbie" became the year's largest grossing movie by some distance and the 14th largest grossing of all time, at least so far. "Oppenheimer" will have longer stying power, I think, given its subject matter and Nolan's treatment of it. But taken together, their success must be seen as hopeful for the American film industry, beset as it is by strikes, streaming, and stereotypes of summer movies, where the past has seemed to dictate the present.

# WSU RETIREES HONORED AT HOMECOMING

Originally published on Alumni Engagement Website

## BILL KOUTSKY - HERITAGE AWARD & GRAND MARSHAL

Bill graduated from Winona State in 1975 and has been an instrumental part of this campus community since. He is considered a SUPER WARRIOR by the amount of purple in his wardrobe, his unwavering loyalty to the students, staff and faculty and by his generosity in gifts that have been given to the university over several decades.

He never declines an opportunity to volunteer or to attend an event. His generous spirit and thoughtful gifts have made an everlasting impact on so many students and departments.

Have you seen the big letters on campus? Those are here because of Bill along with many other tangible objects. However, his most impactful gifts have been in the numerous scholarships he has given over the years.



*Heritage Award- The Winona State University Heritage Award is given annually to an employee, retiree, alumni, or friend of the university who has left an indelible impression in support of Winona State University and its students, faculty and staff.*

## GREG JOHNSON - PURPLE PRIDE AWARD



Greg Johnson was the Printing Services Press Operator at Winona State for 40 years prior to his retirement in 2019. Greg is known for taking tremendous pride in the quality of his work. The pieces he worked on helped recruit new students to campus, helped support the fundraising efforts through University Advancement, provided printed materials to faculty engaging their students and honor graduates with a Commencement Program that often became a treasured keepsake.

Greg is known for his authentic compassion for everyone that he worked with. Greg improves our world with the way that he treats others- always with respect and kindness. Greg continues to stay in touch with past students and colleagues as he serves as a great mentor and friend to all that have been blessed to know him. Greg's creative skills were instrumental in pulling together the theme and costumes for the WSU employee Halloween costume contest. His talents allowed for first place at least 5 years in a row! Greg served on various hiring committees on campus and was always there to go above and beyond without being asked. Greg's dedication, service and leadership truly demonstrate what it is meant by "improving our world". His professionalism, brainstorming abilities, creative talents, and ability to work in a team atmosphere really exemplify who Greg is.

*Purple Pride Award- This award recognizes WSU faculty or staff who have elevated the esteem and prestige of the university through their commitment to the university and all of its constituent groups.*



## REVIVING SOCRATES CAFE?

Over the last few months there have been inquiries regarding the possibility of reviving the Retiree Center's Socrates Cafe discussion group, which functioned from 2008 to about 2018. But to do this the Retiree Center needs two or maybe three retired WSU faculty or staff volunteers willing to share the duties of being the organizers and discussion facilitators (and participants) for the monthly meetings (except November and December). Are you willing to consider this possibility? If so, please read on!



SOCRATES  
CAFÉ

What is the Socrates Cafe discussion group? Christopher Phillips, an educator, and founder of the nonprofit Society for Philosophical Inquiry ([www.philosopher.org](http://www.philosopher.org)) wrote an interesting book titled, *Socrates Cafe: A Fresh Taste of Philosophy* in 2001 in which he explained the concept. The idea behind the Socrates Cafe is that dialogue of this type (asking a question, taking a position, and providing a rationale and evidence) leads to other questions in an almost unending chain of inquiry and discovery. His belief was that such dialogue will produce a more educated, tolerant, and better democracy. The discussions can and should be fun, challenging, and help stretch the minds of participants in new directions. No effort is made to arrive at a collective conclusion on the selected discussion question; just discussion to enable each person to arrive at a more educated and informed position themselves after listening and engaging with others. As Socrates charged to his students in the sixth and fifth centuries B.C. in Athens, Greece, "Know thyself."

Just about any question can be grist for a meaningful discussion. Lofty topics for Socrates were questions such as, "What is truth?" "What is good?" "What is piety?" But other less lofty but equally important questions could be, "What is patriotism?" "Is 'community' possible?" and "What is justice?"

If you find yourself intrigued and interested in participating in and sharing the responsibility for facilitating Socrates Cafe discussions with one or two others, the Retiree Center staff along with previous facilitators can provide support, sample discussion questions, and guidance to get you started. A fun, interesting and mind-expanding time usually results from each meeting!

The rewards for your efforts will be coming to know yourself better, helping others do the same, and, staying intellectually and mentally more alert while enjoying the company of others. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Kauphusman, Director of the Retiree Center (507-457-5565 or [jkauphusman@winona.edu](mailto:jkauphusman@winona.edu)). Thanks for your consideration.



A Socrates Cafe Meeting in 2009

## REMEMBER TO KEEP THE RETIREE CENTER UPDATED

Please remember to keep the Retiree Center updated with your current mailing address and email. If you need to report a change, please contact us by email: [retiree@winona.edu](mailto:retiree@winona.edu) or give us a call at 507.457.5565.

\*\*If you have a charter.net email: Currently, our Retiree Center emails are not reaching those of you with charter.net email addresses. I have contacted Tech Support, but there is nothing that can be done on our end. You need to contact Charter/Spectrum to fix this issue. If you'd like to give us a different email address to use, please contact us.

# CALENDAR

## November

### WSU RETIREE JIM ARMSTRONG

Reading from his new book, *Empire*  
Thursday, November 2nd - 5:00 p.m.  
Science Laboratory Center Auditorium 120

### JENNIFER BIEDERMAN

Biology Seminar Series:  
*Recent evolution of stream enhancement/  
improvement projects in MN*  
Wednesday, November 8th - 7:00 p.m.  
Pasteur Hall, Room 337



### VETERAN'S DAY

Observed Friday, November 10, 2023  
Retiree Center Closed



### MN VIKINGS DAY TRIP

Sunday, November 12, 2023  
1 ticket still available  
[Register soon](#) if you're interested!

### WSU THANKSGIVING BREAK

Retiree Center Closed  
November 22-24  
Happy Thanksgiving!

## December

### Winter Social

### RETIREE CENTER WINTER SOCIAL

Thursday, December 7, 2023  
2:00-4:00 p.m.  
American Legion - Winona

### LIVING HISTORY PREMIERE

Monday, December 4, 2023  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Stark Hall 103 Auditorium



### WSU COMMENCEMENT

Friday, December 8, 2023  
McCown Gymnasium



### WINTER BREAK

Retiree Center Closed  
December 22 - January 2

### WSU HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Monday, December 11, 2023  
2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Kryzsko Commons Ballroom



# CALENDAR

## January

### MN MARINE ART MUSEUM

*Re/Framing the View:  
Nineteenth Century  
American Landscapes*  
On exhibit  
Through August 4, 2024



### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 15, 2024  
Retiree Center Closed

### WSU SPRING CLASSES BEGIN

Monday, January 8, 2024



### SPRING SENIOR U BEGINS

*Great Experiments that Changed History*  
Taught by Richard Shields  
Begins Thursday, January 18  
*Forbidden Knowledge: A Historical Overview*  
Taught by Emilio DeGrazia  
Begins Tuesday, January 23



### JAZZ NIGHT AT NO NAME BAR

Winona Jazz Collective  
Wednesday, January 3, 2024  
Begins at 8:00 p.m.

## February and Beyond

### RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

*The Lion King* at the Orpheum  
Thursday, March 28, 2024  
Registration will open soon!



### RETIREE CENTER BREAKFASTS

2nd Tuesday of each Month  
9:00-11:00 a.m.  
April - September



### GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Season 21  
June 25 - July 28, 2024

### RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

#### SUNNY PORTUGAL

April 2-11, 2024

#### TROPICAL COSTA RICA

November 1-9, 2024

### RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

*MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical*  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
Registration will open soon!



### FROZEN RIVER FILM FESTIVAL

February 4-11, 2024

### RETIREE SPRING LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 25, 2024  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Kryzsko Commons Ballroom

# IN MEMORIAM



*Art Van De Water  
Mathematics  
August 21, 2023*



*Marian Hopkins  
Adult & Continuing Ed  
October 17, 2023*



*Lynn Aldrich  
Spouse of Brian Aldrich  
October 23, 2023*

## IN MEMORIAM

*We honor and mourn our University colleagues who have recently died.  
We recognize the richness of each life, the gifts these members have brought to  
many and the loss felt by family and friends.*

## THE PERKS OF BEING A WSU RETIREE

- Athletic Events: Free admission to regular scheduled campus athletic events
- Teaching, Learning and Technology Services: Free campus offered classes when space available
- Free WSU retiree e-mail
- WSU Fitness Center access at employee rate
- ID card for all retirees
- Free gold parking pass for all lots, must renew each year
- Printer, scanner, and copy access in the Retiree Center (no charge)
- Notary Public Services available at no charge at the Retiree Center
- WSU Library privileges (Retiree ID card serves as library card)

