

ORNNotes



The official newsletter of the

ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network

December 2015

Welcome to new ASA emeritus/retired members!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a retired/emeritus member of the American Sociological Association. This is the fourth issue of the ASA-ORN (American Sociological Association Opportunities in Retirement Network) newsletter.

Notes from the Annual Meeting in Chicago

Our three inaugural sessions in Chicago (speaker and business meeting, paper, and workshop) were informative and well attended.

Earl Babbie gave the first lecture in our "A Life in Sociology" series. He is an insightful and entertaining presenter who spoke about his life/career in sociology. A lovely reception in Earl's honor, sponsored by Wadsworth/Cengage, followed his talk. The lecture was recorded and is available on the [ORN website](#).



The main item on the agenda of the business meeting was a discussion of the bylaws drafted by the Acting Advisory Board. We need bylaws to establish procedures for electing members to our Advisory Board and to ensure the planning of the annual meeting and other events for which ORN is responsible. The bylaws were approved at the meeting and will be presented to the ASA Council at their winter meeting.

The paper session, ""Pre- and Post-Retirement Experiences and Issues" had four thoughtful papers presented by Vern Bengston, Eva Kahana, Aine Ni Leime, and Susan Prager. Jerome Krase was the discussant.

The professional development workshop was led by Scott McNall and Tom

VanValey, with comments by Susan Prager. All of the research presented raised the problem of loss of identity and the sense of dislocation experienced by many after retirement, as well as issues of partner expectations and community and intellectual engagement.

Call for Nominations for the ORN Advisory Board

Assuming the passage of our bylaws by Council, three members of the acting advisory board have agreed to remain for an additional year to facilitate the transition to the new seven member board. We now need four volunteers to stand for election to a two-year term on the first elected ORN Advisory Board, starting in 2016. We should have candidates identified before January in order to assure they are part of the ASA election cycle. All members of the Advisory Board must be ASA members during the term of their service and it's expected that they will participate in the annual meetings during their term.



If you have an interest in serving, please e-mail [Jon Darling](#) or [Scott G. McNall](#).

Seattle 2016

Looking forward to Seattle, ASA-ORN will again have three sessions. Below is the call for papers. Submissions are due January 6, 2016. Instructions can be found at www.asanet.org/AM2016/callforpapers.cfm.



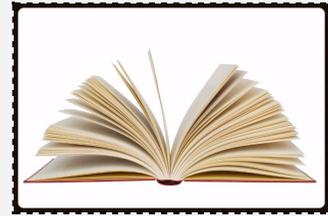
ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network (ASA-ORN) is seeking qualitative and quantitative papers on issues related to retirement. Although we encourage submissions of papers on all aspects of retirement, we are especially interested in a discussion of the skills which people bring to retirement, the opportunities people create and how they do this. Other possible topics include the impact of retirement on personal and professional relationships, how people remain connected in retirement, employment and other activities in retirement, predictors of satisfaction with life in retirement, personal changes in attitudes over time and what role gender may play in pre and post retirement experiences. If you have questions, e-mail [Susan Prager](#) or [Scott G. McNall](#).

In addition to the paper session, we will have a workshop entitled, "Should I Retire? Late Career Decision Making," designed for late career sociologists who are contemplating retirement. Making the decision to end a career of teaching, research, or practice is a difficult one, involving issues of finances, health, family and/or partner, identity, alternative pursuits, and, sometimes, relocation to a new community. The workshop will include a panel of sociologists who have already made the decision, either to keep working at their current employment location, or to retire. In addition, a representative of TIAA-CREF will discuss financial considerations. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their own concerns relating to the retirement decision, and post-meeting follow-up activities will be considered. The workshop is being organized by Jon Darling, Roz Darling, and Peter Stein.

Finally, the Advisory Board is in the process of selecting the second speaker in our "Life in Sociology" series.

Sociological Lives Update

As we've reported previously, Roz Darling and Peter Stein are editing a collection of life stories by retired sociologists. They had a good response to the call for submissions, and all submissions were peer reviewed. Approximately 20 essays will be included in the book, which will be published by ASA, perhaps in conjunction with a university press, in 2016 or 2017.



ORN Acting Advisory Board

- John Darling
- Rosalyn Benjamin Darling
- Scott McNall
- Susan Prager
- Peter Stein
- Thomas Van Valey

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