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ORNNotes



The first newsletter of the
ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network

June 2014

Fullname

Welcome!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a retired/emeritus member of the American Sociological Association. We are planning to send future issues electronically twice a year to all who would like to receive them (opt-out information is provided at the end of the newsletter). *ORNNotes* is a product of the ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network (ASAORN), which was created by Council vote earlier this year as a way to support late-career and retired sociologists and to link them with others at a similar life stage. We hope you will choose to remain involved in this exciting initiative!

A Brief History

Perhaps you saw [the article on the front page](#) of the April 2014 issue of *Footnotes* that described the formation of ASAORN. If not, please take a look at it for a fuller description of our new group. Here are the highlights: The idea for ASAORN began with a conversation between Rosalyn Benjamin Darling and Natalie Sokoloff that led to a session at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in 2009. The success of "ESSORN" led members Roz Darling and Peter Stein to propose the creation of a national ORN, and an exploratory gathering was held at the 2013 ASA annual meeting. After the meeting, four retired sociologists living in Chapel Hill, NC (Roz, Peter, Jon Darling, and Tuck Green) submitted a proposal to ASA to formalize the group, which was approved at the Winter 2014 Council meeting. The proposal included the following goals:



1. To promote retention of ASA members as they transition from full-time work to retirement.
2. To promote interaction and a sense of community among retired members.
3. To promote interaction between retired members and other members at all career stages.
4. To lessen the sense of isolation felt by some retired members.
5. To provide the means for sharing information about opportunities in teaching, research, and other activities that would benefit from the expertise of retired sociologists.
6. To provide the means for sharing information about other issues of concern to retirees, such as financial security, health care, and relocation possibilities.

7. To serve as a resource for the regional ORNs that already exist or are being established at the Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Southern, and other sociological societies.

Council approval included the following benefits:

1. A listserv (see article below).
2. A paper presentation session at the annual meeting, beginning in 2015.
3. A professional development workshop at the annual meeting, beginning in 2015.
4. A business meeting with an invited "lifetime of learning" lecture, beginning in 2015.
5. A semi-annual electronic newsletter.
6. A regular feature in *Footnotes* on retirement issues.

Listserv

The listserv was launched in April and is open to all members of ASAORN and other interested ASA members. (However, one may opt out of participation in the listserv and still remain an ASAORN member.) So far, the list has generated lively discussions and has connected many folks with old friends and former students, professors, and colleagues. Several interest groups have emerged from these discussions, including one led by Art Shostak on research about retirement communities. Some participants have called for activism on a variety of issues, including inequality and the situation of adjunct faculty. Although some of these concerns are tangential to the primary purposes of ASAORN, the list can serve as a means to connect those with similar interests.



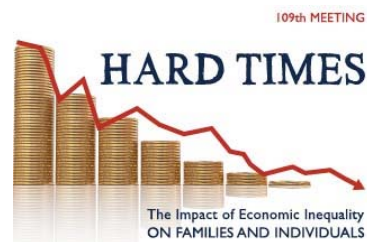
Advisory Board

The approved proposal included a provision for an advisory board to provide leadership and to serve as the organizing force behind ORN. In order to get things started, founding members, Roz and Jon Darling and Peter Stein have been acting in an informal leadership capacity, in partnership with our wonderful ASA liaison, Karen Gray Edwards. However, we will need lots of help to get ready for our sessions at the 2015 annual meeting. A call for volunteers on the listserv resulted in four members kindly offering to work with us: John Kennedy, Scott McNall, Susan Praeger, and Tom VanValey. Beginning with the 2014 annual meeting, these seven individuals will serve as the acting advisory board until the 2015 meeting, when we will hold an election to replace them with our first "real" board.



Meeting in San Francisco

This year's ORN meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 16, 2014, 6:30 - 8:15 p.m., in the Continental Parlor 1, Ballroom Level, of the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel. Here is the tentative agenda:



1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Review of agenda and goals for this meeting.
3. Brief review of the history and status of ASAORN.
4. Brief reports from the regional retirement associations that exist or are in formation: ESS, MSS, PSA, SSS.
5. ASA retirement initiatives and ASAORN-Karen Gray Edwards, ASA Director of Publications and Membership.
6. Discussion of plans for the 2015 meeting in Chicago (we will need volunteers to help the acting advisory board plan our paper session, meeting/lecture, and professional development workshop).
7. Discussion of book project, "Sociological Lives."
8. Report/discussion about our modes of communication: Listserv, newsletter, *Footnotes*, possible website.
9. Reports from interest groups and discussion about the creation of new interest groups.
10. Additional items suggested by members.

We hope to see you at the meeting!

Regional Groups

Both the Eastern Sociological Society and the Pacific Sociological Association have active groups for retired members, and, in April, the Midwest Sociological Society held a roundtable on retirement issues that resulted in recommendations for future sessions and a table at the presidential reception each year. The Southern Sociological Society also hosted a session on retirement this year and will host another in 2015. Regional meetings provide a way for retirees who cannot easily travel to national meetings to connect. We will have a liaison between each regional group and ASAORN in order to maintain communications and promote the sharing of ideas.



For additional information on ASAORN, e-mail:

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ASA Opportunities in Retirement Newsletter

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