

# ORNNotes

The official newsletter of the  
**ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network**

June 2016



## *Welcome to new ASA emeritus/retired members!*

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

## *Good News and Election Update*

ASA Council approved the ORN bylaws at their meeting in March 2016. The bylaws and the candidates for the ORN Advisory Board were on the official ASA ballot. We are pleased to report that the bylaws have been ratified, and that four new Advisory Board members have been elected:

- *Ronald Anderson*, University of Minnesota
- *William D'Antonio*, Catholic University
- *Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld*, Arizona State University
- *Jonathan Turner*, University of California-Riverside

The new advisory board members will officially begin on September 1, 2016, replacing outgoing members Jon Darling, Scott McNall, Susan Prager, and Peter Stein.

## *Notes from the Regional Associations*

At their March meeting, the Council of the **Eastern Sociological Society** approved the formation of a Committee on Opportunities in Retirement Network. The provisional advisory board will be headed by Susan B. Prager.

The annual meetings of the **Midwest Sociological Society** (which were held jointly with the North Central Sociological Association in Chicago) included a session, "MSS and Retirement: Society Support for and from Retirees." The session was sponsored and attended by members of the MSS Retirement Task Force. Subsequently, several sets of recommendations were formulated and submitted to the MSS board. One of the recommendations was to ask the ASA to sponsor a session/discussion for representatives from regional sociological associations regarding strategies currently used or proposed for supporting retired members. Other recommendations dealt with the MSS organization and structure relevant to retirees. Stay tuned for the response from the MSS Board.

## *ASA-ORN Sessions at the 2016 Annual Meeting*

### **Paper Session: "Pre- and Post-Retirement Experiences and Issues"**

Saturday, August 20, 2:30-4:10 p.m.

Presider: *Susan Prager*, Brooklyn College-CUNY

Discussant: *Scott McNall*, University of Montana

- "Community Social Involvement in Retirement: Regaining What You Have Lost," *Robert Stebbins*, University of Calgary
- "The Busy Ethic and Academic Retirement," *David Ekerdt*, University of Kansas
- "Marital Status, Marital Happiness, and Personal Happiness: Trends Over Time and Across Age Categories," *Gary Lee* and *Krista Payne*, Bowling Green State University
- "Swimming Upstream: Providing Palliative Care in a Culture of Care," *Clare Stacey*, Kent State University

### **Professional Development Workshop: "Should I Retire? Late Career Decision-Making"**

Monday, August 22, 10:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

Panelists:

- *Eva Kahana*, Case Western University
- *Robert Perrucci*, Purdue University
- *Peter Hall*, University of Missouri and Colorado State University
- *Elinor Lurie*, retired gerontologist

There will also be time for members of the audience to share their concerns relating to retirement and for a discussion about how ASA-ORN can be helpful in the future.

### **ASA-ORN Business Meeting, "A Life in Sociology" Lecture, and Reception**

Monday, August 22, 6:30-8:10 p.m.

## *Sally Hillsman to Present "A Life in Sociology" Lecture at 2016 ASA Annual Meeting*

We are delighted to announce that **Sally T. Hillsman**, the outgoing Executive Officer of the ASA, will be the speaker for ASA-ORN's "A Life in Sociology" series. A reception, sponsored by the ASA, will follow her presentation.

Dr. Hillsman, who has been a member of the ASA for 50 years, joined the ASA as Executive Officer in 2002 from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) where she was Deputy Director with responsibility for the Office of Research and Evaluation, the NIJ's external behavioral and social science research program. Previously, Dr. Hillsman was Vice President of the National Center for State Courts, and Associate Director of the Vera Institute of Justice in New

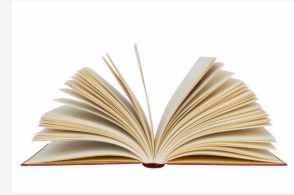


Photo by Carrie Madren

York City. Dr. Hillsman holds a PhD in Sociology from Columbia University, and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## *Book Project Update*

*Journeys in Sociology: From First Encounters to Fulfilling Retirements*



ASA-ORN has contracted with Temple University Press to publish a compilation of autobiographical stories by 20 retired sociologists, titled *Journeys in Sociology: From First Encounters to Fulfilling Retirements*. Edited by Peter Stein and Rosalyn Darling, this exciting new volume is anticipated in mid 2017. Look for it!

## *Interesting Data about ASA Retired/Emeritus Members of the ASA*

In 2015 and 2016, 866 people selected the Retired/Emeritus category of ASA membership. Of these, 272 (31 percent) were female and 591 (68 percent) were male--a clear contrast to the general membership which self-identifies 52 percent female and 46 percent male.

Since 2013, the number of Retired/Emeritus members grew from 680, to 720 in 2014, to 748 in 2015. What is notable about these numbers is that these numbers have increased by 10 percent during a period of time when overall ASA membership has declined by 8 percent. Emeritus/retired members made up 5.2 percent of overall membership in 2013, 5.7 percent in 2014, and 6.3 percent in 2015.

In contrast to membership, for the same three years, attendance at the annual meeting has remained stable. It was 162 in 2013, 160 in 2014, and 161 in 2015. Maybe with the formal operation of ORN, we will also see growth in future attendance.

Finally, in terms of participation on ASA committees, task forces, editorial boards, and as official representatives in one capacity or another, only 24 retired/emergitus members (of a total of 642, about 3.7 percent) currently serve in such roles. This is far below the proportion for the membership at large. Clearly, there are opportunities for people to volunteer their services and experience. The ASA Committee on Nominations invites suggestions for candidates for elected offices, and ASA Council encourages volunteers to serve on appointed committees. See <http://www.asanet.org/about/volunteer.cfm> for more information.

## *Current ASA-ORN Acting Advisory Board*

Rosalyn Benjamin Darling

[rdarling@iup.edu](mailto:rdarling@iup.edu)

John Kennedy

[kennedy@indiana.edu](mailto:kennedy@indiana.edu)

Scott McNall

[smcnall@csuchico.edu](mailto:smcnall@csuchico.edu)

Susan Prager

[profprager@aol.com](mailto:profprager@aol.com)

Peter Stein

[steinpeterj@gmail.com](mailto:steinpeterj@gmail.com)

Tom Van Valey

[vanvaley@wmich.edu](mailto:vanvaley@wmich.edu)

*For additional information on ASAORN, e-mail:*

Jon Darling [jdarling@pitt.edu](mailto:jdarling@pitt.edu)

Rosalyn Benjamin Darling [rdarling@iup.edu](mailto:rdarling@iup.edu)

Peter Stein [steinpeterj@gmail.com](mailto:steinpeterj@gmail.com)

Karen Gray Edwards [edwards@asanet.org](mailto:edwards@asanet.org)

This edition of *ORNNotes* was edited by Tom Van Valey with the assistance of Karen Gray Edwards.

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