

ORNNotes

The official newsletter of the
ASA Opportunities in Retirement Network
January 2015



Welcome!

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

ASA-ORN Meeting in San Francisco Well Attended

Our first official meeting was held during the ASA annual meeting in San Francisco last August. Approximately 45 people attended, and participants were enthusiastic about our new network. The meeting included reports from representatives of retirement groups in three regional associations-Eastern, Midwest, and Pacific-as well as a report from an active subgroup, chaired by Art Shostak, on research on retirement communities.



ASA-ORN to Hold Three Events at 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago

Business Meeting/Lecture/Reception

The first event is a combined **business meeting, lecture, and reception**, being organized by Roz Darling, John Kennedy, and Peter Stein.

We are delighted that Earl Babbie will present the first lecture in our "A Life in Sociology" series. The Acting Advisory Board decided to invite Dr. Babbie because of his distinguished career and his regional leadership in programs for retired sociologists. In addition to his scholarship, Earl has the reputation of being a thoughtful and humorous speaker. In an email, Dr. Babbie discussed his talk as follows:



The working title is "An Accidental Career," as I understood it should or could be

autobiographical. My career plans evolved from auto body mechanics to engineering to physics to anthropology to sociology. I went to Harvard because my best friend applied there, I went to Berkeley because Talcott Parsons suggested it, but I had no special reason other than that. I was assigned Charlie Glock as my advisor because of my then-interest in sociology of religion, not realizing he was director of the Survey Research Center (or what survey research was). Eventually, I was asked to start a survey research center in Hawaii and asked to write a textbook on survey research. And on it went. To be continued in Chicago . . .

Cengage Publishing has graciously agreed to sponsor our reception in Dr. Babbie's honor.

Professional Development Workshop

The second event is a professional development workshop. The workshop is entitled "Before and After Retirement" and will be led by Scott McNall and Tom Van Valey. Their description of the workshop follows: "Retirement can be a rewarding experience. However, people need to plan on what they are retiring TO as well as what they are retiring FROM. Pre-and post-retirement issues, partner expectations, community and intellectual engagement, and lessons learned are among topics that we will discuss."

To more fully inform the discussion about the range of experiences people have had in retirement, Scott and Tom would like those ORN members who have "officially" retired to respond to the following four questions. They will incorporate the results into the workshop. Responses can be sent directly to Tom at vanvaley@wmich.edu or to Scott at SMcNall@csuchico.edu

1. What has been the greatest challenge you have faced with your retirement?
2. Now that you are retired, what has brought you the greatest satisfaction?
3. What is the one piece of advice you would give to your colleagues who are about to retire?
4. Are you doing something new or different with your time now that you are retired? If so what?

Also, feel free to respond if you have not yet retired but wish to share your expectations (or raise a specific issue of concern to you).

Please encourage colleagues who are contemplating retirement to attend. As the newsletter only goes out to those who are paying ASA dues at the retired/emeritus level, those who are contemplating retirement may not otherwise hear about this workshop.

Paper Session

The third event is a paper session on "Pre- and Post-Retirement Experiences and Issues." This session is being organized by Jon Darling and Susan Prager. The call for papers published by the ASA describes the session as follows:

ASA-ORN is seeking qualitative and quantitative papers related to retirement.

Among meeting other objectives of retiring and retired colleagues, we want to encourage more research on retirement and provide a forum for discussing retirement experiences. Although we encourage the submission of papers on all aspects of retirement, we are especially interested in papers concerned with the impact of retirement on personal and professional relationships, remaining connected in retirement, employment and other activities in retirement, predictors of satisfaction with life in retirement, personal changes in attitudes toward retirement over time, and what role gender may play in pre- and post-retirement experiences.

Jon and Susan are also interested in getting a panel of reviewers. If you want to be considered, please contact Susan Prager at profprager@aol.com.

Book Project Reminder

As announced earlier, ASA-ORN is sponsoring a book, to be published by ASA and tentatively titled, *Sociological Lives*, edited by Rosalyn Benjamin Darling and Peter Stein. An editorial board is being formed and all submissions will be peer reviewed. The call for submissions follows:



The book will be a compilation of autobiographical accounts written by retired sociologists, focusing on the evolving meaning of sociology in their lives. We are looking for accounts that take a life-span perspective and go beyond academic experiences. The editors are especially interested in post-retirement activities, challenges, and accomplishments.

Submissions should be 3,000 to 4,500 words. Please send inquiries to Roz at rdarling@iup.edu. Submissions should be sent to steinpeterj@gmail.com and to rdarling@sociologymail.org. The deadline is March 1, 2015.

The editors will be contacting editorial board volunteers later to help review submissions.

New Website Launched

Thanks to the hard work of Jon Darling, the ASA website (www.asanet.org) has a direct link to the ASA-ORN website (see "What's New" on the left side of ASA homepage). This web presence provides a single easy-access point for complete information about the network, making it a convenient hub and showcase for related ORN-sponsored programs, activities, and plans for future development. Before this launch, such information was fragmented across ORN listserv postings, an announcement in the April ASA Newsletter, and content in the first ORN newsletter. Please share this direct hot-link (<http://www.asanet.org/members/ORN/ORN-intro.cfm>) in messages to colleagues and on social media sites.



The current ORN pages contain details for all the ORN features covered in this newsletter along with information on the ORN listserv, archived semi-annual ORN Newsletters; a brief history of ORN as a concept, information on regional associations, developing ORN interest groups, links to retirement resources, and description of plans for a future national and regional database of opportunities in retirement.

We appreciate the excellent ongoing support provided by Karen Gray Edwards, our ASA-ORN liaison and by Redante Asuncion-Reed, the ASA webmaster. We hope you will find good value in the ORN web pages. Please address web-page related comments, questions, and suggestions to jdarling@pitt.edu.

Professional E-Mail Addresses Available



Many retirees lose their university email addresses when they retire. ASA is able to provide professional email addresses free of charge for retired members who are interested. The address will read [preferredname]@sociologymail.org. Email access is provided through Yahoo Mail or you may manually set up access through your own mail program. If you would like one of these addresses, please contact Karen Gray Edwards at edwards@asanet.org. (Include name as you would like it to be in the e-mail address.)

Elections Slated for 2016

At their meeting in San Francisco, the Acting Advisory Board agreed to serve through the 2016 annual meeting. The Board also discussed the need to establish procedures for the election of future board members. The Board will submit a proposal for discussion at the business meeting in Chicago, followed by a vote of all ORN Members.

The current Acting Advisory Board includes:

- Jon Darling (jdarling@pitt.edu)
- Rosalyn Benjamin Darling (rdarling@iup.edu)
- John Kennedy (Kennedyj@indiana.edu)
- Scott G. McNall (SMcNall@csuchico.edu);
- Susan B Prager (profprager@aol.com)
- Peter Stein (steinpeterj@gmail.com)
- Tom Van Valey (vanvaley@wmich.edu)