

Honored Volunteer Stories

Becky Reiss

Actually, forty-nine years ago yesterday (3/18) I began working at ASU in the College of Business with the newly established Productivity Institute. Later I worked for Dean Overman in the College and then for Ken Pollock who directed Information Technology. When Ken went to Wright State University, I worked with one of his directors, Connie McNeill. When Connie went to ASU West I worked for one of the other directors before I retired in 2002. Great people. Great opportunities for learning and wonderful experiences. Certainly 27 years well spent! Then to be involved in ASURA has been excellent.” Volunteering for ASURA was fun, interesting and rewarding in many ways.

Becky was the Chair of our Obituaries Committee from 2002-2022—21 years! During her time as chair, Becky developed new, and effective methods for collecting obituaries.

When she began, obituaries were published only in Prime Times. Becky developed:

- Email notifications in 2010, to allow people to attend memorial services; and
- The Obituaries moved to the Web in 2011, and Becky adjusted procedures to accommodate that.

She also added procedures for updating membership records and notifying surviving partners??

Becky was completely reliable! She never let vacations, illness, or other responsibilities keep her from providing this invaluable service to our membership.

Thank you, Becky!

Carolyn Minner

Carolyn Minner also couldn't be with us today—maybe she will be! But, Carolyn volunteered 18 years of service to ASURA. She was our Business Operations Manager from 2007-2024 and a board member from 2012-2014. Carolyn not only handled all business operations, but also posted the obituaries on the ASURA website for as long as we have been doing that.

She was centrally involved in the projects to digitize and maintain our membership records – she did this first in MS Access and then on Wild Apricot. On her own, Carolyn learned to use each new financial system the Foundation and ASU moved to. Carolyn says she is technologically challenged, but her work certainly proves otherwise!

Carolyn was completely reliable and responsive. Barry Bruns and Jerry Snyder commented that they liked working with her, and she made the jobs they did easy. The ASU Foundation made the same comments!

As these terrific pictures show—Carolyn loves dogs!

Thank you, Carolyn!

Dave Scheatzle

We are so glad David could be with us today!

Dave Scheatzle dedicated 17 years of service to ASURA!

Dave was a mainstay of the organization from the time he joined (which was even before he retired). He was a board member for two terms!

While president (2004-2005), he conceived of the idea for a golf tournament fundraiser. He actually got Bobby Winkles to come, along with several former ball players, and rounded up donations. These events raised a lot of money for the Scholarship and the Video History Project.

Dave put out the Prime Times for 5 years. Along with this, he took pictures of many ASU volunteers and events for use in ASURA publications.

With the Video History Project, he helped conduct many interviews and made arrangements with the ASU Library for inclusion of the video interviews in the digital archives.

Dave was the first to work on creating an ASURA membership database. This began with Excel, and he then took classes in MS Access and did the original development of a membership application.

Dave was very successful in recruiting others to volunteer with ASURA.

And, as you can see, he was a great model at the ASURA Fashion Show!

Dave, thank you so much for your service to ASURA!!!

Elmer Gooding

Elmer is also with us today!

Elmer Gooding served us for 16 years!!!! He was a board member for 4 terms! Elmer has held many additional roles—President, Membership Committee Chair, and Emeritus College Liaison. As Connie McNeill says, “Elmer’s smile is his trademark. For many years he was the face of ASURA. He represented the Association at many events, especially the in-person retirement planning meetings held by Human Resources.”

As chair of the Membership Committee, he instigated the use of email obituary notices so that people could have timely notice of memorial services. He attended many of those services himself, since he had so many friends and colleagues at ASU.

Elmer introduced the notion of a free introductory membership for new retirees and oversaw its implementation. He worked with ASU to institute a regular transfer of information on new retirees to ASURA.

He also

- collaborated with Dave Scheatzle when they first began trying to collect and digitize association membership records.
- active in the Emeritus College, serving as Dean at one point. He worked on building collaboration and mutual understanding between the Emeritus College and ASURA and facilitated sharing of information between the two.
- contributed his photography skills over many years – many of the photos in the ASURA archives were taken by him.

Thank you, Elmer!

Dave Schwalm

We are so glad David could be with us today!

David Schwalm came to ASU in 1986 as Director of Composition and retired in 2009 as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the Polytechnic Campus.

Dave joined the Board and agreed to be Vice President very shortly after he retired (2011-12). Dave's leadership style was relaxed and pleasant, and he was a well-liked ambassador for ASURA both while an officer and during his long service as chair of the Membership Committee.

Dave had leadership roles at Main, West and Poly campuses. This made him especially well-known, and no doubt contributed to his credibility when he attended orientation meetings for upcoming retirees and promoted the value of membership.

When ASURA wanted to try to resurrect the Veterans Day golf tournament as a fund raiser, Dave Schwalm bravely and kindly agreed to chair the committee. He found that things had changed quite a bit since Dave Scheatzle's very successful tournaments. He and his committee did put on tournaments in 2013 and 2014, raising about \$1,500 each. We haven't found a fund-raising volunteer since!

Thank you, David!