



NEWSWATCH

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March 2020

**Next meeting: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 13
Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

**Without a crystal ball to predict the virus situation in April,
the IURA will not meet on April 8.**

COVID-19 disrupts annual meeting plans

The April 8 meeting, with Mayor John Hamilton as speaker, has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus. Given that IURA members fall into the cohort of those at higher risk, the board has decided that discretion is the better part of valor. “As much as we prize our meetings, they are nonessential,” said President **Doug Porter**.

The bylaws state that the annual meeting “will normally be held in April of each year.” But these are not normal times. Therefore, the board has voted that the annual meeting will be in May. The April newsletter will report the nominating committee’s candidates for three-year terms on the board.

Retirees surpass goal ... by a lot!

You did it! Even though retirees are entertaining themselves by watching their portfolios ride a roller coaster, they generously met the lofty \$250,000 goal set for the 2020 United Way campaign. In fact, they fell just short of last year’s all-time record. As of March 13, retiree giving totaled \$279,463.88.

The record speaks for itself:

Year	Goal	Pledged	Contrib.	Vanguards
2020	\$250,000	\$279,463	235	110
2019	\$190,000	\$280,833	233	103
2018	\$210,000	\$255,955	233	104
2017	\$170,000	\$188,210	219	87
2016	\$145,000	\$172,503	201	79

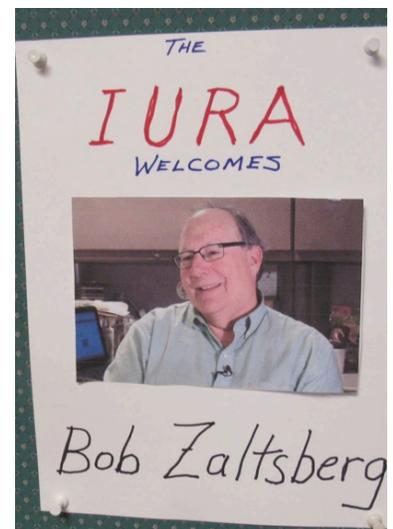
2015	\$135,000	\$153,000	195	69
2014	\$125,000	\$131,773	161	62
2013	\$115,000	\$137,000	224	64
2012	\$100,000	\$115,000	161	62

Eileen Schellhammer and **Dick Dever** co-chaired this year’s successful drive for the IURA, assisted by IURA board member **Jim Grandorf**, who chairs the Vanguard campaign for IU and the community. Hats off to them – and to all who showed their commitment to the place where they are planted.

February speaker recalls his career: last-minute sub hits it out of the ballpark

Flu – not COVID-19 but what IURA President **Doug Porter** dubbed “good old-time Midwestern flu – sidelined the scheduled February speaker, **Perry Metz**. “He couldn’t come and we didn’t want him to come,” Doug observed.

Just 24 hours before the meeting, program chairman **Charlie Matson** recruited **Bob Zaltsberg**, who retired at the end of January 2019 after 33 years as editor of the *Herald-Times* (and the *Herald-Telephone*). Bob’s recollections of what he





Longtime IURA newsletter editor Judy Schroeder welcomes newly retired Doug Bauder to his first meeting on Feb. 12.

called “one year out of the threshing machine” kept his audience enthralled as nearly 90 retirees gathered at the Feb.12 meeting, held at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church.

Bob listed five big stories during his time as editor:

- PCBs,
- IU basketball,
- local politics,
- the Cook Group, and
- the growth of IU.

Beginning in the 1950s, Westinghouse dumped PCBs with no understanding of their long-term danger. Around 1985 four sites in Monroe and Owen counties were discovered to have substantial PCB contamination. Bob is still writing about the [story](#). “It’s not a walkaway situation,” Bob said.

As for IU basketball, “it’s been 33 years since the last championship,” Bob pointed out. He said Bob Knight, who was fired one year and one day before 9/11, should “live out his last years with some level of happiness.”

Since he started at the H-T in 1976, politics in Monroe County “has taken a huge left turn,” Bob observed. The city, which had been staunchly Republican, elected a Democratic mayor in 1971 and hasn’t elected a Republican since. And no Republican has been elected to the City Council since Brad Wisler went off the council in 2011. In the 2019 primary election, longtime council members Chris Sturbaum and Andy Ruff lost to a new generation of progressives.

As for the Cook Group, he said, there’s no disagreement on its local impact or contribution. It has been responsible for jobs, downtown development, health care, and the rise of Ivy Tech.

IU’s growth has been massive. “Maybe it’s a little more corporate now,” he said, “but its impact is undeniable.” During the question period **Bruce Jaffee** asked whether IU’s corporatization is reflected in its now having an official spokesperson, Chuck Carney. Many employees will answer reporters’ questions directly, Bob said, adding, “I think you are smart enough to talk to the press yourself.” Still, he acknowledged, Chuck returns calls reliably.

During Bob’s time as editor, IU had five different presidents – “and each has been mad at me.” Bloomington had four different mayors – “and each has been even madder.” Among his favorite governors have been Frank O’Bannon, Mitch Daniels, and Eric Holcomb, all because of “their real concern about Hoosier issues.” He feels fortunate to have known both Dick Lugar and Lee Hamilton, “two of the best statesmen ever.”

News platforms have changed during his career, Bob noted. When he started, there was no CNN, no *USA Today*. “Now,” he said, “those are legacy media.” Everyone can be a publisher. “It’s the wild, wild West out there,” Bob cautioned, and a wary public needs to vet its sources. “What keeps me awake nights,” he said, “is how technology has the ability to create fake news.”

During the question period Bob said he still considers the *Herald-Times* the best source for local news, along with WFIU. He encouraged retirees to support local media. Asked about the Black Lives Matter boycott of the *H-T*, he said, “I feel real empathy for the paper. They’re trying to do their jobs.”



Challenged by **Victoria Hilkevitch** (above) about the newspaper’s coverage of Farmers’ Market vendor Sarah Dye, he conceded, “It wasn’t a perfect story. They may have left out a couple of sources, but they’re *not* white supremacists.”

Six corporations now own practically all the U.S. mainstream media. These businesses care more about making money than about serving the community. Absentee ownership doesn't change the commitment of local papers, but it does affect their resources. "They are not told what to cover," he said, "but they are told how many people they can hire."

Changes at the *Herald-Times* continue. Now that it is printed in Indianapolis, it has an 11:45 p.m. press time. He compared that to the Columbus newspaper, which has a 6 p.m. press time, or the *South Bend Tribune*, with an 8 p.m. press time. "Just think what that means for local sports coverage," he said.

Smaller newspapers are being squeezed out. Owen County historian (and IU professor emeritus) **Tony Neff** talked about the changes at the *Spencer Evening World*, which is down to one employee. The *Ellettsville Journal* is down to 400 subscribers.

In introducing Bob, Charlie quoted IU President Michael McRobbie's remarks when awarding him the Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion: "We have been very fortunate in our community to have an individual like Bob, a man of integrity, high ethical standards, unfailing curiosity, and the courage to ask tough questions, as the editor of our daily newspaper for the last 33 years."

Bob is a native of Winchester, Ind., and in his youth worked in his parents' department store. He earned a degree in English with an emphasis on journalism at Miami of Ohio. His first job was in Plainfield, but he soon came to Bloomington as a sportswriter. In retirement he works part time as special projects editor for the WFIU/WTIU news team and teaches a course in media management at the Media School. On May 16 he will be inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Sally Dunn furnished the refreshments that added to a successful meeting. "We lucked out on the weather," Doug commented in his opening remarks. Retirees agreed we also lucked out on the speaker.

Hopes are high for May dinner

We are living in interesting times. But hopes are high that the May 13 dinner, the culmination of the academic year for the IURA, will go on as planned. The dinner, an affair catered by One World Catering, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the IU Foundation.

The program will feature a live special IU Bicentennial edition of WFIU's Ether Game, the popular radio quiz program. **Chris Burrus**, the producer, writer, and host of the weekly music show, will quiz us on music and musicians with connections to the IU Bicentennial. Ether Game has been on the air since 1971. For more information about the program, go to

<https://indianapublicmedia.org/ethergame/>

The buffet dinner will feature lemon herb roast chicken with braised fennel as the entrée. The vegetarian option will be eggplant involtini (with cheese filling). Both will be offered with buttered broccoli with grated topping, cucumber and fresh herb salad with crumbled feta, and cornbread with honey and butter. Assorted sweets – apricot coconut jumbles, chocolate crinkles, and iced lemon cookies – will be the dessert. The IURA is providing beverages, which will include water, iced tea, and wine.

19th annual exhibit seeks submissions

Retirees and their spouses or partners are invited to submit art for the 19th annual Emeriti House/IURA annual art exhibit. The organizing committee welcomes submissions in all art media. Works in a medium that has been underrepresented in the past – collage, woodwork, sculpture in various materials, pottery, and textiles (including weaving, needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery) – are especially welcome.



Last year's exhibit included "Design for a Jigsaw Puzzle," a collage by IURA member Gail Londergan.

**IU Retirees Association
P.O. Box 8393
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393**

**Nonprofit Org.
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Permit No. 2**

Works should be submitted at Emeriti House, 1015 E. Atwater Ave., on Monday, April 20, between 9 and 11 a.m. Individual contributors may submit one or two works. Final selections are made at the discretion of the organizing committee.

Art should be submitted ready for exhibit. For example, if a work is framed, a wire should be attached to the upper third of the frame. A label on the back of the piece should state the name of the submitter; if for sale, the price; if not for sale, "NFS;" the medium; and the title of the piece if there is one.

Late submissions will not be accepted. If you cannot drop off art on April 20, contact **Nat McKamey**, emeriti@indiana.edu, (812) 855-3773, about an early submission.

Address questions to **B.J. Irvine**, who chairs the organizing committee, irvine@indiana.edu, (812) 322-4412. Other committee members are **Wendy Bernstein, Jerry Chertkoff, Audrey Heller, Ruth Miller, Larry Thibos, Beau Vallance, and John Woodcock**.

The opening reception is Friday, April 24, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Emeriti House, 1015 E. Atwater Ave.

For information about the programs of the Emeriti House, see www.emeritihouse.indiana.edu or call (812) 855-3773 for updated information.

For the latest

As event cancellations crowd our mailboxes, we live according to our own uncertainty principle. To find

out whether a forthcoming event announced in this newsletter is actually going to take place, go to the IURA website: iura.indiana.edu.

Singing those Anthem Blues

In February, **Rosemary Dever** reports, she had difficulties with Anthem Blue's billing during changeover. She reached out to HR's **Karen Hill**, whose response may be helpful to other IURA members: "Anthem was having system issues and has them corrected now. If you have any claims denied for the \$100 deductible, then they will be automatically reprocessed by Anthem for payment to your providers."

About this newsletter

Newswatch is published eight times each year, August through April, except for February. To correct your address, please contact database manager **Doris Wittenburg**, dwittenb@indiana.edu. **Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch*. Send corrections or comments to her at jschroed@indiana.edu. Photos courtesy of **Allan Edmonds**, IURA webmaster, and **Nat McKamey**, Emeriti House.

Age is not the enemy. Stagnation is the enemy. Complacency is the enemy. Stasis is the enemy.

Twyla Tharp, *Keep It Moving*