



The RETIREE CENTER Newsletter

THE RETIREE CENTER IS MOVING!



Hello Retirees,

Yes, the Retiree Center will be moving this fall! The Alumni House is being converted into a small residence hall, with renovations set to begin sometime during the fall semester. As a result, the Retiree Center will relocate to Somsen 102, located on the first floor of Somsen Hall. While we don't yet have a confirmed moving date, we expect the transition to take place during the fall semester.

Right now, preparations are underway in the new office space, including installing additional outlets and ports, freshening up the paint, and cleaning the carpets. This is a significant change, but I'm hopeful it will be a positive one. We're also exploring the option of reserving a few parking spaces for retirees near the back entrance of Somsen. I'll keep you informed of any updates and will let you know the exact move-in date as soon as it's finalized.

Despite the move and all the logistics that come with it, we're pushing forward with a full slate of fall programming. Starting in August, my hours will return to 32 per week, so the Retiree Center will be open all day Monday through Thursday (barring illness or scheduled time off). Since I'm now running a one-person office, I highly recommend calling ahead before stopping by to pick up a parking pass, register for a class, or anything else, just to make sure I'm in. I know how frustrating it is to arrive and find the door locked! I'll do my best to keep you informed about office hours, though sometimes meetings or other duties may take me away unexpectedly.

The Retiree Breakfasts have been very well attended so far this spring and summer. It's been wonderful to see so many of you each month. I hope you will be able to attend our upcoming breakfast on Tuesday, August 12th. WSU Director of Admissions, Tania Schmidt, will be our guest speaker. I know she has some good news to share with all of you about fall enrollment! For the September breakfast, we will again be chartering two cruises aboard the Cal Fremling. That is always a popular and fun event. I will send out informational emails in August along with the RSVP request.

We have five outstanding Senior University classes on tap for the fall. Registration is up and running. We have had one class fill up already, so please register soon if you find a class that interests you. You can see the class list on page three of this newsletter. If you'd like to receive a brochure in the mail, just let me know and I'll get one sent out to you.

In addition to our classes, we are hitting the road for four day trips this fall! We will be attending three musicals: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical*, and the world premiere of *Purple Rain: The Musical*. We will also head to US Bank Stadium to see the Vikings take on the Cincinnati Bengals. All trips are currently sold out, but we're keeping waitlists. Stay tuned for new day trip opportunities coming in Spring.

Please also save the date for our annual Retiree Fall Social on Thursday, October 9th, from 2–4 p.m. at the American Legion. While you're updating your calendar, don't forget to mark down the Winter Social (Thursday, December 4th) and the Living History Premiere (Monday, December 8th, 3:30–5:30 p.m. in Stark Hall 103). I'll be sending out plenty of reminders as these dates approach. Have a wonderful late summer/early fall. Hope to see you soon!

– Jess

RETIREE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

To support the mission of WSU and enrich the campus community as well as the lives of retired staff, faculty and administration by providing institutional connections between the University and retirees who may wish to continue their intellectual and social participation in collegial life and service to the University.

WINONA STATE 2035

From the President's Inside Winona State Update - Written by Ken Janz

Advisory Board

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Director:
Jessica Kauphusman

Looking Ahead: Winona State 2035

As we close out the 2024-25 academic year, I want to share my appreciation for your help laying the foundation for Winona State 2035, our new ten-year strategic vision. This first draft, which we will finalize in the early fall, reflects the work of many across our campus. It results from hundreds of ideas from all areas of our community. It is built around a shared commitment to our Mission and Values, and designed to guide our direction, adapt to a changing world, and keep our students – and each other – at the center of everything we do.

At the heart of Winona State 2035 are three pillars: The Warrior Way, The Warrior Edge, and The Warrior Shield. Each pillar reflects a different aspect of who we are and where we're headed.

The Warrior Way – Community, Kindness, and Support

This pillar is all about creating a culture of belonging in which kindness, service, and how we support each other are woven into daily life. We want Winona State to be recognized nationally, not just for what we teach, but for how we treat each other.

Our Warrior Way initiatives include:

- Warrior Journey – Guiding students with personal, holistic support throughout their time with us.
- Mentor Network – Building intentional, supportive relationships that help students grow.
- Campus Compass – Creating more intuitive, inclusive ways for students to find support and get involved.
- Community Connector – Strengthening student involvement with local organizations, deepening civic engagement, and building a stronger bridge between our campus and the communities we serve.

The Warrior Edge – Innovate, Evolve, Connect

This pillar is our commitment to academic excellence and career readiness. It's about helping students build their talents and connections to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Key Warrior Edge initiatives include:

- New Literacies – Embedding critical thinking, digital fluency, and intercultural competence into all we do.
- Empower You – Expanding personalized learning and high-impact practices.
- Thrive Online – Taking our digital learning tools and platforms to the next level.
- Warriors Write – Investing in writing and communication skills across disciplines.

The Warrior Shield – Stewardship, Wellness, and Safety

This pillar is about safeguarding the well-being of our community and our campus. It includes financial health, environmental sustainability, and ensuring Winona State remains a safe, supportive place to live and learn.

Warrior Shield initiatives include:

- Warrior Places – Upgrading and maintaining facilities that foster learning, wellness, and community.
- Data Hubs – Improving our use of data to support students and decision-making.
- Warrior Financial Resilience – Strengthening our financial foundation.
- Healthcare Village – Reimagining and expanding our health sciences and wellness programs.

What makes Winona State 2035 special is that it was built together. During the planning process, more than 1,500 students and over 35 stakeholder groups shared their hopes, concerns, and ideas. Long-Range Planning Committee members listened, reflected, and responded with a plan that reflects our values and lights the path forward. These initiatives are only the beginning of the opportunities ahead of us. Over the next decade, we'll align resources, track progress, refine our approach, and shape a new future for Winona State University. But the heart of this plan – our people – will always remain constant.

SENIOR UNIVERSITY FALL 2025



Here is a look at the Senior University classes for Fall 2025.
Classes will be held in person on the WSU campus.
REGISTRATION is open!

CRIT: GENEALOGICAL RESILIENCE, INTEGRITY & TENACITY	Janis Martin Class is full	Thursdays August 28, September 4, 11, 18 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00
HOT TOPICS THAT POLITICANS DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT	Richard Shields	Tuesdays September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00
SENIOR U LITE: THE WSU ARBORETUM: MORE THAN JUST TREES	Melanie Reap	Fridays October 3, 10 1:00-3:00 p.m. \$20.00
THE ROMANTICISMS: FOUR STRANDS	Emilio DeGrazia	Wednesdays October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00
EATING YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH	Kent Hansen	Thursdays October 16, 23, 30 November 6, 13 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00

2025 RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

The Retiree Center has two fabulous travel opportunities available for 2026! To learn more about these trips, please join us for a Travel Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, August 27th at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be hosted by our Collette Travel representative, Katie Ganshert. To pre-register for the meeting, please follow this link: <https://collette.zoom.us/j/9582842044>

Utah's Mighty Five & the Rockies

This 9-day trip will depart on May 18, 2026. The cost is \$5929 per person double. Take an awe-inspiring train trip from Denver to Moab aboard Rocky Mountaineer, and trek across the Southwest as you take in the sienna-colored canyons, towering spires, and desert landscapes found in Utah's five national parks.

Trip Highlights: Rocky Mountaineer, Glenwood Springs, Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, & Las Vegas



Discover European Christmas Markets

Our second offering is Discover European Christmas Markets. The cost is \$3829 per person double. This 9-day trip will depart on November 28, 2026. Set out on a grand holiday adventure through the winter wonderland of the Imperial Cities of Central Europe – Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Tour the magnificent Prague Castle and explore its famous Christmas market at the Old Town Square. Experience the world’s oldest Christmas market in Dresden. In Vienna, learn the secrets of confectionary at a candy workshop and indulge in dinner at the famous Marchfelderhof. Tour gorgeous Budapest and explore its outdoor markets aglow with lights, where stalls of crafts and delicacies abound.

Trip Highlights: Prague's Christmas Markets, Prague Castle, Dresden's Christmas Markets, Cesky Krumlov, Vienna's Christmas Markets, Budapest's Christmas Markets, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, & Bratislava, Slovakia.



AROHE - ESTATE PLANNING 3-PART WEBINAR SERIES

From AROHE.com

The Retiree Center is a member of an international organization called AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education). AROHE is a nonprofit association that champions transformative practices to support all stages of faculty and staff retirement, their mutually beneficial engagement, and continuing contributions to their academic institutions.

This fall, AROHE is hosting an Estate Planning Webinar Series in three parts. These webinars are FREE and open to all who are interested. To Pre-Register for the series, please follow this link:

<https://www.arohe.org/event-6242902/Registration>



Part I: Introduction to Estate Planning: The Five Essential Documents

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - Noon-1:30 p.m.

This course will explain the five essential documents used in estate planning, including their purposes and the choices they involve. These include, more or less in order of importance: Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, Will, Revocable Trust, and Medical Directive.

Part II: Trusts: The Swiss Army Knife of Estate Planning

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - Noon-1:30 p.m.

This course will teach the basics of trusts, including the essential elements of every trust and their many uses, including probate avoidance, tax reduction, planning for incapacity, and asset protection. It will explain the role of trustees and the rights of beneficiaries and the difference between revocable and irrevocable trusts.

Part III: Long-Term Care and Tax Planning

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 - Noon-1:30 p.m.

Everyone is at risk of needing long-term care and if the need arises it can upset the otherwise well planned retirement. We will explain the difference between Medicare and Medicaid and what they cover as well as the basic eligibility rules for Medicaid and Medicaid planning. It will also review some of the prior course material on planning for incapacity. The tax section of the class will provide an introduction to both estate taxation and estate tax planning (relevant to few taxpayers today) and the ins and outs of the tax on capital gain, especially the step-up in basis.

RETIREE PARKING PERMITS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

The 2025-2026 retiree parking permits are now available! You may stop in at the Retiree Center to pick one up. Since I am a 1-person office, I would advise you to call before coming to the center to ensure that I am available to help you. I will also mail permits by request to retirees who live 30+ miles from campus. To request a permit, please email retiree@winona.edu. Include your name, current mailing address and license plate number/State of Issuance.

Retirees with parking permits can park in all gold lots on campus. This is a fantastic benefit for you, but you do need to make sure to get a new permit each year...you may be ticketed if your car is displaying an expired permit.

CALENDAR

August



RETIREE BREAKFAST

Tuesday, August 12, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Kryzsko Commons Solarium

RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL MEETING

Hosted by our Collette Representative,
Katie Ganshert.

Come and learn about the Retiree
Center's 2026 travel opportunities!
See p. 4 for details



LEARNING CLUB OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 21, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Winona County History Center
Renew your membership!
Refreshments & Entertainment Provided

WSU MOVE-IN DAY

Thursday, August 21, 2025

WSU CLASSES START

Monday, August 25, 2025



RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

Disney's Beauty and the Beast
Thursday, August 24, 2025
Matinee Performance
Orpheum Theater
SOLD OUT - Taking Waitlist

September

AROHE FINANCIAL PLANNING WEBINAR

Part 1: *Introduction to Estate Planning:
The Five Essential Documents*
Thursday, September 30, 2025
12:00-1:30 p.m.
Registration is FREE and open to all:
<https://www.arohe.org/Webinars>



9/1/25
WSU Closed



RETIREE BREAKFAST

Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Aboard the Cal Fremling
Details will be sent via email

WARRIOR GAME DAY EXPERIENCE

September 6 & 20, 2025



A BEAUTIFUL NOISE: THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL

Retiree Center Day Trip: Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, MN
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - 7:30 performance
SOLD OUT - Taking Waitlist

MN VIKINGS DAY TRIP

Vikings vs. Bengals
US Bank Stadium
Sunday, September 21, 2025
SOLD OUT - Taking Waitlist



RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL

Islands of New England
September 12-19, 2025

CALENDAR

October



October 4 & 25, 2025
Mark & Winona Streets

WSU HOMECOMING
October 19-26, 2025



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!

AROHE FINANCIAL PLANNING WEBINARS

Part 2: *Trusts: The Swiss Army Knife of Estate Planning*
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - Noon-1:30 p.m.
Part 3: *Long Term Care and Tax Planning*
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 - Noon-1:30 p.m.

Registration is FREE and open to all:
<https://www.arohe.org/Webinars>

RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

Purple Rain: The Musical
State Theater, Minneapolis - 7:30 Performance
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
SOLD OUT - Taking Waitlist

RETIREE CENTER FALL SOCIAL

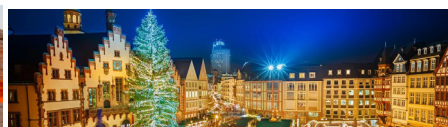
Thursday, October 9, 2025
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
American Legion
302 E. Sarnia/Winona



November and Beyond

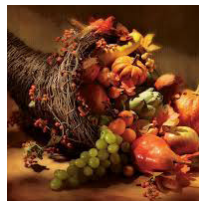
2026 RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL

Utah's Mighty Five & The Rockies - May
European Christmas Markets - November



VETERAN'S DAY

Tuesday, November 11, 2025



THANKSGIVING BREAK

Retiree Center Closed
November 26-28, 2025

LIVING HISTORY PROJECT PREMIERE

Monday, December 8, 2025
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Stark Hall 103

Three distinguished WSU Retirees will be honored
with student-produced documentaries!

WSU COMMENCEMENT DAY

Friday, December 12, 2025



SPRING 2026 RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIPS

HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS - ORPHEUM
GUYS AND DOLLS - CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATER

RETIREE CENTER WINTER SOCIAL

Thursday, December 4, 2025
2:00-4:00 p.m.
American Legion
302 E. Sarnia/Winona





*Rita Mendyk
Registrar's Office
June 11, 2025*

IN MEMORIAM



*We honor and mourn our University
colleagues who have recently died.
We recognize the richness of each life,
the gifts these members have brought to
many and the loss felt by
family and friends.*



*Mary Thorne
International Office
July 20, 2025*



*Douglas Johnson
IT Services
June 16, 2025*



*Nora Naas
Spouse of Fred Naas
June 20, 2025*

THE PERKS OF BEING A WSU RETIREE

- Athletic Events: Free admission to regular scheduled campus athletic events
- Teaching, Learning and Technology Services: Free campus offered classes when space available
- WSU Fitness Center access at employee rate
- ID card for all retirees
- Free parking pass for all lots, must renew each year
- Printer, scanner and copy access at the Retiree Center (up to 10 pages)
- Notary Public Services available at no charge
- WSU Library privileges (Retiree ID card serves as library card)

