



April 2020
Volume 14, Issue 8

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April meeting of Columbus Torch Club canceled

Thom Seelbach, club secretary, distributed an email message in mid-March announcing that the monthly meeting of the Torch Club of Columbus scheduled for April 2 is canceled. Violet Meek, club president, made the decision after consulting with the Board of Directors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Violet said a decision about whether to hold the May meeting will be made as more information becomes available. Joe Blundo, a *Dispatch* columnist and a Torch Club member since 2010, is scheduled to present his Torch paper, "What Columbus Invented and What It Didn't," on May 7.

Rae Goerler was prepared to deliver his Torch paper, "Lofty Aspirations, Humble Beginnings: The Early Years at OSU," on April 2. He has agreed instead to present the paper at the club's first meeting next fall on October 1. Rae has been a Torch member since 2014. He was the university archivist at Ohio State from 1978 until his retirement in 2011.

In-Person IATC convention canceled for 2020

The International Association of Torch Clubs (IATC) announced in an email message on March 20 that its 2020 convention scheduled for June 18-21 in North Carolina will not be held in-person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The IATC Board hopes to hold the convention online, live-stream the Paxton Paper, and vote by email.

IATC plans to hold next year's convention in Boone and Blowing Rock, N.C., on June 17-20, 2021. The convention will be hosted by the High Country Torch Club of Boone using the same program as planned for 2020. The hotel, the bus company and the Doe River Gorge organization have all agreed to permit IATC to reschedule to 2021.

For Torch Club members who have pre-registered for the 2020 convention, checks not yet deposited will be returned. Refunds will be sent to individuals whose checks had been deposited.

"No amount of planning could have predicted the COVID-19 virus and its effect on the nation," the IATC said in its message. "We are hopeful that all will turn out well. The convention has been cancelled in the past. The Depression during the 1930s stopped one convention, and World War II and the strict rationing stopped several conventions until the war was over. Our current war is biological, but with groups limited to 10 people, we cannot meet in person this year."

President's Message: Hope grounded in reality

The picture below shows something Don and I happened upon on one of our walks through our neighborhood. It doesn't seem so long ago that the tree was strong and full of life. And then it wasn't. With our neighbors, we tend to be protective of the trees here and of our familiar surroundings. So we wistfully mourned the loss of the tree and the change in the familiar tapestry of our lives.



Violet Meek

But now our mourning, our fear, our anger are full force – fueled by a sense of helplessness – a sense of being carried along by events we can't control and couldn't have foreseen. Our feelings are real and even normal in times like this. Platitudes don't help and only make us angrier. Each of us has our own way of coping, of holding our balance.

Make of it what you will, but for me, at least, the sight of that stump and the flowers rising from it reminded me of the persistence of life. Some one has called it "hope grounded in reality."

My wish for each of you is that you be safe and well and that somewhere in your lives you can find the hope to see you through.



Member's Moment: David Hansen

Presented by Jerry Ladman on March 5, 2020

I am pleased and honored to present Dr. David Hansen, Ohio State University Professor Emeritus, former associate dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) and director of the Office of International Programs in Agriculture. It is especially nice that he is accompanied this evening by his wife, Aida. They are celebrating 53 years of marriage this year. Currently residents of Dublin, they previously lived in Worthington for 28 years. Dave and Aida have two children, Vanessa and Erik, and six grandchildren.

"International" is the key word in describing Dave's career, for which he is well known not only on campus but around the world. After growing up in rural Wisconsin, he got hooked on the world's economic and social development problems while an undergraduate student at Notre Dame. Upon graduation, he joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to Bolivia. His group did its outward-bound training in Veracruz, Mexico, where he learned Spanish and met his future wife, Aida, a lovely Mexican *señorita*. They married after he completed his Peace Corps assignment and entered a Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin in development sociology. His doctoral research was conducted in southern Brazil where he and Aida went to undertake it. After working there for several years for the University of Wisconsin, he was hired by Ohio State to work on another Brazilian project in Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia.

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Member's Moment: David Hansen

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And after having spent seven years in Brazil, CFAES hired him on a tenure-track position. From 1983 to 1986, he participated in a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Joint Career Program with



Jerry Ladman presented the Member's Moment for David Hansen. Pictured (left to right) are Jerry Ladman and David and Aida Hansen.

its Bureau for Science and Technology in Washington, D.C. Upon his return to campus, he was well prepared to begin his assignment as the CFAES associate dean and director of international programs.

Dave excelled in that position. He and his CFAES colleagues obtained large USAID grants for Ohio State faculty and students to work in Latin America (Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Mexico), Asia (India) and Africa (Swaziland and Uganda). He also helped Ohio State initiate formal study-abroad programs in Brazil, Dominican Republic, Mexico, China and Swaziland) He continued to provide leadership at the national level, particularly in the development of a USDA program entitled, Globalizing Agricultural Science and Education Programs for

America (GASEPA). He has visited over 72 countries and was awarded honorary degrees by Tomsk State University (Russia) and Cavite State University (Philippines).

After retirement, he took a senior fellow post at the Association of Land Grant and Public Universities in Washington, D.C., from 2008 to 2012. He subsequently returned to Ohio State to help manage a CFAES \$25 million University Partnership Program in Tanzania. He has been an active Rotarian for 24 years and has promoted international Rotary partnership programs.

To conclude, Dave has made many contributions to OSU and the world. I hope that I have helped you get to know him better. When you have an opportunity to do so, you can visit with him and learn more about his many interesting travels and experiences.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2019-20

President – Violet Meek

President-elect – Susan Warrener Smith

Immediate Past President – Tom Costantiello

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan Tilgner

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

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Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Tom Costantiello

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Nancy Wardwell (2020)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2020)

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2021)

Director-at-Large Elizabeth Short (2021)