

PROFILE OF A TRUSTEE
Joan Turek



Dr. Joan Turek joined the Board of Trustees in 2012. She has been very involved in community activities for many years, and is a valuable addition.

She was born in California, the daughter of a Naval Officer specializing in special weapons, and lived all over the U.S. while growing up. She went to 15 schools before going to college. She graduated from high school in Clarksville, Tennessee. She earned her BA from the University of Connecticut with Distinctions (1960), and her Masters (1962) and PhD in Economics (1968) from Yale.

Dr. Turek was employed in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from 1972 until January 2017. In her last position she was a Senior Economist in the Office of Science and Data Policy. For over 25 years, she managed ASPE's technical support operation which provided a full range of services including scientific programming, computer and graphics support, centralized access to information through the Policy Information Center and statistical policy coordination. Since 1976, she has been responsible for managing the Transfer Income Model (TRIM) a key tool in ASPE's analytic capacity which is used in providing policy advice to the Administration, the Secretary and other senior governmental officials on alternatives to existing tax, income transfer and health programs. She was the primary contact for the Federal Poverty Guidelines issued by HHS for much of that time. In recent years, she has conducted research on the quality of income data on Federal surveys. Her last article will be published in the International Journal of Public Statistics next June. Throughout her career, she has directed and conducted applied quantitative research, both in governmental and private organizations. She retired with 47 years and 10 months of Federal service.

Dr. Turek is past chair of the American Statistical Association's Committee on Statistics and Disability. She was President of the Federal Executive Institute Alumni Association in 1994 and 1995 and also served in other positions within the organization.

Dr. Turek is also very active in her local community. She is on the Board of Owensville Primary Care, a Community Health Center, and was a member of Anne Arundel County's Planning Advisory Board (PAB) for seven years. In addition, she was a member the South County Small Area Planning Committee (1999-2000). She was Secretary of the South County Coalition from 1995 to 2000. She was a founder of the Harwood Civic Association and is the current president. She was chairman of the board of the South County Exchange (2003 to 2007) which grew out of the International Exchange (1998). She is also a board member of the Sierra Club AA Chapter. She received their award for community service in 2008.

She has lived in Harwood for over 37 years at Oakwood, which was the main house of a tobacco plantation. It was built by Sprigg Harwood who was a Maryland State Senator, State Treasurer and one of the two leaders of the movement to get Maryland to secede from the union. Oakwood is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Joan's hobbies include bridge, gardening, needlework and painting. However, she says her main hobby is working on local land use issues.