

The History of Varsity O

Women's athletics were initially housed within the university's recreation department; in 1975 they were moved to the Athletic department and the first varsity letters were awarded to women athletes. The original alumni society for these former women athletes was Script O. Traditions began with a group of dedicated women who gathered annually for a Homecoming Tailgate outdoors, under a tent in front of the French Field House, to collect news and pictures for a newsletter and to support women's athletics teams.

In 1992-1993, Ms. Phyllis Bailey (then director of women's athletics) put out a call to reorganize and revitalize the organization. The twelve dedicated Buckeyes that answered her call became the Board of Directors. The primary goal that Ms. Bailey wanted to see realized was the addition of women athletes to The Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame. Before the first class could be inducted though there was much work to be done.

The organization underwent a name change, from Script O to Varsity O. This was made possible by the board rewriting and updating the constitution and standing rules that govern the society. At the same time, the Athletic Department adopted the policy to award female and male Varsity athletes the same Varsity O letter awards at the completion of the season. The project to standardize certain procedures and align the two Varsity O Alumni Societies paved the way for the addition of women athletes into the Hall of Fame.

In the fall of 1993, a charter class of women was inducted into The Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame. This has become our premier event each year. It is a very exciting and inspiring banquet. Following induction, Hall of Fame inductees that year are presented at halftime of a football game in front of nearly 100,000 cheering Buckeyes!

Since the revitalization of the organization in the early 1990s, Varsity O has made a positive impact on women's athletics at Ohio State. Each year the volunteer Board of Directors works to increase the presence of Varsity O on campus, as well as offering new opportunities to the membership.



Contact Information

Varsity O has an office located in the Jerome Schottenstein Center.

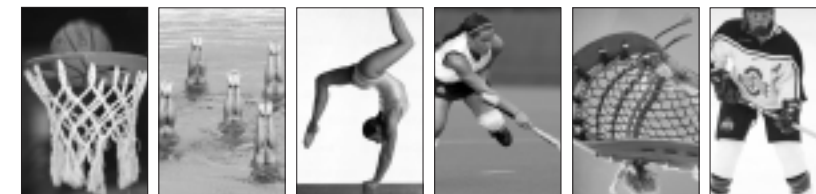
This office serves the membership and has an assistant that is provided by the Department of Athletics.


You can access membership information by contacting the Varsity O office at **614-688-3707**.

The Varsity "O" Web site is

<http://www.alumni-osu.org/~varsityowomen/>

A listing of the Board of Directors is available through the Varsity O Web site or by contacting the Varsity O office.





*Varsity O Women
Alumnae Society*

An alumni group dedicated to the support of women's athletics at The Ohio State University.



Membership

The Varsity O Women Alumnae Society is a chartered alumni society of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, designed exclusively for women athletes of Ohio State University who have lettered in a sport and for select honorary members.

Society membership helps former athletes:

- Keep in touch with old friends, teammates and their alma mater's sports programs
- By giving them the ability to nominate deserving friends for The Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame
- Attend pre-game functions and special events across campus
- Support women's athletics at The Ohio State University

All women's athletic letterwinners receive a complimentary year of membership in the society upon their final year of completion.



The mission of the Varsity O Women Alumnae Society is to promote women in athletics and The Ohio State University, while keeping former athletes connected with their alma mater. To this end, the society supports a wealth of functions across the university.

A vital role on campus

- An active participant in the SASSO Career Network night
- Recognize graduating seniors at our Senior Send Off event
- Sponsor various reunions among women's sports teams
- Nominate and induct deserving women into The Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame
- Recognize Varsity O members at a homecoming tailgate
- Promote recognition of women athletes
- Locate women who may be eligible for retro-active lettering
- Connect former athletes with their university

Membership services

Annual member dues are currently \$20. Dues revenue is used to support membership services, which include:

- Endowment of athletic scholarships in the name of the Phyllis J. Bailey Endowment
- Nomination privileges for The Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame
- Annual Homecoming Reunion Brunch for members and their immediate families
- Newsletters to the membership
- Website development and maintenance
- On-line electronic directory for all members' use
- Discounts in the Ohio State Arena shops located in the Schottenstein Center
- Alumni access to The Ohio State University Golf Courses
- Free admission to all general admission athletic events held during the regular season on campus (with membership card)
- Preferred ticket availability for sporting events, specific to your sport in which you earned a varsity letter (Basketball letter winners to varsity basketball games, etc.)
- Application to enter the lottery for tickets to the Homecoming Football Game
- Varsity "O" Club room access