April 7, 2020

Dear OEA Member:

Thank you so much for all of your continued work in the service of our students and their families during such a difficult and turbulent time. Despite all the challenges educators face while trying to provide support to our students from a distance, I continue to see stories about our members going the extra mile to help families and to strengthen our profession. From organizing and distributing chrome books for families in Pleasant Hill, distributing food to students and families in Salem, and sending positive video messages to students in Klamath Falls - educators are continuing to step up during this crisis.

I know that many of you have questions and concerns about the COVID pandemic and its impact on our schools, which is why OEA will be hosting a telephone town hall this Thursday, April 9th at 5:00 p.m. We’ll be discussing the school closures, the Oregon Department of Education’s “Distance Learning for All” plan and answering member questions. You don’t have to RSVP to attend the town hall - OEA will call you directly before the meeting starts. However, if you’d like to ensure the telephone number we have on file is correct, please complete this form with your current information.

Additionally, I know that many of you attempted to participate in NEA’s webinar on student loan relief provisions included in the CARES Act, which was passed as part of the federal government’s response to the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, so many members across the country logged into the webinar that it crashed NEA’s system, preventing some members from joining. Thankfully, NEA was able to record the webinar and share it with us. If you’d like to watch the recording, you can do so here. NEA is also hoping to schedule another live version of the webinar. If one is scheduled, we will share that information with you.

I hope you will find the information in the webinar useful and that you will be able to join our telephone town hall this Thursday.

Thank you again for all you do.

John Larson
OEA President