OEA-PAC endorses candidates

U.S. President—No endorsement

U.S. Senate—Senator Jeff Merkley

Congressional District 1—Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici

(Congressional District 2—None of the candidates chose to respond to the candidate questionnaire

Congressional District 3—Congressman Earl Blumenauer

Congressional District 4—Congressman Peter DeFazio

Congressional District 5—Congressman Kurt Schrader

Secretary of State—State Senator Shemia Fagan

Attorney General—Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum

Treasurer—Treasurer Tobias Read

Delegates from all parts of the state gathered at The Benson Hotel on March 6-7 to be introduced to the candidates seeking the endorsement of OEA. Candidates who did not respond to OEA's questionnaire were not asked to be considered.

The OEA delegates gave no endorsement for U.S. President. Although Bernie Sanders supporters were very passionate about their candidate, people felt that they wanted to see what happened with the primaries coming up before making a decision. A few days later NEA endorsed Vice President Joe Biden.

Although several Republicans are vying for Greg Walden's seat in Congressional District 2, no endorsement was given.

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Attend Fall Conference with OEA-Retired

by At Large Director Vickie Jackson

Come enjoy the warm breezes of Hood River on September 21 and 22 for the OEA-Retired Fall Conference.

Pre-tour suggestions will be the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 25 miles east of Hood River. This is the official interpretive center for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Wasco County.

Maryhill Museum, 45 miles east and over the bridge in Washington State is situated on a bluff overlooking the Columbia River Gorge. The structure was originally intended as a mansion for entrepreneur Samuel Hill. You can also enjoy walking tours about the downtown, breweries and wineries in the area.

You can drive the beautiful Hood River Fruit Loop which is a scenic 35-mile drive through the valley featuring offering a variety of wines, fruits, vegetables, flowers, ciders, food and more.

The day's events (PDU’s if needed) will be about the fruit production in the area, how to choose a good wine; new driving rules for seniors; and how the air museum was created by many donors.

We will arrange different sleeping accommodation options: RV hookups, hotel or bed and breakfasts, which will be decided soon. We are working with the Fire District to house our assembly and business meeting.

We are looking forward to meeting our retired colleagues. Hope to see you in the fall!
Random remarks

by President Bobbi Yambasu

Mrs. Maisel, where are you?

Between the public over-reaction to the coronavirus and the public under-reaction to the anti-worker and anti-education policies of the current White House tenant, I speculate on what would lead us towards a more stable path.

During many of our country’s previous crises, we have had outlets to help raise our spirits and help us forget our troubles.

So, I wonder ‘Where is our Shirley Temple?’ to help us sing about our Good Ship Lollipop (you know, maybe she has been quarantined off the coast); where is our Bob Hope or Marx Brothers or Three Stooges (however, there are three stooges—president, vice president, senate majority leader or perhaps Secretary of Education).

We have comedians, but most of them are doing political comedy, which while entertaining, it isn’t uplifting, and it doesn’t help me forget, even for a short period of time, my troubles.

Sometimes we have had music to help us through the bad times—to help us commiserate or to highlight the need for social reformation. So, where are today’s Joan Baez, James Taylor, Billy Joel, John Lennon, Ray Charles?

In my last Random Remarks column, I wrote about my optimism for the current year. I am still optimistic that the year will be a good one (although if my Egypt trip gets cancelled, I might change my opinion). However, I know that for many people this year ‘sucks big time.’ And, with the lack of progress during the Oregon Legislative Short Session (only three bills passed due to walkout!), many of our situations are not going to change for the better.

These are times that call out for some levity—even if it is just to counteract all the negativity. Who is going to step up to counterbalance the daily downturns?

I don’t like complaining and not offering positive alternatives. But, I am not Shirley Temple nor Bob Hope (or even the fictional Mrs. Maisel). Without anything more positive to contribute, I will ask us all to try to be kind to each other—at least until our Shirley Temple comes along.
**PAC exciting**

by Vickie Jackson

The gathering at the Benson Hotel on March 6-7 was inspiring! I was introduced to our federal and state candidates for the 2020 election.

I heard the candidates’ messages about how they will brighten Oregon’s future. We heard from U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, U.S. Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader and his Democratic opponent Mayor Mark Gamba of Milwaukee.

Gamba is a progressive and former National Geographic photographer who is working to prevent climate change.

There were four candidates running for the Democratic Party: Senator Shemia Fagan, Senator Mark Hass, Jamie McLeod Skinner and Cameron Smith. Kim Thatcher who is the Republican running for the office did not fill out the paperwork necessary to be considered.

As the OEA Retired Caucus debated the candidates, we wanted candidates that would represent all Oregonians.

There were vigorous arguments for all candidates especially in the presidential race, where the Caucus ended up supporting no endorsement.

We all remembered what happened in 2016 when NEA supported Hilary Clinton very early in the campaign season.

This was an exciting process to be part of. Any OEA or OEA Retired member who contributed to OEA-PAC could participate in this event which democracy in action.

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**OEA supports Womxn’s March**

by Jane Morgan

OEA was a sponsor of the Womxn’s March PDX on Sunday, March 1. Reed Scott-Schwalbach, OEA vice president recruited volunteers to staff the OEA booth and hand out information about OEA.

The “March for Our Future” began with speeches, singing and inspiring the crowd in the South Park Blocks. The march was led by Native Americans in colorful dress and drumming, heading north on 10th Avenue with plenty of spectators along the street and others greeting us from their apartments above.

A police escort led us up Broadway back to Portland State University.

Organizers said having the event in March coincides with Women’s History Month.

Event organizers said they were attempting to make Portland’s march more inclusive—even changing the event’s spelling of women to replace the “e” with an “x” to better include non-binary people, trans women and others in the LGBTQ community.

For more information on the March go to the official website https://womxnsmarchpdx.com/faq/ Upcoming events happening during Women’s History Month are listed there.

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*Vote May 19*
Are you informed?

by Ray Johnson

With the approaching May 19 Oregon Primary Election, are you prepared to vote? Are you familiar with the issues and candidates, or getting there? As background, and underscoring your importance as a voter, here is some information.

Americans over the age of 50 consistently show up more often to vote compared to younger voters, at a rate of 60.8 percent for 65+ voters, 39.6 percent for 50-64, 24.1 percent for 35-49, and 12.9 percent for 18-34 as measured during the 2018 Oregon primary.

Thus, those of us 50 and older make the decisions as we represent 63.7 percent of those who vote.

AARP commissioned a series of state and congressional district surveys during the fall of 2018. These surveys revealed that political divisiveness is a top concern with voters age 50+, and many disapprove of the job performances of both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

While voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger, this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with sizable numbers feeling like they are not getting ahead.

These voters see both Social Security and Medicare as being very important to the health and financial stability of older adults and report that these two issues are at the top of their minds.

According to a December 2019 political poll, with overrepresentation of respondents in the southern, coastal and eastern parts of the state, Oregonians’ issues are as follows:

- Thirty-seven percent disapprove of the state legislature’s performance, while only 27 percent approve.
- Forty-seven percent supported the tax to fund the Student Success Act, while only 36 percent opposed it.
- Fifty-eight percent are dissatisfied with the quality of K-12 education, while just 29 percent are satisfied.
- Fifty-eight percent support a measure that would require all of Oregon’s electricity to be carbon-free by 2045, but the support and opposition becomes evenly split if the measure would create “significantly higher electric rates.”

The poll also asked, “In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing people in your part of Oregon today?” with these results:

- Homelessness, 19 percent.
- Affordable housing, 11 percent.
- Job/economy, 7 percent.
- Governor Brown, 6 percent.
- Taxes, 5 percent.
- Education and Health care, each 4 percent.
- Climate change/environment and Unequal representation, each 3 percent.

In relation to the walkout during Oregon’s legislative session last year, and continued in the one that just had to adjourn last month because of this civil disobedience, one proposed state ballot measure would change how state legislators represent areas so that 25 of our rural counties, with a total population of just over one million residents, would have more clout than the five Portland metro-area counties.

A state economist reported, however, that rural Oregon’s feeling of being overlooked is countered by the metro area representing 48 percent of the state’s population while generating 52 percent of the jobs and 60 percent of the state’s income taxes.

Sources: Willamette Week, August 21, 2019; The Oregonian, December 8, 2019; AARP, Fall 2018.

OEA-PAC

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candidate filled out the questionnaire to be considered.

Congressional District 5 had the two Democratic candidates: incumbent Schrader and newcomer Gamba were introduced.

Although Gamba offered a fresh face in the District, Schrader has been a proven pro-education candidate in a purple district. Congressman Schrader continues to be OEA’s endorsed candidate. He has been very accessible to OEA and NEA leaders.

The Secretary of State’s race was very competitive with four candidates. Shemia Fagan was endorsed. She has a proven record of pro-labor support and has an inspiring personal story.

She was raised by a single parent in Dufur, Oregon, and credits her teachers for encouraging her to go to college and to obtain her law degree.

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PrimeTimes 4
State legislators supported

The following are the candidates supported by the OEA through endorsements by local UniServ Councils. Not all local legislative councils reviewed candidates.

It was determined that no candidate who supported the PERS legislation last session, which diverted worker retirement contributions from their own accounts to paying down the PERS debt. These endorsements will be reconsidered for the November election.

House District
2    Gary Leif
4    Mary Middleton
5    Pam Marsh
20.  Paul Evans
21.  Brian Clem
22.  Teresa Alonso-Leon
26.  Courtney Neron
27.  No recommendation
28.  Linsvey Campos
33.  Christina Stephenson
34.  No recommendation
35.  Dacia Grabler
36.  Laurie Wimmer
37.  Rachel Prusak
38.  No recommendation
40.  Mark Meek
41.  No recommendation
42.  Paige Kreisman
44.  No recommendation
45.  No recommendation
46.  Khanh Pham
47.  Diego Hernandez
48.  No recommendation
50.  Ricki Ruiz
51.  No recommendation
52.  Anna Williams
54.  Jason Kropf

Senate District
10   Deb Patterson
14   Katie Lieber
18   Ben Bowman
21   Kathleen Taylor
25   Chris Gorsek
27   Eileen Kiely

Region I to dine

11:30 a.m.
April 23
Margarita Factory
17005 NW Cornell Road
Beaverton

Please RSVP three days before the lunch date to Ray Johnson at 503-887-0467 or rayugene@att.net.

Region II meets

9 a.m., 1st Tuesday monthly
Sybils Restaurant
2373 State St NE, Salem

If you have questions, please contact Paul Schutz at paul.g.schutz@gmail.com.

General Meeting
9:30, April 9
PAT Office, 345 NE 8th Ave.
Lunch afterwards at Hey Love

Breakfast
May 14
Bread and Ink Cafe
3610 SE Hawthorne St., Portland

On April 29 at 10:30 a.m., we will be exploring the brand new Hyatt Hotel across the street from the Convention Center. We will have lunch in the hotel restaurant.

Retired elections

by Terri Domenigoni

The 2020 OEA-Retired Nominations were closed on March 31. Ballots will be available for voting online on April 13 and for those who do not have email addresses, ballots will be sent out on April 13-15.

Paper ballots must be postmarked on May 6. The online voting will be closed at 11:59 on May 6.

Please vote! Your vote is important. Announcements about the results of the election will be done at the OEA-Retired Board meeting on May 18 in Salem. The results will also be published in PrimeTimes.

If you did not get your nomination form in on time there is still a way to participate on our OEA-Retired Board.

You can be appointed for one year to serve on the Board by a Board vote. You are not able to serve as an RA delegate during the 2021 year, but you can run for the office of OEA-Retired Board/RA delegate in 2021 election.

If you have questions about a Board appointment contact President Bobbi Yambasu at bobbiy4967@gmail.com

Participating on the Board is a great way to stay connected with fellow retired educators.

If you have any questions about voting contact Eileen Wende at 503-970-6900 or ewende72@gmail.com or Terri Domenigoni at 503-654-9910 or tdomenigoni@comcast.net.
100 years of struggle
by Marleen Wallingford

The 19th amendment passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, granted women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle. Women protested in the nation’s capital, were arrested and went on hunger strikes.

Oregon’s champion of women’s voting was Abigail Scott Duniway.

Oregon’s right for women to vote appeared on the state’s ballot six times: 1884, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1910, and 1912.

After 1902, supporters of woman suffrage used the Oregon System with its initiative process to bring their issue directly to the men of the state who would make the decision. Women finally achieved full voting rights in 1912.

The success of the campaign, which removed the word “male” from voting privileges outlined in the Oregon Constitution, did not mean that all Oregon women could vote.

First-generation women (and men) who migrated from Asia were prohibited from becoming naturalized citizens and could not cast a ballot.

Native American women, except those married to white men, were also ineligible for U.S. citizenship until federal legislation in 1924. Racial and ethnic barriers to citizenship and voting persisted for years afterward.

Oregon joined California, Washington and Idaho in extending the vote to its female citizens and providing crucial legitimacy to the woman suffrage movement nationally.

Changes in the state legislature
by Ray Johnson

The Oregon State Legislature will see a dramatic change next year. Due to retirements and some running for other offices, at least 17 races for the Oregon House and Senate will not feature an elected incumbent.

The open seats exist in:

SD 5 (Central Coast): Sen. Arnie Roblan is leaving
SD 10 (Salem): Sen. Denyc Boles, a former House member, was appointed to this seat after Sen. Jackie Winters died this year.
SD 14 (Beaverton): Sen. Mark Hass is running for secretary of state. Two Democrats have filed Kate Liebe and Dick Scouten.
SD 25 (Gresham): Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, is stepping down.

HD 17 (Linn County): Rep. Sherrie Sprenger is running for a seat on the Linn County Commission.
HD 19 (Salem): Rep. Raquel Moore-Green was appointed to a vacancy for one year.
HD 28 (Beaverton): Rep. Jeff Barker is retiring. There are at least three Democratic candidates.
HD 35 (Tigard area): Rep. Margaret Doherty, House Education Chair, is not seeking reelection.
HD 36 (West Portland): Rep. Jennifer Williamson, resigned. This is the seat that our own OEA Lobbyist Laurie Wimmer is campaigning for.
OEA-Retired Travel

2020

Treasures of Egypt
November 5-16. 13 days with 22 meals.
Follow the allure of the Nile as you retrace the steps of pharaohs in ancient Egypt to uncover legends of beauty and history by boat and air.
Cost: $4,749.
Deposit due: April 28.
Cost is per person for double occupancy, and includes airfare from Portland.

2021-22

Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains
April 22-30, 2021. 9 days with 12 meals.

Mackinac Island
July 2021. 8 days with 11 meals.

Southern Italy and Sicily
September/October 2021. 12 days with 16 meals.
Cost: $4,500 (price may change). Deposit due: April/May 2021.

Journey though South America
January 2022. 16 days with 21 meals.
Cost: $6,249 (price may change). Deposit due: July 2021.

For New York City, Bluegrass, or Mackinac Island, contact Susie Garrison at 541-620-0387 or susieq8170@gmail.com.
For Egypt, Southern Italy, or South American, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-639-7050 or nancyjolewis@gmail.com.

Travel plans made

by Ray Johnson
Four more trips in a variety of places have been scheduled for OEA-Retired members and guests. The OEA-Retired Travel Committee met with our Collette travel agency colleague in January and chose the following four trips for 2021-22, which were approved by the Board:
Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains
Mackinac Island
Southern Italy and Sicily
Journey though South America.
Each one will be featured in a future issue of PrimeTimes, but for now, see sidebar for initial details to entice you to go.

For both of our remaining 2020 trips, the deposit deadlines are this month: April 3 for Spotlight on New York City and April 28 for Treasures of Egypt. Be sure not to miss out.
Members of the Committee are: Chair Nancy Lewis, Susie Garrison, Ray Johnson and Cindy Williams.
YOU CAN HELP!
Every day, students in our schools need school supplies, clothes, shoes, eyeglasses, hearing aids.

Can you donate to assure them a better education?

With requests from teachers, the OEA Foundation provides basic items to students across the state. Many OEA and OEA-Retired members are making contributions in this effort. There are four ways to assist the Foundation:

✔ Mail a check to OEA Foundation (6900 SW Atlanta St., Portland, OR 97223), or donate online at www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation.
✔ Earn redeemable points by registering your Fred Meyer Rewards card at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards (use Foundation number 856810, or your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com (type in OEA Foundation).

As OEA Foundation takes no administrative costs, your tax deductible donation goes 100 percent to help students.

Changes

Continued from Page 7.
Piluso is retiring.
HD 60 Eastern Oregon's: Rep. Lynn Findley is seeking a Senate seat.
*This list of open seats was modified from an article in The Oregonian

Fire DeVoss

Haanna Vaandering, NEA Executive Committee member and former OEA president, at OEA-PAC urged us to check out this website for information on a pledge to fire Education Secretary Betsy DeVoss: www.strongpublicschools.org.

DeVoss’s education agenda consistently harms the students. She has supported private schools over public. She is accused of mismanaging the teacher loan forgiveness program and has reduced federal spending on education. She also has been in favor of teachers bringing guns to school.