

Get ready for the Annual Assembly

by Paul Zastrow and Vickie Jackson

We hope you plan to attend the OEA-Retired Annual Assembly at 8:30 a.m. on March 9 at the Salem OEA Office.

The top event of the past several years now becomes the reality for Oregon's students, the Student Success Act. We have a dynamite presentation panel tentatively composed of Laurie Wimmer, OEA lobbyist; Colt Gill, Deputy Superintendent of Oregon Department of Education; and Mark Mulvihill, Superintendent of InterMountain Education Service District.

Their presentations will educate one and all about this new law that enables Oregon's student educational success, from the idea stage, through the legislative process, and now on to implementation. Its impacts will help drive education for years to come!

Another presentation will be on NEA Member Benefits with information on great deals available, what to participate in and how to access whatever you want and need, from meals to low cost insurance to travel. Let's take

advantage of what's out there for our members.

As usual, we'll have a simple breakfast and a scrumptious lunch. Several door prizes will be given away, a silent auction to benefit the OEA Foundation and the joy of seeing old friends and perhaps making new ones gives us pause as we continue to enjoy experiences new and old.

A change that we hope you take advantage of will be attending up to two of our committee meetings that you have not been a part of, but may interest you. They will be a half-hour in length, will have a bit of action and explanation, to experience what they are about. So, if you want to know what membership does, or are interested in legislative events or communications, here is an opportunity.

Lastly, we've always had some necessary business to attend to with Bylaws and Policies approvals, nominations submitted and other business of the organization attended to. Let's come together learn about the Student Success Act, enjoy friendships and the company of each other.

Make travel plans with OEA-Retired

by Ray Johnson

Our last sponsored trip for the year will be **Treasures of Egypt** in November. If you have not already booked, be sure to notice the deposit due day in April.

The mysteries and treasures of Egypt unfold before you on your journey along the intriguing Nile River. Begin by spending time at the awe-inspiring Pyramids of Giza, one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World. Stand in awe at the iconic Great Sphinx and travel to ancient Memphis, with its nearly 40-foot statue of Ramses II, and Sakkara.

Embark on a leisurely paced four-night cruise on the Nile, the world's longest river. See Luxor's countless ancient treasures with the impressive Temples of Karnak, Valley of the Kings, at Deir, El Bahari, and the Colossi of Memnon.

Partake in a dress up and then join the fun

during a traditional galabeya party. Choose to sail to the lush oasis of Kitchener Island aboard a felucca (wooden sail boat), or experience Nubian culture past and present during a visit to a fascinating museum. Egypt's impressive story awaits to be discovered.

Your trip, at an additional cost, can be extended for four days to Jordan to see some of that
Continued on page 8.



Random remarks

by President Bobbi Yambasu



Another year has begun! I am not making any resolutions—not because there aren't things I should or should not do, but because I find it a waste of time. I am old enough to know that I will do what I want to do (and sometimes what I need to do), and I will not do what I don't want to do. Do I really need resolutions? Do any of us really need them? It is doubtful.

Thus, I will encounter this year day by day—mostly. I do already have plans for 2020 but, unless something earth-shattering occurs (like a massive climate meltdown—a possibility!), I will primarily continue doing what I already have in motion. After all, those activities already keep me more than occupied and relatively satisfied.

Despite all the reasons I probably should be morose or apprehensive, I find myself somewhat optimistic about 2020. I don't really know why. Those who know me well, know that I have spent some time attempting to analyze my optimism. However, I have found no concrete reasons why I


feel this way. Perhaps I am just tired of the gloomy nature of things and both body and mind need something positive.

I will still be doing things—politically and personally. I have a couple of trips planned (Ashland, Egypt, Disneyland) and I will be working on someone's campaign (at this point, I am not super excited about anyone but there is time). I will continue the Advocacy Training program that I lead for the Multnomah County Democrats; and I plan some one-on-one time with our federal legislators, as I have some serious concerns about certain Medicare and Social Security issues and policies.

I encourage all of us to find some issue that interests and/or moves us and act on it—either with a group or by oneself.

And, Have Fun? Be excited about something—or someone!

Happy 2020!



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CALENDAR

2020

- February 1 *PrimeTimes* published

- March 6-7 OEA PAC, Hilton Hotel
Portland
- March 9 Annual Assembly,
Salem

- April 1 *PrimeTimes* published

- April 17-18 OEA Representative
Assembly
- May 18 Retired, Board, Salem

- June 1 *PrimeTimes* published

- June 29-30 NEA-Retired Annual
Meeting, Houston Texas

- July 1-6 NEA Representative
Assembly, Houston Texas

- July 13 Retired Board, Salem

OEA-PAC convenes at Hilton Hotel

by Paul Zastrow

Every two years since its inception in 1978, the OEA's political action committee has held Oregon's largest gathering of political activists determined to endorse and otherwise support the best candidates for political office statewide or at the federal level. This year is no different, as the gathering will be held March 6-7 in Portland at the Benson Hotel (309 SW Broadway). The event starts at 4 PM on Friday evening, with time slated for opening activities.

Friday evening is primarily dedicated for our federal level candidates, one US senatorial candidate plus congressional candidates for all five Districts could be eligible for consideration, if they fill our the OEA-PAC's forms. Current Democratic Congressional incumbents will be interviewed, perhaps as a panel like was done at the last convention, however, should there be additional candidates who fulfill the requirements for consideration, they too, will have the opportunity for interviewing.

Congressional District 2 may have greater interest, as with the retirement of Greg Walden it is an open seat. At the conclusion of congressional interviews, hospitality suites will be open for all to attend.

Saturday morning will have a full breakfast and then you participate in the largest democratically operated meeting held in Oregon! Debate, caucus meetings and

voting for Congressional candidates becomes the first real order of business. Then we will hear from the candidates for the three statewide offices —Treasurer, Attorney General and Secretary of State.

Currently the incumbents for AG and Treasurer are the only candidates for their offices. Secretary of State has attracted more candidates to spur increased interest in that office. Speeches, questions and answers from candidates and debates will follow and then individual caucuses to discuss the candidates, plus voting. Lunch will be provided. Once all this has been completed, the Convention will be over!

So, for those interested, registration is now open at: www.oregoned.org/PAC-convention.

Help decide Oregon's future, become more involved and have a say. Give your voice and time to ensure that your voice counts! OEA-Retired's votes will be distributed evenly to those registered and attending during the different sessions based on one vote per \$5 contributed to OEA-PAC.

There will be limited reimbursement for expenses.

Legislative advocacy

by Maureen Barnhart

Members of your OEA/NEA Congressional Advocacy Team (CAT) weighed in on the support of our Congressional legislators for our concerns by completing the NEA "Back Home Access Questionnaire."

The survey questions ask for input regarding our expectation that legislators have an education advisory

committee that includes Association personnel, and with whom there are regular meetings with staff and/or the legislator.

We are asked to rate the Legislators' advocacy for public education in the press, in public communications and at town halls.

The Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act is supported by both Oregon Senators, and endorsed by the NEA, along with other national education and mental health organizations. The act recognizes that 20 percent of American youth are affected by mental illness.

Youth are ten times more likely to access mental health support when it is available in schools. This act would create grant opportunities to achieve the recommended ratios of students to counselors, to psychologists, and to social workers.

The focus of the CAT team is on public education, collective bargaining, and support for those who are retired.

Impeachment looms large at this time, and you can receive further information on this and other topics (by email) from your Congressional Representative and the Oregon Senators by visiting their websites and requesting to be placed on their contact lists.

For those who live in Congressional District 2, Rep. Greg Walden was interviewed on NPR (Dec. 28) regarding his work on reducing the costs of prescription drugs. You can listen to/read the transcript of the interview at <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/28/792022210/rep-greg-walden-on-drug-pricing>
Continued on Page 8.

Getting books in the hands of children

by Janet Jackson

I was recently asked how many different places we have donated books to since I became Chair of the Literacy Committee in 2009. It took a little research and the use of my map skills, but here is what I discovered.

- We have put 15,672 books into the hands and homes of Oregon children.
- Books have gone to 170 individual sites (some more than once)
- Books have been distributed in 65 cities and towns in Oregon (and one in Washington to the class of a former student of mine).
- Books have gone to 27 of Oregon's 36 counties. The ones we have missed are Crook, Curry, Gilliam, Harney, Malheur, Polk, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler.

Our new goal is to get books to those nine counties we have missed. If you live in one of them or know someone who does, please contact me at gogirl2@comcast.net or 503-357-8753 and we'll get some books going your way.



Children at Lyle Elementary School in Dallas, Oregon pondering which book to take home.

OEA- Retired Travel for 2020

Spotlight on New York City

September 10-14. 5 days with 5 meals.

Come to the "Big Apple" to experience the best of this spectacular tour from Rockefeller Center to Greenwich Village to Central Park to Times Square. Also, watch the curtain rise on two exciting Broadway shows and ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, see the Empire State Building and visit the 9/11 Museum and Memorial. There will be free time to shop and explore this fabulous city on your own. Cost: \$2,999.

Deposit due: April 3.

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 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.

For New York City, contact Susie Garrison at 541-620-0387 or susieq8170@gmail.com.

For Egypt, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-639-7050 or nancyjolewis@gmail.com.

Bylaws/ policies proposals

by Ray Johnson

The following amendments to the current OEA-Retired Bylaws and Policies were approved by the OEA-Retired Board of Directors for forwarding to the March 9 Annual Assembly with a "Do-Pass" recommendation.

Note: Language to be added is underlined; language to be deleted is struck through. Only language with proposed changes is included. Bylaws require a two-thirds majority to pass; Policies require a 50-percent majority to pass.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE XI - VACANCIES

Section 4. Vacancies in the position of OEA RA delegate/OEA-Retired Board shall be filled by the alternates, in rank order, appointed by the President, and ~~alternates so appointed~~ shall serve until June 30. If there are no alternates, the President, with approval of the Board, may appoint a member who has attended two previous Board meetings only to a Board position (but not as an OEA RA delegate since delegates must be elected) with term ending to serve until June 30.

Rationale: To remove redundant language, make language consistent and provide for background information prior to serving on the Board

POLICIES

IX. Procedures for removal from the OEA-Retired Board and elected positions.

A. As Board members are required to attend Board meetings, OEA RA and Annual Assembly. When the secretary notifies the

president a Board member has missed two regularly scheduled Board required meetings within a Board year, the president shall notify the member in writing that the position requires attendance at ~~Board~~ these meetings and ~~when appropriate at the OEA RA~~. This will not apply to any meeting for which the date has been changed after July 1 of that Board year.

- B. ~~If the Board member resumes regular attendance at Board meetings and OEA RA, the problem will be considered solved.~~
- C. If the Board member misses a third required meeting during that Board year, or submits a letter of resignation, the position will be declared vacant and an alternate, if available, will be moved into the position appointed to complete the remainder of the term. If no alternate is available, another person may be appointed.

Rationale: To clarify attendance requirement and make language consistent.

Our vice president reports

by Eileen Wende

Happy New Year as we start a new decade of meetings and activities to achieve all the goals of our organization by working side-by-side with one another to support public education and to advocate for retired educators throughout our state.

We exist in very challenging times, yet we continue to advocate for social justice, strong well-funded public schools and the rights of both active and retired educators. We continue our work together, because we are strengthened by our common

goals and strong beliefs.

Since the November Board meeting, I participated in several activities on behalf of OEA Retired. On November 8, 2019, I attended the statewide OEA President's meeting with and at the request of our President, Bobbi Yambasu. Local presidents from around the state attended either in person or through a video link.

The rules and regulations around the implementation of the recently passed Student Success Act were at the core of the discussions. OEA General Counsel Adam Arms was there to give his understanding of how SSA will be implemented and to answer clarifying questions from local leaders and to hear their reports of what actions were being attempted at the local level.

Besides implementation at the local level, there was discussion on how the funds will be divided and how the local portion was being determined. Needless to say, I think that there are still many questions and this will be an ongoing discussion.

Following the meeting, Yambasu and I met with retired members from Three Rivers UniServ area to discuss the mechanics of establishing a local chapter. We were excited that we were actually getting to meet retired educators interested in having a local in their area but encountered reluctance on their part to be the actual organizers.

Even assurances that we would help with the documents for affiliating was not enough to persuade them to follow through. I think we just did not get referred to the right contacts. We will keep trying.

On December 11, I was asked to be on a conference call with Sen. Jeff Merkley, as one of your representatives on the OEA CAT Team by OEA President John Larson.

Sen. Merkley joined the call at *Continued on Page 7.*



LeChon along Naito Parkway in Portland is a South American dining experience that combines the cooking of Argentina, Chile and Patagonia along with creative inspiration of the chef.

Region I enjoys local cuisine

11:30 a.m.
Feb. 25
LeChon
13 SW Naito Parkway

March 25
The Dullahan Irish
Restaurant and Pub

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

2020 census begins

Most households will begin
receiving census information in
mid-March. This is the first
time that households will be
able to complete the census on-
line. Paper forms will also be
available. Everyone counts!



Breakfast
9:30, March 12
Biscuits Cafe
4200 Mercantile Drive
Lake Oswego

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

In February we will be
touring Daimler Trucks in
north Portland.

In March we will have a visit
to the Historic Fogelbo House
in Tigard, a historic home
containing a private collection
of Nordic folk arts.

Region II meets

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

Time to choose new officers

by Terri Domenigoni

Looking for something to do,
meet people, and renew OEA
friendships from the past?
OEA-Retired is looking for you.
Nominations are now open for
the 2020 elections.

If you were on the OEA
Board or the OEA-Retired
Board in the past, we would
like to see you return. If you
have just retired, this is a great
way to stay involved with OEA
and make new friends.

Participating on the OEA-
Retired Board/OEA RA
Delegate, and being part of a
committee are all ways to
continue supporting our union.

The positions open include:
President, Vice President,
Region III Director, At Large
Director, NEA Delegate and 19
OEA-Retired Board/OEA RA
Delegate positions.

You will find updates on
MailChimp emails for more
details on how you can run for
an office. Nomination forms
are on line the on the OEA-
Retired website at
oearetired.oregoned.org.

On the retired members'
page there is a link to the
nomination form. You can fill
out the form and send it in via
email or you can also get a
hard copy of the form from
either Eileen Wende or Terri
Domenigoni.

If you are interested in
running and have questions
you can contact me at
tdomengioni@comcast.net or
Eileen Wende at
ewende72@gmail.com.

OEA-RETIRED ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION

March 9, 2020 ~ OEA Office, Salem

8:30 a.m.: Registration & Refreshments ~ 9:00 a.m.: Welcome

Directions To UniServ Office

From I-5, take the Salem Market Street Exit. Go East and turn left onto Lancaster Drive, left onto Wolverine and then right onto Coral Avenue to 2540 Coral NE (on right side).

Send registration form to:

Mavis Randklev, 3835 NE Skidmore, Portland, Or 97211 or manahoo97211@yahoo.com
on or before March 2nd.

Late registration – received after March 2 will be charged \$10.
A continental breakfast and soup/salad lunch will be provided.

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OEA-RETIRED ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION March 9, 2019 ~ OEA Office, Salem

Member Name(s) _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Email address for confirmation (please print) _____

Please note dietary needs _____

Vice president reports

Continued from Page 5.

Sen. Merkley joined the call at the prescribed time and introduced himself as having attended David Douglas schools after a brief time in Portland at Binnsmead Elementary school.

Sen. Merkley was proud that his children attended public schools and concluded that public education is the foundation for every single child in America, then thanked us “for me, my children and kids to come!” I have to say that I was moved by his sincerity and with the passion that he spoke. It is so affirming to hear our elected leaders be so supportive of public education for all.

Sen. Merkley went on to highlight several education acts that he is actively working

on.

He has introduced the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act which would establish a five-year renewable grant program to effectively staff elementary and secondary schools with mental health services providers. No state would receive less than \$1,000,000 as a basic allotment grant. In addition, there are need-based grants that state educational agencies could apply for to help meet the recommended student-to-counselor ratio of 250 students to one counselor. The national average now is 455 students per counselor and continues to rise.

Sen, Merkley cosponsored legislation to keep a promise to fully fund Title 1 and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA Full Funding Act S.866). He also cosponsored and fully supports the Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2019-2020 (S.266), which provides long-term

improvement to rebuild the physical and digital infrastructures of our public schools.

Participants then shared some of their personal stories about their classrooms and schools verifying the indisputable need for more, especially trauma trained counselors at the elementary and secondary levels of our schools across the state. It was a very full phone conference, which ended with me realizing, yet again, that Sen. Jeff Merkley is a passionate ally and advocate for public education at the national level. Sen. Merkley works hard for us in the Senate not just on education issues, but many social justice issues as well.

We should be proud to call him our senator from Oregon.

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.

Travel

Continued from Page 1.
country with the highlight being the ancient city of Petra.

Also, the deposit due date for **Spotlight on New York City** is also April. See sidebar on Page 5 for further details on both of these trips.

Legislative

Continued from Page 3.
OEA Government Relations Consultant Laurie Wimmer, a major force behind the Student Success Act, is running for the State Legislature in House District 36.

Currently Jennifer Williamson, who is running for Oregon Secretary of State, represents the District. There are two Democratic candidates running against Laurie in the primary election on May 19.