The OEA-Retired Board of Directors in July appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a statement concerning racial equity as a result of the national protests.

The data shows that in 2020 the lethal force by police resulted in 28 percent of deaths that were Blacks, but who make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population. They also face challenges in education, health care, employment, salaries and housing.

The Board decided that it needed to address this national issue that profoundly affects our students and families. Systemic and institutional inequities, especially in matters of race, remain significant barriers for people and communities working to reach their full potential.

The statement approved by the Board on September 21 says: “OEA-Retired believes in the dignity and humanity of all people, and we envision a world where society and its systems—education, employment, a legal system which ensures justice, stable housing in safe communities, and health care—are just, fair, and inclusive. With the energy generated in this current time, our members will make the commitment to participate in efforts to initiate the long overdue changes that will bring the elimination of the inequalities that have plagued society for far too long. We stand in support of Black Lives Matter and in solidarity with them and with the other groups who strive for a healthy and prosperous society that promotes equitable access and opportunity for all. We recall the words of Bishop Desmond Tutu: ‘If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.’ We will not be neutral.”

Thanks to Chair Diane Hicks and members, Maureen Barnhart, Paul Fisher, Ruth Greiner, Carolyn Ramey and Paul Zastrow for developing the statement.

Oregon Supreme Court upholds legislative changes to PERS

by Marleen Wallingford

OEA’s challenge to Senate Bill 1049, the 2019 bill that cut PERS retirement benefits for public employees, was not upheld in an unanimous decision by the state Supreme Court in August. It ruled that the changes resulting from SB 1049 were not a breech of contract because they did not retrospectively decrease retirement benefits.

The court sided with the legislature and upheld the legislation that decreases retirement benefits for future retirees. The reduction of contributions to member IAP accounts for people earning more than $2,500 a month will stand until the PERS pension fund is 90 percent funded.

The $195,000 cap on final average salary to determine pensions will remain in effect. That cap will be indexed with inflation.

Employees making more than $30,000 a year and hired on or before August 28, 2003, are now required to send .75 percent of their salary to support the pension. The remainder of their required retirement contributions—another 3.5% of salary—will still flow to the individual account.

This change will begin after January 1, 2020 (salary cap) and July 1, 2020 (IAP). Benefits earned prior to that remain protected.

The court did uphold the argument that benefits already earned are fully protected and cannot be taken away. That means retirees are protected as are all retirement benefits previously earned on years already worked, so this ruling has not effect on ones who are retired. But we may face additional attacks on prospective, or future, benefits.
by President Bobbi Yambasu

I began 2020 with the sense that it was going to be a great year. Even with the advent of COVID-19, I held on to that belief.

When the most recent set of wildfires hit, I vowed to keep on keepin’ on and try to do so as positively as possible. I finally hit the bottom when I heard of Justice Ruth Ginsberg’s death. For many of us, she was, and still is, an icon of justice.

In the past few days, I have spent some time ruminating on where we might be without her influence. I have also spent time thinking about the political scene, the social constructs around us, and what we need to do to change them for the better. I thought about what helps me through times such as these.

I have found that self-reflection has generally had a positive effect in my life. This time was no exception. Though 2020 has not ended, I am in a better place. This year will still be a great year—though not for the reasons I thought in January. The year 2020 will be a great year because, despite all the hardships we have endured—individually, as a group and as a nation, we are in process of becoming a better place.

It will not be Trump’s vision of a Greater America, it will be the people’s vision. We will move to a more just nation due to the vision brought forth by Black Lives Matter and other people of color. We will prosper as a people due to the empathy we show each other in coming together to aid each other in crisis.

We will once again place more value on our humanity than on the size of our wallets. We, as individuals and as a nation, will prevail.

Ruth Bader Ginsberg
March 15, 1933 to September 18, 2020.
May her memory be a blessing.

President’s message
OEA Board leads

by Judy Christensen

Fire

The fires in the towns of Talent, Phoenix, Ashland, Glide, Blue River and Mill City and areas in between have had a profound effect on our students and staff. One of the Southern Oregon Board Directors lost her home. Many of our students and some staff also lost everything. Staff, including OEA-Retired members, who were affected may get $1000 from the Relief Fund. Staff may apply to the Foundation for $250 for their students who lost their homes. Staff, including OEA-Retired members, who were affected may get $1000 from the Relief Fund. Staff may apply to the Foundation for $250 for their students who lost their homes. The Southern Oregon ESD lost their office which contained the Steps Program classroom, autism department, research library and materials used by specialists. They are currently working on assessing the loss and what needs to be replaced. Labor Community Services is also a resource for our members. Angela Dileo at 503-231-4962 is the contact for information.

Property.

The property adjacent to the Tigard property has been sold for $5.5 million dollars. The Board Legacy Committee has been formed to bring recommendations to the Board for the use of this money. Ideas may be sent to President John Larson or Traci Hodgson District 30a.

The HVAC system in the Tigard offices must be replaced and will cost $3.3 million. A bank loan has been acquired to cover this very large expenditure. It was approved that the monthly payments on the loan be made from the Relief Fund until 2021 RA when it will be brought before the membership.

Since the fund earns interest each year in excess of the payments the board felt this was appropriate. OEA has no fund to cover this type of expenditure and the budget at this time does not have the funds to cover the payments.

If RA should reject this idea, then the budget will have to be changed at a loss of programs to members. One suggestion was to put the property sale monies into a maintenance fund for just such contingencies.

Special Education Committee

Erin Whitlock, Professional Practices OEA Consultant brought the committee report to the board. Raw data from a survey sent to members is back with 1,317 SPED members from certified and classified responding. They hope to have the full "white paper" report out soon. Oregon is one of only 18 states that has no policy on caseload.

Help us

by Terri Domenigoni

The list below is the group of members who’s membership packets were returned to OEA due to incorrect addresses. If this is you, please contact Jessica McNanny at the Salem office at 503-364 6987 jessica.mcnannay@oregoned.org to update your information.

You can also contact Terri Domenigoni at 503 654-9910 or tdomenigoni@comcast.net. James Barlow, Portland, OR Ralph Batie, Borrego Springs, CA Kayrene Beck, Longview, WA Ron Beckham, Maricopa, AZ Nancy Beckman, Maricopa, AZ Darielle Church, Albany, OR Clara Close, Sun City, AZ Philip Cook, Springfield, OR Wendella Edginton, West Linn, OR Alice Ellis, Vancouver, WA Roberta Fair, Philomath, OR Carol Fent-Huntley, Sun City West, AZ Marcia Forsythe, Klamath Falls Shirley Katz, Medford, OR JoAnn Lane, LaQuinta, CA Naomi Larsen, Milwaukie, OR Mary McLurg, Lyons, OR Sari Myrene, Richland, WA Dianne Paul, Gresham, OR Paul Riley, Portland, OR Ken Squiers, Welches, OR Susan Squiers, Welches, OR Pam Stern, San Diego, CA Stephanie Stockton, Salem, OR Carol Svehla, Beaverton, OR Berniece Thornton, Fernandina, FL Maribeth Walker-Shneider, Gresham, OR Lawrence Walloch, Shady Cove, OR Ron Whitman, Welches, OR

Review changes to bylaws

by Ray Johnson

The OEA-Retired Bylaws and Policies Committee met to consider 29 proposed changes to our Bylaws and Policies for submission to the March 1 Annual Assembly. Do you have more?

To review our governance documents go to oearetired.oregoned.org and click on Documents. Please submit proposals no later than December 31.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-887-0467 or rayugene@att.net.
OEA PAC supports candidates

by Paul Zastrow

The OEA-PAC has endorsed candidates that support public education that are listed in this issue of PrimeTimes.

Each UniServ area interviews candidates and makes recommendations for endorsements as well. The candidate fills out and returns a questionnaire regarding education issues, the interview takes place with the presence of a number of volunteer interviewers who are PAC members.

They in turn, ask questions, consult with each other and recommend the person to endorse, and send this to the PAC Board for determination as to type of endorsement category and amount of money to support the endorsed candidate.

Endorsed candidates will fall into a number of categories – leadership with pro-ed stance, easily reelected; open seat, pro-education candidate in an easily won district; current office holder with pro-education stance—either in easily won or more difficult to win race; pro-ed in a difficult race: or several other categories.

The PAC Board seeks the advice of Government Relations personnel as to category, candidate viability, party affiliation and percentages of voters with same party registration and other considerations, and then makes the determination as to amount of support rendered.

The money supporting candidates must come from our PAC Dollars. What we contribute determines what is allocated to each candidate. Thus, it is imperative that we make adequate contributions to ensure our endorsed candidates are viable.

Remember that in Oregon, political action money is a tax credit up to $50 per individual and $100 per couple, meaning that you get the full amount back on your Oregon Tax Return.

For the past several election cycles, we have given less than ideal amounts, stressing the available money for endorsed candidates. For OEA-Retired, only about 10 percent of our members donate to PAC causes. We need to up the ante if we are to continue to play a positive role in electing pro-education officials at all levels!

As retirees, we can donate via a one-time check, or by credit card, or checking account on a monthly basis. I urge that each of us look at the amount we donate and match the Presidential Challenge of $100 to the OEA-PAC and $20 to the NEA Fund!

There are several of us who donate much more, but we would like each member to donate at least $5 to the cause, especially for those members who have not donated!

Now for the very most important issue—GET OUT AND VOTE!

Legislature at work

by Maureen Barnhart

If you receive email updates from an Oregon legislator, the subject line is likely “COVID and Wildfire Update.” To those of you who have been impacted by either or both of these disasters, know that we care about you. If you find that there is something that the Legislature can, and should do, please let us know how to best lobby for the support you need.

The two short sessions are over and September legislative days are scheduled to occur remotely during the week of September 21. If you’re interested in following what’s happening in the different Senate, House, and Joint committees, you can find agendas on the Oregon Legislative Information System OLIS (https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019I1/2020-09-21) to find which committees met.

(The Education Committee is scheduled to meet, as is the health committee).

Even if you are signed up to receive legislative updates from your own representative, know that the report from Senator Michael Dembrow is lauded by many (including some of his colleagues) as an especially thorough source of information. Senator Dembrow happens to be on the Senate Interim Committee on Education. From his news letter we see this on COVID:

“The age group with the highest incidence of reported COVID infection continues to be 20-29-year-olds, with rates decreasing in subsequent decades of age.

If you have been affected by the wildfires and find yourself needing to change your health insurance provider as a result of displacement and disrupt-Continued on Page 6.
OEA PAC endorsed ballot measures

107 Campaign Finance Reform Support
108 Tobacco Tax Support
109 Psilocybin Legalized for Therapy Neutral
110 Decriminalize certain drugs Neutral

OEA PAC endorsed candidates

Federal Candidates
Joe Biden President
Jeff Merkley US Senate
Suzanne Bonamici CD 1
Earl Blumenauer CD3
Peter DeFazio CD4
Kurt Schrader CD 5

Statewide Candidates
Ellen Rosenblum Attorney General

Election Day is November 3

Shemia Fagan Secretary of State
Tobias Reed Treasurer

Oregon legislative races endorsed

Oregon Senate
SD 01 No Recommendation
SD 02 Jerry Allen
SD 05 Melissa Cribbins
SD 09 No Recommendation
SD 10 Deb Patterson
SD 12 Bernadette Hansen
SD 14 Katie Lieber
SD 18 No Recommendation
SD 21 Kathleen Taylor
SD 22 No Recommendation
SD 23 No Recommendation
SD 25 Chris Gorsek
SD 27 Eileen Kiely
SD 28 No Recommendation
SD 29 No Recommendation
SD 30 Carina Miller

Oregon House
HD 01 No Recommendation
HD 02 Gary Leif
HD 03 No Recommendation
HD 04 Mary Middleton
HD 05 Pam Marsh
HD 06 Alberto Enriquez
HD 07 No Recommendation
HD 08 No Recommendation
HD 09 Cal Mukumoto
HD 10 No Recommendation
HD 11 Marty Wilde
HD 12 John Lively
HD 13 Nancy Nathanson
HD 14 Julie Fahey
HD 15 Miriam Cummins
HD 16 Dan Rayfield
HD 17 Paige Hook
HD 18 No Recommendation
HD 19 Jackie Leung
HD 20 Paul Evans
HD 21 Brian Clem
HD 22 Teresa Alonso-Leon
HD 23 No Recommendation
HD 24 Lynnette Shaw
HD 25 Ramiro Navarro, Jr.
HD 26 Courtney Neron
HD 27 No Recommendation
HD 28 Winsve Campos
HD 29 No Recommendation
HD 30 No Recommendation
HD 31 Brad Witt
HD 32 Debbie Booth-Schmidt
HD 33 Maxine Dexter
HD 34 No Recommendation
HD 35 Dacia Graber
HD 36 Lisa Reynolds
HD 37 Rachel Prusak
HD 38 No Recommendation
HD 39 No Recommendation
HD 40 Mark Meek
HD 41 No Recommendation
HD 42 No Recommendation
HD 43 No Recommendation
HD 44 No Recommendation
HD 45 No Recommendation
HD 46 Khanh Pham
HD 47 No Recommendation
HD 48 No Recommendation
HD 49 Zach Hudson
HD 50 Ricki Ruiz
HD 51 Janelle Bynum
HD 52 Anna Williams
HD 53 No Recommendation
HD 54 Jason Kropf
HD 55 Barbara Fontaine
HD 56 No Recommendation
HD 57 Greg Smith
HD 58 No Recommendation
HD 59 No Recommendation
HD 60 Beth Spell
Old is not dated

by Vickie Jackson

Think of all the different educational theory programs taught at colleges and universities promoted under "new" names to sell a book or workshop. Over the last 100 years a "good" teacher followed Nellie Cooper's "aims of education."

Walk down memory lane and think about the names used in your education preparation program. How did the same program receive another name? Basic teaching principles have not changed. In 1924 the principles or "aims of education" were to teach culture, understand knowledge, be harmonious through subject development and teach social purpose to work in the world.

Nellie Cooper was the Normal School Supervisor at East Tennessee State who wrote the following steps for a good education:

• Nutrition – so the student can learn.
• Exercise and fresh air – to improve the student's breathing so the brain can think clear.
• Learn the laws of the land through stories, pictures, talks and games.
• Establish habits of curiosity; systematic thinking; self-reliance by solving problems; organizing knowledge; judging values; taking the initiative; and understanding social habits.
• Teach students to read.
• Teach expression of thought through spoken and written language; music; manual arts; fine arts, and dramatic action.
• Train students to appreciate humor, beauty, noble qualities, human nature, and social relations.
• Establish goals to work towards.
• Social service is important for all students because we are a part of a community and need to get along with our fellow man.

A truly successful teacher sees that the student's mind from both a theoretical and practical standpoint. With the establishment of kindergarten, student development starts earlier and a famous book written by Robert Fulghum re-established the above aims, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."

Today in 2020, I feel we are demanding too much of our primary students because human development has not changed in the last 100 years. As retired teachers we need to encourage working teachers to maintain Nellie Cooper's "9 aims" of education to make sure all students succeed in life. Share with them that there are grants, scholarships, and workshop available to them through OEA.

We establish social curiosities in kindergarten that show us how to act through out our life. Each teacher retired or working needs to realize their teaching potential as outlined by Robert Fulghum and share what they know!

We make successful students if more people are engaging with them. Please volunteer where you feel comfortable and show how we get along with our fellow man.

Advocacy needs

Three positions for OEA-Retired members on OEA committees are up for reappointment. One is a three-year term on the OEA-Political Action Committee Board. This group supports the improvement of public education and educational standards in the state of Oregon by working to recommend and elect candidates to office.

The other two are for the Congressional Advocacy Team that works on national education legislation—one position works with our two senators and the other one works with our five congressional offices. These are both a two-year term.

If you are interested in being appointed to any of the positions, with terms beginning January 1, please notify President Bobbi Yambasu at bobbiv4967@gmail.com.

Legislature

Continued from Page 4

tion, know that there is a Special Enrollment Period for changing carriers. This has been ordered as part of the Disaster Declaration: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fJ1P3dajqQjHsflU5aJPBkz2
Fishing village in Italy.

We will travel

by Ray Johnson

Today is the last day to sign up for the OEA-sponsored Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains trip. Even with COVID-19 still around, we are hoping that this April experience will be a go.

The next trip for highlighting is Southern Italy and Sicily for October 22-November 3, 2021—see sidebar for further details. This journey will take you through a crossroads of civilizations in Sicily and on to the spectacular coastlines of Southern Italy.

Your travels being in Sicily to uncover its Moorish and Norman influences that intertwine with Greek and Roman ruins standing guard over the landscape. Explore Agrigento’s ancient Valley of the Temples. Travel to the historic hilltop town of Taormina. Continue on to fascinating Southern Italy.

Make a stop at a local winery for an “agriturismo” experience complete with wine tasting and a dinner. Explore the ancient town of “Sassi di Matera,” known for its cave dwellings. Spend time in the mystical town of Alberobello with its unusual cone-shaped roofed homes known as “trulli.”

Discover spectacular Mt. Etna Volcano National Park. Explore the stunning Amalfi Coast and Sorrento. In evocative Pompeii, walk in the footsteps of ancient Romans who perished in the foothills of Mount Vesuvius.

Activity level is on-the-go walking for a minimum of 90 minutes and includes other physical activities.

Two of our 2020 trips that were postponed have been rescheduled for 2021—Treasures of Egypt in November and Christmas Markets Along the Rhine in December—click on this address to read about, https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fd4d8204b393-4fef-9bab-8ddda603a8b8&pageNum=1. Again, see sidebar for details.

Our final trip will be featured in future issue of PrimeTimes. Members of the Travel Committee are: Chair Nancy Lewis, Susie Garrison, Ray Johnson, Carolyn Ramey and Cindy Williams.

OEA-Retired Travel 2021-22

Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains
April 22-30, 9 days with 12 meals. Cost: $2,999.

Mackinac Island
July 9-16, 8 days with 11 meals. Cost: $3,599.
Deposit due: January 1, 2021.

Southern Italy and Sicily
October 22-November 3, 12 days with 16 meals. Cost: $4,399.
Deposit due: May 16, 2021.

Treasures of Egypt
November 4-15, 12 days with 21 meals. Cost: $4,949.
Three-day optional tour to Petra, Jordan available.
Deposit due: First come, first served.

Christmas Markets Along the Rhine
December 6-17, 7 days with all meals (30) on cruise ship. Cost: $6,249 (price may change).
Deposit due: July 2021.

Journey through South America
January 2022, 16 days with 21 meals. Cost is per person for double occupancy and includes transfer and airfare from Portland.

For Bluegrass or Mackinac Island, contact Susie Garrison at 541-620-0387 or susieg8170@gmail.com. For Southern Italy, Egypt, Markets, or South America, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-639-7050 or nancyjolewis@gmail.com.
Are YOU helping?

Every day, students in our schools need school supplies, clothes, shoes, eyeglasses or hearing aids—and now even more with the fires and COVID-19.

Please donate to assure students a better life!

With requests from educators, the OEA Foundation provides these items and more to our students. OEA-Retired members can assist by making contributions to the Foundation one of four ways:

✔ Mail a check to OEA Foundation (6900 SW Atlanta St., Portland, OR 97223)
✔ Donate online at www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation
✔ Earn points for OEA by registering your Fred Meyer Rewards card at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards (use Foundation number 85681)
✔ Earn points for OEA by registering your Amazon Prime account at www.org.amazon.com.

A good read

by Marleen Wallingford

I remember reading my first Agatha Christie mystery after I pulled it from the shelf at Franklin High School. It started me on a journey of reading cozy murder mysteries.

Recently I discovered a new mystery series, Masie Dobbs, by Jacqueline Windspear, who created a likable private investigator.

The stories begin as Masie is a young woman whose family has been in service and worked as a volunteer nurse during WWI, but ends up through a series of fortunate relationships and events to own a detective agency.

The stories deal with many of the common problems people faced after World War I ended: the changes in women’s roles in the 20th century, the struggle to grieve for loved ones who died, drug addiction caused by trying to manage pain from war wounds, struggling to fall in love with someone else after losing your loved one in the war, and the Great Depression.