Fall Conference is in Hood River

by Marleen Wallingford

We are excited to finally be able to have an opportunity to get together and meet in person. Kevin Gorman, Executive Director of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge will share the history of the area. Also, Rob Bell, owner of Cathedral Ridge Winery will speak about the industry. The workshops planned include: Critical Race Theory, Kathleen Jesky; AARP safe driving tips, Nikii Murtaugh; Disaster Preparedness, Andrew Phelps, Oregon Department of the Military; NEA Retiree Benefits, Teresa Munch; and Japanese Americans and Hood River, Dr. Linda Tamura.

View of the city of Hood River at the base of Mt Hood.

Redistricting plans for Oregon

by Marleen Wallingford

With the completion of the 2020 census, Oregon has gained enough population to add another representative to our elected federal leaders. Oregon law gives the responsibility to the Oregon legislature to redraw district lines. The legislature must conduct a public process and enact a plan no later than September 27. The map below shows our current boundaries. Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties has the greatest population in the state. The legislature is required to hold public hearings at locations throughout the state prior to proposing a reapportionment.

The following meetings have been tentatively scheduled and subject to change.
- September 8 – Bend at 5:30 p.m.
- September 9 – Eugene at 5:30 p.m
- September 10 – Salem at 9:00 a.m.
- September 10 – Oregon City/North Clackamas County at 3:00 p.m.
- September 11 – Central Portland at 9:00 a.m.
- September 11 – Hillsboro/Beaverton at 3:00 p.m.
- September 13 – Oregon Capitol at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Go to the website: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/redistricting/ to get updates about the hearing schedule.

If the state legislature is unable to finalize a plan by September 27, the responsibility for redrawing the maps will transfer to the secretary of state with a new due date of October 18.

By February 8, the reapportionment plan will become effective. Primaries for six congressional districts will be held on May 17, and our new representatives will be chosen in the November election. If you contribute to PAC, you can help choose the candidates OEA will support.
Wow! Time flies quickly when one enjoys what she is doing. I am beginning the final year of my term as president.

I have been working with a great Board of Directors and very active committees. Despite having to meet via Zoom for more than a year, we have been able to continue our programs.

Now that the pandemic restrictions have been lifted—thanks to all who have been vaccinated, we are able to get out and get on with our lives. That being said, many of us have started new hobbies and activities during the pandemic. We have learned how to do things in new ways—and that is a good thing! And, a lot of new opportunities were created and will continue as we go forward. We have found new ways to enjoy our retirement and connect with each other.

I am still encouraging people to join our OEA-Retired committees. Being on a committee is a means of being involved without serving on the Board. Please let me know if you would like to join one or more of our committees at bobbiy4967@gmail.com or 503-233-1341.

As an association, we will be returning to our regular in-person Fall activities—regional as well as the Fall Conference in Hood River this year.

Hopefully, you will all be able to attend one or more of these events. Please invite your friends and colleagues to join us—the more the merrier.

As we move into September, please remember that redistricting at both the state and federal level will occur later in the month. Please engage in the process as much as you are able. Oregon is getting a sixth Representative—to be elected in November 2022.

We don’t know how this additional representative will affect the current districts. However, it will still be important to start working this Fall to get pro-education candidates for our districts.

Have a great 2021-22 year!
Legislators work for us

by Maureen Barnhart and Eileen Wende

Sen. Jeff Merkley and Rep. Peter DeFazio announced on July 16 that they are leading the Oregon Delegation in pushing FEMA to release in detail the plans to make it easier and faster to deliver disaster relief in the wake of catastrophic wildfires.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (CD 4) gave U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg a tour of Corvallis and Eugene/Springfield. Both leaders promoted the benefits of the CARES Act infrastructure investment.

Congressman DeFazio serves as Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His goal is to pass a package that will make bold investments in the fight against climate change and create good-paying jobs.

DeFazio’s bipartisan INVEST in America Act, which passed the House, provides $767 billion to strengthen our transportation system, water facilities, and wastewater infrastructure.

Oregon is expected to receive a total of $4.518 billion over five years through the INVEST in America Act, which is expected to create or sustain 70,480 jobs.

A member of the Problem Solvers Caucus in the House, Rep. Kurt Schrader shares that the group put forth a bipartisan infrastructure deal, which is endorsed by President Biden Rep. Schrader added language addressing seismic resiliency to highway bridges and overpasses.

With West Virginia Rep. David McKinley (R), Rep. Schrader is introducing a bipartisan climate bill to address the root causes of the climate crisis. The Clean Energy through Innovation Act of 2021 aims to reduce carbon emissions in the electric power sector by 95 percent by 2050.

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici hosted U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in Oregon to discuss their efforts to provide students with pathways to affordable higher education, including two years of free community college.

They observed “historic investments in education from the American Rescue Plan” such as the expanded bilingual summer enrichment program in Hillsboro.

“What I heard here in Oregon is how the community colleges served as a safety net...It was understanding their fees and other issues that...prevented them from going to school...For me, this was a great example of how we want schools across the country to act when we have students that are in need,” said Cardona.

The program expanded significantly this year with resources for which Rep. Bonamici advocated in the American Rescue Plan. The two also met with student teachers from the Bilingual Teacher Scholars Program, which is increasing teacher diversity to reflect the students in the district.

Social justice committee makes plans

by Deb Wiskow

The newly appointed Social and Equity Task Force, charged with leading the efforts in educating the OEA-Retired Board in social and equity awareness and action, met for the first time in June.

Cochairs Deb Wiskow and Matt Falby and task force members invite those of you interested in helping with this endeavor to join them by contacting Deb Wiskow at gamma4maddisen@yahoo.com.

The task force is sponsoring its initial Book Club choice and will be “diving into” the book, “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo. The book examines America’s institutional systems and begins the powerful, yet awkward conversations about race, and its most powerful solution: education.

Please consider joining in this opportunity. It will be learning about what you don’t know, you don’t know. We encourage as many of you as possible to let Pam Wojcik know at pjwojcik09@comcast.net.

We are currently working on a presentation for the OEA-Retired Fall Conference to be held in Hood River on September 27.

OEA Annual Assembly awards

by Marleen Wallingford

Congratulations to longtime OEA-Retired member, Ray Johnson who was recognized with the OEA-Retired Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ray has held numerous positions within our organization ranging from PrimeTimes editor, OEA and OEA-Retired committees and, presently, Region I Director.

With his attention to detail, he has helped keep our organization up-to-date with bylaws and policies and make sure we always referred to our organization as OEA-Retired rather than OEA-R.

OEA-Retired was also recognized by OEA PAC as having the highest average contribution per member, as it has for several years in the past.

James is critical that we have the funds to support the candidates and legislation that our children deserve.

Be a member

by Terri Domenigoni

Greetings from the Membership Committee.

August winds blow in our OEA-Retired Fall mailing month where annual bills are sent out to annual members.

Annual members and lifetime members also receive information about activities for the coming year. There are high hopes that we will have more in person activities so take advantage of Regional activities and our Fall Conference.

If you know of members who have not signed up to become a member, we are still offering a chance to win an NEA-Retired membership when a member signs up for an OEA-Retired membership. Names for the drawing are being recorded as of July 1, 2021 and go through June 1, 2022. The winner will be announced in the PrimeTimes in August.

Congratulations to Joyce Woods from Ashland, Oregon. She is the winner of the NEA-Retired Lifetime membership for this past year. When notified she was surprised as she had forgotten about having signed up last September. If you paid for OEA-Retired and NEA-Retired memberships, you will be reimbursed if you are picked.

The Committee is currently selling polo shirts with the OEA-Retired logo. You can get them by attending Region activities and asking your Regional Director, attending the Fall Conference or checking out your email to get the order form and mailing it in. Shirts will be mailed to you.

The cost is $26 for XS-XL and $31 for 2X-5X. They come in many colors, the most popular being red.

If you have questions you can call or email Terri Domenigoni at 503 654-9910 or tdomenigoni@comcast.net.

Finally, don’t forget we are always looking for members to be a part of a committee or run for the OEA-Retired Board.

Currently we have openings for one-year appointed members.

If you are interested contact Bobbi Yambasu at bobbij4967@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing members at actual events this year, and not Zoom!

Review our bylaws and policies

by Ray Johnson and Regina Norris

As usual, with the start of a new membership year the OEA-Retired Bylaws and Policies Committee is accepting proposed changes to our Bylaws and Policies for submission to the March 7 Annual Assembly.

To review our governance documents go to oearetired.oregoned.org and click on Documents. The latest that proposals can be submitted is December 31.

However, the earlier that you send in your proposals to the president, preferably before November 1, the easier it is to handle them.

If you have any questions, please contact Ray Johnson at 503-887-0467 or rayugene@gmail.com.

Members of the Committee are: Cochair Ray Johnson and Regina Norris, Judy Christensen, Ruth Greiner, Jeannette Kmetic, Karen Watters and Eileen Wende.
We’re back to in-person regional activities this fall

Region I
by Ray Johnson
What a relief to be able to meet in person. Region I—the Portland metro area—started in May with a Happy Hour that was well attended and continued with luncheons in June and July.

For this upcoming fall, we will resume our Not Back to School Picnic at 11 a.m. on September 8 at North Clackamas Central Park, Milwaukie. Watch for details in further communications.

Then, our next two lunches will be at 11:30 a.m.:
• Oct. 21, Margarita Factory, Beaverton.
• Nov. 19, Paiku, North Portland.

Please RSVP to Ray Johnson at 503-887-0467 or rayugene@gmail.com.

Region II
Back to School Duty Free Potluck
When: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, September 7
Where: Paul Schutz's Backyard, 4721 Dalke Ct, NE Salem.
Details: Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Chicken, soft drinks and tableware will be provided.

First Tuesday Breakfast
When: 10 a.m.-Noon, second Tuesday of each month.
Where: Sybil's Omelettes, 2373 State St., Salem.
Questions and RSVP for all above to: Paul Schutz, 503-370-9208 or paul.g.schutz@gmail.com.

Region III
Mid Columbia Barbeque
When: Noon, Wednesday, September 18
Where: Paul Zastrow's Home, 5690 Collins Road, Hood River.
Details: Free lunch, BYOB
RSVP: Paul Zastrow at pzastrow@gorge.net or 503-754-4318 or 541-354-1002.

Central Oregon
When: Noon, Wednesday, August 25.
Where: Mid-Summer Rejuvenation of Spirits, Maragas Winery in Terrebonne, 15523 US 97, Culver.
Details: OEA-Retired provides finger food, but BYOB.
RSVP: Vickie Jackson at dandvjackson@gmail.com

South Coast
Skipping School Picnic
When: Noon, September 2.
Where: Simpson City Park, North Bend.
Details: Light picnic lunch provided.
RSVP: Ruth Greiner at reg2006@charter.net.

Southern Oregon Coffee for All
When: 10 a.m., September 14.
Where: Good Bean Coffee 3240 Hillcrest Park, Medford.
RSVP: Contact Judy Richards at jarich7138@gmail.com for details.

by Marleen Wallingford
PMAE-Retired members will be joining the Portland Association of Teachers for “Party in the Park” at Laurelhurst Park just north of the pond at 4 p.m. on September 17.
Food, beverages, dessert and entertainment will be provided.

We remember
Bert Rogers, Portland
August 19, 2015

E. Jane Dijkslag, Beaverton
February 25 2021

C. Boyd Allred, Parkrose
January 2021

Elections report
by Mavis Randklev
A second OEA-Retired election was held for NEA Representative Assembly Delegate. This was a mail-in ballot only.
Congratulations to Deb Wiskow, the winner of this election.
A big thank you to everyone who voted.
**Update on PERS**

**by Ray Johnson**

As a reminder, the last issue of Perspectives newsletter from PERS, recommended that when “a PERS member dies, a representative—do you have someone designated?—should contact PERS Member Services as soon as possible.

“Failure to report a death in a timely manner may result in having to pay back retirement payments.

“This notice to PERS should include date of death, city and state where the death occurred, a photocopy of the death certificate, and the spouse’s or personal representative’s contact information.”

Also, be sure to watch the news as the PERS Board shortly will be deciding on new rates to charge the public institutions in our state about their contributions to their PERS’ accounts.

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**Time to travel again**

**by Ray Johnson**

We hope you have been looking at our tours for 2022, and are ready to sign up. The first one is Spotlight on New York City, and needs your deposit by next month.

Many of our members are ready to travel and, so far this year, we have four on the Southern Italy and Sicily trip in October/November, three for Treasures of Egypt in November, and 15 for Christmas Markets Along the Rhine in December.

For our featured trip this issue, the Canadian Maritime Coastal Wonders’ nautical beauty of Peggy’s Cove to the rugged splendor of the Cabot Trail will enchant you. The trip will visit the provinces of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Choose how you explore Lunenburg—at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic or, on a locally guided walking tour. Undertake a competition to cook the best mussels. Visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum and learn about potato farming.

See the four-story high Hopewell Rocks. Savor a traditional Maritimes lobster feast and learn how to eat lobster like a local. Don’t miss the rugged beaches, picturesque fishing villages, and rich seafaring history of the amazing Canadian Maritimes.

The tour is an activity level 2—walking over a variety of terrains, or several city blocks.

We are happy to announce that the Travel Committee has more than doubled in size as several members have joined, namely, Irene Ikada, Sandy and Steve Rosenfeld and Bob Rice. Continuing on the committee are Chair Nancy Lewis, Ray Johnson and Carolyn Ramey.

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**OEA-Retired Travel**

**2021**

**Christmas Markets Along the Rhine**
December 6-17, 7 days with all meals (30) on cruise ship.
Deposit due: First come, first served

**2022**

**Cruising Burgundy & Provence to the Cote d’Azur**
May 10-22. 13 days with all meals. Cost: $4,495-$4,895, plus $1,200 airfare.
Deposit of $599 due: First come, first served.
Grand Circle: To reserve, call 1-800-221-2610 and mention Code G2-29054.

**Spotlight on New York City**
May 5-9. 5 days with 5 meals.
Cost: $2,649.
Deposit of $600 due: September 28, 2021.
Collette: To reserve go to—gateway.gocollette.com/link/1059876

**Maritime Coastal Wonders**
July 24-August 3. 11 days with 16 meals.
Cost: $3,999.
Deposit of $600 due: January 17, 2022.
Collette: To reserve, go to—gateway.gocollette.com/link/1059877

**Cultural Treasures of Japan**
September 18-October 1. 14 days with 19 meals.
Cost: $6,799.
Deposit of $600 due: February 12, 2022.
Collette: To reserve go to—gateway.gocollette.com/link/1059881

Cost is per person for double occupancy and includes transfer and airfare from Portland.

For information for:
- Burgundy cruise, go to http://www.gct.com/RON22.
- Japan, Sandi Rosenberg at 503-880-9953 or sanrosenberg@gmail.com.
- Other Collette and Grand Circle, Nancy Lewis at 503-352-4453 or nancyjolewis@gmail.com.
OEA-RETIRED 2021 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Discover the Land between Mt. Hood and the Columbia River
8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., September 27 ~ Rockford Grange
4262 Barrett Dr., Hood River
From I-84 take exit 62

Reservation for room must be made separate.

$25 Registration Fee includes meals (dinner excluded), due September 15, 2021
Late Registration Fee, $35.

SEND THE REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK, MADE OUT TO OEA, TO:
Mavis Randklev ~ 3835 NE Skidmore St. ~ Portland, OR 97211

Cut Here

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OEA-RETIRED FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
September 27, 2021

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* Please note dietary needs

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Conference plans
by Vickie Jackson and Paul Zastrow

Welcome! We hope you find lodging that fits your needs. The program we have put together for you highlights Hood River County. We are using two different building for breakout sessions, Rock-ford Grange and across the parking lot the Fire Hall.

An early release to enjoy the community, and a drive for Happy Hour at a winery on Hwy 35, The Gorge White House 4:00 - 7:00.

Be sure to check out the tables around the room—Literacy, Membership, Travel, PMAE-Retired, and OEA PAC.

The Foundation Committee’s Silent Auction will be there—bid often, and give generously, as all the proceeds go directly to help Oregon school children.

The Fall Conference offers a multitude of options for personal growth. Be sure to thank our presenters as they have donated their time. Have the greatest of times, enjoy each other and continue to be the voice of our education retirees!

Schedule of Events
8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 Opening remarks and introduction of committee
9:15 – 10:15 Keynote Kevin Gorman, History of the Gorge
10:15 – 10:30 Break to find workshops

10:30 – 11:30. Session One:
Three workshop choices
11:35 – 12:15 Lunch
12:15 – 1:15 Session Two:
Three workshop choices
1:30 – 2:15 Rob Bell, owner of Cathedral Ridge Winery, will speak wine.
2:15 – 2:30 Closing, with door prizes, reminders, evaluation, and directions to wine tasting experience
2:30 - 4:00 Explore on your own
4:00 – 7:00 Wine tasting at The Gorge White House, 2265 Hwy 35. The winery has a food cart, fresh fruit, hard ciders and celebrated wines.
We want to thank this year’s committee members: Deb Wiskow, food; Ardeth Woods,
Continued on Page 8.
OEA Foundation asks:

Can you help provide an incredible education?

Every day, students in our schools need -
- new school clothes
- eyeglasses
- warm winter coats
- hearing aids

OEA and OEA-Retired members across the state are helping by making tax-deductible contributions to the OEA Foundation to provide these basic needs to ensure a better education for these students. OEA Foundation takes no administrative costs out of your donation, so 100 percent of your contribution goes directly to the students to provide the needed items.

✔ Can you mail a check to OEA Foundation, 6900 SW Atlanta St., Portland, OR 97223) to help our students, or donate online at www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation?

Also, you can earn redeemable points for the Foundation by registering your Fred Meyer Rewards card at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards (use Foundation number 85681), or similarly for Amazon at org.amazon.com.

Conference

Continued from Page 7.
evaluation; Darlene Cook and Paul Zastrow, speakers; Janis Eggert; Diane Hicks; Jeanette Kmetic; and Ray Johnson, publicity and program booklet.

Have you moved or changed your email?

To update your contact information, contact OEA Membership, the Tigard office.

Contact:
Chris Jarrett
Oregon Education Association
6900 SW Atlanta St.
Portland, OR 97223
503-495-2153
chris.jarrett@oregoned.org