Annual Assembly connects retired

by Vickie Jackson

At this year’s Annual Assembly we were finally able to meet together in person to connect with old friends and enjoy each other’s company.

Congratulations to longtime OEA-Retired member, Ruth Greiner, as she was recognized with the OEA-Retired Lifetime Achievement Award.

Our OEA President Reed Scott-Schwalbach told us about the changes in education issues and politics. Enrique Farrera, OEA vice president, thanked us for our continued contributions to the OEA Foundation. He shared a new means for us to give to the Foundation by ordering wine from Willamette Valley Vineyards. For more information contact the Vineyards @info@wvv.com.

The Literacy Committee announced the giving away of 20,000 books. Janet Jackson and her committee made cookies to celebrate. The Travel Committee has Continued on Page 4.

What’s the fuss about critical race theory?

by Marleen Wallingford

In school boards across the country, parents and often out-of-district citizens are testifying that they do not want their children being taught to hate the white race or be ashamed of our history.

The target of their ire has been labeled as Critical Race Theory. This does not accurately describe what is taught in our elementary through high school programs since it is a college or graduate level concept: racism is not just the product of individual bias or prejudice but embedded in our laws and policies. For example, the Homestead Act gave free land to white men, but not women and specifically excluded Native Americans.

Do we want to continue to tell the mythic story of the founding of our country and its institutions or do we want to students to learn more about our complex history?

When I learned about the settling of the West by the pioneers, we talked about the heroism and sacrifice of the settlers. We did not spend time discussing how this impacted the Native Americans whose lands were taken. My grandparents immigrated from Japan. We did not talk about the people who traveled across the Pacific to settle in the United States.

Critical Race Theory is being used as a buzzword to censor teacher’s conversations about the role racism played in our past, which affects us today.

Lawmakers in at least 35 states have passed or attempting to pass legislation that would require teachers to not discuss or to limit their conversations with students about the role of racism, sexism, heterosexism, and oppression in American history.

From police violence, to the prison system, to the wealth gap, to maternal and infant mortality rates, to housing, and to education, the major institutions and systems of our country are deeply affected by race. To not acknowledge this is to not tell them the truth about our past. Understanding our history helps students understand the roots of inequality.

We have a responsibility to do something about how racism impacts all of our lives today. It is clear that wide disparities continue to exist and we need to discuss honestly with our children the need to work for a more just future for all of us. We need to tell the truth and that means telling all of our stories.
by President Bobbi Yambasu

First, Happy April Fool’s Day! I say that first because the rest of this missive is nothing to joke about.

As retirees, we have some opportunities to make ourselves heard and wield our collective power. We are experienced at getting things done and we need to unify and do so once again. How?

One, even though the primary is more than a month away, we need to get active in elections. Getting pro-education, social justice legislators elected is a must. Some of our long-time friends at both the state and federal level have decided to retire. We need to replace them with those who will help Oregonians thrive as we move forward in this century.

Please check to see the OEA PAC-endorsed candidates and help get them elected. Also, we have had a number of our state legislators announce that they are retiring. Fortunately, some have been really strong advocates for the issues that educators champion. And, some of them are our younger legislators.

Oregon does not pay its state legislators enough. Being a state legislator has become a full-time job, but the pay is not reflective of what the position and workload merit (we all know about that dilemma). Many of our younger legislators cannot meet their financial needs without outside jobs – and the requirements of the legislative job do not make having other part-time jobs possible.

On this front, we need to do two things: a) advocate for higher pay for state legislators and b) make sure that we elect education friends.

And, we can advocate on issues as well. We need to lower drug prices! We can contact our federal legislators to vote to allow Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate prices; we might also wish to advocate that they can negotiate prices with foreign pharma, such as Canadian or Mexican pharma, for better drug prices.

Having that ability might force American pharma’s hold on drug pricing to weaken and bring their prices down. We can also advocate for expanded Medicare (Medicare that includes hearing, vision and dentals—and/or we could advocate for Medicare for All (or Universal Health Care)).

And, finally, we need to support our current educators. The system is in crisis. We know that there was a shortage of educators prior to the

Continued on Page 3.
Time for action!

Continued from Page 2.

With the issues that surround educating our children during a pandemic, more educators are retiring early—or just plain quitting due to stress. Where we are going to get qualified educators for today’s students is a real issue. Not enough people are choosing education as a career.

We need to make education enticing once again. Yes, signing bonuses, better working conditions, smaller class sizes. We are going to need some real innovation and it will take time. But, we cannot just throw our hands in the air and say it is too much work. Our children are too important for that.

No fooling! We have a lot we can, and should, do.

Annual assembly

Continued from Page 1.

selected four trips for 2023 for you to enjoy the world—see article on Page 5.

Anne and Bob Jones set up a silent auction to benefit the OEA Foundation. More than $500 was raised.

Kathleen Jeskey gave us a presentation about Critical Race Theory. If you would like to review the links she shared with us go to see the John Oliver video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EICp1vGlh_U. Here's a link to the Chalkboard article she mentioned: https://www.chalkbeat.org/22525983/map-critical-race-theory-legislation-teaching-racism.

Louis DeSitter from OEA Government Relations shared the gains during the short session of the Oregon Legislature. OEA is circulating a petition about legislator accountability for the November 2022 ballot.

Detectives from the Salem Police Department, Jon Garland and Oscar Zambrano, spoke on how narcotics affect all ages in all walks of life. The said that fentanyl has become one of the most misused narcotic since it is stronger and cheaper than other drugs. It is easy to overdose on the drug since the manufacture is not controlled. It is often used in fake Adderall and Xanax pills. Drug users often support their habit by committing petty crime. The officer’s main goal is to catch and arrest the gangs and syndicates that are bringing the drugs into the country but it is such a lucrative industry that controlled substances are flooding the market. This is reflected in the price since it has gone down considerably in recent years.

Oregon has few resources to rehabilitate people with addiction problems and that is something for we should advocate

We remember

H William Scott - Duluth MN - July 11, 2021

Lillian Boughton - Grants Pass OR - January 10, 2022

Our history

by Ray Johnson

With the formation of OEA-Retired in November of 1985, here is capsule of what we have done since then.

30 years ago

Our OEA-Retired officers were consulting with the OEA Budget Committee and NEA Directors to establish discretionary funds to hold retired meetings around the state.

25 years ago

Our request to have a seat on the OEA Board of Directors was approved at the OEA RA with an unanimous voice vote.

20 years ago

The OEA-Retired Board started a discussion on state lifetime membership to match the one offered by NEA-Retired.

15 years ago

Twenty-two OEA-Retired delegates attended the annual OEA PIE, now OEA PAC, Convention, and with the other delegates chose No Recommendation by a 54 percent margin in the governor’s race over incumbent Governor Ted Kulongoski.

10 years ago

Then Oregon Attorney General John Kroger spoke at our Annual Assembly and ticked off how well he had accomplished his campaign promises.

5 years ago

We introduced a successful New Business Item at OEA RA to establish a major award honoring a retired member for lifetime achievement and to be awarded annually, beginning in 2017.

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Salem in review
by Maureen Barnhart

On March 4, the Oregon Legislature wrapped up the session with three days to spare. This efficiency is especially surprising considering the demand that every bill be read on the floor, a tactic that slows down the forward movement of proposed legislation.

Oregon’s economy is doing quite well, and the Legislature seems intent on ensuring that we can take advantage of the situation to improve the lives of more of our community. Governor Kate Brown was able to direct $400 million toward low-income housing and the opportunity for more home ownership.

A $200-million initiative, “Future Ready Oregon” will support historically marginalized groups by building career pathways in targeted sectors, to build the economy and diversify the workforce. It will remove some of the barriers for people starting and expanding small businesses.

House Bill 4030 appropriates $100 million to the Oregon Department of Education for grants to school districts and education service districts for recruiting and retaining personnel in education, and for ODE staffing and related costs.

The measure provides funding for reimbursements to substitute teachers and instructional assistants for costs personally incurred for required training. There is $700,000 available on a one-time basis to the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission for staffing costs to conduct educator license reciprocity review, assist applicants with educator licensure requirements and to establish an education workforce data system.

If you have educator friends and/or relatives who want out of one of those restrictive states, this might be the key to bringing them to Oregon.

If the legislative session was a yearbook, HB 4002 might have been voted “Most Likely to Trigger a QuorumDenying Walkout,” but it didn’t. Farmers are at the mercy of the market when it comes to prices paid for their products, but all workers deserve to be compensated fairly and under working conditions that do not result in a life expectancy of 49 years and an average income of $28,900.

The many compromises—so many compromises—leave farmworkers waiting for six years before they finally have a 40-hour work week and overtime is available.

From the natural disaster world, action was taken to prevent horrifying possibilities of fire and explosions as the result of seismic activity and human construction. There is a scenario that is an affirmed possibility in Multnomah County, at the Port of Portland, in which an earthquake will cause the collapse of several fuel tanks (all of the jet fuel for PDX airlines is stored there) and the ignition of that fuel that will send fire over the West Hills and into Portland and Washington County.

SB 1567 requires bulk oil and fuel terminal vulnerability assessments in Columbia, Multnomah and Lane counties.

SB 1546 establishes the Elliott State Research Forest of land formerly constituting the Elliott State Forest. This legislation comes after three years of compromise and collaboration between members of the Elliott State Research Forest Advisory Committee.

It keeps the forest in public ownership, appoints Oregon State University to lead the research-driven management with the goal to implement important conservation outcomes, support rural economic vitality and self-sustaining revenue and a commitment to public access and use.

The establishment of the Elliott State Research Forest received bipartisan support and awaits the Governor’s signature.

This was the work of the before-redistricting legislature, so perhaps now those legislators who will return in 2023 will feel emboldened to look at our resources and our problems.

At least for this session, they were able to do a pretty good job and leave the drama out of the law-making!

Congratulations to OEA-Retired Literacy Committee

20,000 free books given to Oregon children and educators!
Adventure in Costa Rica

by Steve Rosenfeld

Hold on to your hats! This article focuses on Costa Rica: A World of Nature.

This tour for 2023 is an adventure! You will be experiencing the culture and heritage of the region, as well as viewing spectacular scenery.

Be advised that air conditioning and elevators may not be available in all accommodations on tour. Travelers must be in good health, as sightseeing requires walking on uneven terrain.

Highlights of this tour include Tortuguero National Park, where the world’s first sea turtle research station is found. Also try your hand at making coconut candy. Visit the Tirimbina Rainforest Center and experience chocolate making and tasting. Take in the sights and sounds of the rainforest on a river safari.

Relish a bird’s eye view of the jungle on a guided tour of Arenal’s famous hanging bridges. Get an up-close and personal look at Arenal Volcano.

Relax at a Playa Herradura resort on Costa Rica’s western coast. Visit Manuel Antonio National Park where white sand beaches caress the Pacific Ocean. Go on safari in search of jungle crocodiles on Tarcoles’ Rio Grande. Learn why Costa Rica is known as the emerald of Central America.

Pricing includes round trip airfare from and to PDX and all hotel transfers. Please contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953 or sanrosenfeld@gmail.com or for any questions, or, if you would like a detailed brochure.

Keep up on news

If you prefer reading news online about our OEA colleagues, go to https://www.oregoned.org. At top of the page, click on Standing Up for You, or Events.

To read additional news articles about our NEA-Retired and NEA colleagues, go to https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea?nea_today=1&. If you wish to read the Retired magazine online, you can download the NEA app from the App Store or Google Play. Here are links: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/nea-today-mobile/id1195084864 https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.neatoday
General Meeting
9:30 a.m.
Meeting begins at 10 a.m.
April 14
PAT Office
345 NE 8th Ave., Portland

We will be resuming our meetings at the PAT office. There will be no virtual option this time. We will learn about senior resources in our area, have a legislative review and hear the results of the PMAE-Retired election of new officers.

It will be so good to finally have a meeting where we don’t have to look at each other in little boxes on a screen.

Look forward to the fall
by Vickie Jackson
Fall Conference is coming on September 26 and will be held in Hood River. The River of Life Church will house us. It is on Tucker Road across the road from the senior center that will be creating our meals.

The church has a coffee bar that will house our snacks. We have two time slots for workshops and there will be three workshops to choose from. We have two guest speakers and door prizes.

Kevin Gorman, executive director of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge will talk about history of the area. Sarah Borgman, NEA-Retired president, will update us about her work. We will set up museum discounts for the local museums and have a “Happy Hour” at a local winery.

You must make your own hotel reservations. The hotels will take “Triple A” membership for a discount. The hotels closest to the conference site are: Holiday Inn and Westcliff Lodge. Columbia Gorge Hotel & Spa is comparable to the others but is not ADA compliant.

There will be information tables about committee work and a Silent Auction to raise funds for the OEA Foundation.

The cost of the Fall Conference is $25.00 before September 23, 2022. At the door it will cost you $35.00.

Region I
by Ray Johnson
With the ongoing relaxation of COVID regulations, Region I has continued holding its in-person luncheons—January 17 at McMenamins Kennedy School, February 22 at Hunan Pearl and March 23 at Twigs Bistro.

Lindsay Ray, OEA Region I vice president joined us in February.

Our next luncheon is April 21 at Cooper River Restaurant and Bar, Hillsboro, and our annual Happy Hour on May 20 at the Chart House, which has beautiful views of the city.

ESP membership gets a break
by Terri Domenigoni
Calling all ESP active and retired members. This year ESP dues have been reduced to help them afford a lifetime and annual membership. If you are a current ESP annual member now might be the time to think about a lifetime membership.

For active ESP members, you can sign up for a pre-retired or retired membership and pay $175 instead of $250 for an OEA-Retired membership, a savings of $85.

You can also sign up for a NEA-Retired Pre-Retired or retired membership for $180 instead of $300, for a savings of $120. Even if you are not an ESP active member, but a classified active member, you can sign up now as a pre-retired member, before dues increase again.

With OEA RA fast approaching, the committee will be inviting active members to come to our sign up table to learn how to become a pre-retired member. Pre-retired lifetime members can pay for membership before they retire and save money by not paying later when dues may increase.

For all who sign up for a lifetime pre-retired or OEA-Retired Lifetime membership, names will be put into a drawing to win an NEA-Retired membership.

Meanwhile, Membership Committee has been working hard to make sure our membership lists are accurate. After RA we will be sending via email a flyer to all active members getting close to retirement to inform them about the benefits of maintaining membership and save money in the future by signing up now.

In May we will be looking at our charges to update them so that we can provide new and current members with the best possible assistance. We are considering automatic payments as an option.
Virtual PAC selects candidates
by Marleen Wallingford

The OEA PAC Convention just completed its first virtual event. All of the candidates were invited to a production studio in NE Portland to give their speeches to the OEA PAC and directors from throughout the state.

Some OEA-Retired PAC members chose to view the proceedings together at OEA headquarters in Tigard. We were able to socialize with each other, even if we were not able to have a personal conversation with the candidates.

On Friday afternoon, we met over Zoom with 11 of the candidates with contested races.

OEA-Retired was recognized as the UniServ with the highest average contribution per member. This is the 14th PAC award we have received since 2005!

PAC Contributions of $100 or more through Jan. 2022

Bruce Adams
Robert Allnut
Barbara Bannister,
Lawrence Beach
Mary Lou Beck
Thomas Brandes
Mary Ann Brown
June Buck
Jonni Burnett
Darlene Cook
Lee Cornelius
Matt Falby
May Fogg
Judith Francis
Douglas Froemming
Debra Gaffney
Christine Gohl
Ruth Greiner
Bertha Haas
Wanda Hansen
Glenn Harrison
Barbara and David Hascall
Theresa Hawkins
Elizabeth Hayes
Lois Heinlein
Kimberly Heron
Georgia Hilton
Carolyn Hinesly
Gloria Holland
Shirley House
Janet Jackson
Vickie Jackson
Merv Johnson
Ray Johnson
Nancy Lewis
Jo Margeson
Jerry and Christine Matsui,
Elouise Mattox
Martha McManus
Marietta Milick,
Cherene Mills,
Pam Morris,
Viki Mulick
Victor Nielsen
Carroll Noel
Carolyn Ramey
Mavis Randklev
Judy Richards
Janey Romine
Nancy Rose
**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](http://www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation)?

OEA Foundation asks:

You can earn redeemable points for the Foundation by registering your Fred Meyer Rewards card at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) (use Foundation number 85681) or similarly for Amazon at [org.amazon.com](http://org.amazon.com).

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**OEA-PAC Contributors**

*Continued from Page 7.*

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**Have you moved or changed your email?**

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