Prime Times

Volume 34 Number 3

February 2022

Annual Assembly keeps us involved

by Vickie Jackson

The OEA-Retired Annual Assembly will happen as a hybrid meeting at 9:00 a.m. on March 7 in the Salem office.

Sarah Borgman, NEA Retired President will be our kick off speaker. We will also hear from our Government Relations folks for a Legislative Update—especially after the PAC Convention. The Equity and Social Task Force will share a presentation on Critical Race Theory—its impacts on our active members and school board elections.

The committee hopes you can be in person with us in Salem, but if not sign up for a Zoom connection. The committee needs to know the body count for each choice in order to serve the needs of the members. The Annual Assembly is free to members and lunch will be served. The Theme of the conference is “Retired Members Stay Involved at All Levels!” We all have a place where we can help our fellow school employees! Come for the fun and enlightenment.

OEA Political Action Convention is virtual

by Marleen Wallingford

Our last in-person OEA event was the 2020 OEA PAC Convention held at the Benson Hotel in downtown Portland. We were just learning about the COVID-19 pandemic and we thought we could keep people safe by having lots of hand sanitizer available but we were unmasked and not socially distant. After much discussion, the OEA PAC board voted to move forward with a virtual format with opportunities for individual units to meet in small groups on the February 18 and 19th. Moving to a virtual format dramatically changes how we are able to interact with the candidates and each other. Not to mention, there will be no after hours candidate open houses with munchies.

The PAC Board Directors will be meeting in a studio with the candidates who will be presenting their case for endorsement. These speeches will be available live for viewing from your home computer or a central location. You will still be able to ask the candidates questions. Candidates will also be able to meet individually with our group. There will be opportunities for you to meet in person or virtually with other OEA-Retired members and talk about the pros and cons of the different candidates. We have secured a space at the OEA Tigard office for our retired group to be able to meet together if you feel comfortable about meeting with people. You can also participate from your home with Zoom.

This will be our opportunity to weigh in on supporting the state and federal candidates who best represents the interests of Oregon public schools and educators. We are unique in that we do not give this responsibility to the OEA Board but OEA and OEA-Retired members who contribute to PAC use their collective voice to determine who OEA will support. Our endorsement has long been sought after by candidates not only because our support means money and volunteer power for their campaign, voters trust the judgement of educators.

Now is the time to register at https://www.oregoned.org/events/oea-pacconvention

Questions? Contact marleenwong@gmail.com

NEA-Retired President Sarah Borgman will give the opening remarks in Salem.

Annual Assembly keeps us involved

OEA Political Action Convention is virtual

Prime Times
by President Bobbi Yambasu

As we move into a new year, I have a few thoughts.

First, we have an opportunity before us like we haven't had for a long time. We are adding a Congressional seat which begins in January of 2023. That makes this election year, 2022, even more important than ever. We need to make sure that we keep our congressional seats as representative as possible by filling them with people who value public education and who champion social justice. With Rep. DeFazio retiring, and with other seats being challenged, we must make sure that we use our influence to rally people to vote for public education proponents. Many of our active colleagues are being attacked for wanting to maintain safety and teach truth to our state’s students. We need to make sure that we elect legislators at all levels that support their efforts.

Second, we need to actively support our public educators when we can. I foresee continuing resistance to their efforts. So, if needed, please join rallies, attend school board meetings, and talk to your electeds about the needs of public schools.

Third, Covid is going to be with us for a long time. We need to face that fact. There is no miracle cure and no foreseeable “end” to the pandemic. We all need to take proper precautions. But, if you haven’t already made a plan, start planning your life around the new “normal.” We need to find ways to get out and meet with people, reconnect in safe environments. For some, it is baby steps; others have already started to venture out – having lunch with select friends, traveling, going to plays and/or movies. Just getting out and shaking off the isolation occasionally is good – even if it’s only to take a walk in the neighborhood and wave to your neighbors (or chat 6 feet apart).

Finally, please join us for some of our OEA-Retired activities. Regional activities are happening. In addition, you could join one of our committees (they are generally via Zoom at this point); if you let me know what your interests are, I will make sure that your contact information gets to the right committee chair. Also, join us for a Board meeting; we are currently having hybrid meetings (some in person attendees and some on Zoom). If you are interested, let me know and Continued on Page 8.
Our history
by Ray Johnson
Here is a continuation of our history since OEA-Retired was formed in November of 1985.
35 years ago
OEA Assistant Executive Secretary Pat Maney was appointed our first staff consultant.
30 years ago
President Jeanne Mackie and PIE director Rose Chess attended the OEA Legislative Advisory Council meeting and supported the plan to “aggressively counter any plans introduced at the (state) legislature, which would give retirees a tax burden without offsetting it with a significant increase in PERS benefits.”
25 years ago
The OEA-Retired Board appointed a committee of Clarence Nelson, Tom Wiper, Jeanne Mackie and Jerry Wilkins to submit a Bylaws amendment for a retired seat on the OEA Board.
20 years ago
Vice President Paul Zastrow became editor of the retired newsletter, replacing Jerry Wilkins who wanted more time to concentrate on being president, and introduced a new masthead.
15 years ago
The Salem Area Chapter of Retired Educators, one of our local affiliates, received a $4,000+ grant from NEA, and an additional $2,500 from OEA, to conduct its New Educator Support Team to mentor first-year teachers.
10 years ago
To curtail the rising costs—$4,500 a year in 2010—of printing our newsletter, it was decided to send the newsletter electronically to all members with an email address. Editor's note: Due to this change, the annual cost has been maintained at $1,000.
5 years ago
Online voting was used for the first time for our annual election.

We remember

Dale Andrich
Bend, OR
March 7, 2018

Kathleen Borusso
Portland, OR
Nov. 27, 2020

Eva Daniels
Albany, OR
Jue, 10, 2017

Vincent Demarinis
Hillsboro, OR
Feb. 5, 2017

William Graves
Riddle, OR
May 5, 2021

Shirley E. Ivie
Canby, OR
Sept. 16, 2021

Mae Jackson
Kalamazoo, MI
ov. 18, 2018

Diana Kerman
Portland, OR
Feb. 13, 2021

Richard Phay
Prineville, OR
Sept. 29, 2021

Elmer Poff
Milwaukee, OR
Sept. 10, 2017

Ashley Prince
Pendleton, OR
Jue, 11, 2021

Paul Riley
Beaverton, OR
March 8, 2021

Carrie Saito
Portland, OR
July 26, 2021

Dick Sahagian
Portland, OR
Nov. 10, 2021

Margaret Saucy
Salem, OR
July 2021

Marilyn Schubert
Portland, OrR
Sept. 15, 2015

Maxine Stringer
Medford, OR
Sept. 30, 2021

Carole Twede
Stayton, OR
April 25, 2021

We remember these dedicated educators who are no longer with us.

Former members of our OEA-Retired Board include: Richard Phay, a retired educator from Crook County High School who was well known for sharing his strong political views with us and his local community and Dick Sahagian who spent his last teaching years at Aloha High School found love after widowhood with fellow OEA-Retired Board member, Carol Swehla.
Join OEA-Retired

by Terri Domenigoni

There is still time to win a free lifetime NEA-Retired membership. The drawing will be held June 1, 2022. Sign up for an OEA-Lifetime membership and your name will be put into the drawing for a fully paid NEA-Retired membership. The time to make sure you renew your OEA-Retired membership is a way to Stay Involved, Stay Invigorated, and Stay in Touch.

At the end of November annual members were sent second billings to pay for their annual membership dues. If you received the notice please send in your dues. In January our records were audited as they are every year. Those members who did not send in their dues were dropped from our membership rolls.

NEA-Retired has decreased the amount of dues for lifetime and ESP members. OEA-Retired will be addressing a dues decrease at our annual meeting in March. Now is the time to consider joining if you are an ESP member. If you have any questions about membership you can contact Terri Domenigoni at tdomenigoni@comcast.net

If you have any questions about membership you can contact jessica.mcnannay@oregoned.org or at 503 364-6987 or Chris Jarrett at chris.jarrett@oregoned.org or at 503-495-2153.

Changes in the legislature

by Maureen Barnhart

Welcome to Oregon's new political landscape, in which State Legislative vacancies and/or changed political advantages, as well as an open Governor's office and a new Congressional District have motivated a musical chairs scenario. The music started with the early retirement or resignation of some office-holders who wish to focus on their races or have accepted new positions.

Since 2020 the Oregon Legislature has seen eleven seats filled through an appointment process, in which the boards of commissioners of the affected counties choose someone to finish out the term of a legislator. The Precinct Committee Persons (PCPs) representing the party of the incumbent recommend possible replacement legislators to County Commissioners. The Boards of Commissioners from every county that is covered by the district participate in the choice, their input weighted by the percentage of population of the district within that county. The replacement is chosen from the three to five candidates proffered by the PCPs.

An example: Senator Betsy Johnson resigned as representative from SD 16, which includes Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, and parts of Washington and Multnomah Counties. Although she recently stated that “the D behind my name means nothing”, she was a registered Democrat and the replacement for the short session will be chosen from among Democrats. Because Washington and Multnomah Counties represent a smaller percentage of residents of SD 16, those Commissioners’ votes will not carry as much weight as the other three. (Another interesting fact regarding this district: there are 206 “pivot counties” in the U.S., two of which are in Oregon, and both of those in SD 16. Pivot Obama in 2008 and 2012, and then flipped to Trump in 2016.)

Resignations in effect now:

• Senator Riley, SD 15, early retirement
• Senator Johnson, SD 16, to run for Governor as a non-affiliated candidate
• Senator Burdick, SD 18, appointed to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation and Planning Council
• Representative Clem, HD 21, to care for his mother who has Alzheimers
• Representative Post, HD 25, relocated to Nevada
• House Speaker Tina Kotek just announced her resignation for HD 44 to concentrate on her race for governor

Retiring at the end of the session:

• Representative Reardon, HD 48
• Representative Schouten, HD 27

Continued on Page 7.
Visit Japan

by Steve Rosenfeld

Our featured trip this issue is the Cultural Treasures of Japan. There will be a Zoom Presentation at 7:00 p.m. on February 2, 2022. This is strictly informational presentation. Commitments are not required. Door prizes will be drawn at the end of the Zoom meeting.

Immerse yourself in the ancient and modern cultures of Japan, learn the art of the tea ceremony, and stand before the famous Senso-ji Buddhist Temple. Tour Matsumoto Castle, known as the “Crow Castle” for its black interior. Taste legendary Hida beef and sip sake at a local brewery.

Delve into Kyoto, the marvelous cultural capital of Japan. Absorb the beauty of the Golden Pavilion and the majesty of Nijo Castle.

Board the Shinkansen “bullet” train to travel to Hiroshima to visit Shrine Island and the Peace Memorial Museum.

A Japanese goody packet will arrive by standard mail once you register for this Zoom presentation. Contact Sandi Rosenfeld at sanrosenfeld+Japan@gmail.com, to supply your address for packet mailing, and email to send you Zoom instructions. As a bonus, you’ll learn about the next four future trips planned for 2023.

Cultural Treasures of Japan Presentation
7 p.m. February 2
to register see above
Bylaws/Policies Proposals

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 7 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**

1. **ARTICLE X - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

   Section 1. Officers, regional and at large directors, OEA-RA delegates/OEA-Retired Board members and NEA-delegates:
   a. Shall be nominated by 5:00 p.m. on the end of the day 11:59 p.m. on March 31 of the election year. They shall be elected by secret ballot sent to all OEA-Retired members and shall take office on July 1. Except on September 1, the Treasurer (article VI, Section 5.f.) and NEA-RA delegates (NEA Bylaws) will take office.
   Rationale: Accommodates filing nominations electronically.

2. Section 3. Regional and at large directors
   a. Regional directors of OEA-Retired shall be elected for three-year terms on a rotational basis as follows:
      Region 1: 2018, 2021, 2024, 2027
      Region 2: 2019, 2022, 2025, 2028
      Region 3: 2020, 2023, 2026, 2029
   Rationale: Updates years of rotations and editing.

3. Section 5. Term of office for NEA-RA Delegates
   b. NEA-RA delegates shall be elected for three-year terms, with each term beginning September 1 and ending August 31. However, their term on the OEA-Retired Board will begin July 1 following their election. Terms shall not all be concurrent. Terms may be less than three years for purposes of implementing a rotation schedule. A delegate cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.
   Rationale: Fixes redundancy to Article X, Section 1.a.

4. Section 6. The positions of OEA Director District 27, the OEA-PAC Director District 27, the OEA-LAC Representative District 27 and the two OEA-CAT representatives shall be filled according to the OEA Bylaws and Policies.
   Rationale: Adds the OEA CAT representatives of OEA-Retired, who are also selected through Board action.

**POLICIES**

1. IV. NOMINATIONS PROCEDURES
   B. The Nominations and Elections Committee will:
      1. Meet to prepare a list of nominees.
   Rationale: Reflects current practice.

2. 5. in addition, nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Assembly. All nominations will be closed at 5:00 p.m. the end of the day 11:59 p.m. on March 31.
   Rationale: Accommodates filing electronically.

VIII. NEA-Retired conference

3. A. The president and vice president will be delegates each year. The secretary, treasurer and directors will be delegates according to this schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Delegate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Region III Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>At Large Director I</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>At Large Director II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Region I Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Region II Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Region III Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>At Large Director I</td>
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<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Region I Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Region II Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Region III Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes

Continued from Page 4.

• Representative Witt, HD 31
• Representative Zika, HD 53
• Senator Beyer, SD 6
• Senator Peter Courtney, SD 11
• Senator Thomsen, SD 26
  Running for Higher Office, remaining in current position while campaigning:
  • Representative Hayden, HD 7, running for OR Senate District 6
  • Representative Campos*, HD 28, running for OR Senate District 18
  • Representative Bohnam, HD 59, running for OR Senate District 26
  • Representative Drazen, HD 39, running for Governor (R)
  • Representative Sollman*, HD 30, running for OR Senate District 15
  • Representative Moore-Green, HD 19, running for OR Senate District 10
  • Representative Weber*, HD 32, running for OR Senate District 16
  • Representative Meek, HD 40, running for OR Senate District 20
  • Representative Noble*, HD 24, running for US Congressional District 6
  • Representative Salinas, HD 38, running for US Congressional District 6

Region I

by Ray Johnson

With the temporary abatement of COVID late last fall, Region I held its first in-person luncheon on November 19 with two speakers from the Albina Music Trust. They explained The Albina Soul Walk—a one-mile musical stroll using personal cell phone that has music and information about historic venues and landmarks from the 1960s-1980s in North Portland.

If Omicron does not get too serious, we plan to hold our luncheons on January 17 at McMenamins Kennedy School and February 22 at Hunan Pearl.

Run for office

by Mavis Randklev

The 2022 OEA-Retired elections are just around the corner. The following positions are up for election: President, Vice President, Region II Director, At Large Director 3 year term, At Large Director 1 year term, NEA-Retired Annual Meeting/ NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Position 1, and OEA Representative Delegate/OEA-Retired Board Member 18 positions.

To fill out a Nomination form go to the OEA-Retired website. The last day to fill out a nomination form is March 31, 2022 at 11:59 pm.

I encourage anyone who is an OEA-Retired member to run.
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?

OEA Foundation asks:

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.

Remarks

Continued from Page 2.

I can send you the Zoom link – or you can attend in person. And, don’t forget to join us for our Annual Assembly, March 7. You will be getting a special invite (we do need an RSVP) closer to the meeting date. We will be having some great speakers – and a short business meeting.

I hope to see you all soon!

Have you moved or changed your email?

Contact: Chris Jarrett
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