

Enjoy the unique beauty of the south coast at OEA-Retired Fall Conference

by Vickie Jackson

Come join us at our conference at the Mill Casino in Coos Bay on October 16-17. Our keynote Speaker, Rick Stillwagon from the Stillwater Distillery, will also offer a tour of the distillery. There will be 10 breakout sessions—parks, museums, geology, NEA benefits, DHS Senior Services and tribal culture

Schedule is—**Monday:** Breakfast and Registration 8 a.m., Program 9 a.m., time to explore the area 3 p.m., Happy Hour sponsored by NEA 7 p.m., dinner on your own 8 p.m.

Tuesday: Breakfast, 8 a.m., Program 9 a.m. is in one room for all to attend together and learn about Indigenous culture.

Afterwards is sign-up to tour and taste at Rick Stillwagon's Distillery's Creations.

Lodging registration must be made on your own with room cost at the Casino of \$165.00 plus 11.3 percent in tax, or a RV space at \$45.00

Please fill out Registration form on Page 7 to mail in. If any questions call Vickie Jackson at 541-475-7252.



The Coquille River Lighthouse is part of Bullards Beach State Park near Bandon on the south Oregon Coast. The lighthouse served to direct traffic into the Coquille River where the bar was notorious for rocks, shifting sands, and water that was sometimes only three feet deep.

Let's review the kicker

by Maureen Barnhart

The 1979 Oregon Legislature passed the "Two-percent kicker" law, which requires the state to refund excess revenue to taxpayers when actual General Fund revenues exceed the forecast amount by more than two percent.

The Oregon surplus credit, known as the "kicker," is a way for state government to return some of your taxes to you when revenues are more than predicted. The kicker credit is available only on tax returns for odd-numbered years."

The kicker was approved then by voters in 1980 and has cost the state \$7 billion in revenue that was returned to taxpayers rather than being spent on needed programs.

In March's forecast, when economists estimated a \$3.9 billion kicker, they estimated Oregonians with an income of \$33,000-\$58,000 could receive about \$820 back. This money will be credited on

your tax return but only if you paid taxes the previous year.

Oregon Center for Public Policy describes the kicker as:

- Determined by revenues underestimated, not whether there is more revenue than needed to meet a budget
- The richest 20 percent of Oregonians are expected to capture nearly 70 percent of the kicker
- The richest 1 percent, those who make \$1 million or more per year, will receive an average of \$42,000.
- The lowest 20 percent income group will see an average of \$60
- Most senior citizens will see \$0.

We should consider using the kicker funds to address the most serious problems in the state, or change the distribution formula and make this a "Working Families Kicker".

Random remarks



by President Eileen Wende

It is hard to believe that Fall is fast approaching. I saw my first display of school supplies, while shopping the other day. I am happy to report that my heart did not start racing, and I did

not break out into a cold sweat, as I did when I was still teaching.

I just smiled to myself and reflected on how great it is to be retired. However, sometimes these moments of joy are dimmed by reality.

Attending a recent OEA-Retired lunch, I was not surprised when our conversation turned to the high cost of living. It seemed that whether someone had recently retired or had been retired for decades, all were feeling the financial pinch of the high cost of living. Everything from the cost of groceries and gas to affordable health care was discussed. It seems that many of us are feeling the

impact of the higher costs of goods and services.

There may be some relief for public retired employees, who want to remain working. The 2023 Oregon Legislature did pass SB 79/HB 2296 that extended the sunset from 2024 to 2034, allowing retired members of PERS to be re-employed by participating public employers for unlimited number of hours without a reduction in PERS benefits.

However, many of us have no desire to keep on working, so we have undertaken cost cutting strategies in our daily lives. Each of us has made cost saving decisions, as needed. The strategies are as diverse as our lives dictate. Someone brought up savings that they had made using the NEA Member Benefits program. I had forgotten about this members' benefit.

I want to remind you that as a retired OEA/NEA member, you are eligible for NEA Member Benefits, which offers many discounts and services in the areas of banking and lending, insurance, *Continued on Page 3.*



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PrimeTimes, the official publication of OEA-Retired, is published five times a year as a benefit of membership.

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CALENDAR

2023

- Sept 11 OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
- October 15 *PrimeTimes* published
- Oct. 16-17 OEA-Retired Fall Conference, Coos Bay
- Oct. 15 *PrimeTimes* published
- Nov. 6 OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem

2024

- Jan 8 Retired Board Meeting, Salem
- Feb. 1 *PrimeTimes* published
- March 4 OEA-Retired Annual Assembly, Salem
- March 8-9 OEA PAC Convention, Eugene
- April 1 *PrimeTimes* published
- TBD NEA-Retired Leadership Conference
- April 19-20 OEA Representative Assembly, TBD
- May 20 OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
- June 1 *PrimeTimes* published
- July 8 OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem

Remarks

Continued from Page 2.

travel and the NEA Discount Market Place. Banking services includes credit cards, personal loans, home loans, student loans and student loan forgiveness and refinancing.

Insurance has the expected Life, AD and D, Accident, Auto and Home. It also has Dental, Vision, Medicare Supplements, Long Term Care and Pet Health.

Travel has discount offers on car rentals, hotels, airfare, resorts, cruises and guided tours. The NEA Market Place literally offers dozens of discounts at retailers, discount tickets, office supplies, auto buying, warehouse club membership, meals at restaurants and cell phone service.

All you need to do is to go online at www.neamb.com to sign up. You will be asked to create an account to access your benefits. NEA Member Benefits has greatly increased the number of services and discounts available.

The Benefits program helps make members' lives better by leveraging the Association's group purchasing power. I hope you take the time to take advantage of some of the discounts and services that you are eligible for as an OEA-Retired member.

I feel this is a membership benefit that is underused. I would be interested to hear from members who have benefited from this program.

Tell your PERS story

by Maureen Barnhart

As the U.S. population ages, retirees and other individuals

aged 50 and over are for the most part, presented with a disturbing future.

Scenarios are framed showing an increase in homelessness for individuals 50 and over; factions in the Federal Government would eliminate Social Security and/or Medicare; world events have implications for food availability and prices; and inflation is a wild card.

Consider those educators who have yet to join the ranks of the retired. They face a devalued PERS program. The PNW is one of the more expensive areas of the country, yet critics of the program continue to advocate reducing the benefit.

This for educators, without significant improvements to compensation or working conditions, in an ever more stressful environment. (You can see a comparison table here: <https://www.oregon.gov/pers/mem/pages/benefit-componentcomparisons.aspx>)

How is your quality of life as a Tier One or Tier Two retiree? Most of us can have a decent retirement, barring unexpected events in our lives.

The OEA Retired Executive Board and Legislative Committee (along with OEA-Retired Legislative Activists) are looking at the future quality of life for retirees, current and upcoming. Even Tier One PERS was never meant to completely sustain retirees financially.

We can support active educators by advocating a return to a more robust PERS system.

One strategy is to share our stories of retirement. You may recall the years in which we shared our classroom experiences with Legislators

and the public. OEA-Retired proposes that we embark on a similar campaign about the need for a secure life after our careers.

To tell your story effectively, consider these suggestions:

- Choose a clear central message that offers a glimpse of your current situation.
- What unanticipated events might have taken (or did take) your retired life in a different direction (for better or worse) than what you had hoped?
- If additional investment in retirement funds made a better quality of life for you, then please share.
- Don't overwhelm the reader (legislators) with unnecessary backstory or tangential stories.

You can send your story to Maureen.Barnhart@frontier.com, or be prepared to share it with your representative when we begin our advocacy.

Our goal is to dispel the myths that we are living the 'high life' on a public pension and that chipping away at this benefit is to deny educators the compensation that they deserve. Otherwise, chances are that taxpayers will be asked to support the senior community.

Help request

by Ray Johnson

Do you like to write? Do you like to take photographs? Do you like to design? If you answer yes to any of those questions, we could definitely use you.

For us to produce successful brochures, flyers, newsletters, etc., to communicate with our members, all of those talents are needed

Continued on Page 7.

Be a member

by Viki Mulick and Cherene Mills

Your OEA-Retired Membership Committee was working hard at the April OEA RA getting active members to sign up for pre-retirement. What an honor to know that we have so many members who want to support public education beyond their working years.

We held a drawing for those that signed up for pre-retirement at the OEA RA. Two winners were drawn and they both received their NEA Lifetime portion for free!! Rebecca Torres was our ESP winner from Clackamas Community College and Robin Troche was our certified winner from North Clackamas School District.

Everyone who signed up for pre-retirement received a gift certificate from Powell's Book Store. We aim to make OEA-Retired a coveted place to be for our future retirees.

The Membership Committee has drawn two winners for year-end awards. They are both winning lifetime memberships. Our certified winner is Janice Schiedler from Silverton and our classified winner is Kathleen Klein from Salem. Congrats to both.

NEA is helping us out with a new online platform called Join Now. Join Now will enable us to have pre-retirees and annual dues members pay online. Join Now will take care of letting members know when their annual payments are due and most likely automatically withdraw those payments. As you can see, this will streamline a lot of things that the

Membership Committee spends time doing.

If you pay any of your dues annually, you will have received a dues billing. OEA has transitioned our annual renewal payments to our OEA website. You can find the link for payment at oregoned.org/retired and click on the blue button to pay annual dues.

Your dues will auto-renew each year after paying your dues online this year. No more remembering to have to pay your dues! You can pay via EFT (check) or by credit card. To pay by EFT (check) you must have your routing number and account number.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Jarrett, OEA Membership Specialist, at chris.jarrett@oregoned.org or 503-495-2153.

Read and discuss

by Bobbi Yambasu

For those who like to read with a focus, the OEA-Retired Book Club may be for you. Our book club is one of the activities brought forward by the OEA-Retired Equity and Social Justice Committee.

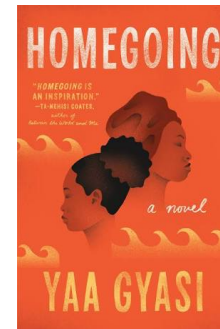
We have been in existence for two years now, centering our reading on books concerning equity and social justice. We read both fiction and non-fiction.

We maintain an ongoing list of suggestions and once a year the committee chooses books for the next year's reading. We meet on a regular schedule (every six weeks, except during the summer) via Zoom. We encourage you to join us. Just send me an email at bobby4967@gmail.com and I will add you to our list.

You do not need to read all the books—you can read all of them or just a few of them. You are welcome to join us, even if you haven't finished reading the book.

The list of books for the 2023-24 year and the dates at which we will be discussing them is below. We begin at 9:30 a.m.

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
September 22, 2023



Four Pivots by Shaun Ginwright
November 3, 2023

Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead
December 15, 2023

You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey by Amber Ruffin
January 26, 2024

This is My America by Kim Johnson
March 8, 2024

How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith
April 19, 2024

A Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School by Sonora Reyes
May 31, 2024

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
July 12, 2024

Enjoy our not-back-to-school activities

Region I

by Ray Johnson

We are looking forward to a different September event—Sweet Treats & Happy Hour—this fall! We hope that anyone close to the Portland Metro area will show up at 1 p.m., September 5, at Robertson City Park, 24300 NE Halsey St., Wood Village for a social gathering that includes a variety of desserts provided by OEA-Retired.

Then at 3 p.m. we take a very short walk, or you can drive, to the neighboring McMenamins Edgefield, 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale for Happy Hour.

For the rest of the fall, we will continue with our monthly luncheons at 11:30 a.m. as follows: October 26, Babika Hen, Lake Oswego; and December 1, Dockside Saloon, Portland.

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

Region II

Wine Tasting

11 am, Friday, August 25
Walnut Ridge Vineyard
94739 Turnbow Ln.,
Junction City &
High Pass Winery
24757 Lavell Rd., Junction City

Back to School Duty Free Lunch

10:30 am-2 pm, Tuesday,
September 5
Paul Schutz's Backyard
4721 Dalke Ct. NE, Salem
Bring a salad, side dish or
dessert to share. Chicken, soft
drinks and tableware will be

provided.

First Tuesday Breakfast

10 a.m.-Noon, October 3, and
monthly.

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

South Coast

Another Year Starts

1 pm

September 7

Coney Station

295 S Broadway Ave.

Coos Bay

OEA-Retired will provide
drinks and treats.

RSVP: Ruth Greiner at
reg2006@charter.net

Central Oregon

Relax Among the Fall Leavers

10 am to Noon

September 21

One Street Down Cafe

124 SW 7th St., Redmond

Details: Coffee and Pastries
provided by OEA-Retired.

RSVP: Vickie Jackson at
dandvjackson@gmail.com or
541-647-2314

Southern Oregon

Coffee & Visit

When: 10 am, September 15

with future ones on Sept. 21,

Nov 15., Jan. 17, March 13,

May 15 and July 17

South Medford Starbucks

Fred Meyer

1301 Center Dr.

Medford

Details: Coffee and a sweet
provided by OEA-Retired.

RSVP: Judy Richards at
jarich7138@gmail.com



by Marleen Wallingford

Breakfast at Tin Shed

9:30 am, September 14
1438 NE Alberta St.

Explore Public Art on PSU Campus

10 am, September 26

We will take a walk around
campus and see the work of
local artists. Portland State
University's collection of art
spans the entire campus, from
the large-scale sculptural works
amidst the Park Blocks to the
paintings that decorate the
halls of their buildings.

Explore the newly opened
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of
Art in the remodeled
Neuberger Hall space. We will
have a guided tour by museum
education and communications
coordinator.

RSVP for above activities to
Marleen Wallingford at
marleenwong@gmail or
53-927-2766

General Meeting

9:30 a.m. October 12
PAT Office, 345 NE 8th Ave.

We will be learning about
aging in place.

We remember

Scott Thompson
April 4, 2023, Canby





Time to travel again

by Ray Johnson

Our next trip to highlight is our Spain's Classics & Portugal tour. You will embark on an Iberian adventure as you take in medieval architecture, idyllic landscapes and delectable cuisine as you explore the culture and history set against a backdrop of sunny Mediterranean shores and grand mountain ranges. Explore Lisbon, Europe's second oldest capital city.

In Spain, view Antonio Gaudi's architectural masterpieces, including La Sagrada Familia. Become part of an authentic "paella experience." Enjoy the fascinating art form that is Flamenco. Visit the exotic and expansive Alhambra Palace.

Marvel at the timeless masterpieces at the Prado Museum. Visit the Jeronimos Monastery in Belém. Visit the medieval walled town of Obidos.

It is a Level 2 activity—walking over a variety of terrains, or several city blocks. See more information in box on right.

Zoom meeting to learn about trip to Greece

To entice you to go on our **Exploring Greece and Its Islands** tour in May 2024, we are sponsoring a Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm on September 26. Be sure to send your name and mail address to rayugene@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

OEA-Retired Travel 2023-24

Spotlight on New Orleans Holidays

December 3-7, 2023. 5 days with 7 meals.

Cost: \$2,299.

Deposit of \$698 due July 3, 2023.

Final payment due October 4, 2023.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1091367>.

Exploring South Africa, Victoria Falls & Botswana

February 2-16, 2024. 15 days with 29 meals.

Cost: \$7,599.

Deposit of \$698 due July 10, 2023.

Final payment due December 4, 2023.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/li>

Exploring Greece and Its Islands

May 9-24, 2024. 16 days with 24 meals.

Cost: \$5,999.

Deposit of \$698 due November 10, 2023.

Final payment due March 10, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1154557>

National Parks of America

September 14-25, 2024. 12 days with 16 meals.

Cost: \$5,949.

Deposit of \$698 due March 14, 2024.

Final payment due July 16, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1154565>

Spain's Classics & Portugal

October 12-26, 2024. 15 days with 20 meals.

Cost: \$5,699.

Deposit: \$698 due April 13, 2024.

Final payment: August 13, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1154566>

For information on New Orleans, South Africa or National Parks, contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953, or sanrosenfeld@gmail.com

For Greek Islands or Spain & Portugal, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-352-4453, or nancyjolewis@gmail.com

OEA-RETIRED 2023 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

8 a.m.- 8:30 p.m., October 16, 2023 & 8 a.m.-Noon, October 17, 2023
The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, North Bend

Conference Fee includes continental breakfast, Happy Hour and lunch.
Fee before Friday, September 21 is \$35, and starting September 21 it will be \$50.

You must book your own room

Call 1-800-953-4800 or email themillcasino.com. Use savings code. OEARetired ID 8909

Send the Conference Registration form and check—made out to OEA—to:

Mavis Randklev – 3835 NE Skidmore St., Portland, OR 97211
manahoo97211@yahoo.com for questions

Cut Here



OEA-RETIRED FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

October 16 & 17, 2023 ~ The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, North Bend

Member Name _____ \$35 X _____ = _____

Guest Name _____ \$35 X _____ = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Please note any dietary needs. _____

Help the Foundation

by Anne Jones

The OEA Retired Foundation Committee, along with OEA staff, are encouraging donations be made on the OEA website whenever possible.

This will be more efficient for bookkeeping than checks and make funds for children available more quickly.

Directions

- Go to oregoned.org.
- Click on OEA Foundation in the left column.
- Click on Donate at the top of the page.
- Scroll down to find the second red Donate button,

OEA Foundation, and click on it.

- If you wish to make a one-time donation, click on “Pay Without Registering” and complete the form.
- If you wish to set up a recurring donation, you must create an account first, and then follow the prompts.
- Keep your account information to make any adjustments to your donations in the future.

Committee

Continued from Page 3

So, if you would like to be more engaged with your professional organization, or just help out, please contact me

at rayugene@gmail.com if any of that interests you.

To keep up-to-date on our organization, be sure to check out our newly revamped website at <https://oregoned.org/retired>.

Also, be sure to sign up on our Facebook page at OEA Retired to keep even more up-to-date—the link is on our webpage.

We wish you well in retirement from your job, but not from your profession, and sure hope to see you at one of our regional events and Fall Conference that were advertised in the membership mailing that you received recently.



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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.

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

Contact: Nikki Burke
Oregon Education Association
6900 SW Atlanta St.
Portland, OR 97223
503-495-2153
nikki.burke@oregoned.org

**You are encouraged to
use the OEA website to
renew membership,
make donations to OEA
PAC and the OEA
Foundation**

<https://oregoned.org/>