



## When you contact your federal representatives

by Maureen Barnhart and Pam Wojcik

To empower our members and allies who advocate for public education issues and labor issues with the Oregon Congressional Delegation, the OEA Congressional Advocacy Team (CAT) will create a Venn diagram describing the issues dealt with on the Federal level and those dealt with on the State level. The work is in progress, and a circle for the school board issues may be included as well.

Examples of Federal legislation include student and educator rights, retention of educators, and safe and healthy buildings. Federal law addresses the issue of retention with legislation such that to

make home ownership more accessible to educators (the HELPER Act); to increase educator pay; and to resolve overwhelming student debt. In the area of retirement and social security safeguards, NEA and the CAT are working to repeal laws such as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), through which more than 2.5 million hard-working Americans, including many educators, have or will have their Social Security benefits reduced—or lose them entirely.

Health and safety efforts include student and  
*Continued on Page 7.*

## Benefits of union membership

by Russ Fillis

According to Axios.com (market@axios.com) information from an analysis from the think tank Center for American Progress, there's a massive wealth gap between workers in unions and non-unionized workers across education levels.

Typically, unionized workers earn about 10 percent-15 percent more than their nonunion peers. However, this article concludes these wealth gaps are far wider, an indication that the benefits of union membership likely accrue to workers over time.

While education beyond a high school diploma is still one of the best paths to accumulating wealth, the Center for American Progress points to an alternative for those who might not want to spend the time or money on a college education—Union Membership.

The article asks you to consider the following:

- Aside from higher pay, union members have more job security.
- Members are also likely to have defined benefit retirement plans, i.e. pensions, and access to better health care, so are less apt to go into debt when they're sick.
- Overall, those in unions had a median wealth of \$338,482 compared to \$199,948 for nonunion workers.

- Union workers had a higher homeownership rate (71 percent versus 65 percent for nonunion), and 60 percent had a defined benefit pension versus 24 percent of the nonunion group.
- Unionized workers with no high school diploma have more than three times the wealth of their nonunion peers.
- Those with some college under their belts, maybe an associate's degree, have two-and-half times the wealth. Folks in this group could include those in health care, like nurses or dental hygienists.
- Even college-educated union members are outpacing their peers. Workers in this category would include teachers, college professors, journalists, government employees, and many nonprofit workers.

While this report finds an association between wealth and union membership, it doesn't look at causation. The information for this article is taken from the following site: [https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-markets-1c4f8fc7-10a1-4cd3-8dd8-ae07cc5d57d2.html?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter\\_axiosmarkets&stream=business](https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-markets-1c4f8fc7-10a1-4cd3-8dd8-ae07cc5d57d2.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosmarkets&stream=business)



## Random remarks

by President Eileen Wende

In my life time, I cannot remember a more critical election than the upcoming 2024 November Presidential Election. Never before has so much been at stake, as the outcome of this election. An election to be decided by a country so divided in its beliefs that, I fear, our democracy hangs in the balance.

The balance of power appears to be in jeopardy as an organized and well-funded conservative movement strives to enhance the power of the Executive Branch of our government, disrupting the system of checks and balances established in our Constitution.

I implore you to familiarize yourself with the 2025 Presidential Transition Project, better known to many as Project 2025. The Heritage Foundation organized and funded this initiative, which would essentially reshape the federal government of the United States and consolidate

executive power. It is a lengthy, comprehensive plan that legal experts have said would essentially undermine such policies as the rule of law, the separation of church and state, the separation of powers and civil liberties.

I saw a summary of actions that are incorporated into Project 2025, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Eliminate the Department of Education
- Use public, taxpayer money for private religious schools
- Teach Christian religious beliefs in public schools
- End free and discount school lunch programs
- Ban African American and gender studies in all levels of education
- End no-fault divorce

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**OREGON  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION  
RETIRED**

### PrimeTimes

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Volume 37, Number 1

Editor Marleen Wallingford - marleenwong@gmail.com  
Assistant Editor Ray Johnson - rayugene@gmail.com

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

#### Officers

President Eileen Wende, ewende72@gmail.com  
Vice President  
Maureen Barnhart, maureen.barnhart@frontier.com  
Secretary Paul Zastrow, pzastrow@gorge.net  
Treasurer Bobbi Yambasu, bobbi4967@gmail.com

[www.oearetired.oregon.org](http://www.oearetired.oregon.org)

#### Staff

UniServ Consultant, Lesly Muñoz  
lesley.munoz@oregoned.org

## CALENDAR

### 2024

August 15	PrimeTimes published
September 9	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
October 15	PrimeTimes published
Nov. 4	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem

### 2025

January 13	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
February 1	PrimeTimes published
March 3	OEA-Retired Annual Assembly, Salem
March 7-9	NEA-Retired Leadership Summit, place TBD
March 9-11	NEA-Retired Leadership Conference, place TBD
April 1	PrimeTimes published
April 18-19	OEA Representative Assembly, place TBD
May 19	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
June 1	PrimeTimes published
July 14	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem

# Remarks

*Continued from Page 2.*

- Complete ban on abortions without exception
- Ban books and curriculum about slavery
- End marriage equality
- Ending climate protections
- Defund the FBI and Homeland security
- End the Affordable Care Act
- Raise the retirement age
- And so much more...

including additional tax breaks for corporations and the one percent.

There is so much more in this lengthy document which outlines a conservative plan of action that is not only far reaching, but extremely well-funded.

I hope you will take the time to research and investigate Project 2025 on your own and then do everything in your power to prevent it from becoming a reality. More information at <https://www.project2025.org/>

Then, talk to your family and friends. Contribute to the OEA-PAC and NEA-PAC. Make a Difference!

## Giving books to kids

by Janet Jackson

The Literacy Committee hasn't been too busy since our last Board Meeting, although we have been spending the final \$1,000 that was kindly and generously budgeted for us.

Also, Marleen Wallingford has given us several gift cards to Powell's which are from used books she took there that were left from donations to the Foundation book supply. I purchased \$65 worth of

bilingual Spanish/English books with the two recent cards.

You may recall the previous two cards she gave me, I used for books about indigenous children and/or books by indigenous authors. Thanks, Marleen!

Here is where books have gone since the year-end report:

- Joseph Conger Elementary School, Klamath Falls—168 books
- Cascades Elementary School, Lebanon—171 books
- Preschools, Forest Grove and Beaverton—32 BIG BOOKS
- Northside Elementary School, Middleton, WI—19 books
- Forest Grove Community School, Forest Grove—42 books
- Groner Elementary School, Hillsboro—36 books
- Dilley Elementary School, Forest Grove—80 books
- Tobias Elementary School, Hillsboro—50 books
- Oregon Child Development Head Start, Cornelius—73 books

**Grand Total: 32,096**

## Social justice book club

by Bobbi Yambasu

The OEA-Retired Equity and Social Justice Book Club just finished its second year. And, we are ready to begin a new year of reading.

The Equity and Social Justice Committee met and developed the following group of books and dates for discussion. All book club discussions begin at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom on the given dates.

If you wish to join us, please email Bobbi Yambasu at [bobby4967@gmail.com](mailto:bobby4967@gmail.com) to receive the zoom link.

September 20, 2024  
*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

November 1, 2024  
*Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan

December 13, 2024  
*James* by Percival Everett

January 24, 2025  
*Nickel & Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich

March 7, 2025  
*skin and bones* by Renee Watson

April 25, 2025  
*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson

June 6, 2025  
*Survival Math* by Mitchell S. Jackson  
July 18, 2025

*Learning from the Germans, Race and the Memory of Evil* by Susan Nieman

Please join us for another great year of reading!

"A democracy cannot thrive where power remains unchecked and justice is reserved for a select few. Ignoring these cries and failing to respond to this movement is simply not an option — for peace cannot exist where justice is not "served." — John Lewis

# Our history shared

by Ray Johnson

We continue to relate items of importance in our history.

## 35 years ago

Membership Chairperson Betty Drew announced that a computer glitch sent annual billings to members who had been “grandpersoned” into Lifetime membership and, therefore, owed no dues

## 30 years ago

The Board adopted a Mission Statement to: research, gather and disseminate information to members relative to critical issues identified and reviewed at least yearly by the Board.

## 25 years ago

Appointed to OEA committees were Bonnie Thornberry and Kathy Wiper to Congressional Advocacy Team, Glenn Harrison to Legislative Advisory Council and Jerry Bishop to Credentials Committee.

## 20 years ago

Five OEA-Retired members received awards at the OEA RA: Carroll Noel, Alan Holland, Ray Johnson and Barbara Rose.

## 15 years ago

OEA-Retired played host to the NEA-Retired West Regional Conference at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach hotel.

## 10 years ago

The state legislature passed a law that would reduce COLA benefits and eliminated the offset to state taxes for out-of-state retirees.

## 5 years ago

OEA-Retired basked in the success of assisting to pass the Student Success Act in the state legislature that invested more than \$2 billion in Oregon education every two years.

# We Remember

Laurie O Hyytinen  
April 17, 1924- Oct. 14, 2019  
Parkrose SD

Myles Jay Pilch  
April 29, 1927-August 12,  
2012  
Pendleton High School

James P Frank  
Coeur D Alene ID

Florence M Crow  
March 1931 - Dec. 27, 2023  
Mary Harrison School, Toledo  
Newport Or

James C McNealey  
Eugene OR

John C Andres  
The Dalles

Darrell Langevin  
July 4, 1928-February 6, 2023  
Linn Benton Community  
College  
Jefferson OR

John F Bowmen  
Salem Or

James L Etzkorn  
March 31, 1932-Oct. 9, 2023  
Vancouver WA

Alan D Fussell  
March 13, 1952-March 23,  
2022  
Salem SD  
Dallas Or

Joyce Garrett  
January 27, 1930-July 6, 2022  
Eugene and Bethel SD  
Eugene OR

Nancy LC Finster  
Hillsboro

Beverly Hackleman  
Eugene OR

Delene Mc Gregor Haake  
February 24, 1937-August 7,  
2020  
Salem SD  
Albany OR

Patricia Ann Mueller  
Medford OR

Carl Knighten  
Nov. 9, 1927-May 28, 2023  
Pendleton, Bend SD  
Gladstone OR

Donald Wisniewski  
Otis OR

John J Barry  
Oct. 14, 1942-Nov. 11, 2023  
Days Creek School  
Canyonville OR

William C Arkell  
August 17, 1928- November  
10, 2023  
Walla Walla WA

Rolf A Selberg  
Jan. 18, 1928 -June 20, 2023  
Hillsboro SD  
Portland OR

Doris L Laferty  
Port Isabel TX

Mary J Seiffert  
Aug. 24, 1931 - Nov. 5, 2017  
Beaverton SD  
Hillsboro O

Norma E Loe  
Jan. 11, 1930 – Feb 3, 2023  
Springfield OE

Vivian Brown or Vivian Lee  
Kempf  
Passed 2020  
Salem OR





by Marleen Wallingford

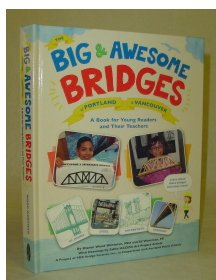
#### **Breakfast**

9:30 am, September 12  
Tom's Restaurant  
12925 SW Canyon Road

#### **September Activity**

Date TBD  
Portland Nursery  
5050 SE Stark.

The nursery began in 1907 when it began shipping plants to the east coast in unrefrigerated railroad cars packed with ice. We will have lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant.



#### **October General Meeting**

9:30 am, October 13

Sharon Wood Wortman who wrote "The Portland Bridge Book" and a member of two volunteer citizen groups for design of an Earthquake Ready Burnside, tells us the history of this 1926 bridge and she will also read from her memoir, a work in progress.

#### **October Activity All are invited!**

#### **PMAE-RETIRED 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

PMAE-Retired is inviting you to its 15th Anniversary Celebration—3:30-5:30 pm, October 17, OEA Tigard Building, 6900 SW Atlanta St, Portland.

Join us for stories, short speeches, swag, sweet and savory tasty bites, and select beverages to celebrate your favorite local retired educator association!  
More details to come later.

## **Region I**

by Viki Mulick

Region I is so grateful for all the fun and educational activities that bring us together as a group. Ray Johnson organized a tour of Nordic NW on June 21 that highlighted Nordic culture, art and history followed by a Scandinavian lunch at Broder Söder.

We had our Food Court luncheon on July 22 at the Mississippi Marketplace in Portland. A big thank you to Janet Jackson for arranging this get together for all of us.

Our next get together will be our "Not Back To School Ice Cream Social" on Tuesday, September 10 in which we will enjoy not having to start back to school since we are retirees!

The ice cream will be on us at the Butteville General Store in Aurora 1:00-3:00 pm. Our Social will be outside under a tent next to the Oregon State Park Butteville General Store. No host sandwiches are also available if you'd like something more than ice cream.

We have a Union Trivia Contest planned as well. Come join us and see what we're all about!

Region I is attending the Gay Men's Chorus on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 pm. Get your tickets NOW at [www.pdxgmc.org](http://www.pdxgmc.org) RSVP to [mulickv1@frontier.com](mailto:mulickv1@frontier.com) for all Region I activities.

Terri Domenigoni is working

hard on this event and is setting up either a lunch prior or a Happy Hour afterwards. Join us!

Region I is welcoming two new members to the OEA-Retired Board: JoAnn Conroy and Lisa Orcutt Kane. So happy to have you two join us in the most important cause of supporting public education!

My last shout out is to Ray Johnson, who served as Region I Director for seven years. He has left me some big shoes to fill. So grateful...

Our next Zoom Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 25 at 10:00 am

## **Region II**

#### **Beginning of the Year Picnic**

September TBD

Salem.

Questions and RSVP to: Paul Schutz, 503-370-9208 or [paul.g.schutz@gmail.com](mailto:paul.g.schutz@gmail.com).

## **Region III**

by Vickie Jackson



We had eight members come together at the Maragas Winery. It was perfect weather to bring members out to Terrebonne.

We talked about how we can help our members stay involved. Attending were Vickie Jackson, Stephen and Sharon Hillis, Heidi Casper, Don Hendrick, Judy and Ed McKenny, and Katie Ardt.

## Enjoy travel with fellow educators

by Ray Johnson

Although the **Christmas on the Danube** tour in 2025 has sold out, we were lucky as eight people were able to sign up. Also, the Committee will be meeting next week to choose trips for the remainder of 2025 and the beginning of 2026. If you have suggestions, please send them to Ray Johnson at [rayugene@gmail.com](mailto:rayugene@gmail.com).

For next year's **Alaska Discovery Land & Cruise** on May 21-June 1, travelers will traverse the Pacific coast by land and sea aboard one of Holland America Cruise Lines' lovely ships. It will be a breathtaking cruise journey that goes from Alaska to Vancouver, British Columbia on the Sternwheeler Discovery and encounters Alaska's diverse culture and rich history.

Enjoy local dishes and a lively musical performance at the Denali Dinner Theater about the first brave men to summit Denali. Ride a luxury domed railcar from Denali to Talkeetna, soak in views of the incredible landscapes from glass-ceiling railcars and open-air observation platforms as guides provide expert commentary.

Travel deep into Denali National Park for the best opportunities to view the region's wildlife. Cruise through Glacier Bay and the Inside Passage, taking in rugged natural wonders. Explore Alaska's gorgeous capital, Juneau. Visit Ketchikan, the "Salmon Capital of the World." This is Alaska as you always imagined.

There are three options available at extra cost. Passports are required. It is a Level 1 that involves normal walking and activities.

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## OEA-Retired Travel 2024-2026

### Spotlight on New York City Holiday

December 15-19, 2024. 5 days with 5 meals.

Cost: \$3,399.

Deposit of \$698 due June 8, 2024.

Final payment due October 16, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/12151866>.

### Patagonia: Edge of the World

February 13-26, 2025. 14 days with 24 meals.

Cost: \$10,299.

Deposit of \$898 due July 7, 2024.

Final payment: October 16, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1154552>

### Alaska Discovery Land & Cruise

May 21-June 1, 2025. 12 days with 26 meals.

Cost: \$5,399.

Deposit of \$898 due November 21, 2024.

Final payment due January 21, 2025.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1240783>

### Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria

September 3-12, 2025. 10 days with 12 meals.

Cost: \$4,999.

Deposit of \$698 due March 4, 2025.

Final payment due June 5, 2025.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1240678>

### Southern Charm featuring Charleston, Savannah & Jekyll Island

February 23-March 1, 2026. 7 days with 9 meals.

Cost: \$3,699.

Deposit of \$698 due August 16, 2025.

Final payment: November 24, 2025.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1280593>

### Christmas on the Danube

December 2-11, 2025

**SOLD OUT**

For information on New York City, Patagonia, Alaska or Southern Charm, contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953, or [sanrosenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:sanrosenfeld@gmail.com)

For Switzerland, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-352-4453, or [nancyjolewis@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjolewis@gmail.com)

# Have you wondered about gargoyles?



by **Bob Jones**—golfer, traveler, and raconteur

You walk up to a wall of the old church and look up. Above you is a stone creature, man or animal, devil or angel—it's gross, but fascinating. What is it? Why is it there?

If you are in Europe or the UK, most likely what you see on the wall is either a gargoyle or a grotesque. Why it's there depends upon what it is. But whatever it is can be found on medieval churches, cathedrals, or town buildings. In my travels I've seen and photographed the sculptures in every corner of Scotland, England, Wales, and even some in Ireland.

What are they? Gargoyles are decorated rainwater spouts that project out of a wall to carry water away from the wall. Think of them as fancy rain gutters. Grotesques, although they look like gargoyles, are decorative sculptures attached to a building for decoration and have no architectural purpose. Most of the sculptures we see are grotesques, which are far more common than gargoyles.

Why are they there? Gargoyles obviously have the

architectural purpose of helping to protect the building's wall from rain damage. The figures are made to look evil or menacing to help ward off evil and also as a reminder of the separation between earth and heaven. It's postulated that more exaggerated figures may also serve to scare parishioners into a more holy life.

Grotesques serve the same decorative and social purposes, obvious without the physical protective function.

Some of the best places to see both types of sculpture, at least from my travels in Scotland, include Melrose Abbey in the Borders, Rosslyn Chapel (Da Vinci Code fame) near Edinburgh, and Brechin Cathedral near the Highlands.

While in England, you can find great carvings at the small Kilpeck Church in Herefordshire or at the Winchcombe Parish Church, Gloucestershire.

And, Oxford is a town filled with both gargoyles and grotesques. On your next trip (or looking over photos of past trips) try to decide: Gargoyle or Grotesque.

## Enjoy travel

*Continued from Page 6.*

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1240783>.


Finally, be sure to mark you calendar for the Zoom meeting on October 8 to learn about our northernmost state. Send an email to [rayugene@gmail.com](mailto:rayugene@gmail.com) to receive Zoom address.

All of these trips are also on our website at <https://oregoned.org/retired>

We just received info on **Southern Charm featuring**

**Charleston, Savannah & Jekyll Island** trip for February of 2026. It will be featured in a future issue of PrimeTimes. For now, see the sidebar for details.

Members of the Committee are Chair Ray Johnson, Nancy Lewis, Sandi Rosenfeld, Viki Mulick, Bob Rice and Dan Domenigoni.

“  Please, vote. You indelibly underscore your citizenship, and most important, our kinship with each other when you do.”

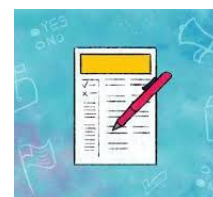
--Ken Burns, Brandeis 2024 Commencement

## Your vote

*Continued from Page 1.*

and educator mental health supports, gun violence protection, infection control, and healthy buildings. Title IX, passed in 1972, brought gender equity and reduced violence against women. The NEA continues to promote the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The upcoming General Election is a good time to check in with the candidates for Congress who represent you, to determine and influence their positions. The NEA website has information to guide you through your communication: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center>



## *OEA Foundation asks:*

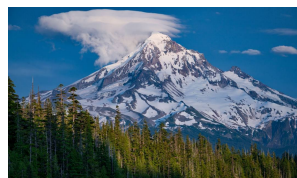
### *Can you help?*

- ✓ Every day, students in our schools need: 🍏 new school clothes  
👓 eyeglasses 🧥 warm winter coats 🎧 hearing aids.
- ✓ You can help to provide a better education for these students.  
by making tax-deductible contributions to the OEA Foundation.
- ✓ As the OEA Foundation takes no administrative costs out of your  
donation, 100 percent of your contribution goes directly to the students  
to provide these basic needs.

Please 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).

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

## **OEA-Retired Fall Conference October 6 and 7 2025 Mt Hood Resort at Welches**



**You are encouraged to  
use the OEA website to  
renew membership,  
make donations to OEA  
PAC and the OEA  
Foundation**  
<https://oregoned.org/>