OEA-Retired PrimeTimes

Volume 38 Number 3 February 2026

PAC Convention will be virtual

by Bobbi Yambasu

Want to influence who gets elected to statewide and/or national office from Oregon? Want to get involved in those decisions on the local and/or state level? You can easily do that. How?

Join OEA-PAC—OEA's Political Action Committee! To do so, you simply go to the OEA website, find the OEA PAC tab, scroll down to contribute and sign up via credit or debit card to contribute a one-time or ongoing donation. Recommended amount is $10 monthly, but you can donate as little as $5. The more members that join, the more political influence OEA has.

For even more influence, join us at the OEA PAC Convention! Once you are a contributing member, you can sign up to attend the PAC Convention. The PAC Convention is held every two years for the purpose of endorsing/recommending candidates for statewide office (this year's PAC Convention will be considering recommendations for Oregon Governor and the Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI).

In addition, we will be making recommendations for each of the Oregon Congressional seats (6 possible recommendations) and one federal Senator.

Want to be even more involved? Join your local UniServ (yes, retired people can still do this) when it meets to make recommendations for Oregon state legislators. Some UniServs also make recommendations for city, county and other local positions, including school boards in odd-numbered years.

This year's PAC Convention will be held virtually, February 27-28. The registration site for the Convention is operational now.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at bobbiy4967@gmail.com or 503-233-1341.

Current challenges to teaching history

by Marleen Wallingford

In March of 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14253, Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History, that called for the removal of "divisive, race-centered ideology" at federal sites and instructed the Interior secretary to revoke recent changes to landmarks and monuments if they're found to "perpetuate a false reconstruction of American history."

Park superintendents are asked to identify and flag signs, exhibits, films, and other public-facing content that are deemed to disparage US history. This is problematic at sites of conscience like the incarceration sites of Japanese Americans or the Harriet Tubman National Park that tells the story of slavery. This is part of the administration's ongoing campaign to dismantle foundational principles of diversity and democracy, suppress historical narratives that challenge the heroic story of America and erase the contributions of people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and other marginalized communities from the American story.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which sends federal money to libraries and museums, and other agencies is slated to be dismantled.

The administration is also calling for an end to the "Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling" emphasizing "patriotic education." Schools are accused of indoctrinating children in anti-American ideologies, such as gender policies and stating that "demanding acquiescence to 'White Privilege' or 'unconscious bias,' actually promotes racial discrimination and undermines national unity."

There has also been a dramatic increase in book banning in schools throughout the nation. In addition, the administration has removed at least 600 different books from Department of Defense Schools on military bases for lack of alignment with executive orders related to diversity, discussions of race and "gender ideology extremism."

The administration is also in the process of reinstating memorials to the Confederacy. There is an effort to rename sites like Denali back to McKinley

This approach to history leads to an incomplete and biased view of the past which will not help lead us to understanding and dismantling the disparities that exist today. We will just continue to repeat the injustices which still haunt us.

Random remarks

by President Eileen Wende

2025, what a year it was! Never in my life time have I experienced such dramatic and far-reaching changes, as we had this past year. We witnessed the dismantling of the Department of Education, which was established to guarantee that all our children have equal access to educational opportunities.

The DOE was charged with the responsibility of coordinating the federal programs, which impact students in Special Education, students who are English language learners, students, including adults, in career and technical education, as well as administering the office of Federal Student Aid for students pursuing postsecondary education and training opportunities.

All of these programs provided federal assistance to our local school districts for student services. While these programs are being given to other departments, many of the employees, who have directed and managed these programs have been let go, leaving the future of these programs to much uncertainty.

This Fall there was a proposal to cut SNAP benefits for current recipients by withholding their promised benefits in November. In fact, the SNAP benefits were withheld the first week of November.

Community food banks, churches and schools were all seeing increased evidence of food insecurity among their populations. Reports of a need for increased food donations around Oregon reached OEA leadership through its members in the communities. In response to the ongoing SNAP food crisis, the OEA Relief Fund Committee, launched a local grant program, to bolster food assistance services to children and families facing food insecurity issues in their local communities.

Each UniServ Council was eligible to apply for a grant to give to a local food bank or pantry to provide immediate relief to community partners.

As OEA-Retired is a UniServ Council immediately upon hearing about the OEA Relief Fund Grants, the OEA-Retired Executive Committee met to discuss the grant as we were all aware of the food crisis in our local community and schools. Since OEA-Retired is comprised of members from

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OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED

PrimeTimes
February 2026
Volume 38, Number 2

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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

2026

Feb. 1	PrimeTimes published
Feb 27-28	PAC Convention, Linn-Benton Fair Grounds, Albany
March 1-3	NEA-Retired Leadership Conference, Chandler, Arizona
March 2	OEA-Retired Annual Assembly, Salem
April 1	*PrimeTimes* published
April, TBD	OEA Representative Assembly
May 18	**Retired Board Meeting,** Salem
June 1	*PrimeTimes* published
June 30-July 1	NEA-Retired Annual Assembly Denver, CO
July 3-6	NEA Representative Assembly Denver, CO
July 13	**Retired Board Meeting, Salem**

Remarks

Continued from Page 2.
around the state, the decision was made to find a statewide organization that supported food banks/pantries across the state.

Research was done to find a known agency that had statewide outreach. In the end, we submitted a Grants application for the Oregon Food Bank. OEA-Retired has just been notified that our grant was approved and the Oregon Food Bank will receive a check for $10,000 to help address the Oregon Food Bank's Mission: "To eliminate hunger and its root causes … because no one should be hungry."

I am proud to be a member of an organization who can use its organizing skills to help our students and families in the most critical of times to provide basic food assistance services to those in need. However, our work is not done.

Each of us needs to be prepared to do what we can do to support our communities—join peaceful demonstrations, write or call your legislators or volunteer with local community partners who are working to support basic fairness for all in areas such as housing discrimination, food insecurity, food affordability or health disparities.

Region I events

by Viki Mulick

Region I had a most wonderful activity for December. Region I member, Kathy Paxton-Williams performs with Portland Revels. This group has performed a Midwinter Revels program every year. This year the program was called "Highland Hearth: A Scottish Celebration off the Solstice."

To make this even more "Scottish," the performance was held at the newly renovated Scottish Rite Center in downtown Portland. Several of us met for a pre-performance coffee at Never Coffee and walked over to see the show.

It was so fun to see Kathy Paxton-Willians sing, dance and act. The cast was made up of all ages and represented a time in Scottish history when celebrating the Winter Solstice was outlawed.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year
Master Kong
8434 SE Division
11:30 a.m. February 17
If this is the first time you are attending a Region I lunch, the lunch will be complimentary.
RSVP Viki Mulick

Region I I

by Cherene Mills

We have started to add events across our region. Watch for event details here in PrimeTimes and in your email. We will do our best to plan far enough ahead to have events published in PrimeTimes, but there may be occasions when the only notification will be by email.

If you have any suggestions for future meet ups or events, please email me at cmills.ret@gmail.com

First Tuesday of the Month Breakfast
10 a.m.
Sybil's Omelettes
2373 State Street
Salem
RSVP to Paul Schutz - paul.g.schutz@gmail.com

Central Coast Lunch
11 a.m., February 24
Gracie's Sea Hag
58 US-101
Depoe Bay
RSVP to Cherene Mills - cmills.ret@gmail.com

North Coast Lunch
11 a.m,, March 10
Finn's Fish House
227 Broadway St
Seaside
RSVP to Cherene Mills – cmills.ret@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you in person.

Region III meets

by Judy Richards

Central Oregon held an event in South Bend on November 20. Three people attended. Information about OEA-Retired was shared at a new location, Oblivian Brewery.

Vickie Jackson earlier contacted 10 of our newly retired new members to answer any questions they had about membership.

Central Oregon will have a get together in June and October, since spring will be filled with snow.

Other areas in Region III will be looking forward to having get togethers in the Spring

Proposed Bylaws and Policy Amendments to be Voted on at the OEA-Retired Annual Assembly

by Bobbi Yambasu

The following proposed Amendments will be voted on at the OEA-Retired Annual Assembly on March 2.

OEA-Retired Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Proposed Amendment A:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND DUTIES
Section 9. No person shall hold more than one elected office**r position** at any one time.

Rationale: Clarity

Proposed Amendment B:

ARTICLE VIII – OEA-RETIRED BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DUTIES

Section 4. NEA RA delegate's duties include:
a. attending Board meetings;
b. attending NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA RA;
c. assisting in the raising of funds for NEA-PAC and the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund.
~~e~~. **d.** representing OEA-Retired members;
~~d~~.**e.** serving on committees of the Board.

Rationale: To add to the duties of the elected NEA RA Delegates.

Proposed Amendment C:

ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES
Section 1. The president, with approval of the Board, shall appoint standing committees, including but not limited to:
h**. Literacy Projects will collect and purchase children's and young adult books to distribute to places to give to children.**
~~h~~.**i.** Membership shall develop and provide membership materials, coordinate activities to promote and facilitate membership, and organize and present information regarding retirement to OEA membership.
~~i~~.j. Nominations and Elections shall administer the elections in compliance with these bylaws, OEA-Retired policies, and OEA-Retired Nominations and Elections Handbook.
~~j.k. Projects shall promote social, literacy and civic activities including the OEA Foundation.~~ **OEA Foundation shall promote contributions to and use of the OEA Foundation for children.**
~~k~~.l. Travel shall organize, publicize and promote travel opportunities.

Rationale: To better align language with actual practice.

Proposed Amendment D:

ARTICLE X – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 4. Term of office for OEA RA Delegate/OEA-Retired Board
a. OEA RA delegates/OEA-Retired Board members shall be elected for three-year terms.
b. The number of delegates elected each year will be determined by the number of open positions.
c. All candidates will be placed in rank order by number of votes received. Those receiving the largest number of votes will fill the open positions. The remaining candidates will be ~~alternate~~ **successor** delegates for one year.
d. Should the allocation of delegates for the upcoming OEA RA be fewer than the number of elected delegates, the delegates receiving the fewest number of votes in the previous year's election will be declared ~~alternate~~ **successor** delegates and ranked according to their number of votes.

Rationale: To update bylaws language to coincide with parent organization language.

Our social justice books were shared at the OEA-Retired Fall Conference in Welches.

We read together

by Bobbi Yambasu

The OEA-Retired Book Club continues to meet via Zoom. It has been great meeting educators from different regions around our state. We just had our discussion on "Unfamiliar Fishes" by Sarah Vowell, which tells the history of Hawaii.

The final four books and the meeting dates for this year are:

March 11
"There There" by Tommy Orange

April 22
"Hijacking History" by Kathleen Wellman

June 3
"A Queer Case" by Robert Holton

July 15
"This Book Won't Burn" by Samira Ahmed

Our books are centered on equity and social justice issues. If you have suggestions and/or wish to join us, please email me at bobbiy4967@gmail.com to be added to our club list.

The Zoom link generally gets sent one week in advance of the discussion.

What are the most popular travel destinations?

by Ray Johnson

Every year, Tripadvisor awards its Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best based on “real travelers from all over, sharing their opinions and stories over a 12-month period. Out of our eight million destinations, fewer than one percent achieve this milestone. The award celebrates the highest level of excellence in travel.”

Here was Trip Advisor’s top spot destinations for 2025, from first to last: London, Bali, Dubai, Sicily, Paris, Rome, Hanoi, Marrakech, Crete, Bangkok, Hoi An (Vietnam), Barcelona, Cusco (Peru), Siem Reap (Cambodia), Lisbon, Phuket, Istanbul, New York City, Majorca (Spain), Edinburgh, Kathmandu, New Dehli, Maldives, Cancun, and Mauritius.

As an aside, our OEA-Retired trips have been to nine of those spots over the years.

Their top spots for the United States, also first to last, were: New York City., Oahu, Las Vegas, Florida Keys, New Orleans, Nashville, San Francisco, Chicago, Charleston (WV), Washington DC, Maui, Sedona, Island of Hawaii, Asheville, Mount Desert Island (Maine), Boston, Miami Beach, Los Angeles, Moab (UT), Seattle, San Diego, Orlando, Branson (MO), Austin, and Philadelphia.

If you do a travel bucket list, how many have you visited? Or, how would you rank or what would you add?

Learn about travel to New England

by Ray Johnson

It has been a few months, but we will have a Zoom presentation on February 10 about our **Colors of New England** tour that is scheduled for October 1-8, 2026. Be sure to send your name and mail address to rayugene@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

OEA-Retired Tours

2026

Cultural Treasures of Japan

April 19-May 2, 14 days with 18 meals.
Cost: $8,449.
Deposit of $698 due September 20, 2025.
Final payment due January, 2026.
For more information or reservations, go to https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/31350376

Colors of New England

October 1-8, 8 days with 12 meals.
Cost: $4,099.
Deposit of $698 due March 25, 2026.
Final payment due July 1, 2026.
For more information or reservations, go to https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1289928

2027

Holland and Belgium Springtime River Cruise

March 30-April 1, 2027, 9 days with 20 meals.
Cost: $5,249-$13,649.
Deposit of $898 due May 24, 2026.
Final payment due November 30, 2026.
For more information or reservations, go to https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377974

Croatia and Its Islands

May 1-2. 11 days with 20 meals.
Cost: $6,949-$13,349.
Deposit of $898 due September 2, 2026.
Final payment due January 1, 2027.
For more information or reservations, go to https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377959

For questions on Colors of New England, contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953 or sanrosenfeld@gmail.com

For Holland/Belguim, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-352-4453 or nancyjolewis@gmail.com

For Croatia, contact Viki Mulick at 503-704-8012 or mulickv1@frontier.com

Nico Spadofora, lead educator for Fossil Team, gave an engaging presentation about the history of modern animals.

OEA-Retired Fall Conference was a success

by Cherene Mills

The OEA Retired Fall conference was held October 6-7 in Welches. The location was fabulous with the proximity to Mt. Hood, and we couldn't have asked for better weather.

Our presenters did a fantastic job enlightening participants with their knowledge. Session choices included a history of Timberline Lodge, Mountain Search and Rescue and Ski Patrol. We were entertained with inspiring information about Sasquatch, the Cultural Museum, and the Native Americans of the area. We also heard about the Fruit Loop.

In the later afternoon, folks had time to go explore the region if they chose or to join in our fun Golf Putting or Croquet Tournaments. Some attendees decided just to go for short walks, longer hikes or just hang out and rest before joining in the Happy Hour activities with some delicious food provided.

The Conference Committee is already hard at work looking at plans for our Fall 2027 Conference. If you would like us to consider ideas for location or theme, please let us know. Your ideas are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you in 2027.

Nominations are open

by Mavis Randklev

The following positions are open for candidates to run: President, Vice President, Secretary (one-year term), Region III Director, NEA-Retired Annual Meeting/NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Position A and Successor Delegate, and OEA Representative Assembly Delegates/OEA-Retired Board Member.

The Nomination form opened at 4 pm, January 12. Please consider running for one of these positions.

PMAE Portland Metro Area Educators — RETIRED

by Marleen Wallingford

Annual Assembly
9:30 a.m., February 12
PAT Office, 345 NE 8th Ave
Lunch provided

Phyllis Peabody, the owner of Journey Move Managers, will discuss how to pack up to leave your home. Journey Move Managers is a company that specializes in assisting older adults and their families with moving from their home to another.

Moving after a lifetime of living in one place can be a difficult, emotional transition, and JMM helps ease the challenge of leaving.

They will come into your home, develop a plan, and do all of the packing and heavy lifting.

Breakfast
9:30 a.m., March 12
LaProvence
7424 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy
RSVP to Eleen Wende at ewende72@gmail.com

March Activity
Date TBD
Memory Lane Motors
2608 SE Holgate Blvd.

Memory Lane Motors is a classic car dealer located in Portland. They have been in business for more than 40 years.

We will have lunch afterwards nearby restaurant, Beez Holgate Station Cafe Station Cafe. RSVP to Maraline Karty

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."
— James Baldwin

Dough Hook Bake Shop—which crafts small-batch doughnuts with locally grown ingredients—is one of the many Hispanic-owned businesses in Woodburn.

Support our neighbors

by Linda Cahan

As you are painfully aware, ICE is making it very difficult for locals to shop or eat in downtown Woodburn.

It's a five-minute drive from the outlets, yet it's another world. It has the largest concentration of excellent and authentic Mexican restaurants and businesses in a small area. Easy to park, easy to get to, and safe!

The lovely people at Dough Hook Bake Shop are having a hard time staying in business, thanks to ICE threatening their customers and staff.

If you have a desire for terrific Mexican food, please consider coming to the North 1st Street area of downtown Woodburn and enjoy some delicious dishes! Bring friends, tell friends, come after (or before) shopping—just spread the word, please!

Let's support these people! Plus, it's a win-win as you'll be enjoying some great meals!

I hope this is helpful in illuminating the various businesses downtown. It is quite walkable, and I encourage you to come visit and conduct your own food tour! Many of the businesses are open late into the evening and during the day, and Monday tends to be the only day that many are closed.

Woodburn has a large concentration of Hispanic-owned business but there are many other areas throughout our state that also are struggling, including Asian and other immigrant owned businesses. Approximately 20 percent of small businesses are owned by immigrants.

Make Your Voice Heard

by Maureen Barnhart

While retired educators can continue to speak to the education infrastructure, they also have insights into changes wrought by US House Resolution 1, including Social Security, Medicare, and prescription drug costs.

We might now be face-to-face with issues of food insecurity, age discrimination, and fraud. We are more appreciative of issues like transportation, and to promote more livable communities. Below are some ways to advocate for what we need:

- While the OEA PAC meets to determine endorsements statewide, it is locals and UniServ Councils who interview candidates for the State Legislature, and often for local positions such as county commissions and school boards.

  Contact your local association for information about participating—your experience is invaluable!
- You don't have to hold a seat on the OEA-Retired Board to join the Legislative Committee.

  Share what is happening in your part of Oregon, and help us advocate for issues statewide.

  Join us in developing relationships and communicating with state and federal representatives. Many Oregon legislators are new, and we have historical perspective to be shared. We meet by Zoom, about seven Mondays per year, 10 a.m. Contact Maureen at maureenbarnhart7@gmail.com
- If you are registered with the Republican or Democratic party, consider running for the office of Precinct Committeeperson (PCP). PCPs have input to their party, including choosing replacements when a state rep is elevated to a new position or otherwise leaves office. You can file online through your county or through the office of the Oregon Secretary of State.

  Filing deadline is March 10 for the May 19 ballot. There is no cost to file.

Looking for editor

by Marleen Wallingford

We are seeking a new volunteer to put together our newsletter, *PrimeTimes*. You do not have to be on the OEA-Retired Board.

You will need to solicit, edit and, occasionally, provide articles yourself. OEA-Retired provides an iMac that was purchased for the editor's use. If you are more comfortable with a PC, that would be considered.

Contact Communications Committee Chair Russ Fillis at cello16@comcast.net, or me at marleenwong@gmail.com or 503-927-2766 if interested, or want to find out more.

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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, so100 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/oeafoundatlon?

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
2540 Coral Ave NE, Salem, OR 97305
503-364-6987
nikki.burke@oregoned.org