

Literary road trip adventure

By Nancy Larsen

Fourteen hours + 500 miles + 75 new children's books + 25 Little Free Libraries (LFL) = a full day of Literacy Project fun and adventure. We discovered new places in Oregon and helped to get more books into the hands of kids.

On a sunny Saturday in May, my husband, Al and I, set out to deliver books for the Literacy Project Committee. I had previously donated to local groups through OEA-Retired, and now it was time to spread them out. So, I went to the LFL World Map (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/map/>) and picked 25 libraries in rural Oregon.

We started out at 8 am with our first delivery north of Corvallis in a cute little barn library, then on to the next one and the next one, resulting in a 487-mile loop through farm lands, orchards, little towns, and seaside cottages. The last books were placed at sundown in Newport and made the final trek home after dark.

Each library is unique. There was "The Prose Nest" freshly painted and decorated. Another was a broken wine fridge sitting atop some rocks. Some were next to barns, another in the forest along a dirt road, one next to an upper end home and another in the weeds within a lower income mobile home park. However, they all had one thing in common — familiar books that I've owned, read, and cherished.

I'm so thankful to be part of this opportunity through OEA-Retired and the Literacy Project

Committee who are so committed to getting books into the hands of Oregon's kids. I feel so good being part of this energy!





Building on our experiences

By President Maureen Barnhart

By this article, please meet the recently elected president and vice president of OEA-Retired: Maureen Barnhart and JoAnn Conroy.

Leadership is most effective when it is shared, and we consider ourselves a collaborative team, along with your Executive Board and Board of Directors.

The OEA-Retired represents educators state-wide, from diverse school districts, and with diverse experiences. Some of us have been retired longer than we taught, some of us are more recently retired.

Whether you taught for thirty years or have been retired for twenty, your perspective is vital. Our vision is of an inclusive, statewide “local,” focused on meaningful engagement and clear communication.

By encouraging active participation, enhanced by the variety of our experiences—geographic, varied communities, different eras—we can offer a meaningful OEA-Retired membership.

Region III

By Region III Director Judy Richards

Nothing going on during the summer in Region III, **BUT** wait until Fall. Watch *PrimeTimes* and Mailchimp for activities in Southern Oregon, South Coast, Bend area, Hood River area and other assorted places in Region III. If you have questions, please call, text or email: Judy Richards (541 944 8408, jarich7138@gmail.com).

CALENDAR

2026

August 15	<i>PrimeTimes</i> published
September 14	OEA-Retired Board Meeting
October 15	<i>PrimeTimes</i> published
November 9	OEA-Retired Board Meeting

2027

January 11	OEA-Retired Board Meeting
February 1	<i>PrimeTimes</i> published
March 1	OEA-Retired Annual Assembly
TBA	NEA-R Leadership Conference
April 1	<i>PrimeTimes</i> published
April	OEA Representative Assembly
May 17	OEA-Retired Board Meeting
June 1	<i>PrimeTimes</i> published
June 28-29	NEA-R Annual Assembly, Indianapolis, IN
July 1-5	NEA Representative Assembly, Indianapolis, IN



PrimeTimes

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In memoriam

By Ray Johnson

Two well-known OEA individuals passed recently. Sarah Moskoff Berkey (age 60) on February 8 and Len Anderson (age 80), June 5, after both battled serious illnesses.

Berkey came to Oregon in 1995 after being hired as consultant for Klamath Falls UniServ. Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, her after-college career began as a paralegal at a prominent Chicago labor law firm and, not surprisingly, went immediately into political activism that led to being an organizer for the Illinois Education Association.

Following her short stint in Klamath County, she became a government relations specialist for OEA and was, thus, brought her to Portland. And, following a reorganization at OEA, she completed her career at Washington County UniServ.

Berkey was immensely proud of the fact that she spent her entire professional life protecting the interests of teachers and educational staff. She is remembered by her union members and staff colleagues for her tenacity in energizing and representing educators.

She is survived by her husband John and other family members.

Born in Spokane, Anderson pursued education with degrees from Eastern Washington State College and University of Oregon. His career began as a library assistant at Spokane Public Library, but his dedication to learning and teaching soon led to a 31-year career with Portland Public Schools.

It did not take him long to be totally immersed in the union and to serve in a multitude of leadership positions from the local to the state to the national. He also served on commissions including Oregon PERS and TSPC and the National Board for Professional Certification.

Following retirement, to continue his love of his profession, he served as Deputy Director of the Tigard Public Library for six years.

Anderson was tenacious in his support for educators and battled ferociously to provide them with the best possible working conditions as well as constantly providing them with needed support.

He is survived by his wife Shirley and other family members.

Donations can be made to the OEA Foundation.

Region II

by Region II Director Cherene Mills

Region II only held the one event during the summer at Ft. Clatsop, but plans are being made for an active year across the region. Some of the events will be posted here in *PrimeTimes*, others will be posted on the Facebook page and in your email. Again, if you have any ideas for events and/or locations, please contact me at cmills.ret@gmail.com.

Save the Date for Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 8, Duty-Free Lunch Picnic, Salem
- Sept. 28, Fall on the Farm, Bauman's Farm & Garden, Gervais
- Nov. 5, Hatfield Marine Science Center & Lunch, Newport

Watch for details in the fall mailing and in your email, or email me at cmills.ret@gmail.com.



In remembrance

OEA-Retired recently received notice of the following members who have passed away;

Russell "Rusty" Law, Milwaukie, OR -- October 2025

Allen Huggett, Sisters, OR in 2017

Legislative committee info

By Judy Richards, Chair

By OEA-Retired Bylaws, the Legislative Committee is charged with a number of important tasks, most important of which are

- promoting involvement in the OEA Candidate interview process and election activities, lobbying elected officials and monitoring senior issues such as PERS, Health, Welfare, Insurance and Housing;
- informing OEA-Retired members about political and election issues; involving OEA-Retired members in the election cycle;

and, establishing communication with OEA/OEA-Retired political entities, with legislators, and with OEA-Retired members.

To those ends, the committee plans to promote senior legislation during the Oregon legislative session and will be promoting an OEA-Retired Lobby Day. Watch our *PrimeTimes* articles for specifics.

If you have questions, comments or “political things” to share please feel free to call me, text me or email me (541 944 8408, jarich7138@gmail.com).

Join OEA-PAC Now!

By Bobbi Yambasu, PAC Board Director

Want to influence what is enacted by local, state and/or national legislative bodies? The easiest way to do that is to join the OEA-PAC. The OEA-PAC uses member donations to support candidates that are pro-public education. And, who decides who will receive funding? PAC contributors! By being a member of the OEA-PAC, you will have a voice in who and what receives funding. At the most recent PAC Convention, members

made endorsements for statewide races and recommendations for federal Senate and House positions (federal positions are funded by the NEA PAC). Support for state legislative candidates is based on local/UniServ recommendations.

OEA PAC also supports candidates running for school boards (which happens in odd-numbered years).

The OEA-PAC needs you Now! If you are not already a PAC contributor, please consider becoming one. If you already contribute, consider raising your contribution. Joining is easy: Go to the OEA website (oregoned.org), click on the PAC and you will be sent to the donation page. Click on the “**Retired**” button. You can make a one-time donation, or you can make smaller monthly donations (via a credit or debit card). The OEA-PAC Board recommends a \$20 monthly contribution, but you can donate more or less. Need help signing up? Feel free to contact me and I can walk you through it (bobbij4967@gmail.com , 503-551-7518).

Nominations and elections

By Mavis Randklev, Chair

Thank you to everyone who voted in the OEA-Retired 2026 elections. Democracy at work. The following people were elected to Office:

President – Maureen Barnhart

Vice President – JoAnn Conroy

Secretary (1 year Term) – Paul Zastrow

Region III Director – Judy Richards

NEA-Retired Annual Meeting/NEA RA

Delegate – Bobbi Yambasu

OEA RA /OEA-Retired Board Member – Paul Zastrow, Bobbi Yambasu, Ray Johnson, Janis Eggert, Marty Bronstein, Nancy Giuliani, Karen Watters, Pat Eder, Paul Schutz and Paula DePass-Dennis

Thank you to everyone who ran for office.



Traveling Quebec

By Ray Johnson

If France seems too far for you to travel, how about something closer to home, like our **Charms of Quebec** tour in September of 2027—see sidebar for other details.

You will discover the charms of the Canadian province of Quebec, encountering its people and a blend of traditions old and new as you journey through the natural beauty and enchanting cities of the region.

In Montreal, take in the sights on a panoramic tour, bask in the views from atop Mount Royal, and explore the city's vibrant, modern scene. Visit the Charlevoix region of Quebec, known for its natural beauty, farms, fresh local food and exciting cuisine, and stay at Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu, a serene and historic castle-like hotel.

Explore Quebec City's history and romantic ambiance. Set out for adventures, from a whale-watching expedition by Zodiac boat to seeing Montmorency Falls, as well as exploring the heritage of Quebec through engaging encounters with the region's traditional arts and agriculture.

From the buzz of Montreal and romance of Quebec City to the farms of Charlevoix, embrace Quebec at its best. It is an Activity Level 2, which is walking over a variety of terrains or several city blocks.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377993>

OEA-Retired Travel

2027

Croatia and Its Islands

May 1-12. 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>

Charms Of Quebec

September 3-10, 8 days with 10 meals.

Cost: \$5,149. Deposit of \$698 due February 3, 2027.

Final payment due June 5, 2027.

For more information or reservations, go <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377993>

Spirit of the American Southwest

November 1-10, 10 days with 14 meals.

Cost: \$5,649. Deposit of \$698 due April 24, 2027.

Final payment due July 31, 2027.

For more information or reservations, go <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377993>

2028

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Late January/Early February, 7 days

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

For questions on Quebec or American Southwest, contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953 or sanrosenfeld@gmail.com.

Membership notes

By Cherene Mills, Chair

This is the time of year when newly retired educators take a deep breath and chill, think about what is ahead for them, and catch up on sleep. Most do not want to think about anything school or union related, they just want to take a break, a gap year. However, this is when we need to ask them to join OEA-Retired before their hard-earned NEA benefits lapse.

Continued on Page 6

America rediscovered

By Vickie Jackson

“Discover America’s 250th Anniversary” tour in March was my husband’s and my maiden voyage with Collette! Along with fellow OEA-Retired member Karen Watters, we started in Boston for this nine-day Revolutionary War remembrance with a splash of today’s history mixed in.

The tour pace was comfortable with optional excursions like watching the Broadway Play *Hamilton* in New York. The patriots of 1775 had a desire to create their own nation with basic freedoms for all people. The indigenous people in America agreed that the British demanded too much from their subjects.

Together the people living in America fought the British Empire for their freedom. With a few key battles won, the patriots asked France for help with war tactics and money to continue the war against the British Empire. West Point, New York, which we visited, carries on the tradition of teaching war tactics.

At each historical hub, great local guides spoke about their local history and the sacrifices made to advance this fledgling country. Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, was a true test of the patriots’ strengths because the supplies were low and the weather was brutal.

The US Capitol Building in Washington, DC, holds most of the country’s founding documents, artwork from each state and where Congress does its work to run our country today.

The bus tour covered 10 states and our guide explained what each of the 13 Colonies did to build this new country called America. Happy Birthday America! I hope you take part in a national celebration this year!



Karen Watters and Vickie Jackson in front of Oregon column at the WW II Memorial in Washington, DC.

Membership

Continued from Page 5

Some retirees plan to travel; NEA Member Benefits can help with travel costs. Some might be considering a new car; NEA Member Benefits can help with that. Some may be at Medicare age and are looking for a supplemental insurance; take a look at what is available through NEA Members Benefits. Some had life insurance through NEA Member Benefits and want it to continue. Some want to take advantage of available shopping and dining discounts to stretch their dollar through NEA Member Benefits. But these NEA Member Benefits are only available if they become an OEA-Retired member. We need to be asking them how these benefits can help them, and ask them to join before they lose those benefits.

On another note, current members will receive our annual fall mailing shortly after August 10. Enclosed will be information about upcoming events, OEA-Retired travel opportunities, a letter from OEA-Retired President Maureen Barnhart, and, if you are an annual member, your dues statement. If you have moved and not changed your address with OEA prior to August 10, it will be returned to OEA with charges. Please help us out and contact OEA to update your mailing address.

OEA-Retired still reading!

By Bobbi Yambasu

For those who like to read, the OEA-Retired Equity & Social Justice Committee has released the selections for the coming year's Book Club. The following titles will be discussed at the scheduled dates:

- Sept. 2, 2026 *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Stealth Plan for America* by Nancy MacLean
- Oct. 14, 2026 *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- Dec. 2, 2026 *America's Founding Son: John Quincy Adams From President to Political Maverick* by Bob Crawford
- Jan. 13, 2027 *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson
- Feb. 24, 2027 *A Man of Two Faces* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
- Apr. 7, 2027 *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel
- May 19, 2027 *Finding Me* by Viola Davis
- July 14, 2027 *No No Boy* by John Okada

Meetings are held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. The Zoom link is sent out about one week prior to the meeting. If you would like to join us, please email Bobbi Yambasu

(bobby4967@gmail.com). We welcome everyone!

Region I

By Region I Director Viki Mulick

OEA-Retired Region I has been up to some fun stuff!

May 20, 2026, was the date of our pre-retired and retired Happy Hour. We met at 4:30 pm at pFriem Brewery in Milwaukie. pFriem Brewery has restored an historic building right in downtown Milwaukie and they even retained

the fire pole next to the bar. Region I had a nice number of 11 attendees which made for great conversation. Many thanks to Terri and Dan Domenigoni for helping make this Happy Hour happen.

Our annual Food Cart lunch took place on June 15, 2026, at the Brooklyn Carreta Food Court off of Holgate St. and McLoughlin Blvd in SE Portland. It was a hot day, but with adequate shade and fans, 13 of us enjoyed food from an array of ethnic choices. The Brooklyn Carreta Food Court was clean, spacious and had plenty of seating for all of us. Thank you to Ray Johnson for researching and setting this experience up for us!

Did we pick a great Thorns game to attend or what?!! July 5, 2026 found seven members (some were family members) watching a 4-0 win over Racing Louisville FC. We had a lovely warm breeze with great city-wide views and concession stand food at our fingertips. What more could one ask for? Special thanks to Nancy Lewis for researching and suggesting a Thorns game. We'll be looking at other sport options for next July, 2027.

Coming Up Next: Not-Back-To-School event on Sept. 24, 2026. 11:30 am will be a free house tour of Herbert Hoover's Boyhood Home (Minthorn House) in Newberg followed by a lunch at Berg Bites Food Court. An email invitation will be coming out closer to this event date.

As you can see, it takes a village. Thanks to all of the helpers and attendees for making this assignment so fun.





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Bylaws & Policies deadline announcement

By Bobbi Yambasu, Chair

Bylaws -- Exciting, right?

Every year the OEA-Retired Bylaws & Policies Committee reviews the OEA-Retired Bylaws, Policies and Board Policies with the goal of keeping the governing documents up to date. The Bylaws and Policies can only be amended at the OEA-Retired Annual Assembly, held in early March each year (the 2026-27 Annual Assembly will be held on Monday, March 1).

In order to be considered at the 2027 Annual Assembly, proposed Bylaws and Policy amendments must be received by the OEA-Retired president no later than December 31, 2026 (60 days prior to the Annual Assembly).

If you have a suggestion for a change to any of our governing documents, please send it to both the OEA-Retired President (Maureen Barnhart) and the Bylaws & Policies Committee (bobby4967@gmail.com) no later than December 31.

Have you moved or changed your email?

Contact: Nikki Burke
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