



OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CHALKBOARD

The OREA Newsletter

Spring 2021

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We have set our clocks forward and Spring is in the air. After the snowstorm a month ago, I am certainly enjoying the sun and warmer weather.

It is hard to believe that we are well into March! It is almost a year to the day that our way of doing business changed overnight. Schools were closed, events and activities were cancelled, and everyone was asked to stay at home.

It is also nearly a year ago that we cancelled our state convention scheduled for May 2020 at The Monarch Hotel. Everyone was disappointed as our Steering Committee, chaired by Pat Eck, had worked hard to plan what would have been an outstanding event. We originally had hopes of rescheduling the convention. However, with continuing surges in COVID cases, we realized any in-person meetings would have to wait. Hopefully, we can look forward to gathering together in the Fall.

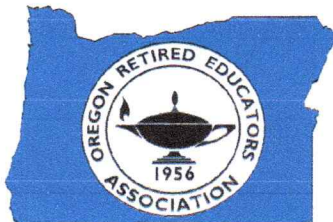
Although the past year has been difficult, we as a state association, are continuing to move forward. We welcome several AMBA representatives to our state team! Even though the State Fair was cancelled and repairs to the building are at a standstill, the Criterion Schoolhouse continues to be under the watchful eyes of our Criterion Schoolhouse Committee. During this time of virtual learning, Teachers Brigade is assisting students in several Oregon and Southwest Washington schools through the Book Fairy Program. Through the Memorial Board, we are again offering a \$1500 scholarship to a graduate student pursuing a career in healthy aging. We completed the requirements for a Care Grant through NRTA and our members continue to advocate "virtually" on education and retirement issues. But most of all, Unit projects and member volunteer commitments continue to support our local Oregon communities. The many volunteer hours reported by our members confirm that we are indeed following our motto, "To Serve, Not to be Served."

I would encourage you to think about becoming a member of our state leadership team. We will be electing officers whenever we can safely meet together. OUR STATE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU! Working together on the state level is both rewarding and a lot of fun!

This past year has been a challenge for all. Changes had to be made in our standard operating procedures. I am always amazed, however, at the creativity, resiliency, and caring of our OREA members. You always find ways to support each other, to "virtually" embrace each other and to carry on with many Unit projects and activities. Both Lona and I thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your State Co-Presidents!



Darlene Cook, State Co-President



Unit News

Unit 20 (Mid-Columbia)

Mid-Columbia Oregon Retired Educators, Unit 20, selected Theresa Schugt as its 2020 scholarship recipient.

This is Unit 20's first year joining with Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) to sponsor one of its students in Education. In the past, we have faced difficulties in attracting students to our scholarship. Working with CGCC, we have a class of students that primarily meets our qualifications and are in need of scholarship funding. This is a win-win for everyone! CGCC has gone out of its way to make this viable for Unit 20.

In turn, CGCC is partnering with the OSU School of Education that allows CGCC Education students to take all of their course work at CGCC and graduate from OSU with a B.A. in Education.



Theresa Schugt graduated from The Dalles-Wahatonga High School in 2006 and is focusing on teaching special education. Last year, she served as student government vice-president and is in the first CGCC group partnering with the OSU School of Education.

We are looking forward to helping the CGCC Education students excel in the future.

Submitted by Jan Leininger



Unit 2 (Salem)

Unit 2 has continued to stay connected by weekly ZOOM meetings, emailed and mailed newsletters, and printed cards to our members (see right). Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we sent a holiday card to our members. Prior to Valentine's Day, we mailed a whimsical card letting members know they are missed and we look forward to seeing them soon.



Also, we just closed our window for this year's scholarship applicants. A \$1,000 scholarship is being awarded this year from our Ruth Aydelott Scholarship Fund to an Education major student in their final year of study. Additionally, thanks to a donation that will continue for the lifetime of Ted & Violet Haverkate, we added a new annual \$1,000 scholarship for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) students in their final year of study, and are especially encouraging female students to apply.

It has been encouraging for our members to be able to connect, share and get to know one another better via our ZOOM chats and to keep up on important issues such as where to receive vaccinations, health issues, and shared experiences. Show and tell is encouraged AND appreciated. One of our members who is helping with her granddaughter's online learning allows her granddaughter to show and tell about her projects with our groups. Such fun! We are grateful for each member and their contributions and look forward to in-person activities again soon.

Submitted by Teri Magee

Unit News

Unit 34 (King City)

We are happy to continue our monthly ZOOM meetings and stay connected. For our February meeting, Nancy Lewis suggested those willing should share about a book read recently. She read How to Be an Anti-Racist (Ibram X. Kendi) and Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents (Isabel Wilkerson). Barb Petrin suggested Lost and Found in the Bookshop (Susan Wiggs). Charmaine Lindsay read East of Eden (John Steinbeck) and Daughter of Fortune (Isabel Allende). For the 75th anniversary of Japan's surrender, Mel Kern read Jacob DeShazer: Love Your Enemies (Janet & Geoff Benge). DeShazer was a Doolittle bomber. Feel free to contact any of these members for more information about any of the books.

Great news!! In her will, our former member, Norma Mills, left \$22,000 to the Memorial Board for the Scholarship Fund. At one time, she was a member of the Memorial Board and our Unit 34 president for the years 1997-2000.

Sad news. Our member, Shar Goodrich, passed away on February 20, 2021. She was a very active member since 2004. We also mourn the passing of Peg Hewlett. She died on March 16, 2021. She was active in OREA at both the local and state levels along with her husband, Cliff, and will be greatly missed.

Submitted by Mel Kern, Unit 34 President

Unit 9 (Umatilla/Morrow)

Scholarship Fundraiser

Have you ever done a project and when you looked back at the results, said "WOW?" Due to the pandemic, our bazaar, which is usually held in December was cancelled. The money raised is used to fund grants to classroom teachers for supplies, furniture, books, projects and miscellaneous items not part of the regular budget. There is still a need! So, we decided to send out a Christmas letter asking for a donation to make up the money lost without the bazaar. As of now, the generous donations from our OREA unit have reached our previous year's bazaar amount of \$1,000. Our next project is to fund application requests, which will be submitted soon!

Giving our Educators a Boost!

Pendleton, like all school districts, has a complement of educators made up of teachers, cooks, paraprofessionals, principals, janitors, secretaries, bookkeepers, a superintendent and others. They deserve recognition for the great work they are doing. Our unit found a way to express our gratitude. We are providing all district employees an *Educators COVID Survival Kit*. Maybe your unit would like to follow suit!

Submitted by Greg Holden

EDUCATORS COVID SURVIVAL KIT

- A lollipop to lick your problems.
- A rubber band for flexibility.
- A Snickers to remind you to laugh.
- A paperclip to hold it all together.
- A stick of gum to give stick-to-itiveness.
- A piece of string to tie up loose ends.
- A life saver to save you from drowning in everyday chores.
- A sweet tart to accept & appreciate differences in others.
- A penny to give you the extra "cents" we all need.
- A Payday because you deserve an extra payday.
- A Hershey's Hug & Kiss to remind you how much you are loved!

A gift from your retired educators!



Memorials

Each year at convention, we honor those of our members who have passed since our last convention. Due to COVID restrictions and concerns, we were unable to hold our convention last year. Be encouraged - your OREA Board is working to determine if and when to have a convention in 2021. We would still like to recognize in this issue of the Chalkboard, some of our members who have passed and remember their contributions to OREA. If a member is not listed in this edition of the Chalkboard and you would like them recognized in our next issue, please email Teri Magee at terimagee@aol.com or mail the name and any information about the member from your unit to Teri Magee, 6066 Bethel Hts. Rd. NW, Salem, OR 97304. Due to space limitation, all submissions will be edited as needed.

Our honorees, in this issue, are:

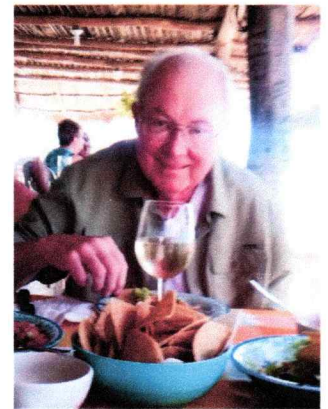
Norma Mills (1932-2020)



Norma served as Unit 34 President from 1997-2000. Her life was defined by faith, family, friendship and service to others. She received her degree from University of Illinois (on scholarship) in the (then emerging) areas of speech and pathology. She received her Master's Degree in Education from Western Oregon College (now WOU) and helped hundreds of special needs children. She served in her church and also volunteered in the Meals on Wheels program. Norma's generous donation to the Memorial Board Scholarship Fund will continue to help others fulfill their educational goals in the area of healthy aging. We are so grateful for her support and her service to OREA and many other worthy organizations.

William (Bill) Mundt (1942-2021)

Bill and his wife, Carla, have been long-time supporters of OREA and its members. He attended OSU and graduated with a degree in pharmacy and was a pharmacist for 41 years. He enjoyed traveling to Italy, Germany, Canada and Mexico. He supported men and women's basketball at OSU. Bill served on the Criterion Schoolhouse Committee and requested that memorials be made to "Criterion Schoolhouse Project" EIN#84-1628762, Oregon State Fair Foundation, 2330 17th St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. We thank Bill for his life of service and support to OREA and the Criterion Schoolhouse project.



Margie Parker (1926-2021)



Margie Parker received her Bachelor's Degree at Eau Claire Teachers College. Margie's teaching career began, like many of her generation, in a one-room schoolhouse in Wisconsin. She moved to Oregon in 1950 to be near family and taught in the communities of Mehama, Gates, and Mill City. She moved to Albany in 1970 and taught at Lafayette Elementary until 1977. She then taught at South Shore Elementary where she received the Distinguished Teacher of the Year award in 1979. She and her husband moved to Arizona in 1992. She loved music and singing in school and church choirs and also played piano and organ. She joined a volunteer group called LIFE whose members provided music to residents in nursing homes and other groups. Donations from these gigs were used to provide holiday goody baskets for those in her community. She moved back to

Oregon in 2014. Margie was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 58 years. She provided music from her room at Brookdale Independent Living up to a week before her passing. We thank Margie for her support of OREA and for her volunteer service to others over the years. May her musical memories live on.

Delene Haake (1937-1920)

Delene spent her youth on farms in Iowa before moving to Philomath and then to Corvallis. Delene married Dan Haake and they bought a home in Albany where they lived and loved each other for 48 years. Delene loved antiquing. Delene graduated from Corvallis High School and then attended college at OSU, graduating with a Master's Degree in Education. She taught in the elementary grades for the Salem School District for 32 years. She continued her love of teaching after she retired by tutoring and helping others with their education. Delene also enjoyed volunteering with several different organizations in Albany including volunteer Caregivers, Linn County Health Department, Albany Chamber of Commerce, Albany Public Library Used Bookstore, RSVP, and the Red Cross. Delene and Dan also were members of OREA serving their local unit and have always been generous supporters of the SREA (Unit 2-Salem) scholarship program. We thank Delene for her years of service and support to OREA and other community organizations.



Sidney Harrison (1924-2020)



Born in Texas, she and her family moved to California where she attended high school and junior college. Working after school in her parent's restaurant, she met her future husband. In 1961, she and her husband moved to Albany. They moved back to California returning to Albany in 1993. Sidney was a Linn County Historical Society and OREA member until her health failed. We thank her for a life of service to her family, community and OREA.

Submitted by Teri Magee, President, OREA Memorial Fund Board

Online Literary Magazine from Young Writers **published for seniors and everyone to read for free**

Dear Unmet Friends of the Oregon Retired Educators Association,

I am on a mission to help young writers find readers. Please help me if you can.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I brought my 20 years' experience with helping kids write and publish to a new brand, employing somewhat bold approaches: offer it free online, promote widely to senior readers, seek readers far and wide in both likely and unlikely places, and include newly published writing mingled with selected work previously published in local school publications.

I invite you to sample *another side of younger* (<https://asoy.yahoosites.com>), and to request a complimentary online subscription. By doing this, you will help support that our concept is viable.

Beyond this, if you know others who might be interested, please tell them about our project and suggest that they too subscribe.

We are only one among many who are serving our learning writers. If our project is successful, it will become a resource of value to the large community of young writers and their teachers.

By the way, the writing is really good. It's been reviewed and selected and at age 71, I can attest to the beneficial effect of reading work by kids. It's a stirring tonic.

Better days ahead,
Alan Ball Blydenburgh



AMBA Benefits Advisors

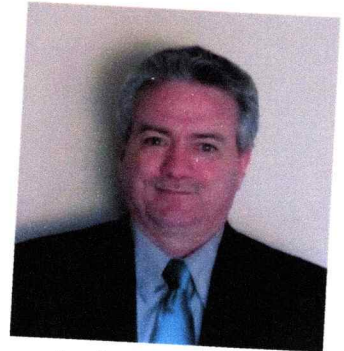
AMBA is excited to introduce District Manager, Mark Cubic and his team of benefit advisors to OREA. AMBA benefit advisors are valuable resources to your association and its membership. They are a team of professional, knowledgeable, and passionate experts on the needs of retirees. They are licensed and extensively trained on state pensions, the ABC's of social security and the everchanging world of health care. Their mission is to identify gaps and provide recommendations based on the needs of your retirees.

We look forward to working with you and thank you for your partnership!

Watch the AMBA story: <https://youtube.be/LBOC6eY46N4> or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCzFo5XCUEk&feature=youtu>

Mark Cubic - District Manager - Utah, Montana, Oregon
Cell: 260-704-0513; mark.cubic@amba.info

I started my career in Indiana in 1998 with a life insurance and annuity company. We moved to Utah five years ago. I love being a District Manager for AMBA because I can help our agents help seniors with benefits that improve their life. Outside of work, I love to golf and do anything with my two grandsons.



Marcus Adair

My name is Marcus Adair II and I am an absolute fan of educators. Before moving to Oregon, I graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Finance and have since been working in retiree solutions for over a year. I come from a huge family of educators, with my own mother being a high school principal. I now live in SE Portland with my girlfriend, a guinea pig and a cat. When I am not hiking or helping out one of our retirees, I love to grab cups of coffee and have chats about this breathtaking world we experience.



Katherine Taylor

Katherine Taylor graduated from Eastern Oregon University in 2006 with a BA in English. She was a member of the EOU Chamber Choir the entirety of her college career. She has lived in a number of states - Minnesota, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Washington, Oregon and Colorado, where she was born and raised. And yet, she had always felt right at home in the Pacific Northwest. She enjoys writing as well as reading, listening to great music, and snuggling her lazy cats alongside her husband during a movie. Most importantly, she is eager to continue learning about retiree benefits to better serve educators in Oregon.



Russell Binding

I started my career in 1993 in California working with seniors selling Medicare LTC and Life products. Then my family moved to Oregon where I continued my education in the senior market and received my LUTCF designation. I have always enjoyed the wisdom and experience that comes with working and helping our senior population. My passion is also playing music and enjoying my family here in Oregon. We have so many things to do outdoors - fishing, hiking, and boating. Having grandchildren has been a blessing to my wife, Peggy, and I as we became seniors ourselves.



Submitted by Garrett Mowery, Association Relations Team AMBA
Professional Insurance Service, Inc.,
2 Kacy Ct. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055; 717-448-6048

OREA VOLUNTEER HOURS

OREA STATE AWARDS Spring 2020 to Fall 2021



With the possibility of meeting in convention in Fall 2021, the Executive Board has decided to extend the amassing, collecting and reporting of your unit's volunteer hours from March 31, 2020 to July 31, 2021. It might be a bit more difficult to collect your unit's hours in August since most of our units do not meet in the summer, but if everyone has a heads up at this point, you will be able to modify your collection protocol to accommodate the time extension.

Each member should maintain a record of his/her time volunteering in two areas: literacy and other volunteering. These three awards will be given even if we do not meet in convention:

Golden Hand: This award is given to the OREA Unit that has accumulated the most volunteer and literacy hours. The total number of hours your unit has accumulated will be submitted.

Golden Apple: This award is given to the OREA member who has volunteered the most hours in literacy.

Star Award: This award is given to the OREA member who has volunteered the most hours in areas not involving literacy.

If we meet in convention, these awards will also be given:

Appreciation Awards: These awards are given to inspirational OREA members who have been nominated by their unit leadership for exceptional service. Each unit is encouraged to nominate one individual to be recognized at the convention.

Bell Ringer Award: Each OREA unit that wishes to participate will prepare a display to be presented at the convention that highlights one (**and only one**) service project of the unit. Each unit will explain, in less than 3 minutes, the particulars of the project (purpose, segment of public served, how many are served). Please choose a new project to present. Each unit participating will receive a monetary award.

Dorothy Throne Award: This award is given to the OREA Unit with the largest percentage increase in membership. This award is determined, based on membership data submitted to the treasurer, by Lona Odom who is tasked with maintaining the membership data.

Volunteer Hours Information

- Volunteer hours generally are in community or school programs for either children or adults.
- This year, since many of our members are supervising the education of family on-line, we now allow counting hours spent with family supervising their instruction. These hours should be considered literacy hours.
- Hours may be counted only once – either as literacy hours or volunteering hours.
- In either category, time is time and not relative to how many people served, so reading to 3 children for 1 hour counts as 1 hour of literacy, not 3 hours of literacy.
- Hours are to be turned in at the beginning of August, complied by the local unit volunteer coordinator and submitted to Deborah Scaravilli, (3630 Collier Lane, Klamath Falls, OR 97603; vicdebscaravilli@gmail.com) by August 15, 2021



OREA Memorial Board Scholarship Fund

Did you know that the OREA Memorial Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way for local units and their members to make a tax-deductible donation in honor of a beloved member who has passed or in memory of family members?

Each year in the spring, your Memorial Board has been able to grant two \$1500 scholarships to post-graduate students focusing their coursework on the field of healthy aging. This can be in the area of public health, scientific advancement, or social work, as long as the focus is on seniors and improving their quality of life.

Because COVID-19 affected our ability to connect with graduate students, we were only able to give one scholarship last year to a student earning her Master's Degree in Social work through Portland State University. In the past, OREA scholarships have helped fund a doctor who focused her practice on the senior population and a doctoral scientist who had his work published in several professional publications.

Every recipient is filled with gratitude for the scholarship awarded to them. You are making an impact on their generation for the future as well as improving ours.

If you would like to help support this on-going fund, we welcome all donations. Please make your checks payable to:

OREA Memorial Fund (Fed TIN #23-73-85870)

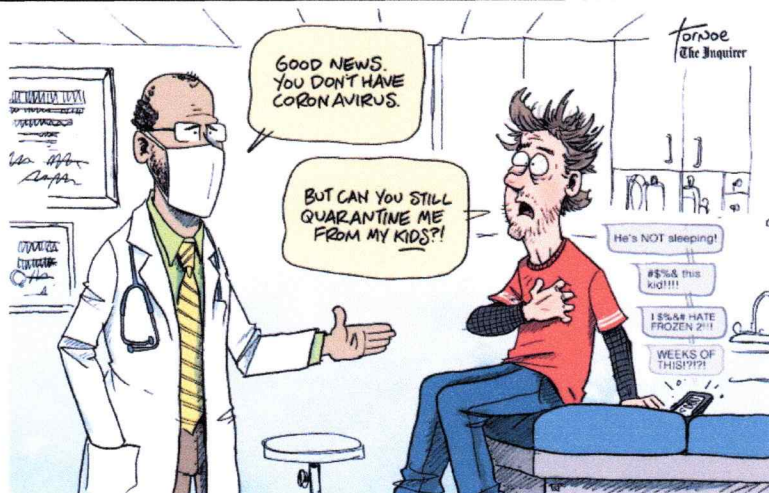
Mail them to:

OREA Memorial Fund Treasurer

**Cheryl Hafer, 1809 Gekeler Lane #157
LaGrande, OR 97850**

Thank you for your on-going support!

Submitted by Teri Magee
President, OREA Memorial Board



2020-2021 OREA Contacts

Community Coordinator (Volunteer Hours/Awards) and

CHALKBOARD

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OREA Website (hosted by AMBA)

Contact people: Lona Odom and Paul Zastrow

(for contact info - see front page of CHALKBOARD)

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