

ROSE Newsletter

Retired
Oregon School
Employees



Looking out for the rights and benefits of retired OSEA members

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Benefits of being a ROSE (Retired Oregon School Employees) member include OSEA life insurance, member discounts, OSEA publications, PERS information, training, events and social activities.

Big Plans for ROSE's Year Ahead

By **BONNIE LUISI**
ROSE CHAIR

ROSE has been busy since our last newsletter. We held a raffle at Conference 2019, which raised \$1,750 to help send ROSE delegates to Conference. Many thanks to everyone who donated items for the raffle, especially Bob and Kristi Crooks for the lawn decorations and Al and Lorraine Livingston for the beautiful floral pieces! Gretchen Elliot and Marilyn Moss handled our raffle sales and, as usual, they went above and beyond to make the raffle a success.

Our delegates this year were ROSE Chair Bonnie Luisi, Vice Chair Merlene Martin, Secretary-Treasurer Jay Osborne and members Marie Wolfe, Kristi Crooks, Stephanie Heins-Mueller, Gretchen Elliott, Kathryn Riegger, Linda Bradetich and Delores Piersol.

More than 20 OSEA

members attended the ROSE workshop on pre-retirement. We were able to share an overview on PERS, Social Security and Medicare. Merlene also shared advice on what she wished she knew before retiring and what she learned along the way. This is the second year we have done this presentation and it is always well received.

Our first ROSE meeting of the year was Sept. 24. We had a nice crowd of 15 members to help us plan the year's meetings and activities.

This year, we plan to revamp ROSE marketing, starting with our presence on Facebook. Watch for an invitation to our new Facebook page in the next few weeks. It will be more user-friendly than our current page and it's a great way to keep in touch. We will also update



ROSE member Paula Kingsbury sells tickets for the ROSE raffle basket at All Committee Day in October. The raffle raised \$310 to help send our delegates to Conference.

the ROSE section of the OSEA website, adding new printable resources and contact information for PERS, Social Security and Medicare. Let me know what else you would like to see!

As you can see, although we are retired, we are still very active in our OSEA union. Our next meeting will be Feb. 20 at the State Office. The meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. and we will serve lunch. If you are free, please drop by. We would love to see you!

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Potluck Brings Retirees Together

By **EVERICE MORO**
ROSE ZONE II COORDINATOR

It was my honor to open my backyard for the Union Retiree Potluck Picnic this summer. Despite a projected downpour, which thankfully never materialized, we had a great turnout. Folks from OSEA, AFT-Oregon Retirees, AFGE and the Painter's and Allied Trades showed

up, along with the AFT-Oregon current and former presidents and executive director.

The party was in honor of the birthdays of Social Security and Medicare, as well as our unique relationship with the Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans.

With great food, conversation and plenty of union swag to give away, a great time was had by all!



ROSE Chair Appointed to OEBB Board

By **MERLENE MARTIN**
ROSE VICE CHAIR

ROSE Chair Bonnie Luisi was recently appointed to the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) by Peter Courtney, president of the Oregon Senate. She will serve a four-year term.

Luisi was asked to apply on behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association. Her first OEBB Board meeting will be Nov. 5 in Salem.

The OEBB Board provides strategic vision and directs the development of OEBB options.



ROSE Recipe: Pumpkin Bread

I've tried lots of pumpkin bread recipes, but this is one of my favorites. The spicy smell fills the house and a yummy slice with the hot beverage of your choice is a splendid treat any time of day.

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground allspice
½ teaspoon salt
4 eggs
1 cup granulated sugar
¼ cup dark brown sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla extract

¾ cup canned pure pumpkin puree

¾ cup vegetable oil

¼ cup pumpkin seeds, chopped

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan.

Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, spices and salt in a medium bowl.

Beat the eggs, sugars and vanilla together in a large bowl with an electric mixer on high speed for about 30 seconds. Add the pumpkin and oil and mix well.

Pour the dry ingredients into the wet stuff and mix well with your electric mixer. Pour the batter into loaf pan. Sprinkle pumpkin

seeds over the top and bake for 60 minutes or until the top of the bread is beginning to brown and a toothpick stuck into the center of the bread comes out clean.

When the bread has cooled, remove it from the loaf pan and use a bread knife to slice it into 1-inch thick slices. Makes 8 slices. Tip: This bread freezes perfectly. Simply seal any leftover slices in a zip-lock bag or wrap them in plastic, then them into the freezer. To serve, microwave one frozen slice on high for about 45 seconds and it will taste like it just came out of the oven.

– *Everice Moro*

Senate Bill (SB) 1049 Includes New Return to Work Provisions, Optional for Public Employers

By JAY OSBORNE III
ROSE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Senate Bill (SB) 1049 has some good news for retired public employees who want to return to work in public sector positions, known as workback. Until now, retired PERS members were limited to working 1,039 hours per year (equivalent to half time) in public employment; working more hours would jeopardize the status of their PERS retirement payout. A provision in SB 1049 lifts that restriction for years 2020-24, allowing retirees to work up to full time.

This is good news not only for employees, but also for employers. Ongoing staffing issues exist in some hard-to-serve areas and positions requiring qualified

employees. Public employers may employ folks who want to take advantage of the workback option without limiting the number of hours to half time.

Just because public employers can hire retirees to work full time, however, does not mean that all will. All public employers have the option to opt in or out of this provision and to adjust their workback policies on an as-needed basis. The state executive branch will implement a process to allow state agencies to adjust their policies on an ongoing basis.

SB 1049 has been the focus of a lot of pushback from labor unions, as some of its provisions make unconstitutional reductions to retirement benefits. These changes do not affect folks who have already retired.

The PERS Coalition, which includes OSEA, is backing a lawsuit that challenges the benefit-reducing provisions of the PERS bill. The suit is in the early stages of the process and is not expected to impact workback provisions.

Our hope at ROSE is that public sector employers, particularly school districts, will see the unrestricted workback options as a positive way to best meet the needs of students and other staff.

If you are contemplating returning to work in a PERS-covered position, be sure to check with your prospective employer about how they are implementing provisions of SB 1049. Keep in mind, employers are not mandated to use the new return to work provisions.

Are Your Vaccines Up To Date?

By MERLENE MARTIN
ROSE VICE CHAIR

Talk to your doctor about whether you should receive vaccines. A blood test can determine if you are immune to many of these diseases.

Flu Shot: Needed every year to protect you from new strains of the flu.

Pneumonia: Anyone over age 65 should have the pneumonia shot. You will need the initial shot and possibly an additional dose the following year. (There are two vaccines — PPSV23 and PSV13. Each protects against different strains of the bacteria that causes pneumococcal diseases including pneumonia, meningitis and

blood-stream infections.

MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella): If you were born in 1957 or later, you might need a vaccine. Those born pre-1957 probably acquired immunity in childhood.

Shingles: Anyone 50 or older who has not been vaccinated in the past five years should have a shingles shot. This is given in two doses over a six-month period.

Tetanus: Everyone should get a tetanus booster every 10 years. A new Tdap vaccine was introduced in 2008 which protects against tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and diphtheria. You should get the Tdap and then a regular tetanus booster every 10 years.



Chicken Pox: Anyone who has not had chicken pox should receive the vaccine. Most likely you were exposed as a child (or by your kids). If you have not had chicken pox, you may be able to catch shingles from someone who has it, although it is not contagious otherwise.

Holiday Events Support Union Families In Need

By EVERICE MORO
ROSE ZONE II COORDINATOR

OSEA and ROSE members are represented on the Board of Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) — the 'helping hands' organization for the labor movement. LCSA receives donations from labor organizations and the community, which goes to provide financial assistance for labor members in need.

One way that LCSA gives back is the holiday party for labor families in December. Last year, over 400 labor family members in need were treated to a great meal by union caterers. They were given toys, bicycles, adult gifts, clothing and groceries, all donated by union members, as well as Christmas stockings handmade by union

members. Two hundred union members donated time to put this party together and make it happen!

This year, the LCSA holiday party will be Saturday, Dec. 14.

Another great holiday tradition for union retiree members is the holiday gathering on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the AFL-CIO Labor Center (3645 SE 32nd Street, off SE Powell Boulevard). It's a chance to visit with our union friends and eat good food. We bring toys and gifts for children and teens to donate to the LCSA holiday party. If you are a crafty person, we also have gatherings to cut fabric and sew Christmas stockings. If you would like to join any of these festivities, or if you know of a labor family in need of assistance, call OSEA at 800-252-6732.

A Member's Union
OSEA
AFT Local 6732

Calendar

Nov. 4 – AFT Retiree Committee Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Dec. 11 – Retiree Holiday Party

Dec. 14 – LCSA Presents for Partners

Feb. 20 – 10:30 a.m. ROSE Meeting, OSEA State Office

Apr. 16 – 10:30 a.m. ROSE Meeting, OSEA State Office

Social Security Could Expand

From ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

Several bills to expand Social Security have been filed in congress. These bills would strengthen Social Security and improve the retirement security of millions of Americans. Here is a summary of some of the expansion bills:

Strengthening Social Security Act increases benefits by \$65 per month or \$800 per year, adopts the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E), ensuring a more adequate cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), improves benefits for widows and widowers by ensuring surviving spouses receive 75 percent of the total household Social Security benefits

received prior to a spouse's death and extends plan solvency to 2041.

Social Security Expansion Act increases Social Security benefits on average by \$65 a month, adopts the CPI-E to calculate a more accurate COLA and strengthens the Social Security Trust Fund. The bill also combines the Old Age and Survivors and Disability Trust Funds to ensure solvency.

Protecting our Widows and Widowers in Retirement (POWR) Act ensures a widow or widower will continue to receive up to 75 percent of the combined household benefits after the loss of a spouse. This is particularly important to women who generally suffer greater financially after the loss of a loved one.

Social Security Fairness Act

repeals the government pension offset (GPO) and the windfall elimination provision (WEP), which claws back workers' and their spouses' Social Security benefits if they worked for a period of time in jobs not covered by Social Security. Twenty-five percent of public employees nationwide are affected by these provisions.

The Social Security 2100 Act provides a two percent benefit increase to all current and future beneficiaries, and institutes the CPI-E. It protects the lowest income beneficiaries by ensuring they receive at least 125 percent of the federal poverty level in retirement.