

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.

Prescription Savings for Medicare

In August of this year, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act. This bill will help lower the cost of prescription drugs for many Medicare beneficiaries. Studies have shown one in four people over age 65 do not take at least one medication as prescribed due to its cost. The Inflation Reduction Act will help those struggling to afford their prescriptions as needed. Here are some of the things which are included:

Premiums for Medicare Part D (prescriptions) insurance will not increase more than six percent a year through at least 2029.

Starting in January 2023, those covered by Medicare will spend no more than \$35 out-of-pocket per month for insulin. In 2026 and beyond, insulin will be priced at \$35 per month or 25 percent of the negotiated price, whichever is lower.

Also in January, all recommended adult vaccines will be free for those on Medicare. These vaccines that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices



By **BONNIE LUISI**
Chair

(shingles, flu, tdap and more) will be available to you at no out-of-pocket cost.

Also beginning in 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must negotiate prices of 10 Medicare Part D drugs, rising to 15 in 2027. In 2028, HHS will negotiate prices of 15 high-priced drugs

in Medicare Parts B and D. In 2029 and each year following, HHS will continue with another 20 prescription drugs from Parts B and D.

In 2025, those covered by Medicare will not have to pay more than \$2,000 per year for out-of-pocket prescriptions.

The law also adds penalties for drug makers that raise medicine costs more than the inflation rate. Any drug company that increases their prices more than inflationary costs must pay the amount that exceeds inflation back to Medicare.

Many of these changes are good news for seniors on budgets. Also remember that open enrollment for Medicare plans will be soon. Check out your plans and see that they still meet your needs.

GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED

Like and follow OSEA and ROSE on Facebook



OSEA: www.facebook.com/osea6732

ROSE: www.facebook.com/RetiredOregonSchoolEmployees

Subscribe to *E-News & Views*
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Calendar

All ROSE members are invited to our monthly meetings! If you would like to attend and do not receive the invitation, contact ROSE Chair Bonnie Luisi at bonluisi1972@gmail.com. Zoom meetings are just long enough to cover the agenda, then we adjourn the meeting and stay to chat. You are welcome to attend for any length of time!

ROSE Meetings

- Friday, Nov. 4 at 10:30 a.m.
OSEA State Office
- Friday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.
Virtual
- Friday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m.
Virtual
- Friday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m.
Virtual
- Friday, March 3 at 10:30 a.m.
OSEA State Office
- Friday, April 7 at 2 p.m.
Virtual
- Friday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m.
State Office

Other events

- All Committee Day
Saturday, Jan. 21
Virtual
- Legislative Education Day (LED)
Sunday-Monday, March 5-6
Oregon State Capitol
- Classified School Employees
Week
Monday-Friday, March 6-10
- All Committee Day
Saturday, April 15
OSEA State Office

ROSE Leadership

By **Bonnie Luisi**
ROSE Chair

On the cover of this newsletter, you will see the names and contact information of all your ROSE leaders. ROSE officers -- the chair, vice chair and secretary/treasurer -- are elected by the ROSE membership to serve two-

year terms. ROSE coordinators are appointed by the OSEA Board of Directors. Please feel free to reach out to any of the ROSE leaders if you have questions, concerns or want to join us. We would love to see you on our monthly Zoom meetings/chats!

PERS Resources

By **Jay Osborne**
ROSE Member and OPRI Board Member

Did you know \$4.43 billion in annual benefits for PERS retirees creates \$4.83 billion in value to Oregon's economy? I learned this fun fact from the Facebook page for Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI), which has lots of other useful information for retirees. Visit the page for more: www.facebook.com/ORPersRetirees

The Oregon PERS newsletters are another great resource. You can choose email and/or text message updates and

select the topics that interest you, such as member news, Oregon Savings Growth Plan and PERS health insurance. Sign up at www.public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORPERS/subscriber/new.

You will be sent information only on the topics you choose. My advice is to opt-in to any topic that may interest you. You can always refine your selections later, but you don't want to miss any important updates from PERS!

All Committee Day

By **Bonnie Luisi**
ROSE Chair

OSEA's first All Committee Day of the year was on Oct. 1. ROSE member Delores Piersol and I drove over together to attend our committee meetings (Government Relations and Elections). I so enjoyed seeing all the other OSEA members that serve on various committees; it was great to see everyone so excited for the

work their committees do and the fellowship extended to all. There is a lot of valuable work done on these state committees.

Several ROSE members are serving on committees. I had a chance to catch up with many of them and remind them of our upcoming ROSE meeting in November.



ROSE Recipe: Hungarian Mushroom Soup

The first time I tried this recipe I knew it was a keeper. It is a hearty, rich soup that is best served with crusty bread. I have also found it is important to follow the directions and ingredients directly. I hope you enjoy!

- 4 tbsp butter
- 2 cups onions, chopped
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 2 tsp dried dill
- 2 tsp fresh thyme, minced
- 2 tsp paprika
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 cup whole milk
- 3 tbsp flour
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp fresh Italian parsley

In a heavy pot or Dutch oven, cook onions and mushrooms in butter over medium heat until onions are soft and translucent.

Add stock, wine, thyme, dill, paprika and soy sauce, Bring to a simmer and cook until the liquid reduces by half.

In a small bowl, whisk the flour into the milk until smooth. Add to soup and cook until soup begins to thicken. Turn heat down to low and slowly stir in sour cream and lemon juice.

Serve hot and garnish with fresh parsley.

– Jay Osborne

OSEA's Endorsement for Governor

By Sarah Wofford
OSEA President

I know that election season can be unpleasant. But we can't fight for better wages, benefits and quality of life for OSEA and ROSE members at the bargaining table alone. I have learned from our members that we can either be at the table or on the menu. We have to use our voices -- as union members, workers and retirees, and voters -- to support each other as a union which will lift up pro-worker, pro-education candidates and policies that will help our members and families. That is why OSEA makes endorsements, and why I want to be transparent about our endorsements this year, especially in the governor's race. We followed the same process in considering the three candidates:

Christine Drazan declined to participate in OSEA's endorsement process. Candidates who refuse to talk to our members can't be endorsed, especially when they need to explain a consistent record of voting against equal unemployment insurance (UI) access.

Betsy Johnson is ineligible for OSEA support this cycle because of her vote for Senate Bill (SB) 1049 in 2019, which cut retirement benefits for thousands of OSEA members. Johnson also voted against our bill that would have lessened the impacts of SB 1049.

Tina Kotek participated in OSEA's endorsement process and generally has a good track record of supporting OSEA's priorities. Kotek was a chief architect of the Student Success Act. She listened to us about expanding access to school meals and supporting students' mental and behavioral health. She was ineligible for OSEA support when she ran in 2020 due to SB 1049, but she has supported all of our UI bills, including one which would have given educators equal access to UI benefits during the pandemic.

Given these facts, supporting Kotek for governor this year is a straightforward choice to protect workers like OSEA members in the 2023 session and beyond.

OSEA and ROSE will always respect you and your voting choices. I hope you will join me in returning your ballot as soon as you can. You can visit our website, www.osea.org, to learn more about our other endorsements for 2022, how they are made and how you can get involved. And please, if you are considering what vote to cast in the governor's race, look at who has shown themselves to be pro-worker.

Retiree Picnic

By Everice Moro

ROSE Zone I Coordinator

This summer, our union families and friends gathered in my backyard once again to celebrate the birthdays of Social Security (Aug. 14, 1935) and Medicare (July 30, 1965). Retirees from ROSE, AFT-Oregon and the National Association of Letter Carriers were joined by our new OSEA President Sarah Wofford and Executive Director Susan Miller.

“The retirees of OSEA are amazing humans who continue to stand up for workers’ rights long after their own fights are done. Their ongoing advocacy is a testament to the spirit that keeps the union movement alive,” said Pres. Wofford. “I was honored to attend the picnic and look forward to doing more together in the years to come.”

Attendees brought lots of homemade and homegrown goodies, including cowboy beans, watermelon and sweet treats to share with fried chicken. We followed it up with birthday cake and lots of great conversations. It is always a pleasure to get together with old friends.

Mary Slawosky, ROSE member and former OSEA president, spoke for all of us when she said, “the picnic was great and the food was nice. But most of all, it was a great opportunity to visit OSEA friends and meet with other AFT retirees.”

ROSE Chair Bonnie Luisi agreed, saying “I was pleased to be able to attend the Retiree Friends Picnic this year. Good food, good friends and a great time was had by all!”

We also filed a ‘thank you’ message for our federal elected representatives, for their work to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which “will lower costs for families, combat the climate crisis, reduce the deficit, and finally ask corporations to pay their fair share,” as wh.gov says. This bill will make a big difference for seniors and retirees.

I thank you all for attending, and I hope to see even more of you next year!



OSEA Conference 2022

By Kathryn Riegger

ROSE Zone V Coordinator

ROSE was well represented at OSEA's Conference in June. Many retired OSEA members serve on OSEA state committees and are advocates for education and labor. We were able to add historical context to the debates on resolutions, while also giving our opinions and the reasoning behind them.

It was great to see old friends and make new acquaintances. ROSE was also able to honor a great team player, Gretchen

Elliott. She was the face of the retiree group and manned our Conference raffle table for many years. Her infectious smile was missed at Conference this year. ROSE presented a framed collage of pictures of Gretchen to her friend and fellow ROSE member Marilyn Moss. Both ladies worked in Eugene Chapter 1 as cooks prior to retirement. Gretchen is greatly missed by us all, but especially Marilyn.