

# ROSE Newsletter

Retired  
Oregon School  
Employees



Looking out for the rights and benefits of retired OSEA members

## ROSE Leaders

### Chair

Bonnie Luisi  
541-701-7293

### Vice Chair

Merlene Martin  
541-942-8850

### Secretary-Treasurer

Susan Hardy  
541-782-2510  
(Taking office July 1)

### Zone I Coordinator

Paula Kingsbury  
503-504-2766

### Zone II Coordinator

Everice Moro  
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### Zone III Coordinator

Stephanie  
Heins-Mueller  
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### Zone IV Coordinator

Marilyn Moss  
541-870-1672

### Zone V Coordinator

Kathryn Riegger  
541-292-9316

### Zone VI Coordinator

Linda Bradetich  
541-350-0965

### Zone VII Coordinator

Delores Piersol  
541-561-7441

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.

## After a Year of Living with COVID-19, the End is In Sight

We are now over the one-year mark of living with COVID-19 restrictions, and it has been an *awfully* long year. I would never have imagined the restrictions would go on this long. Now many of us have received at least one of our vaccines and are slowly re-entering the public and seeing friends and family.

One of the first things my husband and I did after receiving our vaccinations was go to our great-granddaughter's first birthday party. To witness Baby Violet taking wobbly steps from chair to chair was even better than the chocolate cake and ice cream — and if you know me, you know I don't think much is better than chocolate cake!

The next weekend, we went out for Mexican food at our favorite restaurant. Saturday nights at La Palma were a regular stop for us before the pandemic. It was great to see the staff and have a "real" margarita. We could see the precautions Antonio was taking to ensure a safe environment for his customers: every other table was taped off, and staff were wearing masks. It made me



By **BONNIE LUISI**  
Chair

aware of all they do to be able to continue serving customers safely. I know I certainly appreciated their efforts. I hope businesses will be able to go back to normal soon and recoup some of their losses.

Our next big decision will be about a vacation. Should we or shouldn't we travel via plane? We will just take a wait-and-see

attitude until the end of summer to decide how we feel about it then.

If we all continue wearing masks, washing our hands and using social distance, someday we will be out of the danger from this pandemic. But let's not let our guard down just yet. Summer is here and being outside will make it easier to socialize and to get together for those great barbecues we all love.

There are still plenty of Oregonians who have not had their vaccinations yet, either because of lack of availability or lack of interest. Please encourage your friends and family members to get their vaccines. The end may be in sight, but the pandemic is not over yet.

## GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED

Like and follow OSEA and ROSE on Facebook



OSEA: [www.facebook.com/osea6732](http://www.facebook.com/osea6732)

ROSE: [www.facebook.com/RetiredOregonSchoolEmployees](http://www.facebook.com/RetiredOregonSchoolEmployees)

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# ROSE, Where Did We Come From?

By **MERLENE MARTIN**  
ROSE Vice Chair

and **PATRICIA GEST**  
OSEA President 1974-76

I don't know how many of our members are aware of how the ROSE (Retired Oregon School Employees) chapter came to be. So I thought I would offer a refresher. For help with the story, I reached out to Pat Gest, a long-time ROSE member and OSEA member who also served as State President and OSEA staff member. Pat was one of the founding members of ROSE. Here's what she remembers:

*As he was making plans to retire, John Brown [OSEA President from 1956-58] called me to see if I was interested in helping him establish a group of school employee retirees. His goal was to assist OSEA in special projects*

*such as organizing, supporting PERS issues, political issues and the like. Because we both loved OSEA I agreed it was a great idea.*

*We called about a dozen other past presidents and leaders to see if they were interested in joining our new organization. Our first meeting was in the Browns' basement. I don't remember who thought of the name, but "Retired Oregon School Employees, or ROSE," seemed perfect. We decided to establish a dues structure to cover postage expenses. It was decided that \$100 was a fair amount for a lifetime membership, and it was enough to get us going as a group. We all chipped in our share, and ROSE was on its way!*

*OSEA has always supported us in any way they could. In 1999, there was a resolution at OSEA's annual Conference to bring ROSE into the union, officially. I am very*

*pleased that ROSE has been an important partner to OSEA ever since.*

*Kudos to those who carry on the dream that we had so many years ago!*

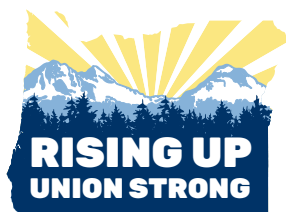
And we can thank John Brown, Pat Gest and many others for having that dream and making ROSE a reality.

The OSEA Constitution now provides many benefits and opportunities to ROSE members. We have a 10-member board, are included in OSEA's budget, and are allowed 10 delegates at the OSEA Conference. We are also included in the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)'s retiree group, along with other retiree groups around the state and nationally. Our members serve on OSEA committees and we continue to follow the projects that dreamers before us envisioned.

## OSEA to Hold Virtual Conference

OSEA's Board of Directors has voted to hold the union's annual Conference virtually for the safety of delegates and staff.

The virtual Conference will include all the usual business that takes place in a normal year, including voting on



resolutions, the budget and officer elections. ROSE delegates, chosen in the recent ROSE election, will participate in the virtual Conference.

## ROSE Election Results

The results of the recent ROSE election are in. Susan Hardy will join the ROSE Board as secretary-treasurer, completing the existing term which runs through the 2021-22 school year. Merlene Martin was re-elected as ROSE Vice Chair and will serve another two-year term.

ROSE members also elected a delegate from

each Zone to participate in OSEA's virtual Conference in June:

Kristi Crooks, Zone I  
Jane Carlson, Zone II  
Stephanie Heins-Mueller, Zone III  
Marilyn Moss, Zone IV  
Kathryn Riegger, Zone V  
Linda Bradetich, Zone VI  
Delores Piersol, Zone VII

Congratulations to the new ROSE officers and Conference 2021 delegates!

# OPRI to the Rescue!

By **JAY OSBORNE**  
Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc.  
Chair

Occasionally, a retiree has a PERS issue they are having difficulty resolving. As a first step, they often contact PERS and speak with a representative. But what do you do when PERS staff is not able to address your concern satisfactorily?

Retirees often contact Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) for advice and assistance. These issues are often a simple misunderstanding with an easy answer. But every so often, an issue merits further investigation. With a retiree's written permission, OPRI can contact PERS on their behalf.

Here's an example: a retiree contacted OPRI after he discovered his PERS benefit was calculated

incorrectly. We were able to get PERS to take another look, and his benefit was increased by \$400 a month.

Another PERS retiree once reached out to us because she was having difficulty with the PERS state income tax remedy. (Eligible Tier One members who are Oregon residents qualify for a "tax remedy" increase to their monthly PERS benefit payments. If you move out of state, you are no longer eligible for this benefit.) This retiree had moved out of state, but returned to Oregon after her husband passed away. She reached out to OPRI for help when her tax remedy was delayed for several months.

OPRI was able to identify the problem: the complex PERS rules for tax reinstatement. Under the current law, residency certification updates become effective on Jan. 1

of the following year after they are submitted, meaning retirees can wait a full year before receiving their tax remedy. But here's the good news: OPRI has been working with lawmakers to change this policy. As of April 7, 2021, our two priority bills, House Bill (HB) 2867 and HB 2375, are being combined into a single bill and passed out of the House Business and Labor Committee, and we are optimistic! Part of what these bills would do is shorten the time line for retirees to have their residency reinstated for the purposes of PERS.

The mission of OPRI is to protect the benefits of PERS members through advocacy, lobbying and outreach. If you ever have an issue with your PERS benefits, I encourage you to contact us — OPRI will do whatever we can to help you!

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## ROSE Recipe: Lemon Velvet



This recipe is very similar to one that my mom made when I was a kid. My dad was a big fan of lemon desserts and so consequently was the rest of the family. Lemon velvet is simple to make, delicious, and best of all, you can make it ahead of time. Enjoy!

### Ingredients:

(Layer 1)  
1 cup butter  
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs  
1/2 cup nuts, finely chopped  
(Layer 2)  
1 cup cool whip  
8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1 cup powdered sugar, sifted  
(Layer 3)  
3 small packages instant lemon pudding  
3 cups milk  
(Layer 4)  
Chopped nuts  
Cool whip

Combine the ingredients for the first layer. Mix well and place in a 9x13 pan. Pat down and bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Cool completely.

Combine second layer items. Mix well and place over top of first layer.

Combine third layer items and mix well. Place over second layer.

For the fourth layer, spread cool whip over the third layer and sprinkle with nuts. Let set overnight, then cut into squares.

— *Tim Stoelb*

# Springing Back to Life

By **EVERICE MORO**

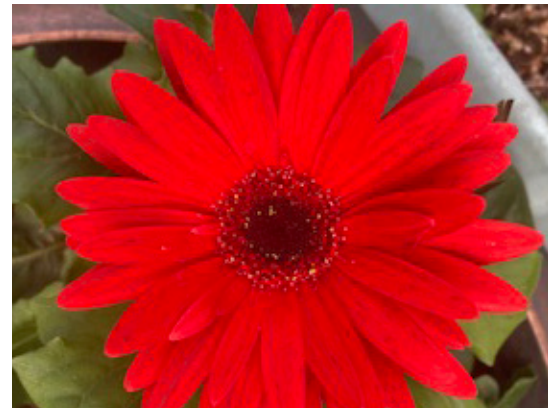
ROSE Zone II Coordinator

**R**OSE stands for Retired Oregon School Employees, but it also means rose, as in that sweet, fragrant, spiky beauty that graces many Oregon gardens. The roses in my yard are springing to life, leafing out and getting ready to bloom in glorious color later this summer. Right now, I am planting peas and parsley, moving plants to clear an area for the next phase of my yard. I recently filled hanging baskets with fuchsias, begonias and geraniums for my daughter, daughter-in-law and myself for Easter. The tomato cages are up and ready for no more frosts! Compost is spread around. The dirt under my nails and my aching back prove it is gardening season.

My house, which was built in 1913, still has some of the original plantings — lilacs, hydrangeas, camellia, bergenia and many roses. Sadly, we are losing one of the lilacs, but I will look for something wonderful to replace it, and hope that what I plant lasts another 100 years.

For the past year, we have all been sequestered in our homes, away from many of our loved ones. We endured a political firestorm election season. Some of us have been sick or known someone who was sick or even died during the pandemic. Worst of all, we could not be physically present for each other or our ROSE friends. Many of us watched too much television... I, myself indulged in 'garden porn,' watching the British Garden Guru Monty Don. He has a mesmerizing voice and gives clear directives to get in the dirt and garden, for your mental health, fresh food from the garden and the sheer beauty which is good for the soul. Now, sitting in my garden listening to the birds sing brings me joy.

After a long year, we were finally able to get our COVID vaccine. I hope this spring is the beginning of the end of our lockdown and that our lives can be enriched by the return of family and friends. I will be inviting all of you to my garden as soon as it is safe. These photos are just a taste until we can meet in person for our retiree picnic. Fingers crossed.



*Photos: My great-granddaughter, Violet (top) and a gorgeous gerbera daisy in my backyard garden, photographed by my sweet grandson.*

## ROSE Calendar

**May 11** – ROSE meeting

**May 27** – OSEA Board meeting

**May 31** – Memorial Day

**June 24-26** – OSEA Virtual Conference

A Member's Union  
**OSEA**  
AFT Local 6732