

# ROSE Newsletter

Retired  
Oregon School  
Employees



Looking out for the rights and benefits of retired OSEA members

## ROSE Leaders

### Chair

Bonnie Luisi  
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### Vice Chair

Merlene Martin  
541-942-8850

### Secretary-Treasurer

Susan Hardy  
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### Zone I Coordinator

Paula Kingsbury  
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### Zone II Coordinator

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### Zone III Coordinator

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### Zone IV Coordinator

Marilyn Moss  
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### 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.

## The Gray Army: Retirees in Action

Who would have predicted everything that happened in the past two years? No school, no social events, restaurant and bar closures, work from home, masks and Zoom meetings? Certainly not I. It has been a long two plus years, but things are beginning to get back to a more normal level.

Beginning this month, my calendar is filling up with meetings that will be held in-person. Who would have thought we would miss all those meetings? Well, maybe it was the people we missed.

Later this month, I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for the first (hybrid) AFT Retiree Program and Policy Council meeting. I am looking forward to meeting everyone. Our Zoom meetings have been productive, but group discussion can be challenging and someone is always having some sort of technical difficulty. Although it will be a short meeting — I fly out Wednesday and return Friday — I am sure we will get the necessary work done and prepare for the Retiree Convention to be held in conjunction with the AFT



By **BONNIE LUISI**  
Chair

Convention in Boston in July.

I thought I might share a little bit about the AFT Retiree Committee, which is comprised of AFT retirees from all represented states and territories. There are approximately 30 of us who meet every 4-6 weeks. This is our first year as a program and policy council, which gives us a

little more power than a committee. We pitched hard for that designation and it finally came to fruition. AFT often refers to us as “the Gray Army” and we have proven to be successful on the phone banking lines!

I am on the Human and Civil Rights Committee with this group. I co-chair the committee with Janice, a retiree from Florida. We have had many discussions on voter suppression, which seems to be happening everywhere. The elimination of polling locations and the long lines that creates can cause problems for seniors trying to cast their votes.

The Pension and Retirement Committee is looking into the funding

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## GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED

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# ROSE Elections

By Merlene Martin  
ROSE Vice Chair

ROSE held elections in April. We do this every year to elect statewide leaders (chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer) and/or zone coordinators. Bonnie Luisi and Susan Hardy won their elections — congratulations! They will each serve a two-year term, Bonnie as ROSE chair and Susan as secretary-treasurer.

We also elected delegates to represent the ROSE membership at OSEA's Conference, which will be June 24-25 in Portland, Ore. After a runoff election for Zone I, we have our Conference delegates:

- Zone I - Kathy Forbes
- Zone II - Jane Carlson
- Zone III - Stephanie Heins-Mueller
- Zone IV - Marilyn Moss
- Zone V - Kathryn Riegger
- Zone VI - Bob Bradetich
- Zone VII - Delores Piersol

Thank you to our delegates for stepping up to represent retirees in your Zone, across Oregon and beyond! And on behalf of your ROSE leadership, I would like to say thank you to all the ROSE members who took time to vote and support ROSE.



Zone II Coordinator Everice Moro writes: "Susan Hardy and I are not only ROSE Board members, we also serve on local Labor Council/Chapter boards. We attended the 2022 AFL-CIO Convention in Portland alongside members of the OSEA Board of Directors."

Pictured, left to right: Moro, Zone I Director Chelsea Shotts, Vice President Teri Jones, Secretary Mary Hofer, Hardy, and Zone VII Director BeAnn Smith.

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of pensions as well as finding ways for members to run for investment boards. AFT President Randi Weingarten has called for a divestment of Russian investments in our pension funds. Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read announced in March that Oregon will dispose of all Russian investments because of the invasion of Ukraine. The committee is also looking into Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Fifteen states have a provision that if you have a pension plan, you cannot pay into Social Security, thus losing access to your Social Security benefits — even if you worked in a Social Security-covered position in the past, you

would not be able to collect those earnings! The GPO limits the amount your surviving spouse will receive from your pension.

The Healthcare Committee was busy this past year with COVID and vaccine updates. They are discussing Medicare for All and prescription drug costs, especially as they pertain to seniors.

The Legislative and Political Action Committee is busy trying to protect Social Security and Medicare. These two programs seem to come under regular attacks. They are also keeping us informed about elections and new threats as they come up.

The Organizing and Mobilizing Committee is looking into a database for retirees to allow easier access for phone banking, rallies and political events. On May 13, there is a rally

protesting the GPO/WEP that I mentioned earlier. Many retirees who live in those 15 states will be on the line. They are looking at ways to assist existing retiree chapters as well as help new chapters become organized.

The Legacy Fund Committee is looking at funding options to assist with the expenses of the Retiree Program and Policy Council. This would allow us to more freely participate in activities that come up.

As you can see, there are plenty of activities and work to go around. The Retiree Program and Policy Council is a fun group of AFT members who may be retired but are not ready to slow down. They are very dedicated to AFT and senior issues and willing to do the work necessary to protect the benefits we have.

# Defending Retiree Rights and Benefits

By Jay Osborne  
ROSE and OPRI Member

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) is the state's largest organization that exists solely to protect the rights and benefits of Oregon's retired public employees. We serve retirees like you by monitoring PERS disbursements, advocating for you at the Legislature and, when necessary, defending you in court. OPRI employs some of the best lobbyists in Salem. Our battle-tested team is working to block any attempts at PERS cuts before they develop.

OPRI began in 1991 to look after the interests of public employee retirees. The three original directors were retired state forester Bill Holtsclaw, retired state highway construction engineer Chuck Fredrickson and retired Oregon State Assistant Attorney General Jack Sollis. Their goal was to provide information on legislative and court activity that could impact retirees and their benefits. Since its inception, OPRI has grown to represent approximately 4,000 members across the state. Our lobbying efforts ensure that retirees have a voice at the Capitol. OPRI's public action committee (PAC) supports candidates on both sides of the aisle who work to protect the hard-earned benefits of public employees. We also established a litigation fund to challenge legislation and rules that adversely affect PERS members in court.

OPRI is a member of the PERS Coalition, which consists of 14 public labor unions and associations, including OSEA. PERS Coalition government relations specialists and lobbyists meet on a periodic basis to discuss various PERS issues and concerns, and to develop strategies which ensure the Oregon Legislature and public continue to support and protect Oregon PERS benefits.

If you are not already an OPRI member, please consider joining us in our efforts to protect PERS benefits.

# ROSE Recipe: Brolliar Family Potato Salad

This recipe is beloved by me and my sisters, our spouses and children, the grands, the cousins and our friends! Spring, summer, autumn and for any reason at all, this is the dish that has been on the family table for longer than my 73 years on the planet. It is still expected to be there when the family gathers.

My mother's potato salad is plain; no fancy ingredients, no mustard or pickles or anything unidentifiable that would make a kid go 'yuck!' I like it best when it is still warm (cooks' treat) and good for a sneaky bite, but it is also delicious chilled — be sure to refrigerate it if you won't serve it immediately. It is easy to adapt for any number of servings; this recipe is good for four to six servings.

5-6 medium-sized potatoes  
4-5 eggs  
1 small sweet or red onion  
Mayonnaise  
Salt and pepper  
Paprika  
Green onions or chives

Put potatoes in a large pot, cover with water and add salt. Boil until a fork pierces the potato easily (about 20 minutes). Rinse in cold water. Peel and dice.

Hard boil and peel the eggs and dice the onion. Combine potatoes, eggs and onion in a large bowl while still warm. Add enough mayo to make the salad creamy and salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and garnish with paprika and green onion.

– *Everice Moro*



# It's Always the Right Time to Buy Union-Made!

**Merlene Martin**  
ROSE Vice Chair

Some of us were so active in our union that after retirement, we missed that involvement. Being part of something bigger than ourselves through union solidarity is a powerful feeling.

A simple, quiet way that we can show our support even in retirement is by purchasing union made products. As I looked through this list I was happy to see that many products I purchase regularly are union-made.

Delicious snacks and go union!

## UNION-MADE SNACKS



- Cheez-It
- Chips Ahoy
- Cracker Jack
- Doritos
- Entenmann's Little Bites
- Mini Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Frito-Lay Chips
- Kit Kat
- Nabisco Nilla Wafers and Keebler Vanilla Wafers
- Orville Redenbacher's Popcorn
- Pirate's Booty
- Quaker Granola Bars

**Text MADE to 235246**

FIND MORE ITEMS:

[aflcio.org/snacks](http://aflcio.org/snacks)

AFL-CIO

**SAVE THE DATE:**

## Union Retiree Picnic

**WHEN:** 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 9

**WHERE:** 2827 SE 35th Place, Portland, OR 97202

**BRING:** Potluck dish to share

**RSVP:** Everice Moro, 503-313-4661 or 503-239-7014

*Please help us celebrate the Social Security and Medicare birthdays by joining with our union friends and the Union Retiree Picnic at the home of ROSE member Everice Moro.*

*Main dish, drinks and serviceware will be provided.*