

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.

ROSE Members Are Union Activists

ROSE members can and do benefit OSEA at the chapter and state levels. Many ROSE members serve on state committees, volunteer at their former chapters and, in some cases, continue to work either full or part-time after retiring. One great way to make a difference is volunteering to support organizing in your former OSEA chapter — you can be meeting with members during working hours when chapter officers are still on the clock.

Currently, we have 12 ROSE members serving on OSEA state committees, which work throughout the year on important projects. Be it scholarships, elections, finance, resolutions, government relations, public relations or the Conference committee, they are all important to running OSEA and putting on a successful Conference. Their work culminates at Conference in June.

ROSE sent nine delegates to OSEA's Conference 2023. Of those, seven had spent the last year working on state committees. I asked a few of the delegates how they felt about being able to attend Conference as a ROSE member. Delores Piersol, Zone VII coordinator, said, "I have served on the Government Relations Committee for



By **BONNIE LUISI**
ROSE Chair

several years. Joining ROSE after retiring allowed me to continue to do that. At Conference, the Government Relations Committee held auctions that went well and raised a lot of money for OSEA's legislative advocacy."

ROSE Secretary Susan Hardy was on the Resolutions Committee last year. She commented, "As a ROSE

member I am always looking for ways to be involved. I enjoy the opportunities to be on committees and involved in Conference."

Kathryn Riegger, Zone V coordinator, sat on the Scholarships Committee, and said, "Serving on an OSEA state committee is a great way for me to stay connected with my union family. It is also beneficial to me to keep informed about current education and labor issues."

ROSE has a fundraiser at every Conference to help cover the costs for travel and lodging at Conference, since our delegates come from all over the state. This year, we had three baskets with different themes: gardening, kitchen and picnic. ROSE Zone IV Coordinator Marilyn Moss, a steadfast ticket seller for many years, told me, "I enjoy selling tickets. It is very rewarding to meet new people every year, and reconnect with people I know."

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GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED

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ROSE: www.facebook.com/RetiredOregonSchoolEmployees

Visit our website

OSEA: www.osea.org
ROSE: rose.osea.org

ROSE Recipe: Chili-Ghetti

This recipe comes from when I was stationed in Edzell, Scotland. The Chief's Association held a chili cook-off at one of our winter events with the locals. My wife, Joyce, put this recipe together based on one we found in *Readers' Digest* and entered it... it turned out to be popular and won the award for "most unusual" chili!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup light sour cream
- 2 cans Hormel vegetarian chili with beans
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 2 cans (14.5 oz. each) stewed tomatoes

In a large pot, brown the beef. Drain off excess fat, then

add tomatoes and chili. Simmer 45 minutes. Meanwhile, cook spaghetti according to package directions and drain. Remove chili mixture from heat and stir in cheddar cheese. Fold in sour cream. Combine the chili mixture with spaghetti and mix well. Pour into a greased, four-quart baking dish. Top with parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, then serve.

– Tim Stoelb, ROSE Zone I Coordinator



Slow Down Aging

By Kathryn Riegger
ROSE Zone V Coordinator

Among newly retired folks, feelings of depression are not unusual. It is a big transition from employment to retirement. Eventually, you will get used to having more time for yourself, whether you read all day or take up a new hobby. Be kind to yourself as you figure out what makes you fulfilled and happy.

Retirement doesn't mean you need to feel old — you have many years ahead of you and

have earned this time! Positive thinking and learning new things are great ways to slow down aging. Embrace what you can do and enjoy the new adventures that will come with the retired lifestyle!

Aging is just another form of personal growth. While you may be a bit slower or experience health issues, your mindset will make a big difference. Your actions and thoughts can change how you feel, for better or worse.

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ROSE members also put on a pre-retirement workshop at Conference, which was well attended. Myself, Zone II Coordinator Everice Moro and Zone VI Coordinator Bob Bradetich covered Medicare, social security, PERS and statewide services available for seniors. Zone

I Coordinator Tim Stoelb showed everyone the new ROSE website where they can find the slides from our presentation, plus a lot more information that is beneficial for retirees.

As you can see, ROSE retirees like to stay busy. Feel free to connect with any of us if you want to get involved. You can even send us a message at rose.osea.org!

Calendar

All ROSE members are invited to our monthly meetings!

ROSE Meetings

- Friday, Nov. 3, at 10:30 a.m.
State Office
- Friday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m.
State Office
- Friday, April 5, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, May 3, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, June 7, at 10:30 a.m.
State Office
- Friday, Aug. 2, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Activists Never Retire

By SARAH WOFFORD
OSEA President

Many times, when I am asked to speak about the future of our labor movement, I say we can only move forward because of the hard work of those who came before us.

The saying “activists never retire” describes no one better than OSEA’s retirees. I continue to learn from the passion and optimism of this group, as well as your honesty and frankness. Most of all, I appreciate your passion to continue to show up and fight for what is right and your optimism that things can and do get better. I have watched you fight for education employees for decades, for rights like access to unemployment benefits and our

students’ individualized education programs (IEPs). It was a longtime coming, but you never wavered in your belief that we would get here someday. And thanks to the groundwork you laid, we have finally won that fight.

Speaking of activists who never retire... let’s get you back into our schools! As I’m sure you remember, the beginning of the school year is the busiest time for those face-to-face and member-to-member conversations that are at the heart of union organizing. We are planning large membership drives at three of our chapters this fall and love to have ROSE members help with outreach. Who can say ‘no’ to our

legendary retirees? No one! Expect a phone call from me soon with details about how you can help.

With love and unity, Sarah Wofford.



ROSE Secretary-Treasurer Susan Hardy supporting a membership drive in Eugene Chapter 1.

OPRI’s 2023 Legislative Session Summary

By JAY OSBORNE
ROSE Member, OPRI Board Member

This is a partial summary of PERS-related bills from the 2023 legislative session.

House Bill (HB) 2822: PERS cost of living adjustment (COLA) — This was OPRI’s priority legislation. As amended, the bill would have required the PERS agency to use the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment over the past two years (14.6 percent total for 2022-23) and apply it to the PERS benefits as a one-time extra payment. **Final outcome:** HB 2822 did not gain traction as the bill was estimated to cost over \$200 million. The bill was not able to make it out of the House Committee.

HB 2296: Re-employment rights for PERS retirees — This bill extends the sunset from 2024 to

2034 on provisions allowing retired PERS members to be re-employed by a participating employer for an unlimited number of hours without a reduction in pension benefits. **Final outcome:** HB 2296 passed and was signed into law by Governor Kotek on May 8.

HB 2601: Divestment of PERS funds from fossil fuels — Legislation was introduced to require the state treasurer to exit from certain carbon-intensive investments and for the state treasurer to develop a plan to protect state investments from risks related to climate change. A survey of OPRI members showed that most PERS retirees opposed this bill due to concerns about compromised investment returns leading to lower benefits. **Final outcome:** HB 2601

failed to make it out of committee.

HB 2740: PERS benefits for part-time faculty — This bill creates a uniform level of retirement plan for part-time faculty at community colleges, calculating hours of employment as lecture and classroom time. **Final outcome:** HB 2284 passed and takes effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

HB 2284: Fee increase for divorced PERS members — Backed by the PERS agency, this bill increases the fees the PERS board may charge for the payment of benefits to an alternate payee in the case of divorce. **Final outcome:** HB 2284 narrowly passed and is effective Jan. 1, 2024.

Parties, Picnics and a Wedding, Oh My!

By EVERICE MORO
ROSE Zone II Coordinator

My summer was a whirlwind of celebrations with my union siblings! In June, OSEA held our annual Conference. The ROSE contingent showed up to participate in the business. Our own Marilyn Moss and Leanna Hakala handled the successful ROSE raffle — thank you to everyone who donated items for our prizes! Bonnie Luisi, Tim Stoelb and other ROSE members put on a retirement workshop that was well-received.

The Union Retiree Picnic was in early August. As we do every year, ROSE members gathered in my backyard along with retirees from AFT-Oregon, SEIU, OFNHP and AAUP. We were honored to have some special guests in attendance: OSEA President Sarah Wofford with her daughter and partner, and Susan Allen from OSEA's government relations office. Thanks to everyone who brought delicious food for our picnic.

The biggest surprise and honor for me was to be the officiant at the wedding of ROSE member Jane Carlson and her longtime partner, Stuart Douglas. A beautiful park setting, family and friends, colleagues from Molalla River School District and childhood friends coming together to celebrate made it a very special day.

The NOLC Labor Day picnic took place at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby. OSEA Zone II Director April Biancone and friends were there with goodies for the kids. Other unions provided entertainment for thousands of others. I took meal tickets and spoke with lots of people. I was happy to see lots of our elected representatives show up to talk with union members, including Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici and Senator Jeff Merkley, Governor Tina Kotek, BOLI Commissioner Christina Stephenson, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Clackamas County Commissioners Martha Schrader and Paul Savas. The rain didn't dampen anyone's fun.

I attended the AFL-CIO Convention last week, representing the Northwest Oregon Labor Council as their vice president, a position in which I represent OSEA. I will share a report on the convention in our next newsletter. Check out the ROSE Facebook page for more photos from our summer activities!



ROSE delegates and OSEA Lifetime members (who are also ROSE members) at Conference 2023.



ROSE Zone II Coordinator Everice Moro officiates the wedding of ROSE member Jane Carlson.



ROSE members and other union retirees at the annual ROSE picnic.