

# 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.

Well, the summer started off busy for me as ROSE Chair. At the OSEA Conference in June, we presented resolutions to be discussed by the membership. ROSE presented a resolution to clear up the language in the Constitution regarding filling mid-term vacancies so that the Vice Chair can move up to the Chair position in a vacancy, as is done in most organizations. The other resolution addressed the quarterly meeting mandate. With virtual meetings available, we meet monthly virtually in addition to the quarterly in-person meetings. Both resolutions passed.

ROSE also holds a raffle that is our main fundraiser. This year we had a kitchen basket, camping basket and gardening basket. The raffle was well received by the members and many thanks to Marilyn Moss, Zone IV Coordinator, for staffing the table throughout Conference. Next year we plan to bring back the ever-popular margarita basket, as our OSEA members have been



By **BONNIE LUIŠI**  
ROSE Chair

asking for it, along with two more to be announced later.

Shortly after the OSEA Conference, I flew to Houston Texas to attend the AFT Convention, which is held every two years. I got lucky - many of the attendees had flight issues or missed flights as the airlines were struck with a glitch, but I had no problems.

There were several resolutions discussed and some impressive speakers. One of the highlights for me was hearing Vice President Kamala Harris speak. President Joe Biden stepped down as the Democratic nominee for President while we were there, and Vice President Harris arrived to address the Convention. I watched her motorcade arrive outside my hotel window. Pretty

fantastic to say the least! Her speech to the Convention and seeing and hearing her in person alleviated my concerns about her readiness to move up to the Presidency. She delivered a spot-on message

for educational and health workers and AFT became  
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## Calendar

All ROSE members are invited to our monthly meetings!

### ROSE Meetings

- Friday, Nov. 1, at 10:30 a.m.  
State Office
- Friday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m.  
Remote via Teams
- Friday, Jan. 3, at 10:30 a.m.  
Remote via Teams

## 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)

Visit our website

**OSEA:** [www.osea.org](http://www.osea.org)  
**ROSE:** [rose.osea.org](http://rose.osea.org)

# Can ROSE Reach You?

By **TIM STOELB**, ROSE Secretary/Treasurer

Communication methods have evolved over the years. Early days saw communications on stone tablets carved with a hammer and chisel. Fast forward to today and we use a plastic tablet and use our fingers or a stylus to record our thoughts. Yet, there are times that some of our more technologically challenged members think that the chisel would be a better choice. Engaging our members across the various mediums (thankfully today's tablets are a lot lighter) can make a real difference in keeping our colleagues informed. One of ROSE's goals is to get information to our members as quickly as possible. And, fortunately, today that can take seconds rather than taking months down a dirt path.

To keep our retirees informed and engaged, we use social media outlets as well as our website ([rose.osea.org](http://rose.osea.org)), where you can find information about ROSE and our leadership team, links to websites of particular interest to retirees, reference materials, newsletter archives, training information,

notices and upcoming calendar events. The website is updated as necessary (yes, when the Geritol kicks in) to keep the information as current as possible. The entire website is accessible to all retirees and prospective retirees.

We also have a Facebook group called ROSE where we place updates and general information for our members. It is a private group, so you must request to join to gain access. We currently have 43 members who are part of this group and there is room for plenty more.

Lastly, ROSE started up a new monthly email newsletter this year just for our members: The ROSE Review. General topics include Social Security/Medicare, Senior News, Member Benefits and OSEA and ROSE news. The information that we provide comes from various reliable sources. Every effort is made to ensure that what is shared with our readers is legit.

Accurate contact information is imperative for us to be successful in keeping you informed. Without

current contact information, we can't be as useful to you as we would like (for some of you, I suppose that's a good thing). The State Office maintains the ROSE membership roster and individual contact information as part of its central database. Our leadership team has been working diligently to get the most current information on our membership but, admittedly, this has been challenging.

The question you need to ask yourself is - "Can ROSE or OSEA reach me if there is something important that they need to let me know about?"

If you're not sure (or hadn't thought of it quite like that), we would ask that you please take a few minutes and update your contact information so we may effectively do our job. You can do so by either contacting the OSEA State Office at (503) 588-0121 or through our contact page on the ROSE website ([rose.osea.org/contact/](http://rose.osea.org/contact/)).

## ROSE Member Receives Major Award At OSEA Conference

By **DELORES PIERSOL**  
ROSE Zone VII Coordinator

As chairperson of the OSEA Government Relations Committee, I was honored to present ROSE member Susan Hardy with the prestigious Member Advocate Award at this year's OSEA Conference.

We chose Susan for this honor because of the many hours that she volunteers to help with OSEA candidate interviews, endorsed candidate's events, and the written and verbal testimony she

gives to our state legislators.

Susan is part of the OSEA Government Relations Update Program (GRUP!): She attends virtual meetings and passes the information on to others.

Susan is always fighting for the right to join a union. She frequently recruits new OSEA or ROSE members through her passion in sharing the benefits of the union and retiree chapter.

CONGRATULATIONS, Susan!



From left to right: Susan Hardy, Delores Piersol and Danika Trosko.

Our ROSE and OSEA members couldn't be more proud to have your help, knowledge and smiling face in our midst.

# OPRI Advocates for PERS Retirees

By JAY OSBORNE  
ROSE Member and OPRI Board Member

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) was created to give Oregon retirees an advocate in the state capitol. Every year, we work tirelessly to protect the benefits of our members through advocacy, lobbying and outreach efforts.

With the upcoming general election, the focus is on Presidential, U.S. Senate and U.S. House races. However, it is Oregon's state government that impacts PERS benefits. This is an opportune time to remind folks about some of the work OPRI does to protect PERS.

We support candidates who stand behind the hard-working people who earn PERS benefits. We look forward to continuing to

advocate for PERS recipients at the Legislature in 2025. OPR-PAC has been instrumental in fighting benefit cuts and changes to the COLA in past legislative sessions and is committed to supporting candidates that support the well-being of retired public employees.

I urge you to take this opportunity to contribute to OPR-PAC. Political contributions are used to advocate on behalf of member interests before the Legislature throughout the year and to support legislative candidates who share our commitment to protect your rights and benefits. Up to \$100/couple or \$50/person is tax deductible if your income is below a certain threshold.

The Oregon PERS Retiree Political Action Committee (PAC) proudly supported legislative candidates who will protect our rights and benefits during the primary election held May 21, 2024. We are pleased to report that a majority of our candidates were successful in their primary races and we will continue to support them in the upcoming general election on Nov. 5.

## OPRI supported:

Rep. John Lively (D) - HD 7  
Rep. Farrah Chaichi (D) - HD 35  
Rep. Travis Nelson (D) - HD 44  
Rep. Hoa Nguyen (D) - HD 48  
Christine Drazan (R) - HD 51  
Rep. Greg Smith (R) - HD 57  
Sen. David Brock Smith (R) - SD 1  
Sen. Elizabeth Steiner (D) - Treasurer  
Tobias Read (D) - Secretary of State

## ROSE Leaders Win AFT Women's Rights Award

ROSE Chair Bonnie Luisi and Vice Chair Merlene Martin were awarded one of the highest honors bestowed by the AFT: the Living the Legacy award.

Established by the AFT's Women's Rights Committee in 1998, the Living the Legacy award honors women in the labor movement who are leaders in advancing women's rights; have organized and led union members at the local, state and national levels over several decades; have served as mentors for other women in labor; and are recognized as community leaders.

The awards were presented during the AFT convention in Houston this past July. At OSEA's Conference in June, President Sarah Wofford called the pair "shining stars" and said it was an honor and a pleasure to celebrate their illustrious histories.

Martin worked for more than two

decades as an educational assistant in the South Lane School District, where she rose to leadership within her chapter. She served on OSEA's Board of Directors for 17 years, including nine as state president.

As president, Martin spearheaded OSEA's affiliation with the AFT, giving classified education employees in Oregon a new voice at the national level.

You can imagine Martin's surprise and emotion when she learned she had received the award. "I really felt humbled and honored - that I hadn't been forgotten," she said.

"To share this honor with Bonnie, who has been my friend and partner for so many years, that has been the icing on the cake," Martin says. "And I didn't know that Sarah nominated us! Sarah recognizes the importance of ROSE and [our] commitment to it. She's a great leader."

Martin continues to advocate for classified - she has been appointed to many statewide committees, served on the South Lane School Board, and is active on the earth and social justice committee of her church in Cottage Grove.

Luisi worked in special education and behavior for the Hermiston School District for more than 22 years. As an OSEA member, she held, at one point or another, nearly every leadership position available. She was elected as zone director, state vice president and state president. She, too, continues to work on behalf of workers everywhere. She has served on the Hermiston School Board, the AFT Retirees Board and the Oregon Educator Benefits Board (OEBC).

- Annette Licitra (AFT)  
Adapted for publication here

# Union Members Picnic Together

By EVERICE BROLLIAR MORO  
ROSE Zone II Coordinator

I have been attending union retiree picnics since my long-ago days as an OSEA Board Member. From Salem and Portland, from parks to private homes, from strictly OSEA to AFT-Oregon and other union groups joining in. Over the years, it has been a celebration of our members and retirement, keeping an eye on the future. We have been hosting the picnic in our backyard for a few years and it is a pleasure to welcome our old friends and make new ones as well.

It takes dedication, cooperation, and the generosity of our unions for this event to happen. Union leaders get together to make a plan and discuss dates and food. Invitations go out via all the publications of the respective unions and social media. Watch for the information next year and put it on your calendar.

We plan, we organize, we hope for pleasant weather and that everything comes together. I worked on sprucing up my garden and yard, my husband shuffled tables and chairs,

and people bring their assigned task or items, whether food, drink or the obligatory watermelons from Hermiston (thank you Bonnie and Delores). I have produced a variety of main dishes and we always have a different menu. The details might change from year-to-year, but it is the act of getting together and sharing a meal, conversation and friendship that is the true gift of the union picnic. Here's to next year and hoping to see you at a union picnic!



The author, Everice Brolliar Moro (right), and her husband, David Moro.



Picnic attendees including Chair Bonnie Luisi (center).

## Members in Action



ROSE members joined Tillamook Chapter 28 for an informational picket and rally on October 14th. From the left: ROSE member Kathy Forbes, ROSE Zone I Coordinator Missy Johnson, OSEA President Sarah Wofford, Vice President Teri Jones and Zone I Director Misty Talerico.

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the first to endorse her in her bid as the nominee.

The AFT officer elections were held: Randi Weingarten and her executive team were re-elected

to their positions. But, more importantly, our own OSEA President, Sarah Wofford, was re-elected as one of Randi's Vice Presidents.

The AFT Convention, like the

OSEA Conference, is always a time to not only do the business of the union, but also see old friends. It was so nice to catch up with union friends I've met over the years.