



Newsletter

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.

OSEA holds its statewide Conference in June each year. Per the OSEA Constitution, the ROSE chapter is allowed to send ten delegates. Our three executive officers are automatic delegates, and the remaining seven are elected in the early spring by the ROSE members in their respective OSEA zones. If you are interested in being a delegate to Conference next year, look for a nomination letter around March.

Conference is where the business of the union takes place. We consider resolutions, discuss and adopt the next year's budget, attend trainings and elect officers. It is a busy time for all, but it does have fun built in. Bingo night continues to be a very popular evening!

Each year ROSE offers a workshop on retirement issues. This year we held a training covering PERS, Medicare, Social Security and the availability of services offered to seniors. We continue to get a lot of interest



By **BONNIE LUISI**
ROSE Chair

in these workshops, and we offer the courses to chapters after Conference by request.

ROSE holds a raffle at Conference each year to help cover Conference costs for our delegation. We usually offer three baskets, which are very popular. Watch the newsletter and meeting minutes to see our basket

themes for this year. If you would like to contribute to the baskets, please let us know!

At Conference, many ROSE members are busy with their assigned committee work. ROSE members currently serve on the following committees: Conference, Public Relations, Elections, Scholarship, Finance,

Government Relations, and Civil and Human Rights. Committees meet throughout the year and work to make OSEA and Conference successful.

As you can see, just because we are retired, does not mean that we are done doing the work of OSEA. We love OSEA and will continue to serve as long as we are able.

Calendar

All ROSE members are invited to our monthly meetings!

- **Friday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m.**
Remote via Zoom
- **Friday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.**
Remote via Zoom
- **Friday, Feb. 6 at 2 p.m.**
Remote via Zoom
- **Friday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m.**
State Office
- **Friday, May 1 at 2 p.m.**
Remote via Zoom
- **Friday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m.**
State Office

GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED

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OSEA: www.facebook.com/osea6732
ROSE: www.facebook.com/RetiredOregonSchoolEmployees

Visit our website

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

From the Desk of Your OSEA President



Our strength as OSEA is not defined by the challenges around us. It is defined by how we show up for one another every single day. As your president, I want to recognize our retiree chapter, whose continued dedication and involvement remind us that OSEA is truly a lifetime commitment to service, solidarity and care.

Every call you make, every meeting you attend, every moment you continue to give back to our members strengthens the foundation of this union. Your leadership does not end with retirement. In many ways, it deepens. You carry with you the history, the wisdom, and the perspective that inspire and guide those still in the schools and workplaces today.

No obstacle can weaken us when we choose solidarity. No setback can silence our voice when generations of members stand together, shoulder to shoulder. As your president, I believe deeply in this

membership, and I am especially grateful for the ROSE's courage, determination, and hope for what lies ahead.

Together, across generations, we will not only endure whatever comes our way. We will rise, we will thrive, and we will continue to grow stronger because we are OSEA and because of the legacy you continue to build.

Thank you, ROSE, for your unwavering commitment and for reminding us all that the spirit of OSEA shines brightest when members carry it with them for a lifetime.

- Sarah Wofford
OSEA State President

Update on Senior Priorities in Politics

By WILLIS HOMANN

OSEA Director of Government Relations and Communications

State level:

We saw a big victory at the state level this session with the passage of HB 3187, which makes it illegal to request or require disclosure of an applicant's age or date of birth - or when they graduated from any educational institution - prior to a job interview. The new law does not go as far as the original bill, which included things like length of employment and retirement or pension plans as a proxy for age, but it's still a big step forward towards curbing age discrimination in Oregon. The business community has pushed back hard every time AARP has introduced this bill, and we are thrilled to see it finally get across the finish line this session. OSEA testified in support of HB 3187 and several ROSE members advocated for it during LED!

Federal Level:

At the federal level, progress for seniors has been more mixed - and is currently up in the air due to the federal shutdown, but here are some highlights:

Overall funding looks relatively stable in the proposed appropriations bill, though questions remain about budget cuts and reorganization at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration of Community Living. Most programs in the Older Americans Act (1965) have either been kept at service level or increased, with increases proposed for senior centers, support services, Native-American services and elder rights. However, there is a quite catastrophic cut in the proposed bill to the Senior Community

Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which provides community service opportunities and job training to individuals 55 and older in order to help them find long term employment. Earlier this year, congressionally approved funding was withheld from the program, leading to tens of thousands of low-income, unemployed seniors getting furloughed. This elimination would threaten the long-term future of this program.

The current bill also includes some funding that the administration proposed cutting - showing continued bipartisan support for senior issues. Section 202 housing for seniors, the Aging-In-Place Home Modification Grant Program, and the Community Development Block Grant were all proposed to

be cut under the administration's plan, but were retained at level funding in the appropriations bill. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program was also cut in the administration's budget but saw a \$35 million increase in the bill.

Remember, these proposals were part of the Appropriations Bill which has not passed - and has led to a government shutdown. Medicare and Medicaid's core services will not be impacted during the

shutdown, but many things will be, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for low-income families and individuals.

What Do You Want to Read?

By MERLENE MARTIN

ROSE Vice Chair and Newsletter Editor

As your ROSE Vice Chair, I am responsible for your ROSE newsletter.

I try my best to publish articles regarding both ROSE and OSEA news and member stories, etc. Now I would really like some feedback from you, the readers.

- What would you like to see in the newsletter?
- Do you have a story to share?
- Do you do charitable work, sit on a board, are you a caretaker, work in a rescue sanctuary, have a funny retiree story, etc.?

I want to put out a newsletter you want to read. I quit putting recipes in as I didn't just want a recipe from the internet. I want to showcase a family recipe or at least a recipe with a story behind it. I guess people ran out of those, so we stopped doing recipes

But then a member asked me why there aren't recipes anymore. When I explained my thinking, she said that she loved the recipes. And she has her mother's cookie recipe that I could use.

As it happens, I have a soup

recipe that a ROSE Board member sent to me and I saved for myself.

Fall is soup weather so I'm sharing it now.

Please give our newsletter some thought and email or call me with your ideas for stories.

Don't be embarrassed or shy, call and we can talk about it.

Contact me:

merlene1953@gmail.com
(541) 915-7818

ROSE Recipe: Potato Soup

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 medium yellow onion, minced
- 1-2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4-5 large russet/gold/red potatoes, cubed (I use russet)
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed

Directions

1. Over medium-high heat, melt butter in a pan and saute onions and garlic until fragrant and soft, about 2 minutes. You can skip this and just add to crock pot.
2. Arrange cubed potatoes in a 3 qt. slow cooker

and pour the broth over it.

3. Add onions and garlic with salt and pepper to taste. Stir to mix.
4. Cover and cook over low heat for 6-8 hours or until potatoes are tender.
5. To thicken mash some potatoes, puree them in a blender, or use a hand blender to break them down to your liking. Or you can thicken using corn starch.
6. Add cream cheese and stir to combine.
7. Cook on high for 30 minutes or until the cream cheese has melted. Whisk any leftover bits if needed.
8. Dish and serve hot topped with bacon bits, cheddar cheese and dill, chives or green onions.

My daughter shared this potato soup with our family over 20 years ago. We all loved it and most of us have served this yummy soup to more family and friends. Almost everyone asks for the recipe after they try it for the first time! From my family to yours, please enjoy.

- Kathryn Riegger, Zone V Coordinator

Summer Retiree Picnic Full of Sun, Fun and Friends

By EVERICE MORO
Zone II Coordinator

For several years ROSE has hosted a Summer Retiree Picnic, often joining with other union brothers and sisters. We have partied in parks from Salem to Portland. For the last several years I have been honored to hold the celebration in my sunny backyard garden to eat and socialize in S.E.



Everice Moro (right) serving food at the Summer Retiree Picnic in her backyard.

Portland. It's always been a great day to visit with old friends in a welcoming environment. For me, it is one of the highlights of the summer.

Meeting new friends and welcoming old friends to have a meal and enjoy the company of others is a pleasure. We share stories about our lives as retirees, talking politics, health issues, pride in our families - all sorts of conversations can be heard all over the garden. Our folks came from the coast, the valley, the desert, and the cities; I love that! I was honored to have OSEA's new Vice President Kris Dowell and our Executive Director Susan

Miller attend. Our friends from AFT-Oregon included members of their executive board and members who attended for the first time.

Pulling off a picnic with 20-35 people means everyone helps. One of the real treats is the variety of food we have enjoyed over the years. Many thanks to the Hermiston contingent for their famous watermelons. ROSE President Bonnie Luisi's baked beans and salads galore, fabulous desserts including Black Magic cake, Missy's spectacular cupcakes, fancy cookies, pies, hot dogs and

hamburgers (thanks to Secretary / Treasurer Tim Stoelb for his excellent barbeque talents), Mexican food, barbecue pork, all the sides you ever needed - no one has ever gone home hungry. Everyone else contributed more delicious goodies and our AFT friends brought all the fixings for the burgers and dogs. We had water, iced tea and lemonade to quench our thirst, and the smart

folks immediately made Arnold Palmers.

After the party I decided to reach out to attendees to get some feedback about our annual gathering, asking if anything needed attention. Here's what I heard and would like to share with you: "It's a joy to gather with fellow union members in your lovely garden."

"I missed the introductions so maybe we need nametags for names and unions?"

"I love seeing your garden. I go home with ideas for my yard."

"Maybe we could move around the garden to talk with other union members like musical chairs and wear nametags."

I was really pleased to hear such positive comments from several people and some ideas to consider for next time. If you have



Attendees at the Summer Retiree Picnic.

ideas, please share them with me.

P.S. I have garden starts if you need hydrangeas or roses or some herbs for cooking. Just holler.

See you next year!