

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.

Getting Ready for Conference

Spring is here and it's time to get ready for the annual OSEA Conference. This year, Conference will be held June 22-24, 2023, at the Holiday Inn Portland — Columbia Riverfront. The theme is "Together We Shine." I am sure there will be several fun events held reflecting this theme.

This is always an important event for OSEA and ROSE. At this annual meeting, the budget is adopted, constitutional amendments and resolutions are discussed and voted on, and OSEA Board members are elected to represent you.

ROSE members have elected our vice chair and delegates from each Zone to attend Conference. Election results are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Per the OSEA Constitution, ROSE is allowed 10 delegates to the OSEA Conference. The three executive officers are automatic delegates: myself, ROSE Chair Bonnie Luisi, ROSE Vice Chair Merlene Martin and ROSE Secretary-Treasurer Susan Hardy. The three of us and the delegates from each Zone will represent ROSE members at Conference.



By **BONNIE LUISI**
ROSE Chair

ROSE delegates have full voting rights on any business brought before the voting body at Conference except issues involving dues assessments and the OSEA budget. That's because we do not pay dues to OSEA any longer, although we do pay ROSE dues.

ROSE members will be holding a retiree workshop at

Conference on Thursday, June 22. We will answer questions about retiring with PERS, Medicare and Social Security. There will be handouts and information available to help OSEA members navigate through the retirement process and get involved with programs to help them in their community.

ROSE always hosts a raffle table which helps with our Conference expenses. This year, we are raffling off three packages with items on different themes: picnic, kitchen and garden. ROSE members collect items throughout the year for our raffle; if you have items to donate, contact any ROSE officer or your Zone coordinator and we will arrange to pick them up.

Enjoy your spring, and hope to see you at the OSEA Conference!

GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED

Like and follow OSEA and ROSE on Facebook



OSEA: www.facebook.com/osea6732

ROSE: www.facebook.com/RetiredOregonSchoolEmployees

Visit our website

OSEA: www.osea.org

ROSE: rose.osea.org

Most Americans Oppose Cuts to Social Security, Medicare

From ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

According to a new AP-NORC poll, a majority of adults support increasing taxes on high income households to pay for Medicare, a plan proposed by President Biden last month. Few are in favor of changes to Medicare or Social Security, such as raising eligibility ages.

Seventy percent of Americans oppose raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67, while 75 percent of Americans oppose raising the eligibility for Social Security benefits from 67 to 70.

Democrats, including President Biden, and some Republicans in Congress have

publicly promised not to cut Social Security or Medicare benefits. However, other Republicans in Congress and several possible GOP presidential candidates continue to promote the idea of raising the eligibility age for Social Security and Medicare.

"Make no mistake: Raising the retirement age is a benefit cut," said Robert Roach, Jr., president of the Alliance for Retired Americans. "Americans of all ages should be alarmed when powerful members of Congress are threatening their earned retirement benefits."

ROSE Recipe: Red, White and Blue Cheesecake Salad

This is the perfect dessert for picnics or a family meal. It is not an old family recipe that has been passed down for years, but it could become one! Give it a try and it might become your family's favorite, too.

2 lbs. strawberries
1 pint blueberries
8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
1 tsp. vanilla extract
Pinch of salt
2 cups powdered sugar
16 oz. Cool Whip, thawed
4 cups mini marshmallows

Prep berries before mixing the cheesecake mixture, as it will set up quickly. Remove berry stems. Cut strawberries into small pieces, similar in size to the mini

marshmallows. Set aside.

In a very large bowl, beat cream cheese, vanilla, salt and powdered sugar until creamy. Add half the Cool Whip and stir until smooth. Fold in the remaining Cool Whip.

Fold in strawberries, blueberries and mini marshmallows. Transfer to a resealable container.

— *Leanna Hakala, ROSE member*



Election Results

Every year, ROSE holds elections in April to choose statewide officers and delegates to OSEA's annual Conference.

With 56 ballots cast, Merlene Martin won re-election as ROSE vice chair. She will serve from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

ROSE members also elected delegates to represent retirees at OSEA's annual Conference. Our delegates will be:

Zone I - Kristi Crooks
Zone II - Vicki Poyser
Zone III - Gloria Lundin
Zone IV - Marilyn Moss
Zone V - Kathryn Riegger
Zone VI - Vacant
Zone VII - Delores Piersol

Congratulations to our vice chair and Conference delegates! And thank you to all ROSE members who took the time to participate in the election.

Spring Poem

By KATHRYN RIEGGER
ROSE Zone V Coordinator

Time to say goodbye to winter, ready to put away warm coats and sweaters.

Waiting still, winter is not ready to relinquish just yet.

Tired of waiting, need to plant, witness the newness, watch the buds appear.

Sad now, plants may drown and die, it is still too wet.

Lingering winter, time to rest your hidebound grip.

Spring is ready to nurture and revitalize.

Ready to connect with nature, watch buds expose a magnificent palette that brings beauty to my eyes.

Retirees at Legislative Education Day (LED)

By EVERICE MORO
ROSE Zone II Coordinator

Every two years, OSEA invites members to gather in Salem to meet, hear and speak with our state elected leaders during Legislative Education Day (LED). This year, four ROSE members were among the more than 100 attendees.

Susan Hardy of Oakridge, who is also ROSE Secretary-Treasurer, appreciated hearing ROSE members acknowledged for our value to OSEA with recognition during general meetings and an invitation to sit in the House of Representatives gallery to watch the vote to codify Classified School Employees Week (CEW) into law. That vote passed, with 51 ayes, six nays and three excused. She sent a shout out to OSEA's government relations staff, Susan Allen and Bob Estabrook, for including ROSE members.

Delores Piersol, ROSE Zone VII coordinator, is a longtime member and former chair of OSEA's

Government Relations Committee. Delores thought LED was exciting because Governor Kotek spoke to attendees and signed the Classified School Employees Week proclamation on stage at LED. Other speakers included State Treasurer Tobias Read, Representatives Hao Nguyen, Ben Bowman, Jules Walters and Courtney Neron, and Labor Commissioner Christina Stephenson.

Former OSEA President Tim Stoelb shared his observations of LED, noting the relaxed atmosphere of the Lattes with Legislators, the sheer number of first timers, great transportation to and from the Capitol and most of all, that attendees were ready to roll and very passionate about the issues they spoke to legislators about. Not every legislator was receptive, but the OSEA members were real troopers! Tim suggests for next

time that LED attendees see the bills we will talk about beforehand and have a lobbying demonstration and suggested talking points for members ahead of their meetings.

My own experience at LED included several highlights. I was able to watch democracy in action from the House of Representatives gallery. I testified before the House Committee on Education on a bill that would place classified representatives on state boards that deal with education issues. And I was able to go with a member to meet with her representative who voted against recognizing classified school employees. I was so proud of this member who spoke so eloquently for herself and fellow members.

All OSEA members deserve recognition and respect. OSEA fights for that and, as ROSE members, we can continue to do so as well.

PERS Online Member Services

By JAY OSBORNE
ROSE Member, OPRI Board Member

Have you logged onto PERS online member services yet? If you are a PERS member, you can create an account at oregon.gov/PERS by clicking the "OMS Log In" button at the top of the page.

Once you have an account, you can log in to see your PERS accounts, such as an Individual Account Program (IAP) account and PERS member account(s). If you are the beneficiary on another account, such as a deceased spouse, you will see multiple accounts listed.

You can use the member services portal to update your personal

information and check your benefit and tax information. There is also a comprehensive "Frequently Asked Questions" section if you need additional information.

The PERS homepage is helpful for retirees, too. There is updated information about bills in the Legislature which could affect PERS. There is a link to the W4-P tax forms where you can update your tax information, including changing your withholding. The "PERS by the Numbers" section is worth checking out for a detailed look at PERS' financial health.

Do you want to attend the next PERS board meeting? You can attend in-person or virtually. All meetings are held at the PERS headquarters in Tigard at 11410 SW 68th Parkway; the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 9, at 9 a.m. A link to attend virtually is made available two weeks before the meeting, along with the agenda and meeting documents. All written testimony and requests to provide oral testimony/comment should be submitted three days or more in advance of the meeting.

Let's Talk ELAF

By DELORES PIERSOL
ROSE Zone VII Coordinator

OSEA's government relations office (GRO) works to protect and support our union's vision for an even better Oregon. OSEA is a nonpartisan organization; we advocate to fund public schools, protect our pensions and support labor rights.

The Education and Labor Advocacy Fund (ELAF) is an easy and effective way to support OSEA's advocacy. ELAF is used to support campaigns for ballot measures and candidates that reflect our union values. It also helps us push back against candidates and measures that would hurt our members. ELAF is funded solely through voluntary contributions, not member dues. **And thanks to the Oregon Political Contribution Tax Credit, you can get a credit for the full amount you donate to ELAF, up to \$50 for yourself or \$100 if you file jointly.**

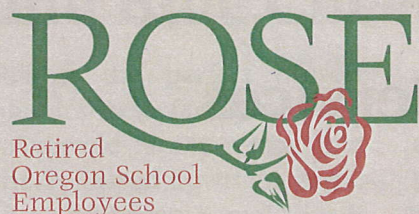
Through GRO, members can get involved in political and legislative issues that impact education workers and retirees. You can become a member advocate to educate and activate fellow members around school board elections, school bond and levy elections, endorsements for candidates and ballot measures, temporary campaign

worker opportunities, town hall meetings and lobbying at the state and national levels.

I am an ELAF contributor myself. I have also served on the Government Relations Committee for more than 20 years, representing both OSEA and ROSE. I am proud to be involved in OSEA's advocacy because I have seen how important it is to know what our elected representatives are doing for our students, schools, education employees and Oregon workers in general.

Building relationships with our legislators has been an incredibly positive experience for me. Knowing that my contribution helps OSEA and ROSE members work together to make sure kids have good schools and the funding needed to give them a good education is important to me, as it is to all OSEA members. That tax credit is the icing on the cake!

I hope you will join me in supporting OSEA's political advocacy. Visit www.osea.org and click on "Government Relations" at the top of the page for information on how to contribute to ELAF and other ways to get involved.



Calendar

All ROSE members are invited to our monthly meetings!

ROSE Meetings

- Friday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m.
State Office

Other events

- OSEA Conference
Thursday-Saturday, June 22-24
Portland
- ROSE Summer Picnic
Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 11:30 a.m.
Portland

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
ROSE SUMMER



Join us for lunch and chit-chat
with other union retirees!

Entree provided; please bring
a side dish to share.

WHEN:
Wednesday, Aug. 9
11:30 a.m.

WHERE:
Everice Moro's Home
2827 SE 35th Place
Portland, OR 97202