

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.

Welcome to 2025! Another year is now behind us. Seems the years go by faster than they used to.

Are you, like me, one of the 43 percent who ditch their New Year's resolutions by the end of January? I have tried to lose the same weight for several years. I guess it is just not going to happen! What I have decided to do is to make better habits and more informed decisions this time around.

One thing my husband and I plan to do this year is something many of us put off until it is necessary to do: Prepare for the next stages in our lives.

The question of either remodeling our home so we can age-in-place or thinking about selling and downsizing is daunting. Either way, that means cleaning out! The work of getting rid of unnecessary items is hard for me, but I will weed out what I can. I am sure my



By **BONNIE LUISI**
ROSE Chair

daughter will appreciate what I can accomplish. Goodwill, here I come!

Then there is the work that needs to be done to ensure our estate planning is up-to-date. I have found the ROSE website to be a valuable place to start for this task.

Did you know that the ROSE Website (rose.osea.org) has several forms that you can download to help you as you age? Click on the References tab at the top right of the website and scroll down to Estate Planning and Forms. The memorial planning section is a fillable form listing funeral arrangements, people to

notify and financial information. There is space to fill in historical information that may be useful in writing an obituary.

There is an Oregon Estate Planning checklist, with links to useful forms. There is a form for making an Advance Directive to use if you are

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Calendar

All ROSE members are invited to our monthly meetings!

ROSE Meetings

- Friday, Feb. 7, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, March 7, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, April 4, at 10:30 a.m.
State Office
- Friday, May 2, at 2 p.m.
Remote via Zoom
- Friday, June 6, 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

Holiday Giving with ROSE

By MERLENE MARTIN
ROSE Vice Chair

The holidays are a time of giving. Here are some ways our ROSE members did just that.

I would like to start by introducing you to Joyce Stoelb, wife of OSEA Life Member and ROSE secretary/treasurer, Tim Stoelb.

Tim and Joyce met and married in Japan where they were both serving in the U.S. Navy. Joyce retired from the Navy after four years because there were no guarantees that she and Tim would remain stationed together. Tim continued to serve for 21 years with his loving wife by his side. They were stationed in the United States, Japan, Iceland, and Scotland, welcoming the opportunity to experience multiple countries and cultures abroad.

Joyce's father passed away while they were serving in Scotland, so Joyce and their son Dan returned to Roseburg to care for her mother. When Tim retired, he joined his family in Roseburg and started his second career as the network technician for the Roseburg School District.

Meanwhile, Joyce worked for a medical insurance company and then briefly for a lawyer, finally becoming a stay-at-home mom and designated caregiver for her mother.

So why have I introduced you to Joyce Stoelb? Because she is a special lady and the very picture of a giving person.

An avid crafter, Joyce learned to knit from her mother along with six of her friends in 4-H. As a youngster, she won a first-place ribbon at the Douglas County Fair for a knitted baby sweater. When I asked her how many

people she has taught to knit, she chuckled and said, "Just a few. Unlike my mother, I do not have the patience."

If knitting was not enough, her grandmother taught her embroidery. Do you all remember the cross-stitch kits you could buy? I do! Well, it turns out that Joyce used to stitch new patterns for cross stitch companies for promotional materials. She was so talented that companies would photograph her craftwork for the printed pictures in the catalog. (Yes, she received compensation for her work.)

When Tim became involved in OSEA, Joyce, as usual, was by his side. Through OSEA, Tim learned of the Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA)'s Presents from Partners program that provides gift packages to union families across the state who need help with their holidays.

Tim supported the program over the years but even more importantly, so did Joyce. Joyce began knitting and donating her beautiful afghans for the holidays and has continued to do so for at least the last 10 years. Most of her donations have gone to LCSA, nursing homes, hospital birth and neonatal units. More have gone to neighbors and friends. Can you imagine how many households in Oregon now have her afghans in them?

I asked Joyce where her favorite place to knit was. Her quick response was: "In my chair watching football!"

Lastly, I just had to know if she had a favorite afghan pattern. She said, "Why yes, and I just completed it." She continued, "I knit a lot of afghans for others but

never for me. This afghan was for me." I would say it is about time!

Joyce, thank you for being so giving of your resources, your time, and your afghans. You are one special human being!

This article highlighted Joyce (and Tim) but there are others among us who have also contributed to our communities this holiday season. Here are some of them.

Missy Johnson, along with other members of the Bethany Free Lutheran Church, meet every Tuesday and pack 200 lunches for the homeless and 40 for the Christian based men's rescue mission. On the Tuesday before Christmas, they provided extra staples for a Christmas meal.

We have Barbara Ritoch from Hood River who delivers poinsettias to those who are homebound with the Woman's Fellowship at her church.

Marilyn Moss from Eugene does her part in helping her local rehab center by choosing names to gift at Christmas.

Susan Hardy of Oakridge helps set up the local Sugar Plum Festival. She also volunteers at the local warming center.

I was able to support our Guatemalan refugees by selling and delivering Christmas wreaths through the Earth and Social Justice Committee at the First Presbyterian church.

OSEA staff members also did their part in collecting toys and gifts for union families holiday gift packages.

After all, we belong to a huge union family here in Oregon and beyond.

And now, on to 2025!



Left: Missy Johnson packs lunches with other volunteers.



Right: Barb Ritoch with a poinsettia.

Below: Susan Hardy at the Sugar Plum Festival.



Right: Joyce Stoelb teaches her granddaughter to knit (top).



A sampling of Joyce's afghans (bottom).

Remembering a Legend: Pat Gest

By **BONNIE LUISI**
ROSE Chair

On Saturday, Dec. 14, several ROSE members and OSEA staff attended the celebration of life for one of ROSE's founders. Pat Gest was OSEA's first female President (1974) and became a Field Representative before moving up to the Director of Field Operations. Upon her retirement, Pat was awarded a Lifetime Membership in OSEA. Over the years, Pat enjoyed going for breakfast with her OSEA friends. ROSE

was formed from these breakfasts and get-togethers.

Pat was an avid OSEA champion and has attended many Conferences in her role as a Lifetime member of OSEA.

OSEA is asking anyone who has photos or stories about Pat send them to the Communications team at communications@osea.org. These will be shared at Conference 2025.

Why is Legislative Education Day (LED) Important to YOU?

By TIM STOELB
ROSE Secretary/Treasurer

Do you know who your representatives in the Legislature are? Have you ever had the occasion to need their help or the opportunity to visit with them? Were you happy with the outcome of previous legislative sessions? Do you like the new laws that were passed? If you answer NO to any of these questions, you might want to consider joining forces with your fellow ROSE and OSEA members this coming session and get involved. LED this year will be held on March 2nd and 3rd at the Salem Convention Center. This forum is the perfect opportunity to educate state legislators on not only OSEA issues but ROSE (and senior citizen) issues as well.

Advocacy work is an integral part of legislative sessions. It is your opportunity to have a say in the development and passage of bills. As a former school employee, LED gives you the chance to share your experiences with both state legislators and OSEA members in a small group setting. Many ROSE members have gone before you side-by-side with active OSEA members to legislator offices and made the case for protecting our rights and livelihood.

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unable to communicate your medical wishes. There is a Durable (Financial) Power of Attorney that will allow a designated person to manage your financial affairs. There is also information on a Living (Revokable) Trust that

Can this be a daunting task? Absolutely! Can it be intimidating? Sure! Can it be rewarding? You bet! There is nothing more rewarding (and frankly exciting) than to experience that "ah ha" moment on those legislator's faces during these visits.

Our state legislators look forward to LED and value our input. These visits give them the opportunity to ask specific questions and get a better understanding as to why a bill is being proposed in the first place. Meeting with legislators gives YOU the chance to discuss, from your perspective, how a proposed bill may potentially impact you, your fellow ROSE retirees and education in general.

Attendees will have a chance to hear from our state's elected leaders over the course of these two days. They will share their insights on the importance of LED and the legislative process. Here is a glimpse of what to expect during LED:

LED kicks off on Sunday with a one-day preparation session. Participants will be briefed on OSEA's legislative priorities and get tips and talking points for speaking with lawmakers. We

need to have ROSE members in attendance to help ensure that retiree concerns are brought up during these discussions. Later that day, attendees will receive visit assignments with specific legislators. Prior to those visits, small groups will be gathered to discuss a strategy for how to address legislative priorities with their assigned politicians.

On Monday, OSEA members will meet with their elected representatives and attend committee hearings. All meetings with legislators are scheduled in advance with the allotted time usually sufficient to allow for discussion. Afterwards, participants will be asked to provide feedback on the meeting to the Government Relations team to help with follow-up.

All attendees (active OSEA members and ROSE retirees) are afforded meals, lodging and mileage for this event. It should be noted here that lodging space will more than likely be limited so registering as soon as possible for the event is important. For more information contact the Government Relations Office in the OSEA State Office at (800) 252-6732 or email info@osea.org. We hope to see you there!

transfers ownership of assets directly to your heir without having to go through probate. We've included a template for a Last Will and Testament, as well as an explanation of the difference between a will and a trust. There

are directions for the signing requirements to ensure that each of these forms are legal.

If you have not reviewed your estate plan, look at the ROSE website and make 2025 the year to get your plans in order.