



OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CHALKBOARD

The OREA Newsletter

Fall 2021

OREA Officers 2019-21

Darlene Cook - Co-President

11803 NE 124th Ave. #C22
Vancouver, WA 98682
541-331-3282
darmacook@gmail.com

Lona Odom - Co-President

4604 SW Perkins Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-379-3714
odom@wtechlink.us
lonaodom@gmail.com

Bonita Fillmore - Vice-President

1803 Lancaster Ave.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
541-884-2374
bfillmore55@q.com

Teri Magee - Secretary

6066 Bethel Heights Rd. NW
Salem, OR 97304
503-779-3684
terimagee@aol.com

Vic Scaravilli - Treasurer

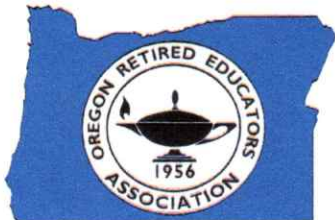
3630 Collier Lane
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
541-884-6905
vicdebscaravilli@gmail.com

Paul Zastrow - Ex. Director

5690 Collins Rd.
Hood River, OR 97031
541-354-1002; 503-754-4318
pzastrow@gorge.net

OREA Website:

www.oreaweb.com



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to a new year and a new biennium in OREA! With the ups and downs of the past eighteen months, everyone is ready for a change, for a chance to go back to normal, to meet in-person, and to promote the activities and projects for which OREA is known.

The new year is on the horizon and there are glimmers of hope for the future. The State Fair was back in swing, allowing for the Criterion Schoolhouse to again be on display to the public. Carol Greeno organized the usual supplies and coordinated the many workers to allow this historic landmark to be enjoyed by all. The Criterion Schoolhouse Committee has worked tirelessly on the necessary repair and upkeep to preserve this precious jewel. Thank you all for your dedication to this ongoing project!



A Memorial Board Scholarship was awarded last spring, with plans to give funding to a graduate-level student studying healthy aging again this year. With the Book Fairy program, Teachers Brigade enriched the learning experience of many students during the COVID shutdown. The program continues to provide in-classroom and online help by encouraging retired educators and qualified volunteers to assist in supporting students who need additional help. OREA is working on requirements for a "We Care Grant" sponsored by NRTA; and with the help of AMBA, we have increased state membership numbers and offered great benefits to our members.

Your Board of Directors met recently to make plans for the upcoming year. In order to complete the business of our state association, a ZOOM convention has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please plan to attend as we will be voting on a new slate of officers for 2021-2023 and several changes to our current Bylaws and Standing Rules. Although we have a candidate for President and Secretary, we still need someone to step up for the position of Vice-President. Please consider running for one of the offices of our state association. It's very fulfilling, rewarding, and a lot of fun!

With the election of officers next month, my years as your State President will come to an end. I would like to thank you for your enthusiasm, guidance and support. You were there when I needed you and embraced me with friendship. You made it possible for me to represent you and to conduct the business of our state association in a timely, efficient and enjoyable manner. You are the best! As I reflect on the past four years, I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to represent you and our Oregon Retired Educators Association. I am humbled by the honor and privilege of serving as your State President from 2017-2019 and with Lona Odom, State Co-President from 2019-2021!

Darlene Cook, State Co-President

Unit News

Unit 13 (Central Oregon)

In-Person Scheduled

COREA, Central Oregon Retired Educators Association, Unit 13, has an agenda and a speaker for our first meeting in 17 months. An organizational meeting on August 18th, gave us an opportunity to plan for our reopening with monthly meetings at Redmond's Zion Lutheran Church. Many members are ill, taking care of family members, or no longer interested in attending future meetings. The call is out for new members.



Our first speaker for the September 20th meeting is the director of the Mountain Star Relief Nursery in Redmond. Members attending this meeting have been asked to bring a package of baby diapers for the Relief Nursery.

Future speakers include a seamstress who makes and sends clothing made from donated pillowcases to missionary sites around the world and an insurance agent who represents retired educators in Oregon.

We plan to continue most of our projects serving the Central Oregon area. Fundraisers, nutritional support and scholarships are on our agenda. A new treasurer is busily reorganizing our financial books and is ready to collect dues. We look forward to our catered lunches by Tate and Tate Catering. We may even begin new service projects for providing surprises for local adult care facilities.

Personally, I am looking forward to a positive service year as president of COREA!

Submitted by Mary J. Reed, President, Unit 13

Unit 5 (Klamath County)

Looking Ahead

Unit 5, Klamath County has managed to continue their meetings with good turnouts. We had our year-end picnic at the Scaravilli home with lots of members attending. We are starting our year with desserts/snacks at a local park with the Executive Board acting as hosts. We have an exciting year of meetings scheduled and have already adopted our school for grants and projects. In these uncertain times, we realize contact will be minimal with teachers, but we still can offer funding for school projects. We are excited about 2021-22 and know that more positive times are ahead.

Submitted by Jo Ogborn, President, Unit 5

Unit 9 (Pendleton Area)

Member Spotlight

Karen Rose, member of Unit 9, is doing exceptional work in her community. She has spent over 1,000 hours working to better the lives of the homeless. She co-chaired a project to feed the homeless a Sunday afternoon dinner and spent hours each week gathering food from various sources, coordinating the dinner, and even cooking the meals. Karen also helps the homeless by assisting with transitional housing intake and accessing facilities for showering and laundry. Karen is a member of several community organizations and gives time to all of them. She is a cheerful, hard-working, and dedicated individual. She was recently featured in the NEA/OEA magazine. You can read more about her and the projects she coordinates at www.nea.org/member-spotlight/karen-rose.



Submitted by Marge Normington-Jones

Keep Pulling!



Thanks to the combined efforts of Unit 9 and Unit 20 (Mid-Columbia), 85 pounds of pull tabs are on their way to the Ronald McDonald House in Portland. Keep saving them for our next in-person convention. Remember every donation is appreciated!

Submitted by Lona Odom, Unit 9 member+State Co-President

Criterion School

Thank you, Criterion School Volunteers!!

I want to thank all volunteers who helped at the Criterion School during the State Fair. You helped spread the history of our schoolhouse to many visitors.

People noticed our new windows that opened and let the wonderful breeze flow through. It was pleasant to work in warm weather.

We had fewer visitors this year with 1,426 people and 2 dogs! From that group, we have 3 who want to donate books and 1 visitor who wants to volunteer at the school next year. We had \$215 donated as of now. We had visitors from many places - New Mexico, California, Washington, North Carolina, Arizona, Nevada, Alaska, Texas, Michigan, Tennessee, Florida, Arkansas, Australia and Kenya.

Here is a list of the many who volunteered - some more than once!

Salem, Unit 2

Louise & Keith Putman
Lesley Johnson
Carol (2X) & Dale Greeno (2X)
Kay McCann
Brenda Spangler (2X)
Harriet Livingston
Carolyn Hutton
Shirley House
Ardeth Woods
Joani Hayward
Matt Falby
Marlene Boltman
Vona Peace
Phil Carrier
Janet Hernandez
Pat Eder

Salem Friends

Mike & Chris Henich
Brian & Karen Borton
Sheryl & Lowell Wetzel
Steve Spangler
Janae Aydelott
Julie Aydelott
Bev Quiring (2X)
Pam Bley
Pat Gee
Val & Diane Barnes

The Dalles Historical Society

Jean & Karl Vercouteren
Jill Durow

Vancouver, Washington

Darlene Cook
Jan Guerci

Portland, Unit 1

Pete & Elaine Nelson
Tamara Malcome

Clackamas, Unit 39 (and friends)

Jan (2X) & Pat Eck
Nancy Phelps
Marge Crawford

King City, Unit 34

Nancy Lewis

Pendleton, Unit 9

Lona Odom

Klamath County, Unit 5

Vic & Deb Scaravilli

Albany, Unit 18 (and friends)

Carla Mundt
Jane Donovan
Dale Edwards
Carole Almquist
Alan Edwards



Lona Odom & Darlene Cook, our OREA State Co-Presidents taking a turn in the schoolhouse.



The newly painted Criterion School.
Photo from Pat Eck



Bev Quiring and Pat Eder at the end of their shift at the Criterion Schoolhouse - 2021.

Paulitics



One could easily say that as long as the Oregon Legislature is not in session, little can go wrong. But...that often is not the case. The legislature passes laws, the governor signs the bills, and then the bureaucrats take over creating procedures and rules that we all have to go by. Case in point - every 10 years, the state is required to look seriously at redistricting - getting congressional, state representative and senate districts realigned based on population and a geographic point as well as areas of common interest (both from a geopolitical and economic basis). With Oregon eligible for a new US congressional district, our 6th, it is incumbent on legislative agreement. If no agreement is reached,

the issue goes to the Secretary of State. Legal challenges may ensue, but all must be done before the May 2022 Primary Elections - with a deadline of early March 2022.

The latest iteration of the legislative process gave schools a record amount of money, but there are still school districts that have yet to be made whole - losing money that was previously allocated. Additionally, the Student Success Act has been almost fully funded and there is more money available to implement the CTE programs. Lastly, from the federal level, we have any number of supplemental dollars for COVID relief, equity issues and much more. But these are one-time dollars that will not be sustained.

Our real challenge is for us to each do what we can to reach out to our elected representatives and senators so they know who we are - develop a relationship and they will be more likely to listen to our comments and requests. Bottom line - get involved as it truly is up to us to advocate for our kids in the school system! Get those commitments early and broadly to make them count.

Teachers Brigade

Teachers Brigade assists students, teachers, and parents/guardians by supporting programs to enrich a child's learning experience. It serves communities in NW



Oregon and SW Washington for now. The website is a tool if your unit chooses to adopt and support a school during this 2021-22 school year. Teachers Brigade provides in-classroom and online help by encouraging retired teachers and qualified volunteers to assist in supporting students who need

additional instructional support. We will help you get started. Check teachersbrigade.org for volunteer opportunities or call 503-830-5077 to get started.

Submitted by Cynthia O'Mealy,
director of Teachers Brigade



OREA ZOOM CONVENTION

October 26th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

ALL members are invited!

**Purpose: Election of officers and voting on
proposed changes to the Bylaws and
Standing Rules**

The changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules are
attached to the Chalkboard.



OREA Memorial Board Scholarship Fund

The OREA Memorial Board is still helping graduate students complete their education by providing scholarships to students studying in the area of healthy aging. We are looking forward, this winter, to seeing who our scholarship winners will be and what contributions they plan to make to the lives of senior adults.

We are in transition as we seek out a new treasurer for the board. Our long-time treasurer, Cheryl Hafer, has resigned for health reasons. She was a faithful board member and carried out the treasurer role with diligence and her contribution will be missed. Thank you, Cheryl, for all your hard work and for leaving things in such good order!

It is our hope that a new treasurer will step forward to fill this role. Communication via e-mail and ZOOM are important skills needed. Experience in Excel would be helpful, but not required. Check writing and the annual filings (to keep the tax-exempt status) are the most important responsibilities, but are not cumbersome. Keeping the president and board updated is critical. If you would like to talk more about volunteering for this position, please contact Teri Magee at terimagee@aol.com or by phone at 503-779-3684. Thank you!

If you would like to help support this ongoing fund, we welcome all donations. Please make your checks payable to:

OREA Memorial Fund (Fed. TIN#23-7385870)

Mail them to:

OREA Memorial Fund c/o Teri Magee
6066 Bethel Heights Rd NW Salem, OR 97304

Thank you for your ongoing support!!!

Submitted by Teri Magee,
President-OREA Memorial Board

2021-2022 OREA Contacts

Community Coordinator (Volunteer Hrs/Awards)

+ CHALKBOARD

Send volunteer hours/award information + CHALKBOARD articles:

Deborah Scaravilli

3630 Collier Lane, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

541-884-6905, vicdebscaravilli@gmail.com

OREA Website (hosted by AMBA)

Lona Odom+Paul Zastrow - Contact people

Memorial Board

Teri Magee (Scholarships)

6066 Bethel Heights Rd NW, Salem, OR 97304

503-779-3684; terimagee@aol.com

Send memorial contributions to: Teri Magee

Schoolhouse Coordinator

Carol Greeno

6075 Bethel Heights Rd. NW, Salem, OR 97304

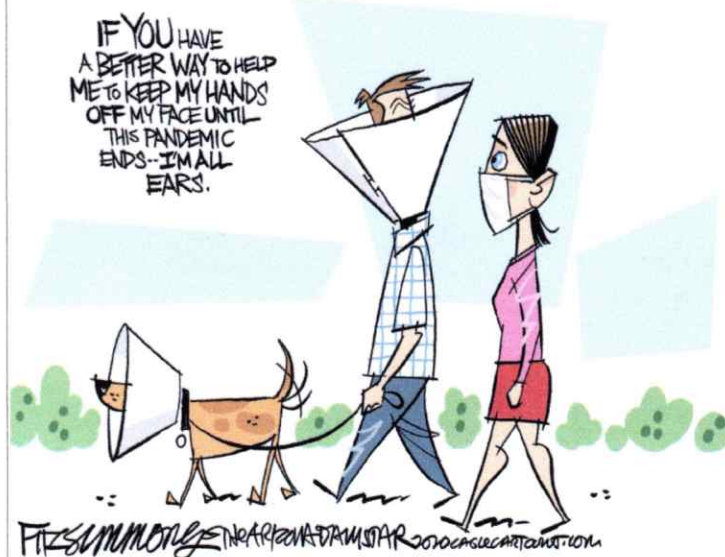
541-362-6015; daleegreeno@yahoo.com

Teachers Brigade

Cindy O'Mealy

192 Laurel Lane, Washougal, WA 98671

503-830-5077; cymealy@gmail.com



AMBA Benefit Advisors

Will Medicare cover your emergency transportation? Maybe..

When it comes to the cost of ambulance and life flights, there should not be any doubt in whether you're covered by Medicare, but unfortunately this is not the case. It only takes a little bit of reading and a little bit of time to discover that you may be covered. With the rising cost of ambulance services and the astronomical cost of life flight and air-med jets, may be probably isn't going to cut it. Add to that the fact that the federal government is slashing billions from the Medicare programs, and it becomes clear that counting on Medicare to cover your life saving transportation may not be a good plan.

Some of you may be sitting here reading this thinking, what are my options? Emergency Air Ground Transport is one of the biggest gaps in insurance coverage, and the repercussions can be crippling. It does not take long to research countless people left financially crippled from the cost of life saving transport. You would not be alone in wondering, what choice do I have?

Luckily, the Oregon Retired Educators Association has been doing exactly what they set out to do. Provide answers and benefits to the people that have served our communities for years. The OREA has noticed the rising costs associated with emergency air ground transport and set to work to do something about it.

The Oregon Retired Educators Association has enlisted the help of the world's premier emergency transportation solutions specialists MASA. MASA (Medical Air Services Association) began offering emergency air coverage in 1974. Since then, they have become the undisputed leader in all emergency transportation. Today, they are a global organization with 18 international locations, providing protection to nearly 2 million members world wide.

You may be asking yourself, what is the advantage they provide over other providers in the industry? They offer a membership program (no underwriting or health questions) that includes the most comprehensive fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, and ground ambulance coverage. They offer complete protection from financial catastrophes caused by unexpected medical transportation bills. Let's delve into some of the distinct benefits that MASA offers:

<u>Emergent Air Transportation:</u> In emergency scenarios where treatment is time-sensitive and specialized care is not locally available, MASA will pay members' out-of-pocket expenses associated with emergent fixed-wing and rotary aircraft transport. All flights must be ordered by a first responder or transferring physician who deems air transport as medically necessary. This benefit is only valid within the continental US, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada.	<u>Non-Emergent Air Transportation:</u> If a member requires a higher level of care after being stabilized, MASA will coordinate the inter-facility transfer to the nearest facility capable of providing such care either by a medically equipped ground ambulance, helicopter, or fixed-wing aircraft as may be required to fit the necessary specialized level of care.	<u>Emergency Ground Transportation:</u> MASA will arrange and provide ground ambulance for a member to and from the air ambulance. Basic membership includes ground ambulance transports to and from the air ambulance in conjunction with use of emergency air transportation.
<u>Organ Retrieval/Transportation:</u> MASA will provide air transportation of an organ to be used in an organ transplant. They will also fly members to the commercial airport nearest the medical facility where an organ transplant is scheduled to happen.	<u>Recuperation/ Repatriation:</u> If a member is hospitalized while away from home, MASA will fly them to a medical facility near their home to recuperate around family and in familiar surroundings.	<u>Escort Transportation:</u> If a member requires emergency air transport, MASA will fly the member's spouse, family member or friend to accompany them in the air.
<u>Visitor Transportation:</u> If a member is hospitalized while away from his/her home for more than 7 days, the member may select a family member to visit them during confinement. MASA will provide round trip, common carrier air transportation for the person selected.	<u>Grandchild & Minor Return:</u> When minor children or grandchildren are left unattended as a result of a member using MASA air ambulance service, MASA will provide one-way common carrier air transport for return of the children to the commercial airport nearest the place of residence of the children.	<u>Vehicle Return:</u> MASA will return vehicles such as cars, vans, RVs or trucks owned or rented by members after using emergency transportation. The vehicle will be carried to the member's place of residence or rental vehicles will be returned to the nearest rental company office or agent.

Mortal Remains Transport:

In the event a member dies while away from his/her place of residence, MASA will return his/her remains to the commercial airport nearest his/her residence.

Worldwide Coverage:

MASA will provide coverage in most countries around the world. Be sure to send your itinerary ten days prior to traveling. That way, we can prepare our team and ensure the reach of your individual coverage.

Pet Return:

If a member utilizes one of our services while a pet is in their possession, we will provide return transportation of the pet to the member's residence.

Travel Advisor:

MASA provides access to current information about health and safety issues in the countries where MASA members intend to travel.

Physician Search:

MASA will assist members in locating a licensed physician, in the event they require medical care while traveling internationally.

Emergency Message Center:

Members will be given access to our Emergency Message Center where they can easily relay emergency messages regarding their health or safety to family/business contacts while traveling internationally.

Attorney Advisory Services:

In the event a member requires legal services while traveling internationally, MASA will assist you in locating a licensed attorney.

Translation Services:

In the event a member requires air transportation while repatriation/recuperation, return transportation or mortal remains transportation while traveling internationally, MASA will provide professional translation services to and/or on your behalf.

Currency Assistance:

If a member requires emergency transportation during international travel and does not have the ability to access foreign currency, MASA will provide up to \$50,000 USD. Members just provide evidence that they can reimburse MASA for the currency.

As you can see MASA provides the most comprehensive coverage that could save your financial nest egg. You have worked hard for your money, and no one wants to see you lose that in an unforeseen emergency. Unfortunately, we can't stop bad things from happening. All we can do is plan for when it does. Do not count on the maybe, count on MASA. If you do not take my word for it, take it from people that have been saved by MASA.



"I am thrilled that I joined MASA. It is probably the smartest thing I have ever done! Last year, I was flown from my ER to a hospital 200 miles away. It was a scary time, but I never had to worry about the transportation costs. As a matter of fact, I never saw a bill for the airplane, which I later found out cost \$79,999. I did receive a small bill for the ambulance transportation, but I sent it to MASA and it was also covered.

Living in a small town with limited hospitals and doctors made me decide that MASA would be a very wise choice. I have heard too many horror stories from friends of being flown out of town for medical care and then getting hit with a massive bill for the transportation. I have told all my friends about MASA and many have joined after hearing of my experience. I will continue to encourage people to join, as it really is a smart choice. Thank you, MASA, for being there!"

K. Jorgensen

"Without my MASA membership, I would have had to finance the payments for the ambulance trips for quite some time. I am extremely grateful that I made the decision to join MASA several years ago. Not only were they there when I needed help in this instance but several times in the past I have traveled outside the United States and Canada and by making prior arrangements I knew that if I ever faced a medical emergency MASA would be there for me. Thank you, MASA! I'm a member for life."

P. Ciceri



"My husband and I are lifetime members of MASA and were very pleased that the residual cost of my ambulance service was fully paid by MASA. This was the first time that we used your service, and we are so grateful that we became MASA members when we did. As we age, the potential for needing the services offered by MASA will increase. Knowing that MASA will cover the expenses incurred at the time of need is a great relief. Thanks again for taking care of my ambulance bill."

N. Tobey

Contact AMBA District Manager Mark Cubic for information (206-704-0513).

Submitted by Garret Mowery, AMBA