



OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CHALKBOARD

The OREA Newsletter

2026 Convention Issue

OREA Officers 2024-26

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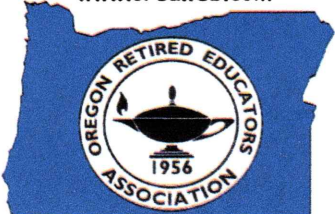
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Yay! It's convention time again! Now, some of you cynical types out there may think I am thrilled because we will hold our election and I have timed out, but that's not the case. I am thrilled because our convention gives us an opportunity to get together, share ideas, get to know one another and support each other in our quest to better our lives and improve our communities.

What an amazing time and place to have a convention! We will be celebrating our country's 250th birthday in Independence, Oregon. Wow! Our hosts, OREA Unit 2, have chosen a fabulous theme, **America: 250 Years of Growth, Change and Hope**. They have been busy planning and arranging engaging speakers, enlightening topics and opportunities for our growth and making connections.

Independence is one of my favorite places to go for a convention. It's a lovely, small, old town with a beautiful river flowing by the hotel. People are friendly there. The meeting rooms are a short walk away, but they are wonderful. (There is also limited parking there if walking is a problem.) It's a great place to stay and explore for a while.

Convention is vital to our organization to handle the business of the group. So, yes, there will be an election of officers, a passing of the budget and any other business to bring before the membership. It is a chance to recognize members for their achievements and to honor those we've lost. It helps us to value the volunteers who make our association an important and integral part of our communities throughout Oregon.

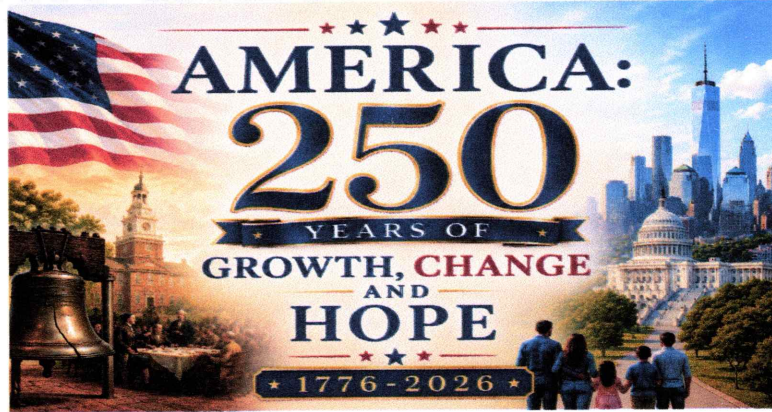
Oregon, historically the pathway to open up the West, has seen great changes even in my lifetime. Our grandparents, who traveled by horse and wagon led the way for their grandchildren to travel by gas and electric powered cars. Chalk and board, pencil and paper have turned into computers and tablets. Word-of-mouth has become phones that do almost everything. Who knows what will come! Our grandparents' pioneer and independent spirit gave them hope for the future. Hope that we can all pass on to our grandchildren. Hope that their spirit of independence will remain strong, no matter what they are pioneering. Hope that our country will continue to be free, independent, respectful and strong!



See you at convention!

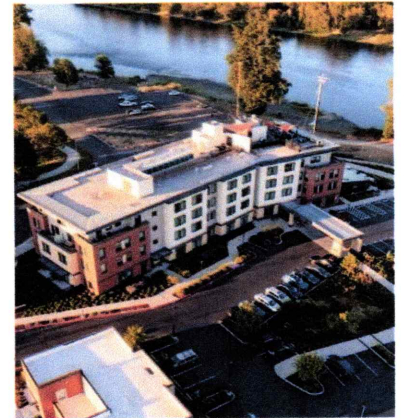
Bonita Fillmore, State President

Convention Information



Convention Destination

The Independence Hotel, located at 201 Osprey Lane, Independence, Oregon, is our hotel destination for the 2026 OREA State Convention. It is a beautiful facility on the river just a short drive from Salem. Make your reservations at The Independence Hotel where rooms for the convention attendees have been secured. The room cost is \$139/night plus 10.5% tax - single, king or double queen rate. A breakfast buffet, served from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., is included. Booking can be done by phone (503-837-0200). Be sure to mention OREA Convention to get the convention rate.



Our meetings will be held just a short walk/drive from the hotel at the Independence Civic Center in the Heritage Room. Our lunch will be served there along with our meeting on Wednesday. Dinner on Wednesday evening will be at The Independence Hotel. No meals will be served on Thursday unless you are staying at The Independence Hotel and eating at the breakfast buffet.

Convention Keynote Speaker and Entertainment

Lewis & Clark adjunct law professor and executive director of Oregon's Classroom Law Project (CLP) Marilyn Cover will be our keynote speaker on Wednesday. In 2018, she was awarded the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education. She will speak on the advancement of civics education in our schools.



This year's quality entertainment will be The Oregon Spirit Chorus. They are an award-winning women's a cappella ensemble from the Salem/Mid-Valley area. Education and a desire for musical excellence define them. The bonds of friendship and the joy of creating harmony unite them. They will be performing for us on Wednesday afternoon before our tours begin.

Convention Information

September 30, 2026 - Wednesday/Full day program (Schedule subject to changes)

Continental breakfast items for all will be available at the convention hosted by OREA Unit 2/Breakfast buffet for those staying at the hotel.

- 8:15 - 8:50 a.m. Convention registration will open at 8:00 a.m. at the Independence Hotel (201 Osprey Lane).
- 9:00 a.m. Opening of the 2026 OREA Convention. A short walk/drive to the Independence Civic Center (555 S. Main Street) where the Call-to-Order, Flag Ceremony and welcome from OREA Unit 2 President Val Luukinen.
- 9:30 -10:15 a.m. Keynote speaker, Marilyn Cover
- 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Break - check out auction items, give out door prizes
- 10:45-11:15 a.m. Teri Magee - Using Zeffy to increase fundraising.
- 11:20 a.m. Boxed lunch and presentations
- We hope to have a Memorial Board Scholarship recipient to honor. Each year we offer a scholarship to a graduate student studying healthy aging. Come and find out who will receive this year's award.*
- 1:00 p.m. Heidi Decorte with an AMBA update
- Heidi will be at the convention to give us the latest on their products. They are a wonderful partner to us and have brought many retired people around the state into our sphere of influence and money into our coffers.*
- 1:30 p.m. The Oregon Spirit Chorus (see page 3 for more information)
- 2:30 p.m. Tours (see page 4 for more information) or relax time
- 6:00 p.m. Pasta bar dinner at the Independence Hotel, Friend-of-Education Award, Memorial Board Remembrances, Community Service Awards

October 1, 2026 - Thursday/Half-day program (Schedule subject to changes)

Continental breakfast items for all will be available at the convention hosted by OREA Unit 2/Breakfast buffet for those staying at the hotel.

- 8:45 a.m. Call-to-Order and Welcomes
- 9:00 a.m. Lesley Johnson, AARP/Volunteering and Civic Engagement
- 9:30 a.m. New OREA Unit Projects presentation
- This time is designated for units that have started a new project in the past year to present that information to the membership. This is different than previous years. Only those units with a new project are asked to present.*
- 10:00 a.m. OREA Yearly Business Meeting
- We will vote for OREA State officers. This is the membership's chance to bring up topics for discussion. Everyone in a local OREA unit also belongs to the state-wide Oregon Retired Educators Association. Come and get a clearer vision of what that means!*
- 11:30 a.m. Memorial Board Basket raffle winners announced
- OREA Unit raffle baskets and silent auction items raise money for the Memorial Board Scholarship. Each unit is asked to bring some door prizes, and a raffle basket or a silent auction item. Please do not include alcohol in your basket as per Oregon Liquor License issues. All convention attendees will receive a door prize!*
- 11:45 a.m. Close of convention. Safe travels home and back to volunteering!

Convention Information

Wednesday Afternoon Excursions

OREA Unit 2 (Salem) has planned fun options for Wednesday afternoon. Here is a brief description of each. It is recommended that you do a bit of research on your own also to help you decide how you want to spend your time. Please sign up for your choice on the registration form. Some excursions may be eliminated due to lack of interest.



Hallie Ford Museum of Arts (on Willamette University campus).

The only liberal arts college art museum in the Northwest, the museum is located near the Oregon State Capitol. Special exhibits, such as Handmade Revolution: Craft in the Pacific Northwest plus permanent galleries featuring works by Pacific Northwest and Native American artists. It is open 12-5 p.m. Tours can be arranged for 8 or more. \$5 for seniors.

Polk County Museum 14,000 sq. ft of rich pioneer heritage from 1842-present, open 12-4 p.m. Reservations required for groups of 6+. \$4 for seniors.



Willamette Heritage Center - The 5 acre property is home to 14 historic structures that weave together the story of the Mid-Willamette Valley, open from 10-4 p.m. Tours for 8-15 people is \$150. Individual entrance for seniors is \$13.

Deepwood Museum and Gardens - A beautiful historic house museum where you can learn about early Salem history. A guided tour has been arranged at 3 p.m. Cost is \$5 a person.



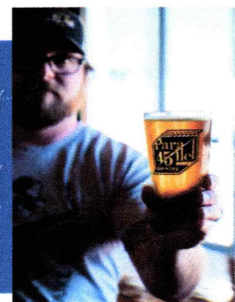
Oregon State Capitol Building, open from 8-5. There is a self-guided tour with an audio option. Cost: free.

Eola Hills Wine Cellars - One of Oregon's largest and most historic wineries established in 1986. Open from 11-5 p.m. for shopping and wine tasting.



Bush Barn Art Center - Four exhibition spaces, a gift gallery and an Artist-in-Residence studio open from noon- 4 p.m. Cost: free.

Independence, Oregon - There are wonderful options in Independence. Mt. Fir Park and Inspiration Gardens is open from dawn to dusk. Guided tours can be arranged. The River Gallery is open from 11-4 and you could partake in some local brews at Parallel 45 Brewing which is open from 4-9 p.m.



Community Service Awards

The OREA Executive Board has decided to make some changes in the Community Service recognition this year. We will recognize all OREA members who have volunteered from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026 based on the number of hours they have accumulated. We will not have a "winner" for the most literacy and other volunteering categories, but recognize each OREA member who has done any volunteering. The following is the breakdown:

Golden Apple Awards (literacy-based volunteering):	Gold Level	200+ hours
	Silver Level	101-199 hours
	Bronze Level	1-100 hours

Star Award (all other volunteering):	Gold Level	1,000+ hours
	Silver Level	500-999 hours
	Bronze Level	1-499 hours

We hope this will encourage all OREA members, throughout the state to keep track of their volunteer hours and report them to the person in your unit who accumulates that information. They, in turn, report their OREA unit members' individual hours to Deb Scaravilli, Community Service State Coordinator (contact info on first page of Chalkboard).

Another change will be involving the Bell Ringer Award. Typically, each unit prepares a poster and reports on one of their projects during the state convention. This year, any unit that has done a new project is encouraged to present that information at the state convention. We are looking for any innovative projects that might inspire the other units in the state.

State Incentives

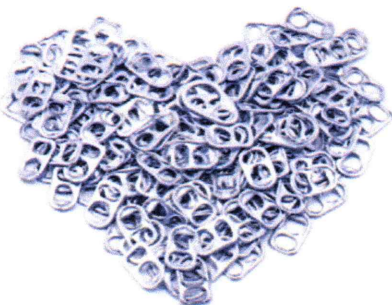
ALL UNITS

This year the Executive Board will be awarding money to units that meet criteria in three areas. One is for the the number of people from each unit attending the annual convention. Money will be given to each unit based on the percentage of State OREA members attending relative to that unit's total paying membership.

The more members from a unit that attend the convention, the more money that unit will receive. It's up to each unit's membership on how much they want to receive!

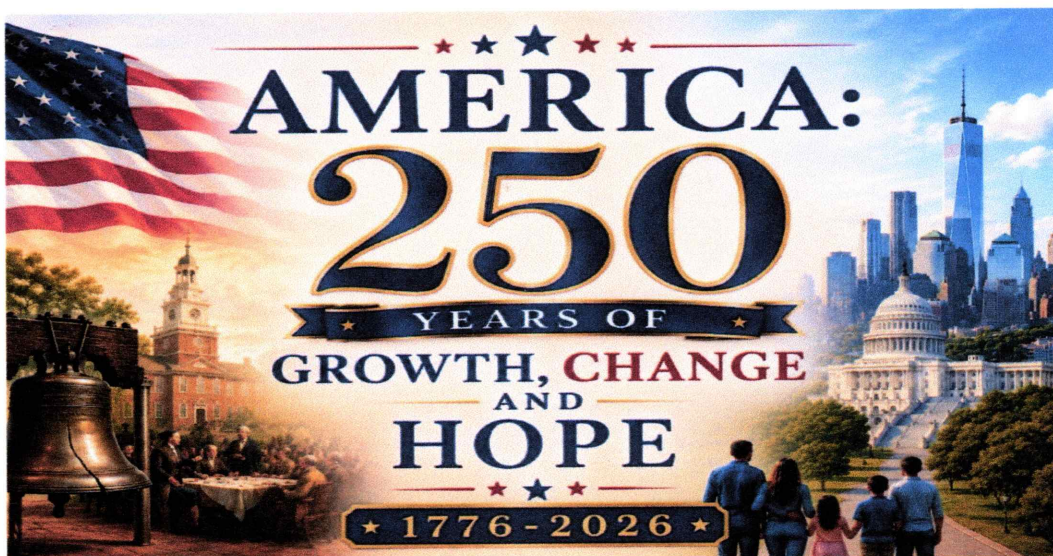


Keep on Pulling!



Unit 9 (Pendleton) has one very determined member named Sherrie Cain, who did not give up on the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Portland when they no longer accepted pull tabs. After an extensive search, she found the RMH in Bend was taking tabs and even found transportation to get them delivered! Bring your pull tabs to the convention in Independence and they will get to Bend! Thank you, Sherrie!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM



OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (OREA) "America: 250 Years of Growth, Change and Hope"

September 30 (full day) and October 1 (half day), 2026

The Independence Hotel, Independence, Oregon

Hotel Room Reservations on your own - Mention OREA Convention for convention rates

Room Reservations: 503-837-0200

CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND MEALS

Send checks and this registration form to:

Victor Scaravilli, 3630 Collier Lane
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Checks payable to: **OREA**

Registration closes on September 6, 2026

Name/Names: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

OREA Unit #: _____ Email address: _____

***Registration:** Number attending _____ @ \$130.00 = _____

This registration includes Wednesday lunch and dinner, snacks and continental breakfast both days, beverage service during convention, goody bags, speakers, facility and entertainment.

Registration Total \$ _____

Wednesday (September 30th) Afternoon Excursions:

If you intend on touring the Salem area on Wednesday afternoon, please indicate which activity interests you the most. This will help us arrange tours based on interest. A brief description of each along with the cost is in this Chalkboard. We will be in contact as the convention approaches about which excursions are going to be viable. Also, any excursion can be done on your own.

I am most interested in...

_____ Hallie Ford Museum of Arts _____ Deepwood Museum and Gardens _____ Bush Barn Art Center

_____ Polk County Museum _____ Oregon State Capitol Building _____ Eola Hills Wine Cellars

_____ Willamette Heritage Center _____ Independence, Oregon, local walkabout on your own or with friends