



# OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CHALKBOARD

## The OREA Newsletter

Fall 2020

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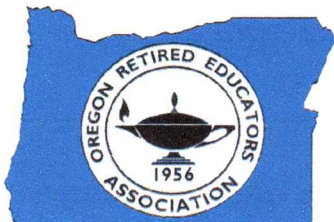
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### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Hello Fall!** Another season has arrived since our last CHALKBOARD issue. The cooler, crisp air always brings fond memories of my childhood days in Colorado - like Sunday drives with my folks to see the fall colors and stopping at their favorite cafe for pie and ice cream.

A "positive" of being somewhat housebound for the past several months has been the luxury of sifting through old photos and memorabilia and reflecting on those family times. This year is unlike any other, and I am grateful to have fond memories of past fall seasons.

As my Co-President, Darlene Cook, and I think about and look ahead at the 2020-21 year, we are both deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of each of you. We are also concerned about the effects COVID has had on your units and how we should safely move forward. I do want to acknowledge the groups that have been able to schedule a picnic (Unit 5), revise a scholarship fundraiser (Unit 2), or hold a successful annual garage sale (Unit 34).

I'm sure there are many questions about how to proceed - knowing "business as usual" is not possible and adjustments need to be made on how we meet and take care of business. It's difficult not to dwell on the things we are *unable* to do, **but let's think positively!**



Here are some ideas of thing we CAN do:

- Call members and friends just to say "hi".
- Check on folks who live alone.
- Continue volunteer work as safely as we can. (Meals on Wheels, local Food Banks, local shelters, etc.)
- Offer support to a local school (assemble supplies for an art project, record an audio-video book, become a Book Fairy)
- Use craft/homemaking skills to make items for others (masks, laprobes, food items)
- Ask local teachers for ideas. (tutoring, supervising virtual learning)
- YOUR ideas?

Be sure to follow the Oregon State Guidelines for school districts as you make your plans for activities. Guidelines seem to be changing often for schools and districts!

Alas! Oh, how I wish my closing message for this newsletter included personal plans to visit your units or sharing exciting expectations regarding our annual spring convention! On the other hand, we can still have a good year, if we all **stay positive, safe and healthy!**

**Lona Odom, State Co-President**



# A Current Teacher's View

My name is Katherine Ogborn and I have been teaching for ten years. I became an educator later than most. This is my second career. I have four grown children and four grandchildren. I currently teach kindergarten but have also taught second and third grades.

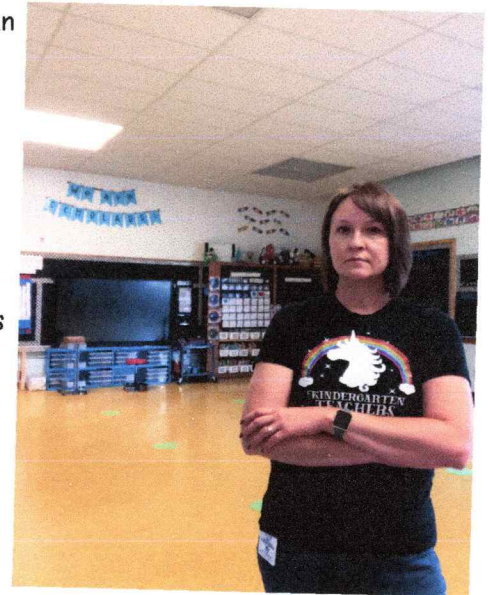
When I was asked to write an article for OREA, I first thought it would be a great way to share how extremely tiring teaching is today. Then I remembered - these are retired educators! Education has always been a labor of love - it's always been exhausting. Teachers have always given up their nights and weekends to better the education of their students no matter what grade taught.

Sure, I could write about how educators had to learn a new way to deliver online instruction this spring, how we joined teams to plan for in-person instruction in the fall, only to find out most of us won't be returning to in-person instruction due to unattainable metrics. I could lament how horrible it is to read on-line every day how teachers need to teach, knowing that I want to teach in-person but they won't open my school. Or, how I need to plan for kindergarteners to be kept six feet apart, but there are only 40 individual desks in the entire school. Over the years, tables replaced desks since collaboration is considered the best researched-based way for students to learn. There is no funding available to purchase desks, so my teaching partner and I purchased student desks for our classrooms. This is not news, teachers have done these things for years just in different ways.

More important than adult complaints are the children who are missing out on their education. Sure, some children can thrive with digital learning and have supportive families who can make this work. I'm not talking about these children. The children we need to be fighting for are the underserved. Children who do not have the support to make distance learning work for them. Families who have to work long hours only to try to help their children learn in the evenings. Families who have other problems that keep children from learning. We all know the decisions that adults make are not the child's fault but again, it's the child who suffers.

We need to be asking our governor - Why are child care centers open all day and not schools? Families have to work and not every family can keep their children home. So, just like my grandson, they go to daycare. Instead of having children attend their neighborhood school, we are combining children from all different neighborhoods into daycares. Children would have less exposure if they were in school with the same children they play with in their neighborhood, rather than in daycare with children from all over town. It does not make sense to have school-aged children in daycare taking classes online from a public school teacher when we could just be back in school. I'm not saying all families have to send their children to school. Online options are available for families who want to continue online school. We need to allow students who want/need in-person schooling back into the buildings for all day, every day. Strict six feet distance rules make it physically impossible to have a full class at one time, so districts are forced to create schedules that are only partial days or certain days of the week. This, of course, is better than just online.

Most of the teachers I know want to be back in school with in-person instruction. We are afraid for our family members' health, but we have chosen this profession to teach children. We will follow the mandates that are put before us to ensure children will walk through our doors. We will continue to put children first.



**Katherine Ogborn,**  
Klamath Falls, Oregon



# Unit News

## Unit 13 (Central Oregon)

COREA (Central Oregon Retired Educators) has not been able to meet since February due to the Corona Virus and the inundation of smoke from the fires.

We did finish our laprobe project and delivered completed blankets to the Infusion Center and Dialysis Center in Redmond.

Several unit members worked to complete over 400 clothing items which are being shipped to Cote d'Ivoire by freight cargo as our missionary, Linda Sharp, has not been allowed to travel. The virus has stopped her plans to go back for her 50th year of missionary nursing in the African village of Ferkesdueque.

Members Bev Horon and Mary Reed have been creating PPD masks to donate in the city of Prineville. Several hundred cloth masks, in many sizes are now being distributed to three local elementary schools and the Powell Butte Charter School. School secretaries give them to students and teachers for their protection.

Crook County has been fortunate to have one of the lowest infection rates in the state. Intermediate, middle and high school students may soon be allowed to return to face-to-face attendance if the infection rates remain below state mandated standards.

Our two Co-Treasurers are both requesting to be replaced. Requests are out to locate a willing replacement.

Submitted by Mary Reed, President, Unit 13

## Unit 5 (Klamath County)

Our unit had an Executive Board meeting on September 29th and we agreed that we do not want our unit to disband. The only way that can happen is if we schedule meetings, speakers and projects. This will involve finding a safe place which honors both physical distance and wearing masks.

After a lengthy discussion, voicing pros and cons, we voted to move on with meetings as soon as we can find a location. We also plan to participate in the yearly Potato Festival parade held in Merrill. We drew names for our target school and Shasta Elementary was the winner. We will be offering teacher grants and assisting the staff following COVID-19 guidelines.

Unit 5 agrees that we must not let the many years of work establishing this organization die. We will do what we can and move forward with new projects.

Submitted by Jo Ogborn, Unit 5 President

## Unit 9 (Umatilla/Morrow)

Some members of Unit 9 have been working at the Neighbor2Neighbor (N2N) Day Center for the Needy and Homeless in Pendleton.

The Day Center, located at the N2N Warming Station in Pendleton, is open Monday from 1-4 p.m. During that time



clients may have a shower and get clothing, hygiene products, backpacks, blankets, shoes, coats, and laundry vouchers. We also have state, federal and local agencies that work with the homeless and needy during this time. People can come for any of the above activities, to chat, meet others or just relax for a while.

N2N is always looking for volunteers for the Warming Station and Day Center. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Dwight Johnson at [www.n2npendleton.org](http://www.n2npendleton.org).

## Stillman Park Dinner

Karen Rose and Carol Innes have continued a dinner on Sunday for the homeless and needy in Pendleton. The dinner was served at Stillman Park. When Umatilla County went back to the "basement," they moved to the Salvation Army dining facility. They serve dinner from 2-3 p.m. each Sunday. Altrusa members, members of OREA Unit 9, and many community members donate items each Sunday. They serve a main course, bread, assorted fruit, salad, dessert, bottled water, and candy. If anyone would like to donate items and/or money toward the dinners, please contact Karen Rose, 541-969-3587; [k\\_rose1232@hotmail.com](mailto:k_rose1232@hotmail.com)

Submitted by Karen Rose, Unit 9

**This isn't the mask you wore to school this morning.**



**No, this one is way cooler.  
I traded mine to Taylor  
who traded with Hunter.**



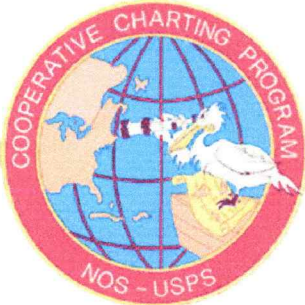
# Unit News

## Unit 12 (Sunset)

Greetings from Sunset Unit 12! Our small group has kept busy during the COVID-19 pandemic by staying near our homes. Our communications have been by phone, email and snail mail. As a whole, our group continues to save our aluminum pull-tabs for recycle to help our local Shriners pay for transportation costs for families who need assistance with travel from Clatsop County to the Shriner's Hospital in Portland. Our local Unit 12 member, Ron C., is a Shriner and is coordinating this effort.

During spring and summer, many of our members have been sprucing up their yards. Gardening has been a favorite pastime. As Sharon H. stated, "My yard has never looked so good!" Sometimes the addition of baskets, planters, or even mowing and trimming can bring sunshine to any pandemic.

Some of our members have continued their service and charitable activities via skype, zoom and go-to-meetings. This may be the way of our future gatherings...virtual! As Gerry S. mentioned, "It is a way that I can continue serving on the College Foundation Board within this era of COVID-19". Great job, Gerry, for your valuable service to our community!



A few of our members have escaped the local scene for physically distant camping. I myself was able to arrange a week at a time to visit nature by hiking (very short distances) and complete both nautical and geodetic Cooperative Charting. This is volunteer surveying of navigational aids to help keep our waterways safe for recreational boaters and working in conjunction with the National Geodetic Survey to report on geodetic markers. It is much like geocaching but with the purpose of locating and reporting specific types of survey disks and rods.

Sharon H. was able to hike, along with partners, 22 miles of the Oregon Coast Trail. What an accomplishment! She has not yet completed the entire trail but is now in her fourth year and nearing the Coos Bay area. Not bad for only making the trek once or twice a year.



What an adventure this year has been! OREA Sunset Unit 12 is doing well. Many of us have not only endured the pandemic but also forest fires and smoke from those fires. Marian Easton Kykes, my sister and Unit 12 member, was able to escape the Evans Canyon fire in Selah, WA. She is now organizing help for her friends and neighbors who lost everything in that fire. While she is collecting household items and clothing for her neighbors, her husband, Larry, is donating his third cutting of alfalfa to neighbors' animals and donating his service of cutting and baling other fields for donation.

We may not do much in person but our friendships have been quick to grow. Socially distant with caring and kindness. Stay safe. As my sister, Marian, shared with me, "Friends will not only live in harmony, but in melody." Henry David Thoreau.

Submitted by Diane Julum, Unit 12 Co-President



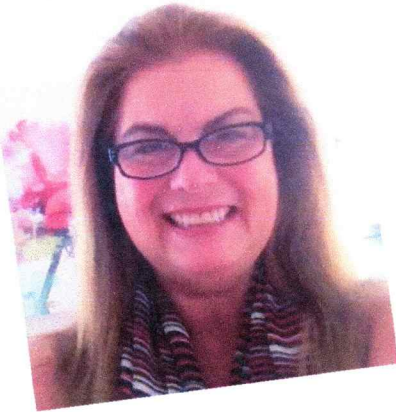


# Unit News

## Unit 2 (Salem)

### Unit 2 Zooms Ahead

In spite of COVID-19, Unit 2 in Salem is staying connected with weekly Zoom check-ins. Approximately 10 members are checking in with the average meeting being about 5-6. The meetings are set up monthly with the dates emailed out to the members ahead of time. Monthly board meetings are also being held via Zoom and things are going well. One member who lives on her own, expressed how meaningful these times of connection have been. A new member, Valerie Luukinen shared the following:



"Keeping our members involved during this COVID-19 emergency has been SREA's goal. We have established Zoom meetings weekly so that members can join discussions and more importantly share their needs, interests and life updates. Fostering continuous connection through Zoom, emails, and phone calls, we believe, promotes a healthy mindset amid quarantine and social distancing. Forty minutes weekly is our link to a healthy involvement!"

We're still making plans and moving forward, just slowly and in a different way. With a spirit of willingness to learn and conquer "technophobia," Unit 2 wants to encourage others to embrace the tools available and if at first you don't succeed - try, try again!!

Submitted by Teri Magee

### No-Show Tea Party Raises over \$4,500

After planning, preparing, and printing invitations for the annual Spring Scholarship Tea scheduled for April 2020, COVID -19 derailed Unit 2's largest fundraiser of the year. But after a few months to rethink various options, Unit 2 decided on a "no-show" tea.

Invitations containing tea bags, door prize slips, an SASE for returning donations and flashcards depicting Pooh and Friends, which was to be this year's tea theme, were sent out to members and their friends instructing them to enjoy a cup of tea "at a time and place of their choosing."

The entire month of September was the timeframe to raise funds and donations are still coming in. Response was overwhelming! Over \$3,500 was received which will allow Unit 2 to give two \$1,000 scholarships again this year AND give a head start on next year's scholarship funding.

But as it that wasn't exciting enough - another member and his spouse have chosen to sponsor a new annual scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 for STEM majors with strong encouragement to young women to apply. What an amazing year! We are grateful for the outpouring of support that will allow us to continue to help fund the dreams and careers of future educators.



Submitted by Teri Magee & Valerie Luukinen, Co-Chairs SREA Scholarship Committee  
and Carol Greeno, Unit 2 President and Scholarship Committee member



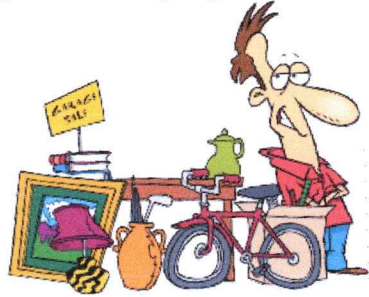
# Unit News

## Unit 34 (King City)

What has our unit been doing since the pandemic, you ask?

Unit 34 is happy to report that, while we have not been able to meet together, we have been meeting through Zoom with a monthly board/general meeting. All are invited to attend and, if their membership is current, to vote on issues. This has been one way to keep in touch and to make decisions for the future. We have decided that we will not publish a 2020-2021 directory but will keep our current book and update with information to be included as needed. Minutes of each meeting are sent through email or mail.

A monthly newsletter is also distributed through either email or mail to all members. This is another way of keeping in touch. We have asked members to submit articles about ways in which they are dealing with the isolation. It's not as great as being together to share, but it is another way to remain active. Readers enjoy reading the personal anecdotes.



Thanks to a dedicated and hard-working group of members and friends, we had a most successful garage sale this summer. The money raised at the annual summer sale is set aside as scholarship money for graduating Tigard High School students. This year's money will be awarded to a 2021 senior, or to more than one depending on the fund. The garage sale total added more than a \$1000 to that fund.

In addition, the Scholarship committee for the 2019-2020 school year was not able to meet and interview candidates - the pandemic halted that process - so no scholarships from the designated \$2000 set aside for that year were awarded. The committee met this week to discuss the applications and to make contact with the high school counselor. She was able to give us information about students' plans - whether to attend on-line or to delay enrollment for a year. A decision will be made regarding the disbursement of the \$2000 in the next week or so. In the past, we have awarded \$1000 scholarships. It's all up-in-the-air right now but we are actively pursuing that service project.

Two last notes - the Sunshine member continues to send birthday, get well, thinking-of-you cards as appropriate. We also have a "Brag and Boast" time at the meetings...a time for members to tell us, for \$1.00 each brag/boast, about a joy in their lives. It's not a major money-maker, but it keeps us connected. Zoom works for this as well!!!

Submitted by Jay Petrin

## OREA Volunteer Hours

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one big change in volunteer hours for this 2020 year.

In the past, we have not allowed volunteer hours to include those spent reading or doing homework with family members but so many of our members have stepped up to supervise the online education of their family. We are changing the policy to now allow the counting of volunteer hours spent with family. So, please record the hours that you spend supervising their education. In many cases, the time that you would have spent volunteering outside the home has been reallocated and we acknowledge that it is very important work! Please contact Deb Scaravilli (541-884-6905; vicdebscaravilli@gmail.com) with any questions.

Please refer to the OREA website for complete information about the State Awards and Volunteer Hours for 2020.

Submitted by Deb Scaravilli, Community Coordinator





# Paulitics

For many of us November 4th cannot come soon enough - no more political ads on TV or radio, no new junk mail and - perhaps all the political signs will be picked up and put away for another election cycle! Although we may claim it is a privilege to register and vote for the candidate and ballot measures of our choice, we are lucky in that there are many countries where we would not be able to do so. I do hope all those registered do their civic duty and actually cast their votes for their candidates of choice.

Remember in Oregon, you have to register, change your address, etc. roughly a month prior to the actual voting deadline. Since you shall have this newsletter after one deadline - the registration deadline of October 13th, make sure you cast your votes and deliver them either to the post office (before October 29th to guarantee they get to the county in time) or deliver them to a drop-off location or election office before 8 p.m. on November 3rd. Oregon does have one of the highest returns in the nation, but normally only about 75% of voters actually cast ballots.

Instead of discussing candidates, I will speak to the ballot measures. There are 4 on the ballot this fall. Measure 107 was referred by the Legislature - and codifies by law several positive issues of Campaign Finance - including that all ads must indicate who is responsible for the posting and production of the ad. Your Voters Pamphlet explains the measure more fully.

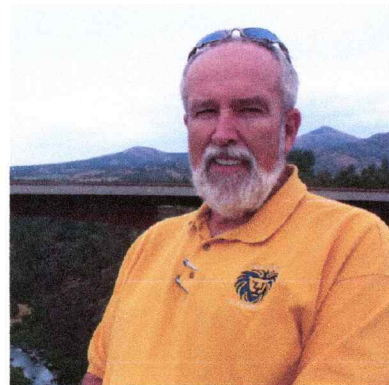


Ballot Measure 108 is the measure that taxes tobacco products at a higher rate - and includes taxation on vaping products that currently are tax-free. Its income goes to support tobacco secession efforts as well as assists in covering costs related to health impacts of smoking - no matter what the source is.

Ballot Measure 109 allows for the medicinal use of Psilocybin mushrooms for therapeutic prescription use under a physician's care.

Lastly, Measure 110 is an attempt to decriminalize smaller amounts of drug usage that would allow fewer instances of marijuana use as criminal offenses. Instead, it mandates more efficient use of medical remedies and cessation efforts for its control.

It is my personal recommendation that we study the issues, read the information in the Voters Pamphlet and support especially Measures 107 and 108. Happy voting and once the furor dies down, let's make the effort to hold the victors accountable!



Submitted by Paul Zastro, Executive Director



# Volunteer Opportunities

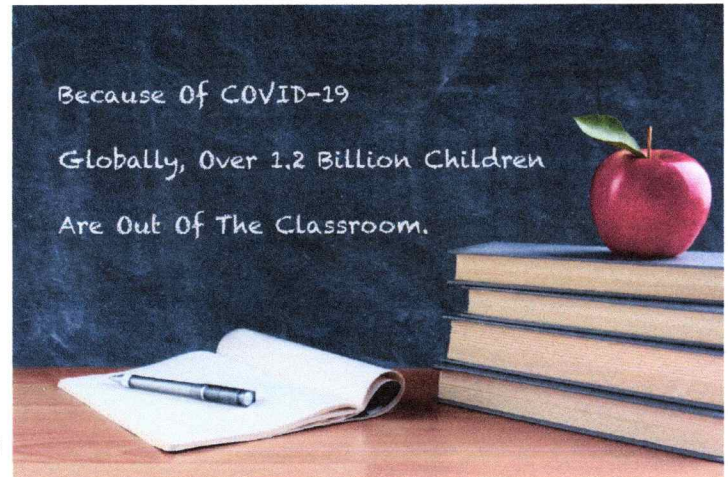
## Teachers Brigade Book Fairy Reading Program

### Keep Your Child Reading Through COVID-19

Never before have so many children been out of school at the same time, disrupting learning and upending lives, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in schools shut all across the world. Globally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom.

In response to educational challenges surrounding COVID-19, and due to the success of our Summer Book Fairy Reading Program, Teachers Brigade will be extending our summer reading program into the school year.

Reading is the key to fighting learning loss and maintaining a child's current grade level skills and for pushing forward to develop skills above the current grade level. When children are not in school, especially those from under-resourced communities, they tend to lose roughly 20 percent of the gains made in reading during the previous year.



Teachers Brigade is again partnering with the Book Fairy and her volunteers to deliver books to children living in the Portland Metro Area and Southwest Washington State. If you are a volunteer wanting to be a Book Fairy and deliver books and be a penpal to children this school year, please sign up to volunteer (<https://teachersbrigade.org/sign-up>).

If you are a parent wanting books delivered by the Book Fairy and a Pen Pal to support your child this school year, sign-up online (<https://teachersbrigade.org/book-fairy>). We are encouraging and inviting parents who have children reading below grade level or children enrolled in under-resourced public schools to please sign up and participate in the Book Fairy program this school year.

Also, please consider starting a Book Fairy program in your community. Let's spread the love of reading with a good dose of "fairy dust"!

Submitted by Cindy O'Mealy,  
director of Teachers Brigade





# OREA Memorial Board Scholarship Fund

Did you know that the OREA Memorial Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way for local units and their members to make a tax-deductible donation in memory of a beloved member who has passed or in honor/memory of a family members?

Each year in the spring, your Memorial Board has been able to grant two \$1500 scholarships to post-graduate students focusing their coursework on the field of "healthy aging". This can be in the area of public health, scientific advancement, or social work as long as the focus is on seniors and improving quality of life.

Because COVID-19 affected our ability to connect with graduate students, we were only able to give one scholarship last year to a student earning her Master's Degree in Social Work through Portland State University. In the past, OREA scholarships have helped fund a doctor who focused her practice on the senior population and a doctoral scientist who had his work published in several professional publications.

Every recipient is filled with gratitude for the scholarship awarded to them. You are making an impact in their generation for their future as well as improving our own.

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 Treasurer, Cheryl Hafer at:  
1809 Gekeler Lane #157, LaGrande, OR 97850

Thank you for your ongoing support!!!

Submitted by Teri Magee,  
President-OREA Memorial Board

## 2020-2021 OREA Contacts

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#### + CHALKBOARD

Send volunteer hours/award information + CHALKBOARD articles:

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### OREA Website (hosted by AMBA)

Lona Odom+Paul Zastrow - Contact people

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Send memorial contributions to: **Cheryl Hafer** (Treasurer)

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### Teachers Brigade

**Cindy O' Mealy**

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Passport Benefits:



# A great new perk from myAmba Discounts!



Enjoy an awesome new way to dine, shop, travel and save... with help from myAmba Discounts!

AMBA is pleased to provide its members with a new benefit, the Passport Corporate program. Passport Corporate features exclusive savings at over 2,500 merchants, including premium travel discounts as well as a wide variety of local and national merchant discounts.

## SIGN UP ON YOUR PHONE

- Download the **Passport Mobile app** from your app store or Google Play
- Select "Other Sign In Options" and "Sign in with an Activation Code"
- Use Activation Code "**ambasavers**" to access the program
- Complete your profile and start saving!

## SIGN UP ONLINE

- Visit [passportcorporate.com](http://passportcorporate.com) and click "Register Here" for first time users
- Enter your email address
- Enter code "**ambasavers**" as your activation code
- Complete your profile and start saving!

**Bonus Savings!** At sign-up you'll have the opportunity to take advantage of a 30-day trial of Passport's Dining Upgrade on top of your complimentary membership, which includes exclusive savings at over 850 Passport Dining restaurants. If you enjoy the additional Passport Dining Upgrade benefits, you can retain your upgraded access after the trial period for just \$7 per month (cancel at any time).

**Have questions?** If you have any questions about the program, or would like assistance locating a specific discount or vendor, please contact Passport at 1-800-410-4211 or [support@passportunlimited.com](mailto:support@passportunlimited.com).