



# OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CHALKBOARD

## The OREA Newsletter

## 2022 Convention Issue

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### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

#### Reflections on the Convention

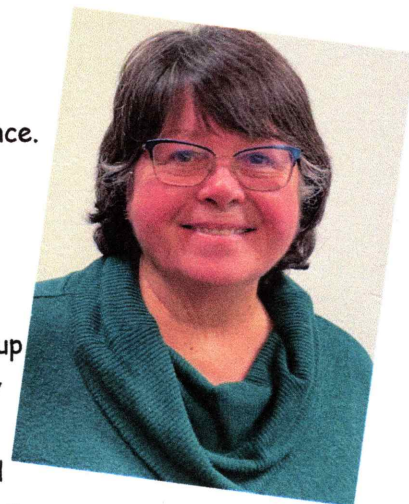
I have been thinking about our convention in Independence. While the setting was amazingly beautiful, the best thing about it was getting to reconnect with friends and visit. Any time there was a pause in the meeting, you could hear the conversations start up. This was warm and inviting. It also reinforced to me that we are a generation that grew up with developing technology that was not as overwhelmingly addictive as today's social media. Getting together, giving a hug to a friend, chatting about family, recent events and important changes still rates as our best way to communicate.

On one of our breaks, I was outside looking at the river when a lady asked me what was going on. When I told her, we got into a conversation and I found out she was very interested in geriatric needs and supports. I invited her to join us in about an hour to hear the presentation from our scholarship awardee, which she did. We also connected her to the Salem Unit as a possible new member. I don't know how that turned out, but at least we invited her to join. Any opportunity to invite someone you know or meet who is interested in supporting education and interacting with a great group of people should be warmly invited.

I especially enjoyed our two speakers. Maria Kurth, our scholarship recipient, gave an excellent speech on her experiences and goals to further her commitment to helping the aging members of our generation. MayaBella Texidor, our keynote speaker, was fabulous. As a senior high school student, she was impressive in her project, her flexibility when things didn't go as planned and her presentation.

If you didn't attend, you missed a wonderful convention. I hope you will be able to come to the next convention. Don't miss out on the good times!

My thanks go to Teri Magee and the Salem Unit for the wonderful job they did in setting up and hosting the convention. I had several people ask if we could have the convention in Independence again, all due to their hard work. I'd also like to thank the Executive Committee for their work and support. It wouldn't have happened without great teamwork!



*Bonita Fillmore, State President*



# CONVENTION SPEAKERS

## Keynote Speaker: MayaBella Texidor

What a privilege it was to have such an accomplished high school student for this year's convention keynote speaker! MayaBella Texidor, currently a senior at Griswold High School in Helix, Oregon, gave a presentation on her award-winning documentary for the National History Day (NHD) competition.

In May, Maya placed first in the Oregon National History Day paving her way to nationals, where she competed against 100 other entries from every U.S. state and international affiliate. At nationals, she was a finalist in the Senior Individual Documentary category, which placed her with four other entries from Helix to reach the national level. This is an outstanding accomplishment for a school district of under 175 students K-12, with 34 at the high school level. Not only is Maya an excellent student, she is also active in a variety of sports and other extracurricular organizations.



The documentary is titled "**Ex:Comm: The Internal Debates of Kennedy's Secret Council**" and can be viewed at:

<https://mrkspages.weebly.com/documentary-archive.html>

It was interesting to hear her insightful comparison of this situation in relation to current events with Ukraine and Russia.

MayaBella remained calm throughout her first-ever live presentation to a group even with the technical difficulties she faced. We were honored to have Maya and her family in attendance.

Submitted by Lona Odom

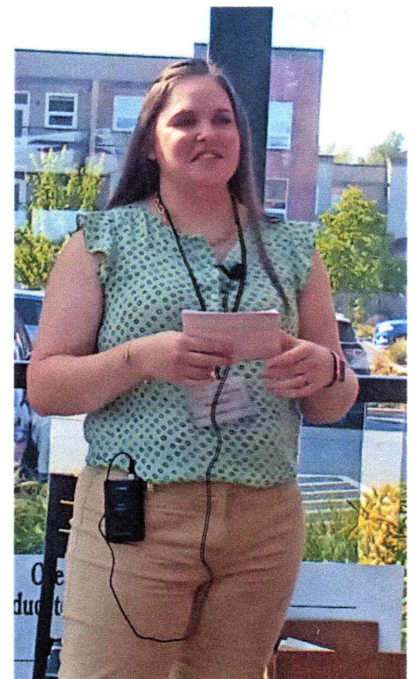
## Memorial Board Scholarship Recipient: Maria Kurth

This year, the OREA Memorial Board proudly honored Maria Kurth with a \$1,500 scholarship to help complete her PhD work in healthy aging. Maria grew up spending time with her grandparents on their farm and shared that time spent working with her grandfather is one of the experiences that taught her the benefit of intergenerational relationships and sparked her interest in pursuing her advanced degree in aging.

She is enrolled at Oregon State University, working on her dissertation to examine how older adults have coped with the changes and stresses brought on by COVID (i.e. isolation, increased required use of technology, etc.) She has published and presented findings in her undergraduate and graduate work at national scientific conferences. She was the Gerontology Program assistant at OSU for two years and has mentored students in the Gerontology Certificate Program. Her plans are to teach as a gerontology professor at the college level.

Congratulations, Maria, on your accomplishments thus far! We wish you all the best as you continue to educate others about something common to us all - the aging process.

Your OREA Memorial Board will continue to search for the best and most promising scholarship candidates in an effort to support them as they further their education in the important area of healthy aging. If you have suggestions or comments for our board to consider, please email them to [terimagee@aol.com](mailto:terimagee@aol.com). Thank you for your continued support and donations honoring those OREA members who have passed.



Teri Magee, OREA Memorial Board President.



# OREA BUSINESS

## Members Hear State Committee and Unit Reports

The primary focus of the annual OREA membership meeting are reports - primarily from the state committee chairs and unit presidents. Units 1, 2, 5, 9, 18, 20 and 21 were represented at the convention. All of the units are recovering from the pandemic with in-person meetings, activities and service projects.

Several are incorporating more social events into their schedules. Many units experienced a decline in membership the past few years, and are working on ways to re-engage existing members and bring in new members.

The 2022-2023 budget presented by President Bonita Fillmore was passed unanimously. The fiscal year is July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

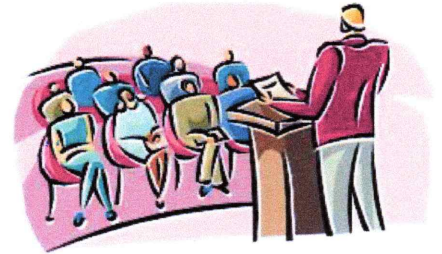
Membership Director Lona Odom reported that currently we have 11 active units with a membership of 243. Unit 99, our state unit, has 95 members. Total OREA membership for 2021-2022 was 338. Lona sent out leadership and member contact information to units to review, correct and return to her.

Executive Director Paul Zastrow gave a short history and emphasized our connection to AARP and the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA). NRTA is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. To commemorate the event, a reception and training of state leaders will be held September 14-16 in Washington, DC. OREA will be represented by four members: President Bonita Fillmore, Executive Director Paul Zastrow, Immediate Past-President Darlene Cook, and Chalkboard Editor and Community Service Coordinator Deb Scaravilli.

Schoolhouse Coordinator Carol Greeno reported that approximately 2000 guests visited the Criterion School during the 2022 Oregon State Fair. Several OREA members served as docents. Repairs are continuing with plans to work on the exterior of the building this summer. Donations can be made through the Oregon State Fair Board. A special thank you to Unit 1 for forgiving the balance on the schoolhouse loan!

Teri Magee reported on the Memorial Board Fund. Representing the board are Teri Magee, President; Diane Julum, Secretary and Darlene Cook, Treasurer. Members interested in serving on the Memorial Board should contact Teri. The annual scholarship of \$1,500 will continue to be awarded in 2023.

Executive Committee members for 2022-2023 are Bonita Fillmore, President; Paul Zastrow, Executive Director; Teri Magee, Secretary; Vic Scaravilli, Treasurer; Lona Odom, Membership Coordinator and Darlene Cook, Immediate Past-President.



Submitted by Darlene Cook, OREA Immediate Past-President

## OREA Financial Status

Our fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. Oregon Retired Educators Association had a net profit of \$8,475.60 during the past fiscal year.

The major source of our income was from \$5,000 in a donation from AMBA. Membership income from both individual units and online totaled \$5,717.40. We also received \$275 in donations to the Criterion Schoolhouse.

Our expenses totaled \$2,516.80. These expenses were for a variety of items used to manage our organization during a period coming out of COVID. Our expenses were less than normal since we did not have a yearly convention during that period of time.

Our organization has money in two accounts: a checking and a CD account. At the end of the fiscal year, we had \$36,490.20 in the checking account and \$12,748.35 in the CD.



Submitted by Vic Scaravilli, OREA State Treasurer



# 2022 OREA STATE AWARDS

The following OREA members received special recognition at the 2022 State Convention in Independence for their exceptional volunteer efforts.

## Dorothy Throne Award

This award is given to the unit with the largest percentage increase in membership as determined by Lona Odom, OREA Membership coordinator

**Recipient: Unit 12 Clatsop County/Astoria added 5 new members**

## Golden Apple Award

This award is given to the OREA member who has volunteered the most hours in area of literacy.

**Recipient: Kathleen Walker-Henderson, Unit 5 Klamath County - 420 hours** (pictured on right)



Bonita Brough, Unit 2 Salem - 240 hours (pictured on left)

Karen Rose, Unit 9 Umatilla/Morrow - 28 hours

Paul Zastrow, Unit 20 Mid-Columbia - 115 hours (pictured center)

Cindy O'Mealy, Unit 39 Clackamas - 100 hours

## Star Award

This award is given to the OREA member who has volunteered the most hours outside of literacy.

**Recipient: Bev Horton, Unit 13 Central Oregon - 3,000 hours**

Nancy Phelps, Unit 1 Portland - 500 hours

Carol Greeno (pictured in black/white), Unit 2 Salem - 1,086 hours

Bernie Wood (pictured in pink), Unit 5 Klamath County - 1,601 hours

Karen Rose, Unit 9 Umatilla/Morrow - 553 hours

Glenn Harrison (pictured on left), Unit 18 Albany - 570 hours

Paul Zastrow (pictured on right), Unit 20 Mid-Columbia - 1,539 hours

Nancy Lewis, Unit 34 King City - 758 hours

Pat Eck, Unit 39 Clackamas - 400 hours



## Appreciation Award

Each OREA unit is asked to nominate an individual from their membership to be recognized for exceptional service.

Fred Wong, Unit 1 Portland

Matt Falby, Unit 2 Salem (pictured to the right)

JoAnne Ogborn, Unit 5 Klamath County

Karen Rose, Unit 9 Umatilla/Morrow

Bev Horton, Unit 13 Central Oregon

Jane Donovan, Unit 18 Albany

Susan Lindberg, Unit 39 Clackamas

## Golden Hand

This award is given to the OREA unit that accumulated the most volunteer and literacy hours in 2021-2022.

**Recipient: Unit 5 Klamath County - 8,254 hours**

(at left, Co-President, Larry Wagner, receiving his unit's award)

Unit 1 Portland - 1,100 hours

Unit 2 Salem - 6,445 hours

Unit 9 Umatilla/Morrow - 1,624 hours

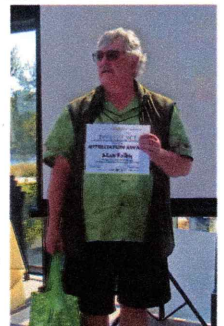
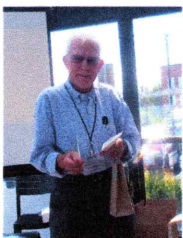
Unit 13 Central Oregon - 3,980 hours

Unit 18 Albany - 601 hours

Unit 20 Mid-Columbia - 2,108 hours

Unit 34 King City - 2,800 hours

Unit 39 Clackamas - 2,300 hours



The total reported time volunteering by OREA members this year is 29,212 hours. Using the value per hour given by Independent Sector (\$29.95), the value of our service throughout the State of Oregon is \$874,899.40!!!

Congratulations to all of you who participated. We have much to be proud of! Keep volunteering!!!



# CONVENTION HOST UNIT THANK YOU

Unit 2 was privileged to host the first in-person OREA Convention since COVID arrived and turned all our lives upside down. Change is inevitable and attempting a modified convention format this year was something your Executive Board agreed to try. As with any new endeavor, there is trial and error, pros and cons. But to those of you who were able to attend and participate and for all those donated door prizes, we thank you!

As host unit, we had a small but mighty core of volunteers who helped with everything from goody bags to the lovely continental breakfast and snacks included as part of the registration fee. We hope everyone who came enjoyed the time reconnecting with one another and had at least one positive take-away.

Again, thank you and from Unit 2, have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Submitted by Teri Magee, Unit 2 Salem, Convention Chairperson

