OREGON RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

CHALKBOARD

The OREA Newsletter **2026 Convention Issue**

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent state convention in Independence, Oregon! Your presence, energy, and engagement made the 2026 convention a resounding success, and it was wonderful to see many familiar faces while welcoming new ones into our OREA community.

A special thank-you to OREA Unit 2 for hosting this year. Under the able leadership of Teri Magee, your unit planned, welcomed, and showed us your beautiful community.

Gathering together under this year's inspiring theme, "America: 250 Years of Growth, Change and Hope," offered a powerful reminder of our nation's incredible journey and our shared responsibility in shaping its future.

Conventions like ours are vital for several reasons:

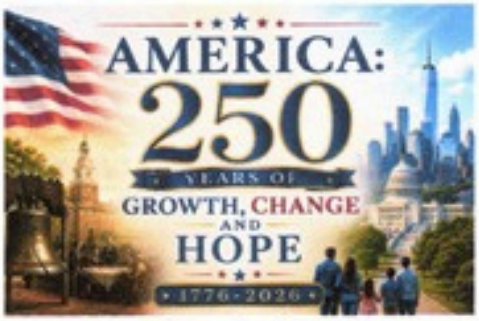
- Staying informed: Through our keynote session and additional speakers, we explored critical issues, shared best practices, and gained the insights needed to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- Meaningful Networking: The connections forged and ideas exchanged in the hallway, hotel, meeting room, and fun events will undoubtedly spark new collaborations and strengthen our collective efforts moving forward.
- Reconnecting with Friends: Beyond the business of the convention, one of the greatest highlights was simply the chance to catch up with old friends, share stories and experiences, and celebrate the enduring bonds within our OREA membership.

Thank you once again for your dedication, your passion, and your continued support. Together, we are honoring 250 years of American progress and building an even brighter path forward.

In Partnership,
Deb Scaravilli,
OREA Co-President

Convention 2026 Recap
"America: 250 Years of Growth, Change and Hope

Members from across Oregon gathered in the historic heart of Independence, Oregon, for a memorable convention centered on a profound milestone. Under the inspiring banner of "America: 250 Years of Growth, Change, and Hope," attendees reflected on a quarter-millennium of our nation's journey while celebrating the enduring impact of a lifetime dedicated to public education.





The centerpiece of the gathering was an address by keynote speaker **Marilyn Cover**, former director of the Civics Learning Project and recipient of the prestigious Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education in 2018. Drawing on her extensive background, Cover delivered a powerful message on the vital role of civic engagement and education in sustaining democratic ideals, inspiring educators to continue shaping active, informed citizens in their communities.

The convention also featured practical and engaging sessions designed to empower members in their advocacy and community work.



Teri Magee led a session on "Tech and Fundraising" where attendees explored modern tools with a focused session on Zeffy, learning how zero-fee fundraising platforms can streamline support for OREA goals.



Lesley Johnson led a session on volunteering and civic engagement. Lesley is an AARP representative . She highlighted the immense value of volunteerism, exploring how retired educators continue to drive positive change through civic and community service.

The celebration reached a joyful crescendo with a stellar performance by the **Oregon Spirit Chorus** from the Salem area. Known for their incredible vocal harmony and uplifting energy, the chorus delivered a crowd-pleasing musical presentation that left attendees smiling, singing along, and celebrating the vibrant arts community of the Willamette Valley.



Set against the scenic backdrop of the Willamette Valley, the gathering served as a powerful reminder that the story of America's progress is written every year in our classrooms, community projects, and the lifelong dedication of public educators!

Membership Report

As far as OREA membership goes, there is both good and bad news to report! Overall, unit membership declined by one from the previous year, but there were 23 new members with every unit having at least one new member. Kudos to gaining new members; without them, our numbers would not be stable.



In addition to the 234 OREA unit members, there were an additional 187 who joined the state organization through AMBA to access a variety of benefit options. The total membership tally for the 2025-2026 year was 421 compared to 395 for the previous year.

Submitted by Lona Odom, Membership Coordinator

Friend of Education Award

Marilyn Cover was chosen as the Friend of Education Award recipient at the 2026 Convention nominated by Host Unit 2.



Marilyn has been tireless in her pursuit of strengthening community and democracy. She has forged local, regional, national, and international partnerships, fostering the collaboration needed to make the Civics Learning Project (CLP) the premier organization of its kind.

She has engaged multiple constituencies - K12 education, the legal community, academia, businesses, and civic leaders - with a keen understanding of how their talents and interests can come together for the common good of building future generations of active community members.

Marilyn convinced Oregon governors and legislators to enact a state statute designating the first Friday in December as "Oregon Civics Day for Teachers."

Bob Ridgley (a co-founder of CLP) said, "Our journey with Marilyn over the last 40 years has been one of the most gratifying experiences of our lives. It has been thrilling to watch her grow CLP from its earliest conception to what it is today: a powerful instrument for civic engagement in Oregon and a model of what passion for education and a deep respect for democracy can accomplish."

We were so pleased to honor Marilyn Cover for her tireless work on behalf of Oregon children!

OREA BUSINESS

Convention Financial Report

The State OREA's fiscal year is from 7-1-25 to 6-30-26. Here is a recap of our financial status for this period. We had an income of $20,847 and expenses of $20,951. This resulted in a net loss of $104. The $12,000 distribution in the Incentive Program allowed us to return money to local units that allowed our finances to "break even."

At the time of the convention, we had $41,619.52 in our checking account. This was before the many convention costs. We currently have two CD accounts: #1 has $31,625 and #2 has $10, 658.

The second year of the Incentive Program once again distributed $12,000 to local units. Unit 2 received $2,000 for hosting the convention. The following is a breakdown of the distributions for all the units in meeting the three criteria of involvement at both the local and state levels.



Colleen Nyberg, Unit 34 President, receives $2,000 incentive check from Vic.

Unit 1	$1,000
Unit 2	$1,600
Unit 5	$1,300
Unit 9	$500
Unit 13	$1,600
Unit 20	$1,000
Unit 21	$1,000
Unit 34	$2,000
	$10,000!!!



Mary Hopkins (Unit 21), Jan Eck (Unit 1), Tom Greenough (Unit 20) receiving incentive checks from Vic.

Submitted by Vic Scaravilli, OREA State Treasurer

Unit Awards

President Bonita Fillmore presented **Unit of Distinction** and **Communication Award** certificates to representatives of their units. This year, every unit in the state completed the paperwork to show how they communicate with their members and communities and what they do to support their members to live up to the motto, "To Serve, Not To Be Served." Thank you to the unit presidents for completing the necessary paperwork and guiding your units to excellence.





Project Boards

OREA units who had developed and carried out a new project brought project boards to the convention and presented their unit's new project to those in attendance. Each unit was given a $25 check to assist with their next great idea. This is an opportunity to hear the new ideas units around the state are participating in. One example, is Unit 5 (left) who presented their new idea of leaving books at laundromats and small libraries around the Klamath Basin for families to promote literacy.

2026 Appreciation Awards

Each OREA Unit was asked to nominate an individual from their membership to be recognized at the State Convention for exceptional service to their OREA Unit and to their community. All 8 units nominated individuals.



Unit 2 - Salem

Ardeth Woods is the Appreciation Award recipient from Unit 2. She is a member of The Memorial Fund board, attends OEA-Retired Assembly, attends Unit 2 meetings, volunteers, helped organize the 2026 OREA Convention, is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, is active in her church and was "Rosie, the Riveter" of WWII fame in a parade in Portland.

Unit 13 - Central Oregon

Unit 13 nominated Sally Griffin, Unit 13's treasurer, for an Appreciation Award. She has been the unit's treasurer for six years. She has been the one who has communicated with Central Oregon Community College about Unit 13's annual scholarship for students who have graduated from a Central Oregon high school and are sophomores in Education.



Unit 9 - Pendleton

After relocating to Pendleton nearly six years ago to be near her daughter's family and being invited to a unit meeting, Sandy Winger quickly became an integral member of our unit. She has taken on the position of secretary and plays a huge role in planning and helping execute our activities. Sandy helps organize the annual Holiday Bazaar, which is the main fundraiser for our teacher grant program, volunteers for the RIF book distribution to the elementary schools and assists with the Heritage Museum tours in the Spring for 4th grade students exploring Oregon history. Sandy regularly volunteers in an elementary school classroom and has joined Pendleton service groups and boards. Sandy is a perfect example of an OREA member who has not been an educator but recognizes the value of education and actively works to make a difference.

Unit 34 (King City)



Charmaine Lindsay is Unit 34's Appreciation Award nominee because she embodies exceptional service in its purest form. At 96 years old, after breaking both wrists and spending weeks in rehab, Charmaine never waivered in her commitment to our members. She continued to work - painfully, patiently, determinedly - on producing our wonderful monthly newsletter, ensuring our community stayed informed and connected.

Charmaine has been an active member of OREA Unit 34 for thirty-seven years. She served as president in 1995-1997 and was head of the scholarship committee, which has awarded over $45,000 to 46 students since 1997. Charmaine's positivity never dims, her support never falters and her encouragement lifts everyone of us.

2026 Appreciation Awards

Unit 5 - Klamath County



Unit 5 nominated Cynthia DeRosier to receive an Appreciation Award. Cynthia is the community connection to the Klamath-Lake County Food Bank. She faithfully collects the donations each month. She reports the amount to the leadership and membership. She then takes the donation to the Food Bank in a timely manner. The monthly donation from Unit 5 members is typically over $300. Unit 5 wants to honor Cynthia for her tireless and outstanding work on behalf of Unit 5.

Unit 1 - Portland

Georgann Wingerson receives an Appreciation Award from Unit 1 for calling Unit 1 members to get correct birthdays for each person as well as chairing the Unit 1 Anniversary All-Member Birthday Party.

Unit 20 (Mid-Columbia)

Unit 20 would like to honor Rymmel Lovell with an Appreciation Award. Rymmel is a true example of the motto, "To Serve and Not Be Served." She organized and runs The Dalles County School Museum which contains thousands of items that show the history of schools in the district. She spends hours cataloging items and then displays them for people to view when they come to the museum. She attends meetings and is always willing to help with projects despite the fact that she has limited vision. She also is in charge of the tabs that our unit collects for the state convention. She always has a smile on her face and is the perfect example of the motto.

Unit 21 (Union County)



Mary and Gerald Hopkins is Unit 21's choice for an Appreciation Award. They have held offices in Unit 21 for many years and truly act as a team in all their endeavors. Mary did the minutes readying them for distribution along with the agenda that Gerald gave her with information on the speakers. When a project was determined, she delivered the funds. Mary took photos for the unit. She was the nudge and reminder during meetings which Gerald led. Gerald organized field trips organizing transporatation and Mary did the calling. Gerald held the unit together and reached out to new members. Teamwork makes the dream work!!!!

Community Service Awards

This year, the State OREA is recognizing each OREA member who has volunteered any amount of hours in literacy-based volunteering and general volunteering. We did not have a "winner" in each category but with gold, silver and bronze medals congratulated each OREA member. Since most members did not attend the convention, we sent the medals home with a representative from each unit. We hope each unit will have their own "awards ceremony!"

Literacy volunteering

Literacy volunteering involves individuals donating their time and skills to help children, adults or non-native speakers improve their reading, writing, language or comprehension abilities. Unlike general volunteering, which might focus on physical labor, event support, or food distribution. Literacy volunteering centers directly on educational empowerment and communication skills.

Gold = 200+ hours, Silver = 101-191 hours, Bronze = 1-100 hours

Unit 1	Silver - **Jeff Parsons**
	Bronze - **Ellen Trahan**
Unit 2	Silver - **Matt Falby, Joani Hayward**
	Bronze - **Shirley Lomax, Marcy Todd, Pam Wojcik**
Unit 5	Bronze - **LaDonna Gould, Deb Scaravilli, Joanne Skinner, Kathleen Walker-Henderson, Noreen Rhoades**
Unit 9	Gold - **Sherri Cain, Greg Holden**
	Silver - **Shirley Hollibaugh**
	Bronze - **Sandy Winger, Lona Odom, Karen Rose, Ellen Wardell, Larry Brizendine, Judy Brizendine, Kathy Holden, Tricia Towne, Patti Clark, Darcy Johnson**
Unit 13	Gold - **Cathleen Lemke-Wallace**
	Bronze - **Linda Olson**
Unit 20	Gold - **Paul Zastrow**
	Bronze - **Frank Wall, Erma Hickman, Sue Hukari, Linda Drew**
Unit 21	Bronze - **Anne Rodriguez**
Unit 34	Silver - **Gail McNally**
	Bronze - **Myran Boyce, Judy Bristol, Darlene Cook, Annalee Edwards, Peggi Federspiel, Connie Gillespie, Kay Gooding, Paula Levin, Nancy Lewis, Charmaine Lindsey, Pam Mitchell, Colleen Nyberg, Barb Petrin, Jay Petrin, Bonnie Scott, Shirley Shanahan, Laura Spurrell, Lila Kern, Mel Kern, Susan Tanzer-Hall, Barbara Thomason, Flo Tiemeyer, Les Zoller**



All literacy volunteers attending the 2026 OREA convention in Independence.

Community Service Awards

General Volunteering

General volunteering is all other volunteering that does not deal with literacy. Some examples of general volunteering include: delivering Meals on Wheels, service organization (OREA, Lions, Rotary, DKG) projects, highway cleanup, transporting friends to medical appointments, teaching Sunday School, volunteering at the Criterion Schoolhouse, and many, many, many more!

Gold = 1,000+ hours, Silver = 500-999 hours, Bronze = 1-499 hours

Unit 1
Gold - Pat Eck
Silver - Ellen Trahan, Jan Eck, Mary Thamann
Bronze - Sharon Soliday, Lynelle Neitzel, Tammy Billick, Georgann Winderson, Jan Thomson, Paul Barkett, Katie Booker, Carla Heckrodt, Paulette Holly, Susan Lindberg, Carl Lindberg, Fran Lee, David Mayer, Cindy O'Mealy, Cindy Parsons, Nancy Phelps, Julie Romberg, Peggy Soliday, Fred Wong, Mary Reese

Unit 2
Gold - Val Luukinen
Silver - Carol Greeno, Lesley Johnson, Ardeth Woods
Bronze - Patricia Elder, Matt Falby, Dale Greeno, Sue Hatten, Joani Hayward, Shirley House, Teri Magee, Keith Putman, Louise Putman, Marcy Todd, Pam Wojcik

Unit 5
Gold - Bernie Wood, Deb Scaravilli, Vic Scaravilli
Silver - Jaynee Coslet, Kathleen Walker-Henderson
Bronze - Joanne Beda, Betty Carestia, Sandy Couch, Beulah Davis, Cynthia DeRosier, Nancy Gilder, LaDonna Gould, Arlene Henry, Brenda Jensen, Milly Kramer, Leslie Maxwell, Tina Millett, Elmer Ogborn, Noreen Rhoades, Joanne Skinner, Barbara Smith, Larry Wagner, Winnie Wagner, Sue Walker

Unit 9
Bronze - Karen Vander-Platt, Sandy Winger, Bill Mayclin, Lona Odom, Karen Rose, Jodi Harnden, Steve Muller, Ellen Wardell, Larry Brizendine, Judy Brizendine, Sherry Cain, Kathy Holden, Tricia Towne, Marge Normington-Jones, Tricia Towne, Patti Clark, Darcy Johnson

Unit 13
Silver - Sue Couch, Becky Smith
Bronze - Tina Deamon, Marian Spencer, Cecilia Stec, Cathleen Lemke-Wallace, Randy Wallace, Linda Olson,Mary Jane Elliott, Sally Griffin, Peggy Himes, Annie Kauppila, Connie Larson, Susan Lushbaugh, Jolene Patrick, Julie Ross, Judy Sale, Robin Schrage, Judy Mason, Lois Frey

Unit 20
Gold - Paul Zastrow
Bronze - Frank Wall, Jan Leininger, Merrijo Gredler, Julie Carter, Len Hickman, Erma Hickman, Sue Hukari, Phil Hukari, Rymmel Lovell, Tom Greenough, Ann Maslen, George Clark, Patty Burnet, Linda Drew

Unit 21
Bronze - Mary Hopkins, Gerald Hopkins, Becky Preston, John Preston, Carol Kroll, Anne Rodriguez, Phyllis Arnst, Betty Sprenger, Susie Eddy, Kelly McAllister, Connie Slater, Doyle Slater, Larry Kroll, Sharon Hochstadt, Fred Arnst, Catherine Prindle

Unit 34
Gold - Darlene Cook, Kay Gooding
Silver - Mark Federspiel, Peggi Federspiel, Gail McNally, Pam Mitchell, Jay Petrin, Laura Spurrell
Bronze - Myrna Boyce, Judy Bristol, Brenda Bronson, Tom Bronson, Annalee Edwards, Connie Gillespie, Lila Kern, Nancy Jo Lewis, Charmaine Lindsay, Colleen Nyberg, Barb Petrin, Bonnie Scott, Shirley Shanahan, Ken Shanahan, Paula Levin, Susan Tanzer-Hall,Barbara Thomason, Mel Kern, Flo Tiemeyer,Les Zoller, Carolyn Skolnik



The Memorial Fund Scholarships

Oregon State University Students Receive Scholarships

Two post-graduate students from Oregon State University (OSU) were the recipients of $1500 scholarships from The Memorial Fund. Vali Kianoush and Seoyoon Kang were selected by a committee, which screened several candidates for their research at the university. Seoyoon Kang and Kianoush Vali shared their experiences and goals at the 2026 OREA State Convention held in Independence, Oregon on September 30, 2026.



Seoyoon "Judy" Kang, a Ph.D. student in Public Policy at Oregon State University, has researched several areas relating to adult experience with health care systems and policies. Kang has explored issues relating to senior citizens in the areas of transportation access. Her research has covered many areas relating to adults with memory difficulties, health care accessibility, and mobility for senior independence.

She has conducted studies for the City of Beaverton, the Korean Institute of Public Administration and the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements.



Kianoush Vali's area for study is Civil Engineering (Architectural Engineering) with a research focus on healthy aging, lighting and the health and well-being of older adults. He is a member of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) and served as president of the IES Student Chapter at OSU. He is also a 2026 OSU Center for Healthy Aging Research Life Scholar. His research activities focus on architectural lighting, the built-environment, sleep and healthy aging, particularly through research examining light exposure in the homes of older adults. He has authored numerous articles, one entitled, "Light Exposure of Older Adults Living Alone: A Pilot Study." After graduation Vali plans to continue a research-oriented career connecting architectural engineering with human health and healthy aging.



Kainoush, Darlene Cook (treasurer of The Memorial Fund), and Seoyoon.

OREA MEMORIAL FUND

The OREA Memorial Fund provides an opportunity for units and individuals to honor the memory of deceased members, relatives or friends. The Fund was started in March 1972, by Lela Gretti, who gave $100 in memory of her husband, Roy. Since that initial gift, the OREA Memorial Fund has grown with gifts from OREA units, individuals and basket raffles at OREA state conventions. At our 2026 convention in Independence, 13 lovely baskets raised $729 for the Fund! Thank you to our units and members who provided the baskets and to those who bid on them. Thank you also to Unit 5 who raised $40 by selling books at the convention.

During the past year, eight members and friends were recognized:

Ruth Ann Harnsberger Christensen Monette, Unit 2
Genevieve Ann Hearth, Unit 5
James Metler, Unit 5
Mary Ethelyn Dentz, Unit 9
Christina Flynn, Unit 5
Connie Mausshardt, Unit 5
Beth Warnick, Unit 5
Carolyn Louise Frasier, Unit 9



Genevieve Ann Williams Hearth, mother of Unit 5 members Sue Walker and Kathleen Walker-Henderson, was born July 21, 1935 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She was the eighth of nine children. She grew up in a small two-bedroom house. She married Kenneth Hearth the day before her 18th birthday. Gennie learned how to budget money at an early age because she grew up in a family with many people and little cash for basics, let alone extras. After winning a sewing machine, she made most of her own clothes and for her kids. She graduated from KUHS in 1954, only a few months before the birth of her first child. Gen was an unpaid employee of the Oregon Army National Guard, helping her husband with preparing audits, inventory, sewing patches on uniforms, and preparing newsletters. She was a Bluebird and 4-H leader. She was active in PTA, room mother for several classrooms and taught Sunday School. By example, Gennie taught her children that there was nothing they couldn't do. She was an amazing "Grammy" to four grandchildren and GG to five great-grands. She loved taking trips with all four generations. She was always interested in her community serving in the Women's Auxiliary of the Klamath Falls Gospel Mission. She passed away on June 5, 2026.



James Metler passed away on May 31, 2026 in Klamath Falls, Oregon at the age of 93. He proudly entered the US Air Force in 1952 and as a talented trumpet player, performed with the Band of the Golden West. During his service, he was honored to play "Taps" on the beaches of Normandy during the 10th anniversary commemoration of D-Day in 1954, a moment that reflected both his patriotism and his gift for music. After his service, he graduated with a degree in accounting which was his profession until retirement in 1997. Jim was a founding member of United Evangelical Free Church and served as the treasurer of Unit 5 for many years. His wife, Twila who was a high school secretary, passed away in 2019. He is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

OREA MEMORIAL FUND (continued)



Carolyn Louise Frasier, a long-time member of the Pendleton community, passed away on August 20, 2026. Known as Susie to her family, she grew up in Pullman, Washington. Her father died of ALS when she was eight. To support Carolyn and her two siblings, her mother went back to school and then worked as an educator. Numerous family members helped raise the children. Carolyn's childhood led her to appreciate the importance of family and helping people in need. Following in her mother's footsteps, Carolyn became a teacher in Ellensburg, Washington. In 1978, Carolyn, her husband Stephen Fairley and their two children moved to Pendleton. She taught at the Cay-Uma-Wa Preschool on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She also worked with troubled teens at the Homestead Youth Lodge. Carolyn was commissioned to write a book on the indigenous practice of root digging and she retained an appreciation of indigenous art and culture for the rest of her life. In 1982, Carolyn began a 20-year career teaching third grade and retired in 2002 devoting her time to volunteering and helping nonprofit organizations. According to one of her friends, "Carolyn was a champion for all students, especially those who needed extra tender loving care and support."

RuthAnn Harnsberger Christensen Monette, Christina Flynn, Connie Mausshardt, Beth Warnick and **Mary Ethelyn Deutz** were remembered in previous issues of the Chalkboard.

Units and individuals are encouraged to make donations to The Memorial Fund in memory of deceased members and friends. Please send photos and information to the Memorial Fund Treasurer, Darlene Cook (11803 NE 124th Ave. #C22, Vancouver, WA 98682, 541-331-3282, darmacook@gmail.com). **The photos and information will be shared in a Memorial Fund display at the annual state convention and in the next regular issue of the Chalkboard. The Memorial Fund is a 501 (c)(3) and all donations may be tax deductible.**

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 13 (Central Oregon)
increased their membership by 6 new members.

Unit 13 received a $25 monetary award to be used for unit recruitment activities.

2026 Convention Business Meeting Minutes

Presidents Report

Bonita shared an update on her healing and reported that she had participated in the officers' meetings. However, she was unable to visit the various OREA units throughout Oregon.

Introductions

The state officers were introduced, followed by introductions of the unit members in attendance.

Approval of the 2025 Convention Minutes

Kathleen Walker Henderson moved approval of the 2025 convention minutes, seconded and approved..

Membership Recruitment and Growth

Paul Zastrow emphasized the need to recruit additional members and strengthen local membership. He suggested contacting school superintendents to identify employees who are planning to retire and may be interested in becoming involved with OREA.

He noted that Unit 99 had recruited additional members through AMBA. Continued efforts are needed to increase membership across local units.

Paul reminded members that Executive Committee meetings are held on the third Friday of each month.

Legislative Update

Paul discussed Oregon's upcoming long legislative session and emphasized the importance of maintaining communication with state senators and representatives.

He noted that Democrats held a supermajority in both the Oregon House and Senate. Discussion focused on public policy, support for schools, and concerns regarding flat funding.

Officer Slate and Appointments

Paul Zastrow announced the proposed slate of officers and continuing responsibilities:

- **Co-Presidents:** Lona Odom and Deb Scaravilli - elected
- **Membership:** Lona Odom will continue overseeing membership.- appointed
- **Chalkboard Publication:** Deb Scaravilli will continue overseeing the Chalkboard publication.- appointed
- **Treasurer:** Vic Scaravilli - appointed
- **Executive Director:** Paul Zastrow - appointed
- **Secretary:** Heidi DeCorte, who also serves as Oregon's local AMBA representative - elected

Bonita called for nominees for the Vice President position. Kathleen Walker Henderson nominated herself and was elected as part of the slate of proposed officers by acclamation.

Paul Zastrow and Vic Scaravilli were appointed to continue in their current positions. Heidi DeCorte will continue serving as Secretary.

Memorial Fund and Scholarship Program

Darlene Cook discussed the Memorial Fund, which was established to remember friends, family members, and OREA members who had passed away during the previous year. The names of those who had passed away were read.

The Memorial Fund has since become a scholarship fund. Donations and other funds collected are distributed to scholarship recipients. Darlene reviewed the fund balance and donations received and noted that the fund is organized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Financial Report and Unit Incentive Program

Vic Scaravilli reviewed the organization's accounts, including the sources of funds and how the funds are distributed. Currently there is $41,619.52 in the checking account and we have $42,283 in 2 CD's, earning $1,645.94 in interest. Members discussed the continued importance of encouraging local units to participate in the annual convention and other OREA activities so they can qualify for financial incentives.

$12,000 in OREA funds was distributed. Vic reviewed the Incentive Program, under which units can earn funds by:

1. Increasing membership.
2. Recording volunteer hours.
3. Attending the convention.
4. Hosting the Convention at $2,000

Members were advised that every unit would receive funds under the Incentive Program.

The following unit incentive amounts were reported:

Unit	Reported allocation	Unit 20	$1,000
Unit 34	$2,000	Unit 21	$1,000
Unit 2 – Salem	$1,600	Unit 1	$1,000
Unit 13 – Central Oregon	$1,600	Unit 9	$500
Unit 5	$1,300	The allocations listed above total $10,000.	

Teri M. asked why unused funds in the accounts could not be returned to the local units if the State OREA disbanded. Bonita replied that we aren't talking about disbanding. Paul pointed out that it is stated in our bylaws that remaining funds, in the event of disbanding the state organization, are sent to the national organization, which is a common plan for most organizations. Discussion followed.

Website and Membership Rosters

Lona Odom discussed the OREA website and the work she completed with AMBA to improve it. She asked unit presidents to ensure their membership rosters are current and accurate.

Chalkboard

Deb Scaravill, editor of the Chalkboard (the state newsletter), distributed Chalkboard deadlines. This information is also in the folder Lona Odom prepared for each unit president. It is planned to have five publications during the year. Any suggestions for the Chalkboard, please contact Deb Scaravilli.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Criterion School

Jan Eck spoke about the Criterion School and the visitors it receives. Members were informed that volunteer opportunities are available at the Criterion School during the Oregon State Fair.

Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget

A motion was presented to approve the budget for fiscal year 2026–2027. The motion was seconded and after discussion it was passed.

Discussion and Motion Regarding Volunteer Hours

Kathleen Walker Henderson asked whether volunteer hours spent with family members could qualify toward OREA volunteer-hour requirements. She explained that she reads to her grandchildren and believed these activities should be eligible.

Deb Scaravilli explained that the state establishes the requirements governing which activities qualify as volunteer hours. Kathleen Henderson made a motion to allow volunteer hours spent with family members to count toward the volunteer-hour requirement, up to 10 hours per week.

Nancy spoke against the motion. Kathleen acknowledged Nancy's concerns but emphasized the importance of attracting and retaining members.

Deb suggested limiting eligible family volunteer hours to three hours per week rather than ten. Kathleen agreed to the proposed three-hour limit, and Bernie seconded the revised motion.

Nancy requested that the issue be referred to a committee. Bernie stated that a motion was already on the floor. Kathleen suggested implementing the proposal for one year to evaluate its effectiveness. The motion to allow up to 3 hours per week in family service volunteering for one year to evaluate its effectiveness was seconded and passed in a vote. The motion to refer the motion above to a committee was seconded and failed to pass.

Future Convention Locations

The following plans and discussions regarding future conventions were reported:

- **2027 Convention:** Unit 20, Mid-Columbia, will host the convention.
- **2028 Convention:** Klamath Falls is discussing the possibility of hosting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi DeCorte
OREA Secretary

OREA State Incentive Program

For the 2025– 2026 Membership Period

Unit		Increase Membership Points		Volunteer Hour Points		Convention Attendance Points		Total Unit Points	Percent of Total	Amount for Unit
1	+4	8	6904	15	5	10		33	10%	$1,000
2	+1	5	5076	11	8	35		51	16%	$1,600
5	+2	7	8937	19	5	17		43	13%	$1,300
9	+1	2	4563	10	1	3		15	5%	$500
13	+6	35	3636	8	2	9		52	16%	$1,600
20	+1	5	4861	10	3	19		34	10%	$1,000
21	+4	20	1193	3	2	10		33	10%	$1,000
34	+4	13	11366	24	10	29		66	20%	$2,000
		95	+	100	+	132	=	327		$10,000

Increase Membership Points

- The percentage increase in membership this year compared to last year expressed in points.

Volunteer Hour Points

- The percentage of each unit's hours compared to the state total of 46,535 hours expressed in points.

Convention Attendance Points

- The percentage of the number of people attending the convention compared to the total number of members in each unit expressed in points.

Percent of Total

- The percentage of each unit's total points compared to the total number of points obtained by all units combined.

Amount for Unit

- The amount allocated by the state for distribution 2025 - 2026 is $10,000. The amount each unit receives is their percent of total multiplied by $10,000.