

What kinds of programs does the Department of Education support?

by Marleen Wallingford

Linda McMahon, whose family made large contributions to the Trump presidential campaign is the new Secretary of Education. McMahon is a business executive with no prior experience working in education.

She has been tasked by the president with the job of dismantling the department although it was created by Congress and closing the program would require congressional approval. It has just announced that 50 percent of the staff has been cut.

Currently the department has been asked to prioritize complaints of antisemitism and has opened investigations into colleges and school sports leagues for allowing transgender athletes to compete on women's teams. Furthermore, the Trump administration will not support the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness and repayment programs.

The NEA and its supporters are adamantly opposed to closing the Department of Education. Although the department does not mandate curriculum, a function of the state, the Department does help ensure that low-income schools get the resources they need to keep pace with more affluent ones, and students and teachers with disabilities are treated fairly. This is

done though Title I grants, IDEA guidelines and funding. The Department also supports school improvement programs that give funds to schools for innovative programs to improve educational outcomes.

In Oregon, 10.8 percent of school funding comes from the federal government. It appears that the Trump administration wants all school funding to come from local taxes.

The Department also provides funds for public charter schools.

The Department has given billions of dollars in students loans. It oversees college accreditation and collects data on student outcomes. It also operates the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA program, which allows students to apply for loans, grants and other college aid with one form.

The Department of Education is primarily about ensuring that all of our children have equal access to education. It is our government's smallest department and accounts for only 4 percent of our federal budget, which is \$268 billion dollars

By eliminating this department, we lose access to federal support of our public schools and student loans. This is particularly concerning for our most economically disadvantaged and special needs children and hits rural schools hardest.

NEA RA will be in Portland this summer

by Ray Johnson

Now there is a second opportunity to help with NEA this summer in Portland. Along with the NEA RA meeting, you can volunteer to help with registration for the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront.

The shifts are as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 28.
- 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 29 & 30.

Meals and parking will be provided, but not lodging. To sign up, send an email to Eileen Wende at: ewende72@gmail.com.

Also, volunteers still are needed for the July 2-6 RA. If you have not signed up to volunteer, please go to: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dbd6133589ff4a8783fe74cc7afe0475> as the signup address in the February PrimeTimes was changed.

If living out of Portland, and it is too far to drive, please go here to request housing: <https://forms.gle/x9xA7oRYJsAtt62A>.

If you are willing to offer housing for out-of-towners, go here: <https://forms.gle/6y7qHj5ko69maKzY7>.



Random remarks

by President Eileen Wende

I have just returned from the 2025 NEA Leadership Summit and the NEA-Retired Joint

Conference in Detroit MI, along with three of your other OEA-Retired Board Directors: JoAnn Conroy, Cherene Mills and Paul Zastro. Many of the sessions were informative and interactive to help leaders from across the country share not only their concerns for their students and educators, but share their successes as well.

We celebrated the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act. NEA has tried for 40 years to repeal WEP/GPO and it was signed by President Biden at the end of his term,

A highlight, was keynote speaker Heather Cox Richardson, a Professor of History at Boston College, her award-winning books cover subjects from the European settlement of North America to the history of the Republican party through the Trump administration. You might be familiar

with her daily “Letters from an American”, as a pod cast or daily newsletter in The Washington Post. We were gifted with her book, “Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America”, as we entered the conference hall. She is a passionate, active speaker, who uses hand and arm gestures to make a point. She talked to us about the history and the role of education in America, underscoring the importance it is to our democracy. In these trying times I find her letters to be very helpful in trying to understand how we got to this place in our country and she offers some hope, as to how we get out.

The NEA-Retired Conference immediately followed the Summit with the theme: “A Lifetime of Promoting, Protecting and Strengthening Public Education: The Foundation of our Democracy.” I guess they wanted to stress that we are on the same page as the actives, only we have been working on it longer.

The vast majority of the sessions offered to participants had to do with organizing and strengthening our State and local Chapters. Issues that resonated with me were the retention of active members, the involvement of newly retired members into leadership positions, the expansion of local chapters around the state and of course, growing membership.

We enjoyed the conversations we had with members from around the United States. JoAnn, Cherene, Paul and I networked with other state leaders to learn new ways of strengthening and expanding our own state organization. We look forward to sharing the information with our committees and Board, as we move forward in our planning for the future.



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CALENDAR	
<u>2025</u>	
April 1	PrimeTimes published
April 18-19	OEA Representative Assembly, Holiday Inn, Riverfront
May 18	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
June 1	PrimeTimes published
June 29-30	NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Portland, OR
July 2-6	NEA Representative Assembly, Portland, OR
July 8	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem

OEA Board meets

by Al Rabchuk

Many educators have expressed concerns around the current federal administration and issues around immigration and gender identity. OEA Executive Director Tracy-Ann Nelson announced at the March Board meeting that the Oregon Attorney General, ODE, HECC, COSA, OEA, OSEA, and other statewide education organizations had reached a common understanding.

Presidential executive directives are not law. One of the OEA Board of Directors members expressed concerns about whether this policy had been communicated to all districts across the state.

A quick show of hands from all the active educators in the Boardroom demonstrated not only that the policy had indeed been communicated across the state, but that it was received with approval.

Most of the meeting was spent preparing for April's Rep-assemblies. Resolutions, Bylaws, Policies were given recommendations and PRAM preparations were made.

However, I do want to highlight one of the actions. The Board gave a "Do Pass" recommendation to a policy about organizing private charter schools. Please take some time and familiarize yourself with it.

The intent is not to organize all private charter schools. The policy is meant to provide guidance as to which private charter schools OEA will organize, and which charter schools will be toxic to OEA's core values. The policy was discussed at several board meetings. At times the

discussion was contentious.

But, the final draft of the policy won approval of most of the Board. Also note that this policy is just a first step. I do expect that this policy will elicit a considerable amount of debate on the RA floor.

Bylaws and policy changes

by Marleen Wallingford

The following Bylaws and Policies changes were passed at the 2025 March 3 OEA-Retired Annual Assembly. In general, the proposals are updates and/or clarifications.

OEA-Retired Policies

Passed
Proposal A
Meetings

The president appoints the chair of each committee with the exception of the Budget Committee.

Each Board member will participate in at least one committee. Attendance is expected at committee meetings.

Meetings of committees shall be scheduled during regular Board meetings up to twice a year, if needed, in addition to their online meetings.

Committee shall implement the charges approved by the Board.

Passed
Proposal B
Updated terms of office for NEA-RA delegates

OEA-Retired Bylaws

Passed
Proposal A
The Secretary, Treasurer will file hard copies of their reports
OEA-Board members will

participate on one committee.

Passed
Proposal B
The president shall submit at least one nominee to the OEA Executive Committee for the OEA-Retired Lifetime Achievement Service Award.

Communications shall maintain and update a communications system that promotes OEA-Retired.

Passed
Proposal C
Updated terms of office for Region Directors.

Lobby day a success

by Paul Zastrow

Some 200 active and retired OEA members, plus some school board members and school superintendents spent

President's Day – February 17th in Salem speaking with state legislators about concerns with education funding and other important issues. We arrived near 8 AM at the Salem

Convention Center, had a quick bite or two to sustain us until the boxed lunch, listened to several of OEA's Government Relations staff, broke into groups with assigned legislators to reach, and practiced what we were going to relay.

Leaders of small group – chosen based on experience and positions on OEA's legislative teams met with teachers and others from specific legislative areas to meet and discuss priority education issues. These targeted Fully Funding Special Education: eliminating the cap of 11% that has existed since
Continued on Page 6.

Increasing our impact

by Cherene Mills

As the school year approaches its end, and attacks on public education increase, hundreds of OEA educators across the state are preparing to retire. In December, we sent out membership materials to almost 1,500 former members of OEA who had retired over the past three school years. We should all be working to bring those retired educators back into the fold by having them join OEA-Retired.

The OEA-Retired Membership Committee is working harder this year. We received an NEA Retired Organizing Grant to help increase our membership, increase our pre-retired membership, and to increase the number of BIPOC OEA-Retired members serving on our committees, which meet virtually.

Some of the actions the committee is taking as part of the grant are hosting a lunch at OEA-RA, hosting some happy hour events in different areas of the state for active educators and OEA-Retired members, updating membership material to give to local leaders for their retirees, and staffing tables at all OEA events.

We have been encouraging OEA-Retired social events in new locations across the state. Committee lists and descriptions have been mailed to every member and are available at every OEA event.

OEA-Retired is all of us. Join an OEA-Retired committee. Ask retired educators to join. Ask educators nearing retirement to join. Ask active educators to join as pre-retired.

Feel free to give potential members my email address so

they can reach out to ask questions or get help with joining: c.mills.wea@gmail.com.

Please vote

by Mavis Randklev

When you receive this issue of the PrimeTimes, nominations already will be closed.

Some upcoming important dates you need to put on your calendar for the election are:

Online voting opens April 10 and closes May 2. Paper ballots will be mailed April 10 and must be postmarked by May 2 to count.

Please take the time to vote.

Opinion: current events

by Maureen Barnhart

Hello, Elon (Musk). Here are five of my accomplishments for this week. I know that you only want bullet points—too much information would hamper the whole arbitrary nature of the exercise—but it will help me clarify my thinking for myself to share a bit more of my process as follows.

SNAP: In his first term, President Donald Trump tried to take food away from hungry families in need most by cutting or adding restrictions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

More than 42.6 million Americans rely on governmental support and now face rising food costs.

Some (Republican) lawmakers in Congress and the White House see safety net programs as targets for cuts, even as more than 1 in 8 households already say they have difficulty getting enough food.

I am now not just donating to

the local food pantry, and to the “Faith Café” that offers free meals, but I’ve based on the research is that I won’t have to keep up with what we could have been adding to the body of knowledge.

With increased costs due to tariffs, clothing for children will be unaffordable for many. In addition to a monthly donation, I contributed to an OEA Foundation fundraiser this week, because educators are the frontline for supporting families with school-aged children and youth.

With the dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education and handing responsibility over to states, Oregon’s legislature will want education on the needs of, well, education. As I do weekly, I lobbied my legislators (and I continue my support of the OEA PAC.

And as I watch the Federal Government (and you) dismantle society, I donned my Elizabeth Warren t-shirt proclaiming persistence, sent notes of thanks to the Oregon Congressional Delegation for their advocacy, and determined that I will increase my support of the NEA PAC.

We remember

Robert Buckley
July 22, 1933 - Feb. 8, 2025
Depoe Bay

Lawrence Daw
April 7, 1939 - Sept. 29, 2024
Tigard

Deanne Golick
May 26, 2021
Eugene

Edith Orner
Feb. 18, 1929 - March 8, 2024



Travel with OEA-Retired to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States

Travel with OEA-Retired

by Ray Johnson

History lovers should take note of our featured trip this issue: **Discover America's 250th Anniversary**, March 22-30, 2026.

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, you trace the story of the nation's rise on a journey through Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Begin in Boston, where the American Revolution took root and venture to nearby Lexington and Concord, where the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired.

Explore historic New York City on a panoramic tour and sit down for lunch in an 18th Century tavern. In Philadelphia, see the Liberty Bell and reflect on the nation's founding at the Museum of the American Revolution. Explore Washington, D.C., from the U.S. Capitol Building to the city's iconic monuments and memorials, and visit George Washington's estate, Mount Vernon.

Be immersed in the history of a country found on the ideals of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" in 1776. It is an is Level 2 activity that involves walking over a variety of terrains or several city blocks.

See sidebar for other details.

Due to complaints, Collette, our sponsoring company, rescinded its no paper registration for trips. You can continue to submit a paper reservation form, however, it is much easier to sign up online.

OEA-Retired Travel 2025-27

2025

Christmas on the Danube

December 2-11, 2025

SOLD OUT!

Southern Charm featuring Charleston, Savannah & Jekyll Island

February 23-March 1, 2026. 7 days with 9 meals.

Cost: \$3,699.

Deposit of \$698 due August 16, 2025.

Final payment: November 24, 2025.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1280593>

2026

Discover America's 250th Birthday

March 22-30, 2026. 7 days with 9 meals.

Cost: \$4,249.

Deposit of \$698 due September 22, 2025.

Final payment due December 22, 2025.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1289926>

Cultural Treasures of Japan, early April

Colors of New England, early October

Magical Christmas Markets, early December

2027

Holland and Belgium Springtime River Cruise, March
Croatia and Its Islands, May

For information on Southern Charm and America's Birthday contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953, or sanrosenfeld@gmail.com

For Christmas, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-352-4453, or nancyjolewis@gmail.com





by **Marleen Wallingford**

General Meeting

9:30 a.m., April 10

PAT Office, 345 NE 8th Ave.
Tiffany Koyama Lane,
Portland's first educator city
council member will tell us about
her experiences in Portland City
Hall.

Also, we will be learning about
the popular hobby of quilt
making from one of our
members, Ruth Turler. Ruth
plans to bring many examples of
her quilting work,

\$15 lunch. RSVP to Marleen
Wallingford for above activities
at 503-927-2766 or
marleenwong@gmail.com

Breakfast

9:30 a.m., May 8

John Street Cafe
8338 N. Lombard

RSVP to Eileen Wende at
ewende72@gmail.com

Region II

First Tuesday Monthly Breakfast
10 a.m.-Noon, Sybil's Omelettes
2373 State St., Salem.

Questions and RSVP to: Paul
Schutz, 503-370-9208 or
paul.g.schutz@gmail.com.

Region I

by **Viki Mulick**

Region I recently held a lunch
get-together on Monday,
February 24 at Bethany Public
House. It was an extremely
stormy day, but we still had 16
members show up. Some people
showed up soaking wet after
finally finding the front door (it
wasn't obvious). Thanks to
Maureen Barnhart for setting up

the lunch and being the point
person for this event.

Of the 16 people who joined
us, one was a guest. This guest
had a chance to see what
friendly people we all are and
what we stand for. It was a
perfect opportunity to sign up a
possible new member to the
ranks of OEA-Retired.

I would encourage members to
invite retired educators to our
lunches. Also, keep talking to
your long retired educator
friends. I did not join OEA-
Retired until four years after
retiring from teaching and only
then after a good friend (Ray
Johnson) talked me into it. Some
people you just have to wear
down (lol).

We collected an overage of
\$13.60 at our lunch and decided
to donate it to the OEA
Foundation at our March 3,
Board Meeting.

Coming up next, Region I is
hosting a St. Patrick's Day Bash
on March 19 at Whelan's Irish
Pub for a 4:00 pm Happy Hour.

The Happy Hour can also be
dinner and/or appetizers if you
wish. There just may be a
surprise for the one who comes
dressed "most Irish."

Lobby day

Continued from Page 3.

1991 – HB 2953; Increasing
High Cost Disability Grants – HB
2448; Support for Regional
Inclusive Services; and Increases
for Early Intervention Services:
estimated to be about a \$700
million increase for schools. In
addition we were asked to
discuss the potential of asking
that class size become a manda-
tory subject for bargaining and
having pay equity for part-time
community college faculty.
My group were primarily
teachers in the Canby School
District – along with one of their
School Board members and their

Superintendent. We decided on
several teachers to "tell their
stories" to our assigned
legislators – Representative
Christine Drazen (R – Canby)
Minority Leader of the House,
and Senator Dan Bonham (R -
The Dalles) Minority Leader in
the Senate. Representative
Drazen greeted us and asked the
group to enter into her office and
listened to the story of a SpEd
teacher explaining problems with
identification of a student's
diagnosis, with outbursts,
leaving class, attacks on her and
other issues. Then an
experienced teacher who has
become a counselor explained
her experiences, almost mirror-
ing our first speaker.

Drazen indicated she was
somewhat in favor of eliminating
the SpEd cap, but unsure as to
what % would be possible. She
indicated that as she is in a
minority position she feels there
is no voice in the matter.

We then met with Senator
Bonham – who gave us less time
and started out stating that there
was a lot of waste and abuse in
the Department of Education
budget. He listened to our
concerns and then stated that he
was looking to place school
choice vouchers as a solution,
giving parents their say in the
matter.

Although Rep. Drazen was the
more positive individual, I feel
her position should lead her to
use her voice both for reason as
well as a 'bully pulpit' to argue
for what she stands for. As for
Senator Bonham – luckily he is
termed out after this session as
he was one of the group of
legislators who conveniently
walked out for over 10 days
during the last session. We need
legislators who seek solutions for
Public Education, not personal
pontification. Luckily, most of the
attendees had more positive
impressions of their elected.

OEA-RETIRED 2025 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
October 6 and 7 - Mt. Hood Oregon Resort
Welches, Oregon

Send registration and check to Bobbi Yambasu: 14223 SE Alder, St., Portland, OR 97233

Member Name(s) Guest Name(S) _____ \$60 _____

Member Name(s) Guest Name(S) _____ \$60 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Email _____

Please note any dietary needs _____

Interested in Putting Tournament? Yes ___ No ___ Name _____

Interested in Croquet Tournament? Yes ___ No ___ Name _____

Prizes will be awarded for each tournament



Fall conference planning

by Terri Domenigoni

These are the programs that we are planning on presenting at our Fall Conference: Timberline Lodge History and Art, Fossil Cats of North America, The Science of Sasquatch, Native American Tribes of Mt. Hood, Mt. Hood Search and Rescue Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, Brain Health, NEA Member Benefits, Mt Hood Cultural Museum, Mt. Hood Fruit Loop, and Legislative Session Recap.

The Fall Conference fee includes breakfast, Happy Hour and lunch.

Fee until, September 1 is \$60,

and starting September 2 will be \$70.

You must book your own room. Call 1-503-622-3101 and ask for the OEA-Retired rate.

Room price per night includes resort fee:

King Room	\$159
Queen Room	\$169
Fireside Room	\$179
Suites	\$209
2 bedroom Villas	\$329
3 bedroom Villas	\$429

Pet-friendly rooms available.

See www.MtHood-Resort.com for details

Read with us

by Marleen Wallingford

This is an opportunity to talk virtually with other retired educators about books. We begin at 9:30 a.m. Our upcoming schedule is:

April 25

“The Warmth of Other Suns”

by Elizabeth Wilkerson

June 6

“Survival Math”

by Mitchell Jackson

Mitchell talks about the

Portland of his childhood and explores how his family navigated their lives in one of the whitest major cities in the country.

Please contact Bobbi Yambasu for the virtual link:
bobbi4967@gmail.com

Property tax deferrals

by Maureen Barnhart

Are you eligible for property tax deferral? Seniors within a specific income level and whose homes fall below a specific value are eligible to defer their property taxes. When the property changes hands the taxes will be paid, with 6% interest. The legislature is currently considering using the funds for this deferral for the construction of affordable housing for seniors, they are also scrutinizing the fund to retain some of it for this program. (HB 3589)

For further information contact your county tax assessor. The deadline to file is April 15.

OEA Foundation asks:

Can you help?

- ✓ Every day, students in our schools need: 🍎 new school clothes
👓 eyeglasses 🧥 warm winter coats 🎧 hearing aids.
- ✓ You can help to provide a better education for these students.
by making tax-deductible contributions to the [OEA Foundation](#).
- ✓ As the [OEA Foundation](#) takes no administrative costs out of your
donation, 100 percent of your contribution goes directly to the students
to provide these basic needs.

Please mail a check to [OEA Foundation](#) (6900 SW Atlanta St.,
Portland, OR 97223) to help our students,
or, donate online at www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation.

**You also can earn redeemable points for the Foundation by registering
your Fred Meyer Rewards card at www.fredmeyer.com/
communityrewards (use Foundation number 85681), or similarly for
Amazon at org.amazon.com.**



Have you moved or changed your email?

Contact: Nikki Burke
Oregon Education Association
2540 Coral Ave NE, Salem OR 97305
503-364-6987
nikki.burke@oregoned.org