



# VIM 2009

<u>For Office Use Only</u>	
Story Received	_____
Picture Received	_____
Payment Received	_____

- Return this form for your VIM nominee as soon as they have been chosen. Please inform them immediately, because we must require that the story and picture be in by January 15, 2009.
- Make your check payable to OREA VIM
- Send this form and check to: OKLAHOMA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 18485  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154  
Attn: Sharon Cox

Our unit, \_\_\_\_\_, encloses a \$30.00 donation honoring our VERY IMPORTANT MEMBER.

We would like to honor the following named Very Important Member:

**The name of our VIM is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of the Unit Contact Person is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We will assume your VIM is a living member unless you indicate otherwise. If you are honoring a deceased member, please write (deceased) following the name and indicate the name and address of their family member.

(If your unit qualifies for two nominees - must have over 500 members - please duplicate this form)

## GIVE THESE DIRECTIONS TO YOUR VIM HONOREE

1. We need your picture and biography by **January 15, 2009**
  
2. The biography should be up to two typewritten pages with 1" side margins and a 2" top margin on the first page only. This is space to place the picture. The story cannot be more than two pages (front and back of one page) and those exceeding two pages will be returned to the sender to be edited down to two pages. The story can be double space or single-spaced depending on the length of the story.
  
3. The usual format for the story is:
  - a. Birth, birth place and early schooling
  - b. Higher education, degrees, etc.
  - c. Work experience
  - d. Honors
  - e. Other activities

Do your own thing!

4. The picture can be a snapshot or a studio photograph if you obtain permission from the photography studio because of copyright laws. A black and white or color photo is acceptable, preferably no larger than a 5" x 7". Please do not send group shots. It is very difficult to pick out one face from a group of faces. Please write your name on the back of the picture.
  
5. Send the picture and story by January 15, 2009 to:  
Oklahoma Retired Educators Association  
P. O. Box 18485  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154  
Attn: Sharon Cox

## **HISTORY OF VIM**

Written by request by Cleo B. White, VIM Chairperson

The word VIM denotes an energetic or active power, force, energy, spirit or vigor. The word fits right in with the idea we had for honoring members of the local association with VIM, which in reality stands for VERY IMPORTANT MEMBER!

When I was your state president in 1989-90, Olene Brown, our state AARP coordinator, and I were discussing the Andrus Foundation and how few donations we received from our Oklahoma Units for this worthy project. Some units, traditionally, sent a \$10.00 gift in honor of any deceased member. I stated that, "I hate to think that all the money we collect for the Andrus Foundation has to depend upon how many of our members die. I like to honor people while they are still living and can enjoy the award."

Olene Brown had learned from Jo McKinsey, one of our previous AARP Coordinators, that Oklahoma University received a grant from the Andrus Foundation that was larger than all the gifts Oklahoma had made to the foundation for many years. That was kind of embarrassing.

Olene and I brainstormed a bit on how to get more of our OREA units interested in making contributions to the Andrus Foundation. I felt that for a unit to be interested there had to be some benefit for the unit. Also, for some time we had been wanting to gather some stories of retired teachers about Oklahoma schools and teaching.

Finally, we came up with the idea of the VIM project - where an outstanding member of a local unit could be nominated by the unit and honored at the OREA State Convention. Part of the donation accompanying the nomination would go to the Andrus Foundation and the story of the persons' life and educational experiences would add to our collection of teacher stories. The bonus came when the University of Central Oklahoma asked for the stories to be put in the Oklahoma Archives of the University Library. We also had a request from the Oklahoma Historical Society. Later, other colleges and universities have asked for the stories.

The first year, 1990, we had nine members for VIM. The next year, 1991, we had 52, and in 1992 there were 66. In 1993, the list grew to an all time high with 87. This was almost too many to honor at one time, so in 1994 it was, by sweet suggestion, cut a bit and 65 VIM persons were nominated. This made a total in 5 years of 279 VIM persons with 53 units involved.

The Andrus Foundation has expressed deep appreciation for the contributions our VIM project had generated. Personally, I treasure the stories of our VIM honorees more than the money. I hope this program will continue for a long time.