THE BANNER

NEX NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 10:00 AM in the Education Service Center, 3027 S. New Haven Ave. Tulsa.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT Page 2
GETTING TO KNOW YOU Page 3
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Page 2
ELECTION OF OFFICERS Page 3
INFLATION AND YOUR OTRS BENEFIT Page 4
ANNUAL PLANT AND BOOK SALE Page 5
A DAY AT THE CAPITOL Page 5

April Program

Sabra Tucker is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association, representing the interests of over 62,000 retired teachers, support professionals, and school administrators. She has been with the association just under two years.

Prior to serving at OREA, she spent a number of years in education as a National Board Certified teacher, curriculum director, and school administrator. She has experience in all levels of education from early childhood to college.

She also has worked in state government at the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management. With degrees in both education and business, she now focuses on the public policy that affects education professionals, retirement issues, and public pensions. She specializes in assisting retirees and in protecting the benefits they have earned as school professionals.

She and her husband of nearly 30 years, Mike, a retired air force officer, live in Shawnee. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Sabra will update us on Legislative issues and OREA activities.

Sabra Tucker
OREA Executive Director

Lunch with Friends

RESERVATIONS
Single meal: $9.50. Reserve by calling Doris Jones 918-584-8606, or Eileta Creekpaum 918-742 7474 one week before meetings. To prepay the remaining two meals, make check to TMREA for $19.00 and send to Barbara Powers, 205 S. 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK

APRIL MENU
Tortilla Soup
Chicken/ Beef Taco Bar
Shredded lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, Salsa and sour cream
Chicken Enchiladas
Spanish rice and Mexican corn
Dessert
TAKING STOCK

I begin on a note of sadness, the legislature failed to act on the COLA bill, so for another year retirees will see no additional money in their checks. Even though money for a COLA does not affect the general budget and it has been proven that the teacher retirement system is strong and healthy and could fund an increase, the bill died without a hearing in the House. HB 1340, a one-time stipend bill, has made it to the Senate. It would pay a stipend of 2% of the retiree’s annual benefit up to $1000 maximum. A person would have to be retired for 5 years or more to receive anything. The average stipend would be $340.

OREA is closely following the bill and hoping to make some changes to it that would increase the benefit and increase the number of retirees who could receive this benefit. We are also watching to see what happens for active teachers and whether they will find it necessary to walk out of the classroom before legislators make the much needed increases to education. I hope you will find a way to support the active teachers if they are forced into drastic action. Meanwhile, enjoy that extra hour of sunlight in the afternoon. Just as spring brings life to flowers and birds, I hope our legislature will find a way to bring much needed new life in the form of revenue to our state.

Lynn

CAMP FIRE, GREEN COUNTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Camp Fire helps youth learn self-confidence and the life skills they need to thrive in today’s diverse and changing world. They connect youth with well-trained, safe adults who champion their full potential in a safe, inclusive space across multiple in- and out-of-school time programs.

Summer camp is integral to Camp Fire’s programming. Activities such as camping, water sports, hiking, and rappelling help foster an appreciation for the environment, encourage youth to try new challenges, and develop their sense of independence. In many cases, youth served in their after school clubs may live in areas that are unsafe for outdoor play and an experience at camp may be their only opportunity to hike, learn water safety, or develop an interest in outdoor activities.

A donor-funded scholarship program provides financial assistance to more than 40 families each year. As the need in our community rises, Camp Fire expects to see the number of scholarship requests rise as well. Scholarship requests for Summer Camp 2017 totaled $14,935. Reserves allowed them to support only $4,950 of the requests. A way to help this program would be to donate to the scholarship Fund.

Camp Fire welcomes all kids and families regardless of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity. The organization originated in 1910 from a summer camp program. Tulsa area clubs first formed in 1912 and Green Country Council received its charter in 1939. In 1975, the organization became coeducational. Today, Camp Fire Green Country is a contemporary, inclusive, coeducation organization serving almost 2,000 children annually through one of our three program areas: Community Building Clubs, Youth Leadership, and Camp and Outdoor.

Contacts: Renee Meeks, Executive Director <rmeek@tulsacampfire.org>
Kathy Blank, Board member
Website link: <www.tulsacampfire.org/camp>
Kathy Blank

Meet Kathy Farley Blank. Most of you already know her because she is usually the first person to greet you as you come into our monthly meetings. Kathy is a very energetic person who likes to connect people with what they need or want. She is TMREA’s Courtesy and Volunteer Coordinator which is a perfect job for this busy lady. She has been a member of TMREA for three years and has been on the board for two of those years.

Kathy spent the majority of her teaching career, 40 years, at Tulsa Public Schools’ Chouteau Elementary, with one year in Miami, Arizona and two years working part-time for Wright Elementary, also in TPS. In those 43 years, she taught all subjects for grades 2nd through 6th in addition to Art and Library Media. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Indiana State University and a Masters in Administration and Supervision from Oklahoma State University. Kathy has also worked as a journalist, rented and sold condominiums, and worked in the gift shop at the Amish Kitchen which her husband, Elam owned.

Kathy’s hobbies include creating jewelry to donate and sell, stamping cards, and knitting hats, traveling and collecting art. She stays active volunteering for Camp Fire, the Coffee Bunker library, and the Child Advocacy Network. In addition to her work with TMREA, she also belongs to Kappa Kappa Iota, Camp Fire Board of Directors, Tulsa Garden Club, the Herb Society, and German-American Society of Tulsa. Kathy credits her daughter Malinda with her beginning to work with nonprofits. Malinda served on the Camp Fire Board while she was still in high school.

Kathy and her husband Elam have two daughters, one son and four granddaughters. Two granddaughters are in college and two live in Mexico. Kathy and Elam also have three rescue dogs which they adore. Kathy is a breast cancer survivor since 2014 and says she does not cook, why would she with Elam around? Next time you see Kathy greeting people at the door, make sure you introduce yourself.

Election of Local Officers

At our April TMREA meeting we will be electing the 2018-2019 Executive Committee officers for our local TMREA unit. The offices are listed below. Those who have agreed to allow their names to be nominated for the office are listed. For additional nominations, please contact Eddie Creepaum: EMAIL, jcreekpaum@gmail.com, PHONE, 918-742-7474 (leave message). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. We ask that you get prior approval from anyone you place in nomination.

PRESIDENT: Automatically assumed by our current President Elect, Janet Brewster
PRESIDENT ELECT: Open for nominees
VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS: Nancy Remus
SECRETARY: Dr. Jan Smith
TREASURER: Barbara Powers
PAST PRESIDENT: Automatically assumed by our current President, Lynn Shockley

We are grateful for all those who willingly serve.

Election of District Director

Also at our April TMREA meeting, an election will be held for the director of the Tulsa OREA District.

The Banner is Now on the Web

You can now find our past newsletters on our Tulsa District web page at the OREA web site. If you find yourself wanting to look at a past issue and can’t find it on your computer, just go to http://orea.org/districts/tulsa and scroll down to the heading, “Newsletters”. We will keep an annual archive of The Banner at this site. Our thanks to OREA for providing us this service.

OREA Member Benefits

If you have a web browser, you can explore our OREA member benefits by clicking on the link, <http://orea.org/membership/benefits>. This web page has further links you can click for full descriptions of member benefits and how to access them. There are a LOT of benefits!
Effect of Inflation on Oklahoma Teacher Retirees

If we are to argue that a COLA is needed for state retirees, we need supporting facts. Below is a table, based on spreadsheet calculations by Don Hertzler, that allows you to calculate what your benefit should be if our Oklahoma Teacher Retirement benefit had received (1) the same increases that Social Security has given and (2) increases equal to the national average inflation, reduced by Oklahoma’s lower inflation rate.

**INSTRUCTIONS ON USING THE CHART**

To find what your salary would be if OTRS had given Soc. Sec. increases, multiply your check by the Soc. Sec. multiplier for the years retired. In the same way, use the National Average Inflation multiplier to find what your check should be to equal national average inflation. To keep up with inflation, your retirement benefit would probably need to be somewhere between these two values. If you would like to see the original study and the spreadsheet calculations, ask the Don Hertzler to send you a copy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years Retired</th>
<th>Soc. Sec. Multiplier</th>
<th>Nat. Ave. Multiplier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BELOW: On Thursday, March 15, Channel 8 TV interviewed Don Hertzler and two state employees about the need for a state retirees COLA. The coverage indicated that retired educators have not had a COLA for 10 years, just as teachers have not had a raise for 10 years. Our thanks to newscaster, Burt Mummolo, for conducting the interview and to Don Keenan, Retiree Region East Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees Association, for arranging the interview.

**OREA Working for You**

Elaine Dodd provided the following information which was passed out to the OREA Board of Directors on which she and Lynn Stockley serve.

**Funded Ratio, Okla. Pension Systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pension Plan</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Employees</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>101.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighters*</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Life</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges</td>
<td>110.8%</td>
<td>112.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ave. Funded Ratio 86.9% 89.1%

*NOTE: An accounting adjustment led to a drop.

OKLA: Retired TRS members - 60,680
Active employees 90,167
Average Monthly Retirement Benefit = $1,646
New teachers contribute 7% of salary; Employers contribute 9.5% o

**Donations to CAN**

Kathy Blank thanks you for a wonderful response to her request for donations to the Child Advocate Network.

The following items were donated to CAN at the February and March TMREA meetings.

Nine stuffed animals, 12 decks of playing cards, 7 puzzles & 5 game cards, 28 boxes of crayons, 8 -8 pack of markers, 3 -20 markers & 1- 50 markers, 41 pens & 88 pencils, 17 highlighters & 19 Sharpie markers, 30 paintbrushes, 12 journals & 8 spiral notebooks, 27 coloring books & 3 sketchpads, 28 books, 1 writing paper tablet & 2 sticker books, 148 diapers, 27 pairs of socks, 73 toothbrushes & 26 tubes of toothpaste, 5 canisters disinfectant wipes, 3 boxes of Ziploc bags, 5 boxes of aluminum foil & 3 plastic wrap, 21 bags & 9 binders/folders, 8 packages of copy paper, 10 recordable discs, 1 pair sunglasses, 4 large easel pads, $10.00 cash
A DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

On Thursday, March 8, 2018, six of our TMREA members were at the OREA Legislative Day to lobby for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for retired educators. Those working through the morning were Eddie and Elita Creekpaum, Ken Yates, Nancy Remus, Janet Brewster, Leonard Wood (& wife), and Don Hertzler. Below are a few photos from the morning. Hand written messages were left for our legislators at their offices.

April Plant and Book Sale

April 17th—Annual Book and Plant Sale

It’s that time of the year—SPRING. Have you taken root divisions, cuttings, or planted seeds in anticipation of having plants to donate? These can be indoor or outdoor plants. Have you started going through your book shelves? Please choose books and magazines carefully.

Bring your items early (by 9:30 if possible) to the meeting on April 17th so we can arrange them.

All money raised from this sale will go to OREA to help pro-education candidates running for office in Oklahoma.

MARCH MEETING

Tulsa County Commissioner for District 2, Karen Keith, was our speaker for the March TMREA meeting. She described 40 positive initiatives taking place in Tulsa. She was an inspirational speaker.
Membership Form, Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Assoc.

Name: _______________________________________________________________(please print)

Address: _______________________________________________ City: _______________ Zip________

Phone: _______________________________ Cell: _______________________________

Email Address _______________________________________ (for newsletter & communications by email)

Are any of the above new or changed? Yes □ No □

Dues: Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Unit $15.00 $___________

    Associate Membership (non-educator) ________________ $5.00 $___________

    Oklahoma Retired Educators Assoc. (State level) $36.00 $___________

Optional: TMREA Legislative Fund (Support TMREA lobby effort in OKC) $___________

    NEA dues -----------------------------------------------$35.00 $___________

Make check to: TMREA and bring early to our meeting or TOTAL = $___________

Make separate check to: OREA Fund (PAC). Add a donation here. $___________

Mail to: Barbara Powers, TMREA Treasurer, 205 S 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74108