



# The Banner



December/January  
2022-23



The Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association will meet in-person at 10:00 AM on Dec. 20, in the Selman Room at the TPS Education Center. We'll meet there again January 17.

## DECEMBER MEETING



### Christmas Auction

The holidays are upon us. Come celebrate with TMREA—singing, refreshments, our fun auction, and you can even call ahead for lunch (See instructions on next page. Do you bake, make crafts or holiday decor, grow pecans—or know someone who does? You are encouraged to bring items for our fun auction but it is not required. It would help if you show a list of ingredients with baked goods to help those with dietary limitations. **Please bring your auction items about 30 minutes early to allow our helpers to organize the items before the meeting.** We will also have our “half-pot” drawing for cash. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5 and can be purchased for both the auction and the separate half-pot. There will also be a selection of books and magazines available by donation. The proceeds from our ticket sales will go to the OREA Fund to support endorsed candidates who are supportive of public education in Oklahoma.

Come prepared to purchase great bargains!!!

### Christmas Sing Along

Nancy Remus will lead us in some favorite Christmas songs before the auction starts. Eileta Creekpaum will accompany us on the piano.



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## JANUARY MEETING



John Erling devotes his energy and enthusiasm to interviewing some of Oklahoma's greatest people on Voices of Oklahoma. He deeply believes that preserving the stories of Oklahomans will reveal the depth of emotion and pride that built our great state.

At our January meeting he will introduce us to inspirational stories through conversations with people we would want to know. You won't want to miss this.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Listen to the Bells.

Whew! The Holidays are such a busy and somewhat stressful time of year. It can become difficult to focus on the real meaning of Christmas in all the rush and confusion. I have a recommendation for you. The just released Sight and Sound movie, I Heard the Bells. This movie is a wonderful reminder of the "reason for the season." It is the inspiring true story behind the beloved Christmas Carol and its author, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. So, take a breath, step away from Hallmark Movies, sit back, relax and enjoy this story of great loss, great love, and renewed Faith. You may have to search for an available showing but it is well worth it. Hear those Bells.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours.

*Nancy*



## LONGEST CONTINUOUS MEMBER

by Don Hertzler

We are looking for our longest continuous member. In this article we feature Eddie Creekpaum, who may be that person. If you have been with TMREA for 20 or more years, please contact me.

Eddie retired in 1991 and spent a couple of years reading John Grisham books. In 2002 he joined the Tulsa Retired Educators unit and has been a continuous member ever since (20 years).

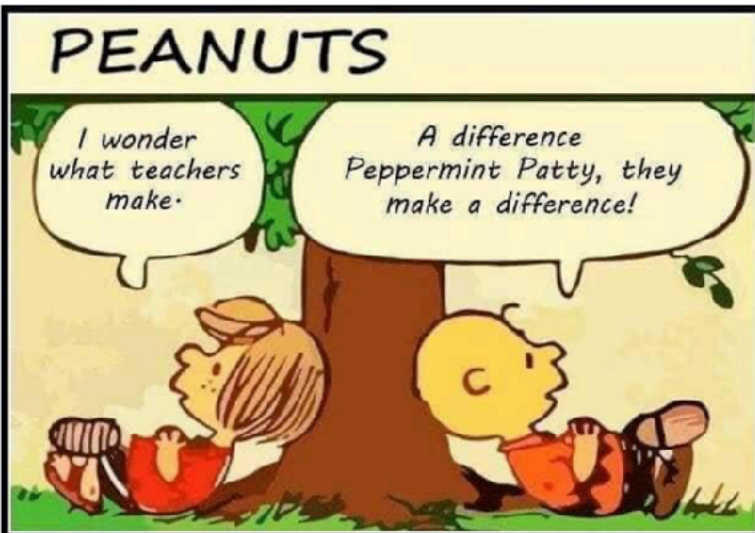


One of his fond memories of joining our unit was reacquainting with other educators. He attended school at OSU with Wayne Bland while Wayne was working on a doctor's degree and Eddie became certified to be a principal. Eddie was excited that Wayne and JoAnn Bland were in the retired educators group.

Other memories Wayne has from those years include the following. Joe Lemley always sat on the front row at meetings. He came to Tulsa in the fall of 1953 as drafting teacher at Webster HS. He was Eddie's drafting teacher his senior year. After he retired from Eastern Oklahoma State College, Dr. Bob Nelson served our unit several years as treasurer and became a friend. Other valuable members were Jack & Mollie Pontious. A former President several years ago was Jim Salwaechter. Jim also made several trips to OKC to lobby. For several years before & after retirement Dr. Charles Mason was our Lobbyist.

Wayne said they had a pianist and an off-tune piano that got use at each meeting. The meetings started off with a "Thought of the Day." - sometimes Biblical. He remembers lots of socialization and enthusiasm in getting together.

We are fortunate that Eddie continues to serve TMREA, along with Ken Yates, as a legislative liaison. He and Ken have put in many hours meeting with Tulsa legislators for breakfast in Tulsa and with additional legislators at the Oklahoma State Capitol.



## LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

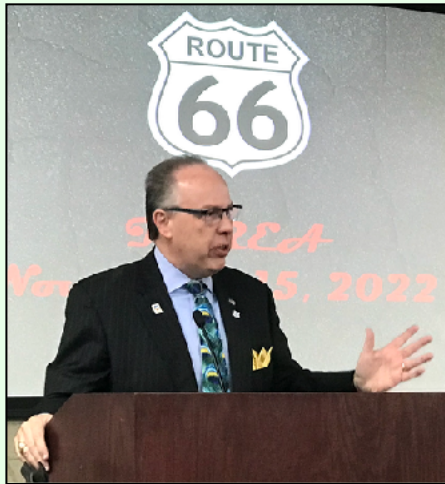
RESERVATIONS	DECEMBER MENU	JANUARY MENU
Individual Meals are \$11 at the meeting or \$10.75 if paid in advance. Reserve by calling Eileta Creekpaum (918-742-7474) by 2:00 PM on Friday October 14, 2022. Reservations must be made in advance of meetings. Alternatively, you can pay for all meals through May for \$64.5. Make check to TMREA and send to our Treasurer, Karen Gaddis, 6409 S 90th E Place, Tulsa, OK 74133	Mixed Greens Salad with Strawberries, Blueberries, Pecans, Feta Cheese Almond Crusted Chicken Orzo Pasta Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Carrots Apple Pie Dinner Roll	Mediterranean Salad Chicken Pomodoro Wild Rice Blend Roasted Fresh Medley of Vegetables Desert assortment: Brownie, Lemon Bar, 7 Layer Bar Breadstick



## NOVEMBER MEETING



↑ Helpful officers at the check-in table.



↑  
Glenda Murphy giving us instructions for the upcoming Christmas auction .

← Ken Busby, Executive Director and CEO of the Route 66 Alliance, reviewing the history of Route 66.



← Lunch with friends.

Shoppers at the book and magazine table. →



↑ Above is a portion of the 43 members who attended the November meeting.

## 2022-23 OFFICERS

Below are our Elected Officers for 2021-2022 year

**PRESIDENT:** Nancy Remus  
918-232-0575; nremus@cox.net

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Diane Dross  
918-638-4348; dmdross@sbcglobal.net

**PRESIDENT ELECT:** Don Hertzler  
580-302-3967; hertzld@sbcglobal.net

**VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS:** Sharon Atcheson  
918 798-5075; sharonatcheson@cox.net

**SECRETARY** Joyce Williams  
918 461-9997; wjwilliams2@juno.com

**TREASURER:** Karen Gaddis  
918-855-1995; karenagaddis@gmail.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following officers are appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Board.

### OFFICERS

Volunteer Coordinator is Kathy Blank  
Volunteer Hours Coordinator is Joyce Williams  
Membership Chairman is Nancy Anderson  
Communications Chairman is Don Hertzler  
Hospitality Co-Chairmen are Eileta Creekpaum & Doris Jones  
Legislative Co-Chairmen are Eddie Creekpaum & Ken Yates  
Parliamentarian is Elaine Dodd  
Special Events Coordinator is Glenda Murphy  
Facebook Coordinators are Sheila Hayden & Lynn Stockley  
Newsletter editors are Don Hertzler and Sheila Hayden  
OREA Vice President, Lynn Stockley  
Tulsa County OREA Director, Janet Brewster

### AT LARGE MEMBERS

Marsha Armstrong  
Lora Marschall  
Dianna Buck  
Sharon Day

## BOOK TRADING AT MEETINGS

December always brings out special books for our trading (donation) table. We are hoping you will bring some of your best books to donate to our event. Be sure to bring some extra cash for the auction items and book tables.



## THE CYCLE OF LIFE DON HERTZLER

When you maintain a database of addresses (email and snail mail) for a ~400 member organization of retired educators, you get a some insight into the cycle of life. The first hint of change is that someone fails to renew their membership and/or their newsletter delivery bounces back. When that happens I search the internet for an obituary for the individual. If I don't find one, I shift to an alternative way to get our newsletter to them. If delivery was by a snail mail address, sometimes the post office prints a notice of a new delivery address on the returned newsletter. Unfortunately, I often get the first bounce back after the postal deadline for including a new address. If the old delivery method was email, I change over to snail mail delivery. When that fails, I search the internet for an alternate address. Often the move is to a retirement center or nursing home. These are retired educators who made a significant contribution to the education of Oklahoma children. We don't want to abandon them without making an effort to get our newsletter to them.

A couple of years ago I received a letter and a check for TMREA dues from the daughter of a past TMREA member. The daughter included a "thank you" note saying that one of the few things that brought a smile to her mother as she lay in bed in a nursing home was when she read The Banner to her. It brought back many pleasant memories for her. We often never know the good that can come from keeping members connected in their final years.



This month our executive board members will be reaching out to our past members who are still receiving The Banner but haven't paid their dues and aren't lifetime members. We will ask if they want to continue receiving it. We will encourage them to renew their membership but won't insist. We owe these members for their past service. We will be gentle.

We want to thank the 88 households (some with two paying members) who have paid their dues so far this year and to express appreciation for our 68 lifetime members.

## REMEMBERING EDUCATORS

### The following member has passed.

Google (Obituary, a person's name, and town) to find an obituary.  
Robert L. Tucker - July 15, 2022

**The Banner** is a publication of the **Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association**

**Editor:** Don Hertzler

[hertzld@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hertzld@sbcglobal.net)

580-302-3967 (leave message)

**Volunteer Opportunities** columnist: Kathy Blank

**Volunteer Hours** columnist: Joyce Williams

## TIS THE SEASON TO DONATE BY KATHY BLANK

**You may donate to these locations or bring them to our next meeting.**

### COFFEE BUNKER

6365 E. 41st Street  
918-637-3878 Ext 0  
see Facebook page



**REPORT:** Several TMREA members dropped off food for the Thanksgiving dinner. About 100 veterans and family members were well fed on site or had food delivered to them.

### Here is what is needed for the Holiday events at the Bunker.

- 1) \*Toys, books, coats or jackets for infants to 18 year olds. (Needed before Family Day, Wednesday, December 21st. You may bring these to our next meeting Dec. 20th or deliver yourself.
- 2) Non-perishable food items, especially boxed items like mac & cheese, all kinds of snacks
- 3) Books: Non fiction appreciated—DIY (how to), arts & crafts, automobiles, Bibles, music (for guitars)

TMREA volunteers work in the library on Wednesdays 11-1:00



## SOUTH TULSA COMMUNITY HOUSE

5780 S. Peoria: 918-742-5597 (Call before delivering)

**NEEDED ITEMS:** Toiletries, disinfectant wipes, egg cartons, pill bottles (no labels please), plastic bags, paper bags with handles.

### the PENCIL BOX

Susanna Belzley, Director  
w. 918.442.2222  
c. 918.899.0199  
[susanna@pencilboxtulsa.com](mailto:susanna@pencilboxtulsa.com)



### A variety of needed items for Pre-K to 12th grade

Teaching Tools	Arts & craft supplies
Manipulative items	Workbooks
Games & Puzzles	Student incentives,
Playing & Flash Cards	stickers
Books for children/youth	Misc. Office supplies
Bulletin board items/	Books for teachers
Posters	Seasonal decorations

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:** Paper towel, toilet paper, gift-wrap rolls yarn, embroidery thread, fabric, buttons games, scrapbooking material, cookie cutters, mason jars greeting cards (used - we'll take the front of the card and discard the written message) travel soap, lotion, shampoo plastic kitty litter bins (empty) file folders used/ written on (we cut them down to make flashcards)



# Membership Form, Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Assoc.

☐ Check if this is your first time to join.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ (for communications by email)

☐ Check to receive The Banner by mail (costs us money). Otherwise The Banner will be sent by email.

**Dues:** Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Unit-----\$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Membership (non-educator)----- \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional:** TMREA Legislative Fund (Support TMREA lobby effort in OKC) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Oklahoma Retired Educators Assoc. (State organization) \$42.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OREA Associate Membership (non-educator) \$24.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NEA dues (optional: Requires OREA membership) \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check to TMREA **TOTAL** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check and form to: Karen Gaddis, TMREA Treasurer, 6409 S 90th E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133

## OPTIONAL PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF OREA DUES

I authorize the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to deduct \$3.50 each month from my benefit check and remit same to the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association for payment of membership dues. This authorization is to remain in effect until cancelled by written notice to OREA. I understand this is a voluntary authorization and my receiving a monthly benefit is not dependent on membership in OREA. (NOTE: The TRS requires that you fill in the last four digits of your SS# for identification.)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST 4 DIGETS SOC SEC #: \_\_\_\_\_

## VOLUNTEER HOURS – JOYCE WILLIAMS

As of the end of November: 25 of our members have reported 5,921 volunteer hours. This is 1,213 more than reported by 17 members last year at this time. I expect our total to jump a lot higher in January, when those who report a whole year-at-a-time submit their numbers. We have not yet caught up with our pre-Covid



numbers, but that is to be expected as members gradually get back out there to add their skills and innate talents in commitment to their communities. Remember, time spent shopping for "Angel Tree" gifts count as volunteer time, as does facilitating community holiday celebrations.

Name _____ Year 2022			
Month	Youth Hrs	Community	TMREA/OREA

## Consider a Donation to the OREA Fund

OREA operates a Political Action Committee (PAC) called the "OREA Fund." Money donated to that account is kept separate from the OREA dues account. The OREA Fund provides campaign contributions to legislative candidates who have indicated that they support our OREA legislative goals. TMREA members contribute to this OREA Fund in two ways: (1) Direct donations using the form below and (2) through our fund raising activities (Half pot, Christmas auction, Spring flower and garden sale, and the OREA State Convention basket silent auction.)

Please consider making a direct donation to this fund. It is in need of replenishment.

### OKLAHOMA RETIRED EDUCATORS FUND (PAC)

#### Receipt of Funds from an individual

Amount Donated for OREA Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check to Oklahoma Retired Educators Fund)

County Unit Designation: TULSA Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, street address, state, zip, and occupation of contributor:

\_\_\_\_\_

In compliance with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission, the OREA PAC Fund committee must have your name, address, occupation and amount of your donation on file in our office.

#### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

#### OREA signature of staff receiving the contribution

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to 'OREA Fund'. Mail check and form to OREA, P.O. Box 18485, Oklahoma City, OK 73154