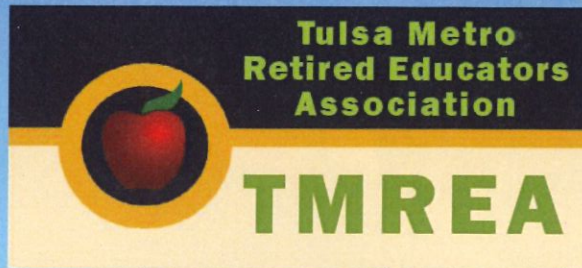


The Banner



September, 2022
In person meeting

"A man's mind, stretched by new ideas, may never return to its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

The Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association will meet in-person at 10:00 AM on Sept. 20, in the Selman Room at the TPS Education Center. See details in the article below.

Welcome Back to the New School Year!

Our September meeting is our welcome back meeting.

Tulsa School Superintendent, Debra Gist, will drop by to give us a welcome shout out and let us know some of the latest news from TPS. We are grateful to TPS for providing our meeting space for both our general meeting and our Executive Board meeting.



Monica Johnson from TTCU Federal Credit Union will greet us. The credit union is providing us with coffee/tea/water and danish refreshments for our September meeting. Once again they are granting TMREA \$1,500 to help defray the cost of printing The Banner.

Be sure to bring some cash to contribute to our Half Pot drawing at the end of the meeting. Half of the Half Pot goes to support our OREA lobbying effort for our Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System and half goes to the winner of the drawing.

We invite you to be a part of this meeting with old and new friends who have all been a vital part of the lives of so many Oklahoma students.



TPS post COVID Protocol

Below are the meeting rules communicated to us by TPS.

- 1) Masks are encouraged but they are optional.
- 2) Tables are back and may include up to four people.
- 3) All food will be provided by the in-house food service. With the exception of this first meeting, we will have the option of lunch after meetings this year. (See Page 3 for details.)
- 4) Hand sanitation will be provided inside the door. Please use before touching anything.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message
Page 2

Book Trading Table
Page 2

Volunteer Opportunities
Page 2

Cartoon
Page 2

Dues Explained
Page 3

State OREA Convention
Page 3

Dues Form
Page 4

2022-23 Meeting Dates
Page 4

May Program
Page 5

Officers
Page 5

Update on Print Costs
Page 5

OREA Fund Form
Page 6

A Message From our President: Nancy Remus

Welcome to 2022-2023 for Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association. Your support through the challenging past few years is greatly appreciated. Our program committee will be making every effort to keep our meetings safe, informative, and enjoyable. Looking forward to this year's meetings, we invite you to enjoy and participate in the luncheons, fund raising auctions, volunteer opportunities, and outstanding speakers.



Membership in TMREA and OREA is more important than ever before. Here are a few reminders of some of our common goals: 1. Protecting the defined benefits retirement plan for current and future retirees; 2. Ensuring funding by opposing reductions of dedicated funds for our Teacher Retirement System; 3. Supporting funding for ALL PUBLIC education levels; 4. Protecting and increasing the insurance subsidy for retired educators and protecting the Teacher Retirement System Board by opposing consolidation with other state retirement systems.

This year will be another extremely challenging time for Oklahoma public education and educators as our state deals with elections and political division. Remember, "we are stronger together."

Nancy



COFFEE IN HAND, SUPPLIES AT THE READY,
ALICE SETTLES IN, WAITING FOR THE
FIRST TELEMARKETER TO CALL.

Book Trading at Meetings

Our regular book trading resumes in September. Bring books you think others would enjoy and bring a few dollars to donate for the book finds you take.



Volunteer Opportunities Kathy Blank

COFFEE BUNKER
6365 E. 41st Street
918-637-3878 Extn 0



Items needed: Non-perishable food items, especially boxed items like mac & cheese, snack size items, Large paper sacks
Books: Non fiction only—DIY (how to), arts & crafts, Bibles, music (for guitars)
Volunteers are needed (call Kathy or Greg) on location & someone to pickup produce at 10:45 from Kendall Whittier Farmers' Market and deliver to Coffee Bunker on Saturdays.



The Pencil Box has relocated to its new \$2.2 million, 11,000-square-foot facility at 2435 Southwest Boulevard.

Susanna 918-442-2222

www.pencilboxtulsa.org

Call Susanna to volunteer in small groups

Supplies needed: Teaching materials

Gently used games, decks of cards, children's books

PENCIL BOX Fund Raiser, **Rock Paper Scissors** at Cain's Ballroom had **sold out!** at the time of our newspaper publication. This is good news. It is their first post pandemic, in person fund raiser.

South Tulsa Community House
5780 S. Peoria Avenue
(918) 742-5597



(Call before delivering)

Webpage at <https://southtulsacommunityhouse.org>

Supplies needed: egg cartons, travel size toiletries, prescription bottles (labels removed), plastic & Ziploc bags, baby wipes

Be sure to identify yourself as a retired educator when you donate items or your time!

A Note from Your Editor

We encourage you to consider paying your OREA dues by the Continuous Payment Payroll Deduction method described below. I changed to that method three years ago. It is SO convenient. I no longer worry about keeping my OREA dues current and the deduction of \$3.50 from my monthly pension check is not noticeable. I regret that I didn't make that change years ago. You will still have to pay your TMREA dues annually but that is all you will have to worry about.

Don Hertzler

Three ways to pay OREA dues

There are three ways TMREA members can pay Oklahoma Retired Educator Association, OREA, state dues.

State dues are \$42 annually. Our program year is the same as a school year – from September, 2022 through May, 2023. It is a big help if you can pay your annual dues in September or October. However, you can pay your dues at any time during the school year.

Annual Payment:

- (1) Use the dues form on the next page of this newsletter.
- (2) Use the OREA web site for a credit card or bank draft payment. <https://www.orea.org/index.php/membership/membership-form>

Continuous Payment Payroll Deduction

- (3) Payroll Deduction: A GREAT way to thank OREA for their help in getting our 2020 COLA, would be to request a \$3.50 per month automatic payroll deduction from your monthly retirement check. You'll never have to write a check to OREA for their dues again. Sign the bottom part of the dues form on the next page to activate this option.

State OREA Convention

Our last OREA State Convention was in Oklahoma City in the spring of 2022. It had been postponed from the fall of 2021 because of concerns about the pandemic.



The next OREA State Convention will be in Tulsa in the Fall of 2023. The meeting place is being negotiated but will likely be in a different venue than in the past. This brings us back to our usual schedule of state conventions in the Fall.

DUES FORM EXPLAINED

(Our dues form is on Page 4, We'll attempt to clarify it here.)

Our **Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association** (TMREA) is a local unit (or chapter) of the state organization, **Oklahoma Retired Educators Association** (OREA). It is important to pay dues for both if you want to help keep our retirement system healthy and if you want cost of living adjustments (COLA's). Our OREA staff are at the legislature lobbying for the goals set by their board of directors and approved by the delegates to the state OREA Convention. Janet Brewster is our Tulsa County District Director who sits on the state OREA Board. Our local unit is one of the largest in the state with around 400 members. We have 47 voting delegates to the State Convention.

Local TMREA dues: (\$15/year) These dues provide support for our local program activities. Dues cannot be used for political lobbying activities. You must pay these dues to be a member.

Associate Membership: (\$5/yr) A spouse or a non-educator.

Optional: TMREA Legislative Fund: Money contributed to this fund can be used to provide reimbursement for expenses incurred by local TMREA members who are officially lobbying for our OREA goals. TMREA'S two Legislative liaisons are Ken Yates and Eddie Creekpaum. They are at the legislature every other day when it is in session representing our Tulsa retired educators in personal visits with legislators. They are well known in the legislature. When they turn in mileage and signed receipts for their actual expenses, they can be reimbursed by this fund.

State OREA dues: (\$42/year). None of these dues can be used to provide contributions to political candidates. They pay the salaries of our OREA staff and program operating expenses. There are three different ways OREA dues can be paid. (See box at left.)

NEA Dues: Some members want to continue NEA dues because they make use of NEA benefits so we include a line for those dues for your convenience.

Lunch with Friends in October

We will be serving luncheon following each meeting starting in October. The cost per single lunch is \$10.75 if paid in advance by check or \$11.00 if paid by cash or check on the day of a meeting. You can pay \$85 for all the meetings of the school year beginning in October. Reservations must be made in advance if you pay at a meeting for which you want lunch. Reserve by calling Eileta Creekpaw (918-946-5904) by 2:00 PM on Friday, October 14.



The meat at each meal will be chicken prepared in different dishes for each month. We are able to keep the cost down by limiting the meat to chicken. These are excellent, nutritious meals and the table conversation is fun too.

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



Please report your volunteer hours to Joyce Williams. A volunteer form will be handed out at our September meeting or you can use the format or the form shown below. You can send your hours by email or call them in. Email: wjwilliams2@juno.com Phone 918-884-9503

Joyce reports that so far in 2022 we have 3597 hours reported by 24 members .

Name _____ Year 2022

Month	Youth Hrs	Community	TMREA/OREA

General Meeting Dates

Sept. 20, 2022

Oct. 18, 2022

Nov. 15, 2022

Dec. 20, 2022,

Jan. 17, 2023

Feb.21, 2023

Mar. 21, 2023

Apr. 18, 2023

May 16, 2023

TMREA Executive Board Meeting

Our Executive Board met on August 23, in the TPS Education Service Center. Sharon Atcheson shared a fantastic list of potential programs for the year. Plans were laid out for the coming year.

Our Last General Meeting (May)



Amy Tuggle, CEO of Stay Organized With Us, presented a fascinating program on "Downsizing for Seniors." For seniors wanting to downsize, she highly recommended the book, "Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff" by Matt Paxton. (10 copies in the TCCL library system, \$16 on Amazon)

Forty two members were present in person and seven on Zoom to make a total of 49 in attendance.

Newsletter Print Cost Update

In the past five years the cost of printing each newsletter has increased by 48%. The cost of printing and mailing newsletters to an individual address last year was \$17.52. That exceeds the \$15 annual TMREA dues paid by the recipient. Forty five of those receiving printed newsletters are lifetime members who don't pay dues. Some others let their dues lapse during the pandemic.

There are many valid reasons why members need to receive a printed version but we need to make sure those receiving the newsletter by mail still need it that way and are paying dues if they are not lifetime members.

Our president, Nancy Remus, is taking on the task of contacting members who receive the newsletter but haven't paid dues to make sure they still want to receive it that way. She will ask them to pay their 2022-23 school year dues if they are not life members.

Our TMREA Executive Board wants to continue to offer the option of receiving our newsletter by mail. The grants from TCCU Credit Union have made it feasible. Thank you for renewing your dues.

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

Editor: Don Hertzler

hertzld@sbcglobal.net

580-302-3967 (leave message)

Volunteer Opportunities columnist: Kathy Blank

Getting-to-Know-You columnist: Needs a volunteer

Volunteer columnist: Joyce Williams

2021-22 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

918 694-5596; 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-Chairmans are Eileta Creekpaum & Doris Jones

Legislative Co-Chairmans 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

AT LARGE MEMBERS

Marsha Armstrong

Lora Marshall

Dianna Buck

Sharon Day

Remembering Educators

The following OREA/TMREA members have passed on.

Marie E. Norris – May 1, 2022

Ruth B. Johnson – June 11, 2022

Russell Reck – July 12, 2022

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 using the form below. 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: _____

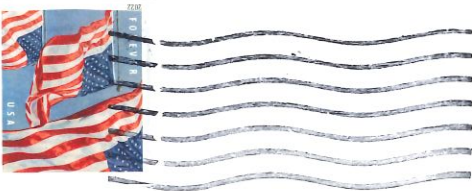
Date: _____

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



7315480485 B007

Sharon Cox **
P.O. Box 18485
Oklahoma City, OK 73154



The Banner Newsletter
3107 S. Sandusky Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74135