It’s time to begin thinking about what you will bring for our April plant sale and auction. Plant seeds now or buy plants, or divide plants. Our plants will be for sale with a labeled price. This year we are trying something new in addition to the plant sale. We will have a silent auction similar to our December auction but with lightly used or new items appropriate for spring. Items members might bring for the auction would include gardening related items, baked goods, jewelry, decorating items with a spring theme, bouquets of real or artificial flowers, tickets to events, grilling and BBQ items. Use your imagination. It will be fun and we will raise money for the OREA Fund to support our OREA lobby effort.

Our speaker for February will be Dr. David Blatt, Director of the Oklahoma Policy Institute. He will update us on the bills that have been introduced in the legislature and will share the Institute’s vision on how our state government can best use its resources to improve the state infrastructure.

The Institute promotes adequate, fair, and fiscally responsible funding of public services and expanded opportunity for all Oklahomans by providing timely and credible information, analysis, and ideas.

Blatt has a Ph.D. in political science from Cornell University and a B.A. from the University of Alberta. He has been selected as Political Scientist of the Year by the Oklahoma Political Science Association, Local Social Justice Champion by the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice, and Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. He lives in Tulsa with his wife, Patty Hipsher, a special education teacher in Broken Arrow, and their son, Noah.

**APRIL SPRING FLING**

It’s time to begin thinking about what you will bring for our April plant sale and auction. Plant seeds now or buy plants, or divide plants. Our plants will be for sale with a labeled price. This year we are trying something new in addition to the plant sale. We will have a silent auction similar to our December auction but with lightly used or new items appropriate for spring. Items members might bring for the auction would include gardening related items, baked goods, jewelry, decorating items with a spring theme, bouquets of real or artificial flowers, tickets to events, grilling and BBQ items. Use your imagination. It will be fun and we will raise money for the OREA Fund to support our OREA lobby effort.

**RESERVATIONS**

Individual Meals are $9.75. Reserve by calling Doris Jones 918-584-8606, or Eileta Creekpaum 918-742 7474 by November 13, 2018
For your convenience, you can reserve the three remaining meals for the the year: $29.25. Make check to TMREA. Pay at meeting or send check to our Treasurer, Barbara Powers, 205 S. 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74108

**FEBRUARY MENU**

Cesar Salad
Spaghetti and Meatballs
Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken
Zucchini and Yellow Squash
Garlic Bread
Lemon Bars
Tea, Water, and Coffee
Getting to Know You

Lynn Stockley was born in Moline, Illinois, and was raised by her mother and grandparents. She was active in church and learned to sing and play the piano. After graduating from high school there she came to Tulsa to attend Oral Roberts University. She was the first one in her family to go to college. She majored in elementary education. After college she and Steve Stockley married and moved to a farm in Inola then later to midtown Tulsa. She taught at Lindsey, Kerr and Barnard Elementary Schools.

Steve and Lynn both earned a masters degrees in counseling. She counseled at Emerson Elementary, Carver Middle School and Booker T. Washington High School. Her last years were spent as president of Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association. Both Lynn and Steve held this office at different times.

Steve and Lynn have two children, a boy and a girl. Both live out of state. They have three grandchildren. Lynn and Steve visit them often.

Lynn retired four and a half years ago. She is the Director of the OREA Tulsa County District including Tulsa and Sand Springs. She served as president of TMREA last year and has been active in the Assistance League of Tulsa and the Pencil Box. These later two organizations help serve Tulsa Public Schools students of which over seventy per cent are at or below the poverty level.

OREA Cookbook

A few copies of the new OREA cookbook, “Recipes We Now Have Time to Cook”, are still available. If you would like a copy, please contact Lynn Stockley. $13 of the $20 sale price will go to the OREA Fund which supports our legislative effort. These books make great gifts for retired friends.

Our OREA PAC Contributions

| Silent Auction at State OREA Convention | $781 |
| TMREA delegate donations at State Conv. | $220 |
| Donations using membership form | $213 |
| October Half-pot | $81 |
| November Half-pot | $84 |
| December Half-pot | $135 |
| December silent auction | $577 |
| January Half-pot | $72 |

TOTAL $2,163

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Review by Don Hertzler

As this publication is going to the press (February 1, 2019) there have been a number of bills introduced in the legislature calling for stipends or COLA’S for the state retired teachers. Last year OREA (and TMREA) lobbied hard for some relief for retired educators who had not received an increase in their OTRS checks for 10 years. There were two positive results from that lobby effort.

(1) A one-time 2% stipend was given in November 2019, to all retirees who had been retired for 5 years.

(2) New bills introduced this year for a stipend or COLA.

Below I have listed some of new bills. Keep in mind that there is a long and arduous path from introduced bills to a final bill that will be voted on by the legislature. Most bills don’t get out of committee once they are assigned to a committee. Still, it is encouraging that the first steps have been introduced. Bills can be complicated to read. The interpretations of the bills are mine after reading through the bills.

HB 1307 – 2% cost of living increase to all retired members of the State’s retirement systems

HB 1358 – 4% benefit increase for retired participants of Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System and for the retired participants of Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

HB 2304 – 8% benefit increase for retired participants of Public Retirement Systems effective 11/01/2020.

HB 2398 – 8% increase in retirement benefits for retired participants in all the retirement systems except for the those from Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System effective July 1, 2019.

COLA’s and stipends have been filed in the Senate as well. One example is given here.

SB 850 – (7%) increase in the benefits beginning in July 2008. (Yes, that date is correct.)
TMREA

WORKING FOR YOU

What does OREA do for me? OREA is constantly looking for ways to provide discounts in services and benefits which will help their members. To do that, they have partnered with AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) so that you have access to member benefits. Some of those benefits offered are: a variety of insurance benefits like home health care, long term care, cancer, heart, stroke, accident, and term life insurance, just to name a few. They also have dental and vision plans and Medicare supplement plans. But, we all like to have some fun, so discounts are available for: rental cars, vacation and cruise packages, dining, American hearing benefits, Apple products, computer discounts, flower orders, groceries, entertainment, and so much more.

For more information about these benefits call 800-258-7041 or visit myAMBAbenefits.info/okrea. To activate your discounts go to myAMBAdiscounts.com and enter your email. They will ask you to enter an activation code, which can be provided to you as an OREA member if you call the 800 number. Enroll today and start saving.

Tulsa is lucky to have Jeff Kail as our local representative. His email is jeff.kail@amba.info and his cell is 918-777-6477. When something is wrong, Jeff responds immediately and works to correct the situation. Only OREA members are eligible for many of these services. You can easily make up your dues dollars to OREA with as few as one of these services. So, if you are a member, take advantage of these services and if you are not a member, join today.

January Program

Tom Blackwell shared fascinating photos and stories about his experiences with an archaeological dig at El-Araj which may be the Biblical site of Bethsaida - home of three disciples; Peter, Andrew and Philip (John 1:44, 12:21) near where the Jordan River flows into the Sea of Galilee.

Weather Cancelation

When the Tulsa Public Schools cancel classes due to inclement weather, our TMREA meeting is also cancelled. Please check TV news before coming in bad weather.

2019 OREA State Convention will be held in Tulsa on November 12 (mark your calendar)

TMREA Facebook Site

Friend our TMREA Facebook page. In Facebook search for “tulsa metro retired educators’ association” w/o quotes. It’s a way to stay informed between newsletters.
December Program

We were entertained with holiday singing by the Jonas Salk Elementary under the direction of Sarah Berry followed by an auction of holiday related items.

Volunteer Activities Report Form

Retired educators are a vital and active part of their communities. That is effectively conveyed to legislators through reporting of our volunteer hours. Please turn in your monthly volunteer reports to our volunteer coordinator, Joyce Williams. You can cut out the following table and bring it to a meeting or call Joyce - Cell: 918-884-9503 or email her at wjwilliams2@juno.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY</th>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>with YOUTH</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tutoring, mentoring, volunteer teaching church programs, special projects, etc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with COMMUNITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>church activities, hospital/nursing home, public offices, docent, organizations, mobile meals, etc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with TMREA/OREA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer duties, workshops/seminars, lobbying, other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our TMREA Leaders

[We provide this list of contact information in case you need to reach one of our officers or committee chairs]

PRESIDENT: Janet Brewster  
918-691-3630; janetbrewster@me.com

PRESIDENT ELECT: Lora Marschal  
918-663-2791; biochemteacher64@cox.net

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS: Nancy Remus  
918-232-0575; nremus@cox.net

SECRETARY: Dr. Jan Smith  
918-831-6474; jansmithtulsa95@cox.net

TREASURER: Barbara Powers  
918-740-1442; powerspair@att.net

TULSA CO. OREA DIRECTOR: Lynn Stockley  
918-231-5962; tbstockley@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Nancy Anderson  
918-695-6972; nancya48@aol.com

COURTESY/VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS: Kathy Blank  
918-671-6643; ekblank2@sbcglobal.net

LEGISLATIVE: Eddie Creekpaum  
918-810-2488; jcreekpaum@gmail.com
Ken Yates; 918-274-2956; seeken@yahoo.com

SOCIAL/MEAL RESERVATIONS (see Lunch With Friends, Page 2)

THE BANNER EDITOR: (See credit box on Page 2)

Runners to your mark. Get set. Go! . . . OK, come get your T-shirts.
UNDERSTANDING OUR TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

In this issue we continue our series of articles on the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System. Our graphs and data come from the presentation the OTRS Director, Mr. Tom Spencer, gave at our 2018 OREA State Convention. One reason that it will be important to keep the State and institutional contributions at their current level can be seen in the graphs at right. The contributions are paid in for each active teacher. As the first graph shows, the number of active teachers has remained about constant or declined over the last 10 years while the number of retirees has been increasing at a significant rate. The number of active teachers per retiree is decreasing. The second graph shows the result. Contributions to the fund have started decreasing while the distributions have increased. Despite that, the overall value of the pension fund assets have been increasing. (See the third graph). The funds have increased because they were invested. A large portion are invested in stocks which have grown in value. The interest, dividends, and face value earned from the investments have increased the value of the funds by a 10-year average of 8.7% per year. Three of the 10 years show a loss but seven of the 10 years show a gain to give the 8.7% average annual return. That combined with state and institution contributions is behind the total increase in the reserves. The bottom chart is from last month showing the increase in funded ratio to over 70%. State contributions must continue in the future if a COLA is to come from the fund.

NEW MEMBER

We welcomed one new member in December

Melissa Provenzano
15 years teaching
10 years as a principal

VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORT

Our Volunteer Hours Coordinator, Joyce Williams, reports the following volunteer hours for 69 members of our TMREA Unit - a 12.8% increase over last year.
2017 – 10,809 hours
2018 – 12,189 hours

The Banner on the Web
Past issues of The Banner: http://orea.org/districts/tulsa
# Membership Form, Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Assoc.

Name: _______________________________________________________________(please print)

Address:_________________________________________City:_________________Zip________

Phone: _______________________________ Cell:_______________________________________

Email Address _______________________________________ (for newsletter & communications by email)

- [ ] Check to receive The Banner by email.
- [ ] Check to give permission to be listed in our TMREA directory

**Dues:**

<table>
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<th>Membership Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Unit</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Membership (non-educator)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Retired Educators Assoc. (State organization)</td>
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<td>OREA Associate Membership (non-educator)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEA dues</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

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

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

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

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