Mickey Hinds, Life Senior Service, will present our March program on ‘Senior Healthy Aging. For over a decade Mikey has been offering education and support to seniors and caregivers. She is an avid cook, enjoys water sports, traveling and exploring. Mickey leaves the gardening to her husband. She has two teenage children and a fur-baby, Sophie.

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. It will be appreciated by the setup crew if you will bring your items around 9:30 AM before the April meeting.

OUR THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A big THANK YOU to two agencies who donate to our annual budget. These donations help defray the cost of printing and mailing our monthly newsletters.
1) TTCU Federal Credit Union – $1,500
2) Temple Foundation (Tulsa) – $500

Other agencies to whom we are grateful for providing meeting space:
1) The Tulsa Public Schools District for our main monthly meeting room.
2) TTCU Federal Credit Union for our Board of Directors monthly meeting room.

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

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 two remaining meals for the rest of the year: $19.50. Make check to TMREA. Pay at meeting or send check to our Treasurer, Barbara Powers, 205 S. 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74108
**WHAT’S BREWING?**

From our President: Janet Brewster

“Tell us how you really feel.” Have you ever been so full of emotion about a subject that words just tumble out of your mouth before your brain has fully engaged? I certainly know I have. It is not always easy to express our thoughts or feelings about sensitive or important subjects. However, having these discussions are important in both our professional and personal lives. There are times when we need to calm our hearts and engage in truly courageous conversations.

The word courage originally meant “to speak one’s mind by telling all one’s heart”. It comes from the Latin word cor or heart. Courageous conversations are those where you express how you feel about issues that are of great concern. This does not mean to allow emotions to rule the conversation. They are timely, used to clear up or avoid misunderstandings, and help create positive relationships.

I think of communicating with our elected leaders as having courageous conversations. We have emotional ties to our profession. We know how important education is to the present and future well-being of our state. We have dedicated much of our lives to improving education, and, therefore, to improving the lives of all citizens in the state. Nothing is more important to bringing about prosperity to Oklahoma than education for all. A well educated populace is key to bringing good jobs, respecting and maintaining a healthy environment, the availability and delivery of needed healthcare, and repairing and improving infrastructure. Social services, housing, police and fire departments, prisons.......oh my.

Am I letting my emotions get away with me? I think not. We need to have this conversation with our legislators. They need to hear us. We, also, need to hear them. But, we have to stay on message. Public education needs more money. Teachers and support personnel need and deserve more money. RETIRED EDUCATORS NEED AND DESERVE MORE MONEY. It can be done. The future of Oklahoma is at stake.

Will they listen? We have to try.

“Come to the edge, He said.
They said: We are afraid.
Come to the edge, He said.
They came. He pushed them
And they flew...”

-----Guilloume Apollinaire
French Poet

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

EDITOR’S NOTE: I asked Sabra Tucker, OREA Executive Director, to send us a legislative update for our March 1 publication date.

Greetings,

This brief but important update brings good news. The cost of living adjustment bill, House Bill 2304, authored by Rep. Avery Frix, passed out of the House Banking, Financial Services, and Pension Committee on Wednesday, by an 11-0 vote. To get the bill heard in committee, a committee substitute was filed and changes the amount of the COLA to 2% down from the original 8%. Before becoming too upset, please keep in mind that it is still early in the legislative process.

The next step is to have the bill heard by the full body of the House of Representatives. The deadline for that is March 14th. It will be important to communicate with your representative to communicate your thoughts about the COLA. Please urge support for HB 2304 - COLA - by Rep. Frix.

After passage from the House, the bill’s next stop would be the Senate Retirement and Insurance Committee. There was not a single COLA bill heard in the Senate committee. The chair does not support a COLA, so it will be important to communicate with your own state senator about the importance of a cost of living adjustment for retirees. Urge your senator to talk to leadership urging passage of HB 2304 when it comes over from the House. We are working very hard to promote passage of a COLA, but nothing is as personal to a legislator as hearing from their own constituents--the people who can vote for them. A list of all legislators appears in the latest issue of the OREA NewsBulletin. You can also reach out to your District Director or the OREA state office if you need assistance contacting your legislator.

Thank you for being a member of OREA. Your membership MATTERS! Without our members, our organization has no voice. Please tell your retired friends how, more than ever, their membership matters. Ask them to join our fight in increasing our benefits and in protecting our pension system.

Sabra Tucker
VOLUNTEER

The Pencil Box is a teacher's dream store. It allows teachers to get supplies and materials for their classrooms at a nominal expense. It will close the “store” for this school year April 13th.

They need 2 volunteers Wednesday, March 27th and April 10th from 3:15 to 6:00 pm. Volunteers will help shopping teachers select and check-out supplies.

After April 13th, volunteers will be needed to process donations and supplies on Tuesday-Thursday between 10-5:00. TMREA volunteer day will be Wednesday, April 17th. We need 10 members to sign up with Kathy the hours you want to work.

Contact Susanna Belzley, Director of Operations, Phone: 918-442-2222 Email: susanna@pencilboxtulsa.org – 916 W. 23rd St

Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum is looking for a Tuesday volunteer museum manager from 9:45 to 3:45. The volunteer would assist with gift shop sales and greet museum guests who come from all over the world. Training is provided and you can bring a friend to work with you.

The museum is full of vintage cars and all kinds of automobile and military displays.

Contact Loretta at 918-216-1171 or museumguys@cox.net 13 Sahoma Lake Rd. Sapulpa (inside the old Armory--look for world’s tallest gas pump)

Retired Seniors Volunteer Program of Tulsa serves as a one-stop clearinghouse to connect volunteers, age 55 and over, with meaningful community service. There is an RSVP match for everyone who wants to remain active in his or her local community.

RSVP of Tulsa has established partnerships with over 180 non-profits and public agencies within a three-county region.

Volunteers have a choice of ways to serve.
1. Working at their favorite non-profit agency
2. Being matched with an agency to develop new skills or interests
3. Participating in one of several RSVP sponsored community impact projects.

For more information contact Annette at 918-280-8656 or <annette@rsvptulsa.org> – Office: 5756 E. 31st St.

Rotating Reads

When TMREA members don't take donated books from our donation table, our volunteer coordinator, Kathy Blank, takes the books and magazines to the Coffee Bunker, a veteran's center. If they are not picked up there she takes them to the Pencil Box or to ReadCycle.

Portia McDonald accepting books for ReadCycle.

TMREA member, Patsy Story, with teacher, Susanna, at the Pencil Box and donated books on shelves.

TMREA magazines final resting place at the Pencil Box

The Banner on the Web
Past issues of The Banner: http://orea.org/districts/tulsa
February Program

Dr. David Blatt, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Policy Institute, gave us an overview of the Oklahoma Legislature and some of it’s challenges. He indicated that the new crop of legislators is more moderate but also inexperienced so they need interaction with their constituents to keep their feet on the ground.

Sabine Brown, Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator for OPI, discussed specific bills that were in and out of committee. Since legislation is a moving target, we refer you to the latest legislation update from Sabra Tucker on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Volunteer Hours

TMREA members contributed 13,088 volunteer hours in 2018 – a 21% increase over 2017.

The breakdown is as follows:
1) with Youth: 2,104 hours
2) in the community: 8,742 hours
3) for TMREA-OREA: 2,243 hours

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.

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
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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/VOLUNTEERING: 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)

BANNER EDITOR: (See credit box on Page 2)
OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES

My wife has a brother and spouse who used to live in a wonderful country home on the outskirts of Guthrie, Oklahoma. They both were teachers at OSU in Stillwater. One day they came home, after Guthrie experienced an earthquake, to find their house flooded. The earthquake had cracked the concrete slab flooring and water pipes in it. Three months after repairing the pipes and extensive cleanup and renovation, they came home to find the house had experienced another flood from another earthquake. Their homeowners insurance classified the damage as man-made and not a natural act, so it did not cover the damage. Later they retired to an Oregon home closer to a son and his family, but found it very difficult to sell their house.

Earthquakes above 3.0 in Oklahoma had been rare. When they became more frequent at the same time that hydraulic fracturing began to be used, the suspected cause was high pressure injection of the salty waste water into deep wells. The legislature approved funding to allow the Oklahoma Geological Survey at OU to determine whether there was a cause/effect relationship between injection volume and earthquakes. They found one. The Corporation Commission began to shut down or reduce the injection volume in the disposal wells near earthquake swarms. The graph below shows the results. There are still almost 200 more quakes above 3.0 than normal, but the numbers are dropping. The Oklahoma Geological Survey predicts it will take another 10 years to return to normal.

*Data from the Tulsa World, December 31, 2018

THE BANNER STYLE

A note from your editor, Don Hertzler

When our past newsletter editor, Joe Meeks, indicated that he was retiring from the position, I agreed to give it a try. I had no previous experience in desktop publishing. I had about a year to get ready. There was a learning curve. I ran some of my first trial efforts past editor, Joe Meeks, and our then president, Sammie Kendall. I thank both of them for their encouragement and suggestions. The 2017-18 program year was my first year publishing the newsletter. Each issue had a different format and style as I continued to experiment with new layouts and styles. Like Joe Meeks, I use the free Apple word processing program, Pages. I was surprised at its power and sophistication.

At the beginning of the 2018-19 program years I asked our Board of Directors to select their favorites from the styles I had used the previous year. Using their choices, I have settled into one style, but with different color combinations for each edition. (See “The Banner” examples above.) Our layout has been consistent too. Remember when your favorite grocery store rearranged things and you couldn’t find anything anymore? Newsletters are a little the same. We like familiarity in our newspapers so we can find things on the same pages and with familiar columns. Next month’s program is always on the first page. The president’s message and “Getting-to-know-you” on the second page and so forth. Let me know if you have new ideas for The Banner.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed two new members at our February meeting

Laura Collins
37 years of teaching music

Connie Holland
26 years teaching PE and 4th grade

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: Lora Marschall
OREA Working for You columnist: Lynn Stockley
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: Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Unit----------------------------- $15.00  $___________
       Associate Membership (non-educator)-------------------------- $5.00  $___________
       Oklahoma Retired Educators Assoc. (State organization) $42.00  $___________
       OREA Associate Membership (non-educator)-----------------$24.00  $___________
       NEA dues ----------------------------------------------- $35.00  $___________

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