NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Mike Massey will tell about and show some of the development of the Route 66 Village in southwest Tulsa. We'll also learn about the history of the area as it transitioned from a cattle town at the end of the Frisco Railroad to a major part of the Tulsa area oil boom in the early 1900's.

Mike and his brother, Ed, were instrumental in the planning, preparation and installation of the old Frisco Steam Engine 4500 that had previously been in Mohawk Park in north Tulsa.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed four new TMREA members at our October meeting

Barbara Evans
Broken Arrow
Principal
37 years experience

Keith Ann Gaddie
TPS Pre-kindergarten

Claudia King
Jenks Public Schools
30 years experience

Janice Graham
35 years in TPS
School Psychologist
Administration

NOT PICTURED: Caroline Hemberger
Getting to Know You

Lora Marschall is the current President-Elect of TMREA. She and her twin brother were born in Ardmore, OK and were raised in Tulsa, OKC, and Shreveport, La. They were oil brats. Their mother, Anita Heckman, was the first of her family to go to college. Lora went to OSU and the University of Tulsa. She has a BS in Education from TU and post graduate hours at both TU and OSU. Athletic loyalty is to OSU. Lora became a biology and chemistry teacher with Tulsa Public Schools. She taught at Tulsa Central High School, Madison Junior High, McLain High School, and Nathan Hale High School.

Lora taught for 27 years. She was named Oklahoma's Outstanding Biology Teacher for 1997. She received a microscope and a free trip to the National Biology Teachers Convention. Lora was also science department head at Hale for 5 years.

During her tenure she taught biology, physical science, environmental science, zoology, botany AP biology, AP chemistry and AP environmental science. In addition, Lora spent over 25 years lobbying for TCTA and OEA. She kept membership records and did lobbying for OREA and TMREA for several years. Lora has a daughter, Dr. Anna Romero, who has a Masters and PhD in social psychology from the University of North Carolina.

The Banner is a publication of the Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association
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580-302-3967 (leave message)
Volunteer Opportunities columnist: Kathy Blank
Getting-to-Know-You columnist: Lora Marschall

Keep the books and magazines coming!

Don’t forget to bring your lightly used books and magazines to each meeting. At right is a photo of Kathy Blank handing one of the boxes of books to Charlie McDonald, a Booker T Washington Freshman who, with his sister, Porta, started ReadCycle to raise money for classroom needs. They sell the books on Amazon and donate the profit through DonersChoose. For details on this organization, see the October issue of The Banner. Kathy was able to donate 40 hardback and 15 paperback books in October. She also takes some of the magazines to the veterans center. By bringing your books, you are helping educators.

OREA Cookbook

The new OREA cookbook, “Recipes We Now Have Time to Cook”, is getting rave reviews from those who purchased it at the state convention. We will have copies to sell at the November meeting. $13 of the $20 sale price will go to the OREA Fund which supports our legislative effort.

OREA members volunteer hours contributes over $10,000,000 in services to the communities of Oklahoma. This calculation was made by the OREA staff using average Oklahoma wage and the hours turned in by OREA units.

Lunch with Friends

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<tr>
<th>November MENU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House Salad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoked Brisket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoked Chicken</td>
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<td>Potato Salad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner Rolls</td>
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<td>Cobbler (two choices)</td>
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<td>Tea, Water, and Coffee</td>
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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 meals for the rest of the year: $48.75. Make check to TMREA. Pay at meeting or send check to our Treasurer, Barbara Powers, 205 S. 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74108
Volunteer

Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice

OCCJ is a human relations organization dedicated to achieving respect and understanding for all people through education, advocacy, and dialogue.

Their vision is to eliminate bias, bigotry, and racism in our state, in our generation.

Their programs reach a broad range of ages, from second graders through adults, and are focused on recognizing and celebrating both our differences and our shared humanity.

For example, The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness on the playground. Benches are made by Tulsa Tech and installed by school districts, according to Carol Cumiskey Axley, Vice Chair of Programs. For those receiving the newsletter by email click this <Tulsa World article> for more details.

Volunteers Needed

Different and the Same is a child-focused initiative that helps second graders identify, discuss, and prevent prejudice. It is a series of videos with facilitated sharing by the students, and a storybook to read aloud. There are nine, 45 minute, weekly programs for local elementary schools.

STARS is the fourth and fifth graders program teaching acceptance and respect. The junior high program is called Middletown and concentrates on acceptance and bullying.

“All volunteers receive a one-hour training in the program’s concepts and structure, classroom situations, and communication techniques, “ says Sarah Rana, Director of Programs.

OCCJ was founded as a volunteer movement in Tulsa in 1934 as a chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. It was formally established as a staffed office in 1958. With support from business, community, and religious leaders, OCCJ became independent of the national organization in 2005.

Learn more about these programs and more at www.occjok.org.

100 W. Fifth Street, Ste. 335
Tulsa, OK 74103
918-583-1361

Confessions of an Unintentional Free Loader

When I retired 15 years ago, I paid for a lifetime membership in Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA). At that time the fee was $100 – less than three year’s dues by today’s standards. Last year I considered the importance of our support for what OREA is doing and decided I was not doing my part. I changed my membership from “lifetime” to “annual payment” and sent in my annual dues. This year I changed it to payroll deduction – $3.50 is transferred monthly from my teacher retirement account to OREA for dues payment. I feel like I am no longer a free loader.

Here are some reasons why I felt I should be monetarily supporting OREA. I have several friends who are state legislators. Once in a while I hear them say that they can’t do much relative to the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System (OTRS) without having the OREA officers in their office lobbying for our member goals. Their witness is a verification to me that our dues are well worth it. After our OREA State Convention, I corresponded with Tom Spencer, OTRS Executive Director, asking him for a copy of the slides he used in his presentation as the keynote speaker of the convention. Below is a quote from his email response.

“As much as I loved my former job at Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and the staff I assembled over 11 years, the interest and passion of the OPERS membership doesn’t compare with retired educators. It is very gratifying to have an organization like the OREA that is so committed and effective.”

Wow. It means he counts on us to be there in the legislature in support of our retirement system. When we pay our OREA dues, we enable a constant presence.

This month you received a one-time 2% stipend from OTRS if you have been retired 5 years. That was due to a bill supported by OREA. It wasn’t the COLA they want but it is better than no stipend.

Out of our 345 TMREA members, 145 are not members of OREA. Another 39 are Lifetime members of OREA.

If you are not contributing annually to OREA, please consider doing so – either through the membership form you fill out each year or through the payroll deduction program. You can get the form for payroll deduction from our membership chair, Nancy Anderson.
Mr. Tom Spencer, Executive Director of our Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System, gave the keynote talk for our OREA State Convention in October. Below are two informative slides from his talk. The slide on the left shows the investment income that has been achieved in recent years. This increase is due to the decision of the OTRS Board to invest in equity stocks with a moderate risk. Because of the success of this investment strategy, the actuarial funding has improved to just above 70% (see blue line on the chart). OTRS ranks in the top five healthiest teacher retirement systems in the USA.

### Financial Overview

**Investments**

- Positives in Recent TRS Performance (thru 6/30/18)
  - Earned 8.7% for last 10 years (1st percentile)
  - Earned 9.50% for last 6 years (5th percentile)
  - Earned 10.00% for last 12 mos. (9th percentile)
Each OREA county unit can nominate a Very Important Member (VIM) to be honored at the State Convention. Because our TMREA unit is so large, we are now allowed to honor two members. Below are photos that were included in the convention booklet along with our nominee’s bios.

Lynn Stockley, 2018 VIM, TMREA

Don Hertzler, 2018 VIM, TMREA
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