OCTOBER PROGRAM

Donna Gradel, 2018 Teacher of the Year, is a 29 year veteran teacher from Broken Arrow Schools. Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said, “Donna understands the true potential of each of her students. She differentiates instruction to meet the needs of each individual and challenges them to solve real-world problems.” Under her direction, Gradel’s students designed a large-scale aquaponics system to provide clean water and a sustainable food system to raise fish and plants for impoverished orphans in a remote region of Kenya. After months of research and data collection, Gradel and her students then traveled to Africa to complete the system. Prepare to be inspired by this dedicated teacher from one of our Tulsa County public schools.

2018-19 MEETING DATES

Our year corresponds to the school year. We meet at 10:00 AM on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May. Please reserve the following dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>October 16</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>November 20</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>December 18</td>
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<td>January</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>April 16</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>May 21</td>
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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new TMREA members

- **Pamela Rogers**
  Lanier Elementary
  28 years of teaching

- **Linda Morrissey**
  Tulsa County District Judge
  She serves as the Chief Judge of the Civil Division

- **Carol Axley**
  Crisis Intervention Specialist
  26 years of teaching
Ah, at last, autumn is here! Welcome, autumn. The hot days of summer are gone. Cooler weather invites us to get outside to replace the exhausted, faded summertime flowers with bright, warm colors of chrysanthemums and other fall decor. The morning air is crisp, and the soothing aroma of pumpkin spice awakens our senses. Let’s curl up with a nice cup of hot tea or maybe even cocoa as we settle into this cozy season.

Wait! Autumn?! That means it’s time to prepare for the OREA convention on October 3. Many of us will be loading the bus early that morning to travel down the turnpike to OKC to participate in this informative convention. The progress we made last year must continue into the coming legislative session. We were successful in getting a stipend for most of us, but a true cost of living increase is still vitally needed. Keep up to date on the activities of the legislators, especially as it pertains to our pension, insurance, and public education. Make sure you are registered to vote. Know where your polling place is located. Become knowledgeable of the candidates and their stand on public education and retired teachers. Then, be sure to vote.

This is the beginning of another busy and productive year for TMREA. School has started, and many of our members volunteer their time and talents on a regular basis to help relieve the burdens placed on classrooms as funding has been cut. Other members volunteer at their churches, food banks, veterans centers, and many other places in need of services. We are certainly an active group and should be proud of our continued contributions to our communities. Thank you for all you do!

Yes, autumn is a season of excitement and activity. Enjoy what the season brings. Do your part to make the world a better place. Be thankful for the challenges, successes, and people who enter our lives. Be gentle with yourself. Now.....let’s go have that cup of cocoa.

Janet Brewster

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**WHAT’S BREWING?**
From our President, Janet Brewster

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**Getting to Know You**

Don Hertzler is the current editor of The Banner newsletter. He grew up in the rural town of Aline, OK, about 40 miles west of Enid. After attending Northwestern Oklahoma State Univ. at Alva (BS in Chemistry and Math in 1956) he had thought he would farm with his dad and teach high school science. Western Oklahoma had just gone through seven years of extreme drought during which the farms had not produced enough wheat to plant the next crop. His father thought it would work best if Don accepted the full scholarship OSU had offered him to attend graduate school. There he earned an MS degree and met his wife of 55 years. As a favor to a friend, he accepted a position at Panhandle State Univ. in 1963. Three years later he returning to OSU to complete a PhD in organic chemistry. After graduating he accepted a faculty position at Southwestern Okla. State Univ. where he taught until his retirement in 2002. He had a summer break before accepting that position during which he farmed for his dad. While he values that experience of working along side his dad as an adult, he discovered that 12 hours a day on a tractor wasn’t nearly as exciting as he had remembered it in his youth.

In 1979 he was awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship that funded a sabbatical leave to pick up the field of polymer chemistry. His wife and their two daughters moved to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. They lived in a two story home on the top edge of a blue ridge mountain. Upon his return to Southwestern, he introduced the first undergraduate polymer lab course in the southwest region. He served as the Chemistry Department Chair for six years. He worked 17 summers as a consultant in academe and industry - about half of that with the 3M Company in Weatherford and in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He experienced a rewarding career getting the best of both worlds - industry and academe. He and his wife enjoy hiking and biking with grandkids. Three years ago they moved to a home on the campus of Oklahoma Methodist Manor.

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**Lunch with Friends**

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<tr>
<th>RESERVATIONS</th>
<th>October MENU</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Meals are $9.75. Reserve by calling Doris Jones 918-584-8606, or Eileta Creekpaum 918-742 7474 by October 9, 2018</td>
<td>House Salad</td>
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<tr>
<td>For your convinence, you can reserve the meals for the full year: $68.25. Make check to TMREA. Pay at meeting or send check to our Treasurer, Barbara Powers, 205 S. 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74108</td>
<td>Smoked Brisket</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Smoked Chicken</td>
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<td>Potato Salad</td>
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<td>Dinner Rolls</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cobbler (two choices)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tea, Water, and Coffee</td>
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Two student entrepreneurs have combined their book collecting with their desire to help teachers to create the non-profit, ReadCycle. Booker T. Washington High School siblings Charlie, a freshman, and Portia McDonald established ReadCycle after Portia, a senior, attended the teacher walkout at the Capitol last spring.

“We got to really see how many people were behind this and the support that the teachers had,” she said. She wanted to find something to help the teachers that are underfunded and in need.

Charlie had been collecting books for about two years, so they had an inventory for their start-up business. The business collects books and sells them on Amazon. The pair plans to work with DonorsChoose.org to help teachers and schools using ReadCycle profits.

The venture recently won the Social Enterprise category of the Tulsa StartUp Series, which earned them $2500 to advance their concept. They also received a three-month membership to 36 Degrees North and a mentor who can meet with them weekly.

Custom labels are attached to the books that the McDonalds scan and ship to Amazon, which stores them in a warehouse. Charlie reports that over the past two years, he gathered 251 books that sold for a total of $3,688. After shipping and other expenses, they had a $500 profit. He expects the profit to increase as they collect more donated books.

TMREA is planning to donate some of the books brought to our monthly meetings. After our members choose what they would like each month, some of the books will be given to ReadCycle and others will go to the Coffee Bunker.

You can find out more about ReadCycle on their Facebook page: ReadCycle Tulsa. Bring your lightly used books and magazines to each TMREA meeting to be a part of ReadCycle Tulsa.

One reason to join OREA is their member benefits program through Association Member Benefits Advisors, AMBA. During our September meeting the AMBA team presented an overview of the many cost saving benefits that are available through their program. A listing of these benefits can be found on the OREA web site at https://orea.org/membership/benefits. A hard copy was distributed at the meeting. Advisor, Jeff Kail, resides in Tulsa and invites you to ask him questions about any benefit for which you need more information. His phone number is 918-777-6477.

If you paid your OREA dues for this year directly to OREA, please inform our membership chairman, Nancy Anderson so she can give you credit on our records: 918-695-6972 or nancya48@aol.com.

Rosie Kramer: Community Relations Manager for the Tulsa Teachers Credit Union welcomed members at our September meeting. TTCU provided a continental breakfast and TTCU branded gifts including tote bags, Postem notes, and writing pens.

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 column: Kathy Blank
Getting-to-Know-You column: Lora Marschall
TMREA September meeting. Ninety three people were in attendance.

2018 State Convention

Glenda Murphy with some of the items she put together for the OREA auction. The TMREA auction items raised $781 for the OREA Fund that supports our lobby effort. Members contributing include all who contributed to the Sept. Half Pot, and individual donors: Kathy Blank, Lora Marschall, Don Hertzler, Hazel Koehler, Nancy Remus, Joyce Kendall, Sharon Atcheson, Marsha Armstrong, Cheryl Mass, Judy Gan, Linda Modenbach, Julia Banks, Nancy Anderson, and Glenda Murphy.

Eddie Creekpaum leading the convention flag salute.

Above: Sabra Tucker, OREA Executive Secretary, and Polly Christian, OREA President in front of the TMREA auction items.

Left:: Don Hertzler accepting the top OREA unit newsletter award from Polly Christian.
Four tables of TMREA delegates.

Upper Right: Keynote speaker, Tom Spencer, Executive director, Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System
**Membership Form, Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Assoc.**

Name: ______________________________________________________________(please print)

Address: ______________________________________ City: ______________ Zip______

Phone: _______________________________ Cell: ______________________________________

Email Address _______________________________________ (for newsletter & communications by email)

Are any of the above new or changed? Yes □ No □

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<th>Dues:</th>
<th>Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Unit $15.00</th>
<th>$___________</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Associate Membership (non-educator) $5.00</td>
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<td>Oklahoma Retired Educators Assoc. (State level) $36.00</td>
<td>$___________</td>
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Optional: TMREA Legislative Fund (Support TMREA lobby effort in OKC) $___________

NEA dues ------------------------------$35.00 $___________

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

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

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