**THE BANNER**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 10:00 AM in the Education Service Center, 3027 S. New Haven Ave. Tulsa.

**TTCU will provide free Continental Breakfast. Come a little early!**

### September Program

A representative from the Tulsa Teachers Credit Union will welcome us back.

Our program will be presented by a representative from our OREA member benefits organization, AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors).

As an example of an advantage of one of our OREA benefits through AMBA, we received the following note from Karen Anderson regarding her mother, Ruth B. Johnson, a TMREA member. “I just requested dental and vision insurance from AMBA. I don't think mom realized that she had that as an option. Since we are in Texas Retired Teachers Association, we get dental and vision through TRTA but our rates are a little higher than OREA’s AMBA.”

Elaine Dodd will have **Voter Registration** forms and application forms for **Absentee Voting** on a table at our September meeting. Take some to give to friends who need them in order to vote in the November 6, General Elections. Registration deadline is Oct. 12.

### Membership Made Simple

There are three ways TMREA members pay OREA dues.

1) Annually
2) Monthly through automatic payroll deduction from your Oklahoma Teacher Retirement benefit. ($3.50/mo.)
3) Life membership (No longer available for new retirees.)

**Option 1:** At the end of this newsletter, is a membership form for paying our annual dues. Our program year is the same as a school year – from September, 2018 through May, 2019. 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 program year. You cannot pay your dues for the next program year until the old one is done. It is essential that you pay your TMREA membership ($15) annually, but we encourage you to pay your OREA state dues too ($42) because that money pays for our state organization which tracks legislation and makes sure our legislators know our positions. They encourage legislators in support of these positions.

**Option 2:** The ideal way to pay for OREA membership is through payroll deduction from your OTRS Check. Please ask Nancy Anderson for the form to authorize payroll deduction.

### Lunch with Friends

Starting in October, we will have a catered lunch line after each monthly meeting through April, 2018. The line will open at 11:30 AM. Single meal cost: $9.75. Reserve your meal by calling Doris Jones 918-584-8606, or Eileta Creekpaum 918-742 7474 by Oct. 10. To prepay all seven remaining meals, make check to TMREA for $68.25 and send to Barbara Powers, 205 S 183rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74108.

### October Menu

House Salad, Honey Glazed Ham, Oven Roasted Chicken Breast, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Brownies, Tea, Water, and Coffee.

### TRS One-Time Stipend

In the last legislative session, the Oklahoma legislature approved a one-time stipend of 2% for all teachers who have been retired for five or more years as of Oct. 1, 2018. OREA was able to get the minimum stipend set to $350 for teachers who have been retired for 20 or more years. The Teachers Retirement System is expected to issue the auto-deposited stipend, separate from the regular pension payments, by the middle of October. OREA continues to lobby for a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).
Hello! Welcome to a new year for TMREA. The summer weather has been unusually pleasant for Oklahoma. I hope you enjoyed some relaxation time with friends and family. My four year old granddaughter has become quite a swimmer, and my six month old grandson now has two teeth to show. As any grandparent, I am proud of both, and happy to have time with them.

Although most of us do not return to a full time job, the beginning of the school year marks a busier time. This school year is no exception. The November elections are very important. Electing candidates who are strong public education supporters, and who respect teachers and retirees is critical. The walkout last spring was successful in uniting communities, schools, students, teachers, retirees, and elected officials to the needs of public education and how we can address those needs. Many brave souls felt so moved, that they decided to throw their hats in the ring as candidates to run for an elected public office. Please, stay informed and take time to vote.

Even though our retirement system and health insurance system remain strong, we must stay alert to any threats to weaken them. In October, many of us will receive a stipend to help with rising costs, but it is not enough to offset actual cost of living increases. We appreciate this stipend, but we must continue urging legislators to give the cost of living raise that is due us.

TMREA promises to keep you informed in legislative updates, especially those specifically pertaining to school retirees. Also, we are planning some interesting and fun programs for our meetings this year, that are definitely worth the time to attend. Please, ask your friends, neighbors, and family who are retirees in the Tulsa Metro area to join us here for an eventful year. Together we are stronger and more effective. Our schools, communities, and state are better because of our efforts. Thank you for all you do.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Janet Brewster

Our OREA State Convention will be held at the new Embassy Suites, south of the OU Medical Center, on Wednesday, October 3. The schedule and registration can be found on Page 6 of the Summer 2018 OREA News Bulletin or on the OREA web site at <https://orea.org/assets/content/pdfs/local-unit-forms/Convention-Info-Registration.pdf>.

Our TMREA unit is allowed 48 voting delegates to the convention. At the time of this publication, we have 46 delegates. We need 2 more delegates and would like to have three or four alternates in case of of last minute cancelations. If you would be interested in representing our group as a delegate, contact Sammie Kendall; 918-615-3707. TMREA provides free bus transportation and registration, including noon meal, for each delegate representing our unit. The morning will be divided into two sessions, each with a choice of four different informative presentations. After a noon banquet, the House of Delegates will convene.

Support our OREA Fund: Each year Glenda Murphy puts together baskets and plants for the OREA Convention auction to raise funds for the OREA Fund. This year she will put together a “Money Tree” that will feature gifts cards or scratch-off lottery cards. Our September Half-Pot will go to these gifts. Plan on bringing a little extra cash to purchase Half-Pot tickets or to give directly to Glenda. Also, bring any hand-crafted items that would have auction potential.
The Pencil Box believes every child deserves the quantity and quality of supplies needed to succeed in school, while eliminating the need for teachers to spend their own money.

Mission: Maximize the academic potential of disadvantaged students and equalize the learning experience, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, by offering throughout the year school supplies, educational tools, and incentive items necessary for successful learning.

The Pencil Box is a retail setting where Tulsa County public school teachers can get new and gently used supplies that are specific to the needs of their students and classroom activities. Schools where 70% or more of the students are living at or below the national poverty level are invited to participate.

A teacher pays an annual $35 participation fee and in return can get supplies throughout the school year. They give input into the program through a survey at checkout, an annual supply impact study, as well as participate in workshops lead by national and local professional instructors. During the 2017-2018 school year, teachers received an average of $800 worth of supplies.

Businesses, foundations, and individuals donate books and supplies and financial support. Supplies not donated are purchased at reduced prices from partnering vendors.

Currently, 60% of the students enrolled in Tulsa County public schools live at or below the Federal Poverty Level. (Ok Department of Education Low Income Report 2018) With the start of this school year, The Pencil Box is serving 46 of the eligible schools, including 28 of the elementary schools and all of the eligible middle and senior high schools. By October, they will be serving 50 schools. “We aim to serve all eligible schools in Tulsa County by 2020”, says Nancy Bolzle, Executive Director.

Youth as well as adults may donate money, supplies, or their time. Volunteer application is available on their website.

Website: pencilboxtulsa.org
Phone: (918) 442-2222
Email: info@pencilboxtulsa.org
Store address: 916 W. 23rd St.
Mailing address: PO Box 52631 Tulsa 74152
Shopping Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 3:30 – 6:00
Second Saturday of month 10:00-12:00

Our Elected Officers

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
PAST PRESIDENT: Lynn Stockley
918-231-5962; tbstockley@cox.net

OREA 2018 Legislative Goals.

COLA - Achieving a cost-of-living increase for retired members
DEFINED BENEFIT - Protecting the defined benefit plan for current and future retirees
FULLY FUNDING TRS - Ensuring funding by opposing reductions of dedicated funds to the system
EDUCATION FUNDING - Supporting funding for ALL public education levels
HEALTH INSURANCE - Protecting and increasing the insurance subsidy for retired educators
BOARD INDEPENDENCE - Protecting the TRS Board by opposing consolidation with other systems

TMREA member, Ruth B. Johnson, has moved to Texas to be near her daughter who wrote to say that Ruth would love to receive letters from her Tulsa friends. She can be contacted through her daughter’s address: Ruth B Johnson, c/o Karen J. Anderson,1501 Westridge St., Grand Prairie, TX 75050-3274

The Banner is Now on the Web

If you want to look at a past issue and can’t find it on your computer, just go to http://orea.org/districts/tulsa and scroll down to the heading, “Newsletters”. Our thanks to OREA for providing us this service.

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
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 □

Dues: Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Unit $15.00 $___________
        Associate Membership (non-educator) $5.00 $___________
        Oklahoma Retired Educators Assoc. (State level) $42.00 $___________

Optional: TMREA Legislative Fund (Support TMREA lobby effort in OKC) $___________
          NEA dues ----------------------------------------------$35.00 $___________

Make checks to: TMREA. If mailing, use address at bottom. 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