

OKLAHOMA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Celebrating American's 250th

MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT LYNN STOCKLEY

"The only constant is change" is an Ancient Greek proverb which remains true today. It tells us that nothing- not our joy or our sorrow or our circumstances-is permanent. But, in that, hope is offered because then even the worst of times must eventually pass. In June my husband died rather unexpectedly after a cancer diagnosis just three weeks previously. Now after almost 54 years of marriage, I am navigating life as a single senior. Major life change! After serving as vice president for the last four years, I am stepping into the role of president. One of the most important things you need to know is that OREA will always fight for your pension as a constant that you and our future retirees can count on. Most of us will see an increase in our December check. We appreciate the legislature passing the bill to make this happen, but it is always a fight. We would like to take this out of the hands of our legislators and give it to the Teacher Retirement System. OREA will be working towards that next legislative session. That would be a positive change. Just this week we were notified that our HealthChoice supplemental insurance rates would be increasing. Our attorney general is looking into the rate increase, but so much for seeing an increase in income. It's always something! That's just one of the most important reasons we need all eligible retired educators to be members of OREA. We are looking out for our best interests. Have you invited someone to join! What about our newest retirees? WE NEED YOU! You can count on me to work for you. I'm an email or phone call away. But it's up to all of us to work on behalf of all our retired educators. So, while change is inevitable, we will work toward positive outcomes on this journey of our messy, beautiful lives as OREA members. Please join me in that fight. - Lynn Stockley

MEET THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT

LINDA LONG



Time and good friends are two things that become more valuable the older you get. Let's all take time to get more involved with our Oklahoma Retired Educators Association, and you will be amazed by the number of new friends you will make along the way who will become like family. I consider retired educators my family, and I look forward to meeting more of you as I assume the role of OREA Vice President. I am excited to work with our new President, Lynn Stockley, and am honored to represent all of you to maintain and increase benefits for retired educators. We were thankful to finally get another COLA but disappointed that not everyone was included, so our lobbying must continue. We are faced with another disappointment as we get news that our insurance increase will wipe out our COLA benefit. We must continue to increase membership to strengthen our numbers as we lobby to protect our pension and improve benefits. Hope to see many of you at our state convention in October in Broken Arrow. If I can be of any assistance or visit any of your locals, I am just a phone call or email away. Most of all, THANK YOU for being a member of your professional organization! OREA will always be working in the best interests of retired educators!

WELCOME OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JENNIFER GAMBRELL



I have the best job as the new Executive Director of OREA. Although the title is new, OREA isn't. I was able to follow Sabra around the state for the past couple of years, learning about the organization.

First, I will always be a fourth-grade teacher at heart. I taught fourth grade in Meeker for 13 years and enjoyed every minute of it. My favorite subject to teach was Oklahoma history, so now when I travel across the state, I often find myself connecting the places I visit with the Oklahoma history I once taught.

I am also a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), which eventually led me from the classroom to working at the state level, where I had the privilege of leading Oklahoma's work with NBCTs. During that time, I also worked closely with Oklahoma education preparation departments, supporting future educators as they were preparing for the classroom.

I feel like becoming OREA's Executive Director has completed my circle in the teaching profession. I began as a classroom teacher, then worked with accomplished educators through National Board Certification, followed by work with pre-service teachers and university faculty, and now I have the privilege of serving Oklahoma's retired educators.

You could say that teaching is in my blood! My mom, dad, aunts, and daughter are all educators. Education is the beginning of all other professions, and advocating for those who have dedicated their lives to Oklahoma's students is very special to me.

When I'm not working, family is at the center of my life. I have 2 married children and 3 amazing grandsons. One more important thing you should probably know about me—I bleed orange!

I am excited about this new chapter. Our retired educators have an incredible amount of knowledge, experience, and passion to share. I look forward to listening, learning, advocating, and working together to make OREA even stronger.

And, of course, I'm looking forward to adding a few more Oklahoma history lessons along the way!

2026

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



Pushmataha County

Pushmataha Retired Educators hosted a political forum this Spring.Sabra Tucker, Master of Ceremony, moderated the forum with the help of Brenda Calahan and Stephen Smallwood. The political candidates present were able to give some information about themselves and answer questions from the audience. The Retired Educators provided a free dinner and held a pie auction, where they were able to raise $1500 for their scholarship fund.
Pushmataha Retired Educators meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11 am. For more information, contact President Betty Work: 580-889-3765.



Pottawatomie County

Pottawatomie County Retired Educators took a trip to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Museum in January. The Cultural Center has been recognized as a top ten Museum. The group enjoyed the guided tour through the museum.
Pottawatomie Retired Educators meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at St. Paul's UMC in Shawnee. For more information contact Marilyn Bradford: 405-830-8210.

Tulsa Metro County



Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association (TMREA) members give back through books, supplies, and "Cards to Cheer."
Members exchange books at meetings, donating extras to organizations including The Coffee Bunker, Pencil Box, Little Libraries, homeless services, and new teachers. Book contributions support the OREA PAC Fund.
TMREA also maintains a 1,500+ book library at The Coffee Bunker, a resource center for veterans and their families. Through Cards to Cheer, members create encouraging cards filled with donated goodies for Meals on Wheels, homeless services, Exodus House, and retirement centers. For more information:
Nancy Remus: 918-232-0575

OREA HONORS 2026
OKLAHOMA
HALL OF FAME
HONOREE

MARY F. MCCORMICK



Biography

Of Seminole, Sac and Fox, and Creek descent, Mary F. McCormick was born in Shawnee and graduated from Pleasant Grove High School before marrying and starting a family. She enrolled at Seminole Junior College, where she was awarded the college's first Outstanding Junior College Student Scholarship to the University of Oklahoma where she earned her bachelors degree. McCormick also earned a master's degree from East Central Oklahoma State University.

From a strong lineage of chiefs and as an advocate for Native American programs, McCormick worked closely with her father in obtaining a new constitution for the Seminole Tribe before her appointment as Community Representative for Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity (OIO). Two years later she was elected Secretary-Treasurer for the Sac and Fox Nation, beginning a distinguished career that culminated with her serving as Principal Chief. With an extensive background in state and national Indian affairs, McCormick focused on the economic development of the Tribe. Under her leadership dormant tribal land was reclaimed, including 80 acres of the Tribe's original reservation, and she identified damages to the tribal reservation by oil companies. The result was a settlement of $3.5 million, 120 acres to provide adequate drinking water, and land erosion repaired.

McCormick remains an active member of her political party, the City of Seminole, and the American Indian Cultural Society, in addition to serving on the board of directors of the Seminole Historical Society. Making her home in Seminole, she is a proud mother and grandmother.

Fun fact: McCormick loves geneology, tribal history and historical sites.
Oklahoma connections: McCormick's father was Seminole and Creek. Her mother was Sac and Fox.
Hometown: Seminole
Profession: Former Principal Chief of Sac and Fox Nation Born 1932

SB 1671
OKLAHOMA HOLOCAUST LEGISLATION COALITION

ATTENTION RETIRED EDUCATORS IN OR NEAR ATOKA, DURANT, GUYMON, STILLWATER, WEATHERFORD, AND WOODWARD

"Fight Hate, Respect Diversity, Protect Democracy, and Teach these lessons to future generations through study of the Holocaust" continues to thrive thanks to generous donors, staff, and volunteers.

PAID TEACHING OPPORTUNITY

- **The SB1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition seeks retired Oklahoma educators**
- **All training and materials provided**
- **$30 per teaching hour plus mileage within a 60-mile radius**
- **Must travel to assigned schools in your area and teach 6th-12th graders about the Holocaust**
- **Email Nancy Pettus at nancyp@sb1671.org for more information**

WEBINAR WITH AMBA

25-26 Webinar Schedule:

- October 29 – Medicare Made Easy
- November 10 – Caring for Loved Ones While Protecting Yourself
- December 8 – Holiday Savings and Benefits for Members

TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.OREA.ORG

2026–2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Lynn Stockley lstockley@okea.org tbstockley@cox.net	VICE PRESIDENT Linda Long llong@okea.org long@itlnet.net	PAST PRESIDENT Paula Squires psquires@okea.org paulasquires64@gmail.com
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COMMUNICATIONS/AWARDS CHAIR* Sherrie Stout sherriestout@rocketmail.com	GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CHAIR* Linda Long llong@okea.org long@itlnet.net	GOVERNANCE/ELECTIONS CHAIR* Todd Crabtree toddjoy83@gmail.com
* Non-voting position Revised 10/26/2026		

AMBA

We work hard to protect your pension AND your insurance benefits! Thanks to our trusted partner, AMBA, members are eligible for exclusive supplemental insurance. This is one of the main advantages of being an OREA member!

Schedule a Meeting with a Licensed Represenitive

877-556-4585

2026

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

North Central District Director Linda Newby: Linda dedicated 29 years teaching various early childhood and elementary students. She retired in 2005 from Chandler Public Schools. After her retirement, she worked for Wellston Public Schools, as a parent educator for 6 years and teaching Pre-K for 6 years. Her favorite job was teaching Pre-K, after having been involved with some of the same children (and their parents) through Oklahoma Parents As Teachers. It was a joy to see the little children again and to continue my relationship with their parents. Linda has been married for 53 years to Charles and they have 2 daughters.

Communication/Awards Committee Chair Sherrie Stout: Sherrie Stout's needs to be revised: Sherrie retired after teaching first grade through high school in Durant, Waurika and Mid-Del public schools. She loved teaching so much that she subbed at various schools in Norman for eight years. She is a lifetime member of OEA, OREA and NEA. She held many offices and board positions at Mid-Del schools and OEA. She is now an active member in the Marshall County Retired Educators. She is now enjoying her retirement at Lake Texoma with her husband, Hal.

Governance/Elections Committee Chair Todd Crabtree: Byng Public Schools was fortunate to have Todd for 42 years, teaching biology and chemistry, serving as a school counselor. He was also an Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. He served on the OEA board of directors and OASA executive committee. He also worked at OREA as a Field Organizer sharing information across the state. Todd is currently serving as President at Pontotoc County Retired Educators. Todd has been married to Joy for 43 years and they have two daughters, Elisabeth and Laura.

2026

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

LEGISLATION IMPACTING RETIRED EDUCATORS IN 2026:

RETIRED EDUCATORS RECEIVE FIRST COLA SINCE 2020

Senate Bill 1144 granted a 3% or 6% cost of living adjustment for retirees. For those retired as of June 1, 2018, the increase will be 3% and for those retired on or before June 1, 2006, the increase will be 6%. The legislation goes into effect November 1, 2026, which means that retirees and beneficiaries will see the increase in their payment on or around December 1, 2026. The increase is permanent.

HOUSE BILL 2288 LIFTS EARNINGS CAP FOR RETIREES

Retirees may now return to work in Oklahoma schools with the cap on earnings. As of July 1, 2026, anyone that retires after that date must wait six months to return to work in an Oklahoma public school, but after that date, they are no longer subject to the earnings limitations previously required in law.

OKLAHOMA

Insurance Premiums
Plan Year 2027

Current and Former Employee Health

Plan Name	Primary Member	Primary Member % Change	Spouse	Spouse % Change	Child	Child % Change	Children	Children % Change
CommunityCare HMO	$749.36	+8.00%	$1,010.34	+8.00%	$529.98	+18.40%	$899.40	+18.40%
GlobalHealth HMO	$1,257.14	+15.76%	$1,855.64	+15.76%	$717.90	+15.76%	$1,172.36	+15.76%
HealthChoice High and High Alternative	$818.66	+15.79%	$959.80	+15.79%	$411.80	+15.80%	$698.78	+15.80%
HealthChoice Basic and Basic Alternative	$671.52	+18.91%	$788.06	+18.91%	$346.30	+18.91%	$585.78	+18.91%
HealthChoice High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)	$588.82	+19.48%	$691.50	+19.50%	$303.74	+19.34%	$513.82	+19.57%

Medicare Supplement

Plan Name	Per Covered Member	Per Covered Member % Change
HealthChoice SilverScript High Option Medicare Supplement	$510.44	+16.81%
HealthChoice SilverScript Low Option Medicare Supplement	$415.98	+16.83%

Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) Plan RFP

Plan Name	Per Covered Member	Per Covered Member % Change
CommunityCare – MAPD	$217.00	0.00%
Generations by GlobalHealth	$220.00	0.00%
Humana MAPD PPO	$281.10	+2.81%

Dental

Plan Name	Primary Member	Primary Member % Change	Spouse	Spouse % Change	Child	Child % Change	Children	Children % Change
BCBSOK-BlueCare Dental High Plan	$39.28	+5.03%	$39.28	+5.03%	$31.80	+4.95%	$81.20	+5.05%
BCBSOK-BlueCare Dental Low Plan	$24.92	+5.06%	$24.92	+5.06%	$21.52	+4.98%	$52.68	+5.02%
Cigna Prepaid (GAOV9)*	$13.94	N/A	$10.06	N/A	$7.32	N/A	$14.22	N/A
Delta Dental PPO	$41.30	+3.30%	$41.30	+3.30%	$35.92	+3.28%	$90.82	+3.30%
Delta Dental PPO-Choice	$18.60	0.00%	$42.12	0.00%	$42.44	0.00%	$102.98	0.00%
HealthChoice Dental	$51.60	+6.22%	$51.60	+6.22%	$41.72	+6.21%	$106.98	+6.19%
MetLife High Classic MAC	$57.46	+5.86%	$57.46	+5.86%	$49.24	+5.89%	$122.06	+5.95%
MetLife Low Classic MAC	$30.14	-0.20%	$30.14	-0.20%	$25.86	-0.15%	$63.70	-0.06%
Sun Life Preferred Active PPO	$40.48	+3.00%	$40.26	+2.97%	$30.24	+3.00%	$81.22	+3.04%

*New for PY 2027.

Vision

Supplier/Plan Name	Primary Member	Primary Member % Change	Spouse	Spouse % Change	Child	Child % Change	Children	Children % Change
Primary Vision Care Services (PVCS)	$10.40	0.00%	$9.28	0.00%	$9.20	0.00%	$11.50	0.00%
Superior Vision	$7.40	0.00%	$7.34	0.00%	$6.96	0.00%	$14.30	0.00%
Unity Vision (formerly VCD of OK)	$15.48	0.00%	$10.96	0.00%	$10.96	0.00%	$24.48	0.00%
Vision Service Plan (VSP)	$8.62	0.00%	$5.66	0.00%	$5.58	0.00%	$12.22	0.00%

TRICARE Supplement

Supplier/Plan Name	Primary Member	Primary Member % Change	Primary Member + Dependent	Primary Member + Dependent % Change	Primary Member + 2 or More Dependents	Primary Member + 2 or More Dependents % Change
Selman & Company LLC	$65.50	0.00%	$129.50	0.00%	$181.00	0.00%



A FAREWELL FROM SABRA TUCKER

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as your OREA Executive Director. When I started in 2016, my predecessor, Norman Cooper said to me, “This is the best job you’ll ever have.” Well Norman, you were right! The work of our association has been most fulfilling—and the friends I’ve made and will continue to connect with I will cherish for the rest of my life.

The past decade has literally flown by. I have been blessed by those who came before me, from our founding in 1952 as a state association, to the present day, the OREA has fought to protect, defend, and even improve the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement system, and at the same time has sought to improve the quality of life for all retirees!

The future of our association is in the most capable of hands—I’m thrilled to have Jennifer Gambrell on board as your new Executive Director. She is more than ready to continue the mission of OREA, all while bringing her own gifts and talents and ideas that will make OREA even better. Your new state executive officers, Lynn Stockley, president, and Linda Long, Vice-President, are no strangers to strong association leadership. They have been friends and colleagues of mine for years and I’ll be there cheering them on and assisting in any way I can.

You’re not seeing the last of me, however—the Board is allowing me to stay with the association, part-time, and I will be in a new role as Legislative Coordinator. I am looking forward to working alongside our “real” lobbyist, Luke Martin, at the Capitol as we continue to carry the message and advocate for retired educators—current and future! Advocacy work is never done alone, and we are great company with other education and senior citizen stakeholders.

Again, I want to give my sincerest thanks to each and every OREA member. Thank you for being a member—and yes, EVERY member makes us stronger. As a former boss and friend used to say to me, “Onward and upward!”

With deepest gratitude, Sabra

Celebrating America's 250th!

The 71st OREA Convention, “Celebrate! 250 Years of America and 100 Years of Route 66,” was held October 6–7 at the Stoney Creek Convention Center in Broken Arrow.

The convention kicked off Tuesday evening with a special visit from Benjamin Franklin, brought to life by OREA's own Don Greteman. Members enjoyed an entertaining evening filled with history, humor, and fellowship.

Wednesday morning began with informative breakout sessions covering Women's Heart Health, opportunities to travel the world with Collette, and the important work of the Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition.

One of the highlights of the morning was a special surprise from the Broken Arrow High School Band and Tigettes! OREA members were welcomed into the convention ballroom with lively music and performances that set the tone for a day of celebration.

The morning continued with a panel of eight state legislators, providing members with an opportunity to hear about issues affecting Oklahoma's retired educators. We also celebrated the accomplishments of our local associations during the membership awards presentation. Adding to the excitement were special visits from gubernatorial candidate Cyndi Munson and State Superintendent candidate Robert Franklin.

The afternoon began with one of OREA's most meaningful traditions—honoring our Very Important Members (VIMs). These outstanding individuals were recognized for their dedication, service, and contributions to OREA and their local associations.

Following the VIM recognition, business was conducted during the Delegate Assembly. Delegates voted to keep annual membership dues at $42, continuing OREA's commitment to affordable membership.

A special thank-you goes to the Tulsa Metro Retired Educators Association for hosting this year's convention! Your hospitality made our members feel welcomed and appreciated. Most importantly, thank you to every member who attended and helped make our 71st convention a success. The friendships and enthusiasm of our members remind us why OREA is such a special organization.

We celebrated our nation's history, honored our members, and renewed our commitment to protecting the future of Oklahoma's retired educators. Now that's something worth celebrating!

The 71st OREA Convention

























Oklahoma Retired Educators Association
PO Box 18485
OKC, OK, 73154

Update your contact information or recruit a new member.

Membership Enrollment/Information Form:

📝 Name
_____

Address:
_____

City: _____Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____Home Phone_____

Email: _____

✅ Membership
□ OREA Dues – $42
□ Optional NEA Retired Dues – $35

Make check payable to OREA

Mail to: OREA PO Box 18485, OKC, OK 73154
Questions: 405-525-2230, mmelton@okea.org