

# Capitol Chronicle

Summer 2023

Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association

Volume 23-24

## What Does That Mean?

If you've looked at the word above your name on the mailing address on the front of the newsletter, you may wonder what it's all about.



15\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*ALL FOR AADC 730 T1 P1

**Paid**

Jane Doe  
12345 N Maple Rd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73100

**Comp** means you receive a complimentary copy of the **Capitol Chronicle** as a lawmaker or an employee of OREA. We hope you take time to read about what OCREA is doing to support retired educators in Oklahoma.

**Due** means it is time to pay your \$15.00 dues for 2023-2024. A self-addressed envelope is included with this newsletter. You can add your state dues to OREA (if they are not already deducted from your Teacher Retirement payment) and scholarship donations are always appreciated. We present scholarships to college students preparing to do their student teaching.

**Life** members paid a large amount several years ago and don't need to pay dues. If you are a Life member and want the yearbook mailed to you, a \$3.00 payment will take care of it.

**NewR** means you have either just retired from an Oklahoma County school district this spring or a year ago. If you've been retired for a year, this is your last complimentary **Capitol Chronicle** and we encourage you to send in your \$15.00 dues and join us. If you are a 2023 New Retiree, we will be sending the newsletter to you for the coming year. However, you don't have to wait a year to join us. We welcome you at any time.

**Paid** means you are a step ahead and have already paid your dues for 2023-2024. Thank you!

Please contact me if you have questions, concerns or suggestions.

**Diane Laase**

[dlaase@hotmail.com](mailto:dlaase@hotmail.com)

405-692-0456 | 405-206-0456



## Welcome New Retirees!

**Congratulations!** The Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association (OCREA) is excited to welcome you. As an OCREA member, you will join many Oklahoma County retired colleagues who continue to support our schools and our friends who still actively work in education. Each year we publish a yearbook, mail five newsletters, award scholarships to future teachers, and, maybe most important, conduct four informative meetings where we have the opportunity to meet with other retired educators. Since our founding in 1954, we have provided a strong voice for retired educators in our community and at the state capitol. Join today and make our voice stronger.

*Congratulations on your Retirement.*  
May you enjoy every moment of this new journey of your life.

**WE NEED YOU**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2023 OREA CONVENTION**  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3  
RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
6808 S. 107 E AVENUE Tulsa, OK



**Registration Coming Soon**

[www.orea.org](http://www.orea.org)

Make plans to attend the 2023 OREA Convention on Tuesday, October 3 in Tulsa. OCREA needs voting delegates to attend the convention. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact Joe Wynn ([j\\_wynn@rocketmail.com](mailto:j_wynn@rocketmail.com)), Kenya Kraft ([kenyakraft@aol.com](mailto:kenyakraft@aol.com)), or Diane Laase ([dlaase@hotmail.com](mailto:dlaase@hotmail.com)).

## OCREA Scholarships

Several of the scholarships granted by the OCREA each year are named for retired educators who have made significant contributions to student teachers and other school employees in Oklahoma.

- ◆ **Tommy Beavers**, longtime Executive Director of the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System.
- ◆ **Carman Mace**, a career biology teacher who also was a lobbyist for students, teachers and other school employees.
- ◆ **Jeane Hipp**, a Mid-Del elementary teacher who felt her greatest success was working with students who lacked self-esteem.
- ◆ **Grace Stevenson**, an Oklahoma City English teacher who was involved in activities to improve teacher training.

## 2022-2023 OCREA Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 OCREA Scholarship Recipients. The scholarships are awarded to college education majors who are preparing to do their student teaching. Three education majors received scholarships at the April 2023 meeting. Five scholarships were awarded during 2022-2023 totaling \$5,000.



L-R: **Cullen Smith**, University of Central Oklahoma, received the Tommy Beavers/Carman Mace Scholarship; **Cassidy O'Keefe**, Oklahoma Christian University, received the Jeane Hipp Scholarship; **Ally Qualls**, Oklahoma City University, received the Grace Stevenson Scholarship; **Annette Fisher**, OCREA Awards Chair.

## Volunteers Needed!

Our teachers and students need your help! Come play games to help our elementary students with math facts fluency at Tulakes Elementary near NW 63rd and Rockwell.

You will be working with two students at 15- to 20-minute intervals playing short games and drills. Instruction, training, and support will be provided throughout the school year. NO tutoring and NO homework.

Our 2023-24 school year is starting soon. We would love to have you join our mission to help raise our students' math skills while having fun!



Please contact **Jesse Yap** at 405-241-6284 or at [jesseyap101@gmail.com](mailto:jesseyap101@gmail.com) for more information.

## April 2023 Unit Meeting

OCREA's April meeting was a well-attended, informative meeting. We had an inspirational devotional by Opal Floyd, celebrated three college education majors who received scholarships and had a legislative update from Sabra Tucker, OREA Executive Director. Delicious snacks and coffee were provided by the OCREA officers and coordinated by Bill White. The Health & Wellness Center is a wonderful place to meet! We hope you can join us at our next meeting on September 16th!



**Opal Floyd** presented a devotional to begin the meeting.



**Joe Wynn**, OCREA co-president, presided over the meeting.



**Annett Fisher**, OCREA Scholarship Chair, announced the scholarship recipients.



**Sabra Tucker**, OREA Executive Director, provided a legislative update and answered questions from members.



Join us at the next meeting!  
Saturday, September 16

## Need to Pay Your Dues?

Fill out the form on the right → and mail it in the enclosed envelope with your check to:

OCREA  
10801 W Country Dr  
Oklahoma City, OK 73170

Be sure and check your address label...you may have already PAID!

## OCREA Unit Meetings

**2023-2024 OCREA Meetings** are scheduled for  
Saturday, September 16, 2023  
Saturday, November 11, 2023  
Saturday, February 17, 2024  
Saturday, April 20, 2024



**Maps 3 Health & Wellness Center**  
11501 N Rockwell, Oklahoma City

9:30am Registration & Coffee  
10:00am Meeting begins



## Important Web Sites

Legislative Web Site:  
[www.lsb.state.ok.us](http://www.lsb.state.ok.us)

OREA Web Site:  
[www.orea.org](http://www.orea.org)

Like us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/okctyrea](https://www.facebook.com/okctyrea)



## OKLAHOMA COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS (OCREA)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2023-2024

(MAIL: OCREA, 10801 W Country Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73170)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to receive an emailed *Capitol Chronicle* newsletter.

OCREA DUES \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

OCREA DUES (SPOUSE) \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAGE FOR YEARBOOK \$ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

OREA (STATE) DUES \$42 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## Congratulations!

OCREA member **Judy Mullen Hopper** won re-election to the Putnam City School Board in April 2023. She was a veteran Putnam City teacher and is an active advocate for public education. Judy retired after thirty-five years in the classroom.

OCREA member **Bernadette Klimkowski** was recently elected to the Harrah City Council, Ward 1. A native of Harrah, she attended Harrah Schools and graduated from Harrah High School. Bernadette retired after a distinguished teaching career in Harrah Schools



**Judy Mullen Hopper**  
Putnam City School Board



**Bernadette Klimkowski**  
Harrah City Council

OCREA  
10801 W Country Dr.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73170



Welcome  
New Retirees!

PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Oklahoma City, OK  
PERMIT NO. 1512

### Upcoming Meetings

September 16, 2023  
November 11, 2023  
February 17, 2024  
April 20, 2024

All meetings are held at the  
Maps 3 Health & Wellness Center  
11501 N. Rockwell  
Oklahoma City

### Executive Committee

Co-Presidents  
.....Joe Wynn & Kenya Kraft  
Vice President.....Jim Roblyer  
Secretary..... Danna Senkowski  
Past President ..... Weldon Davis  
District Director .....Joe Wynn  
Executive Secretary/Newsletter  
..... Diane Laase

### OREA Member Benefits

[www.orea.org/membership/  
benefits](http://www.orea.org/membership/benefits)

## OCREA . . . Working for Retired Educators

The **O**klahoma **C**ounty **R**etired **E**ducators **A**ssociation was organized for all members of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) who live in Oklahoma County. Anyone who receives a retirement check from TRS (teacher, administrator, support personnel, health care services, spouse of member) is entitled and encouraged to become a member.

Meetings are held the second or third Saturday of September, November, February and April. Five newsletters are mailed/emailed each year.

Interesting programs and activities are planned for our members. Officers and committee chairmen act as liaison to the community and legislature. The membership, officers, and especially the Legislative Committee, spend long hours working with the legislature to bring about much needed benefits. OCREA Members reap the rewards of their hard work through the paid insurance program and pension raises.

All of the Officers and committees are at work for the benefit of the membership. The OCREA dues remain low. This gives everyone an opportunity to share the load. If you can't serve on a committee, hold an office, lobby at the legislature, or even attend a meeting, you can still help by paying your dues, which are only \$15 per year, so others may carry on the work. The more members we have, the more power we have. **Join now and encourage others to join.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** OREA is the state organization. Some of you may pay your dues to OREA through payroll deduction from your TRS retirement check. OCREA is a local unit for Oklahoma County. There are several local units across the state of Oklahoma. Go to [www.orea.org](http://www.orea.org) and click on **Districts** to see all the local units in the state. Each local unit has meetings and a separate dues structure. Oklahoma County is in the Capitol District.