

Capitol Chronicle

September 2023

Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association

Volume 23-24

September 16th Meeting

The Oklahoma County Retired Educators will meet Saturday, September 16, 2023, at the Maps 3 Health & Wellness Center, 11501 N. Rockwell. Registration and coffee at 9:30am. The program begins at 10:00am.



Kenton Peters, Naturalist at the Will Rogers Gardens and Arboretum, will be our guest speaker. (See the article on page 2 for more details.)

See you there!



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.

Comp means you receive a complimentary copy of the *Capitol Chronicle* as a lawmaker or an employee of OREA.

Due means it is time to pay your \$15.00 dues for the 2023-2024 year.

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 just retired from an Oklahoma County school district this spring.

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

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

Diane Laase
dlaase@hotmail.com
405-692-0456 | 405-206-0456



SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	27	28	29	30	31	1 2
3	Labor Day 4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 OCREA Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 1st Day of Fall
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Planning for 2023-2024!



The OCREA Executive Board is working hard for you as we schedule informative and interesting programs for 2023-2024. Discover who we are by reading this newsletter. We would love to see you at our meetings so we can get to know you!

L-R: Secretary **Danna Senkowski**, Scholarship Chair **Annette Fisher**, Vice President **Jim Roblyer**, Executive Secretary **Diane Laase**, Co-Presidents **Joe Wynn & Kenya Kraft**, Past President **Weldon Davis**, Legislative Chair **Debbie Hogue-Downing**, Finance Chair **Bill White**.

We have scheduled several programs for the 2023-2024 year, including speakers from the Will Rogers Gardens & Arboretum, the Putnam City Retirees Travel Club and the Oklahoma Film & Music Agency. We will also hear from Shirley Nero, who is a Board Member of the Oklahoma Historical Society. In addition, we are making arrangements for our members to tour the First Americans Museum in March.

We are making 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), Kenya Kraft (kenyakraft@aol.com), or Diane Laase (dlaase@hotmail.com).

OKC Parks & Recreation Department



The mission of OKC Parks is to provide cultural, social and recreational experiences to our community so they

can have the opportunity to cultivate wellness and enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

Parks by the Numbers:

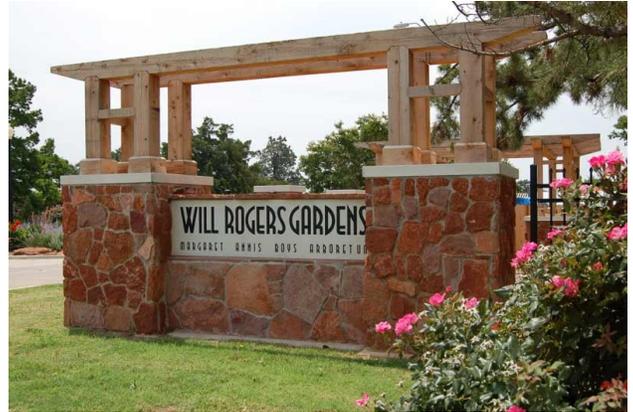
- ◆ 400 Employees
- ◆ >170 Parks
- ◆ 5,000 Acres
- ◆ 100 Miles of Trails
- ◆ 11 Recreation Centers
- ◆ 4 Swimming Pools
- ◆ 5 Golf Courses
- ◆ 2 Senior Centers
- ◆ 1 Fish Hatchery
- ◆ 2 Event Centers
- ◆ 3 Sports Complexes

Check out the website:

www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation

Will Rogers Gardens

More than a City park, the Will Rogers Gardens is one of Oklahoma City's oldest and most historic parks. It is located at 3400 NW 36th. These 30 acres of pristine landscape feature the Charles E. Sparks Color Gardens, the Margaret Annis Boys Arboretum, Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center and Ed Lycan Conservatory.



Throughout the year, Garden staff provides hands-on gardening and horticulture classes to visitors of all ages. Programs focus on simple "how-to" instruction for gardening and home landscape. The gardens are owned and staffed by the City of Oklahoma City Parks & Recreation Department.

OCREA is very excited to welcome **Kenton Peters**, a naturalist with the Gardens, to our September 16th meeting. Please join us and bring your gardening questions!

From the Executive Secretary

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has already paid your dues for the coming year! You help keep OCREA strong. It is a great investment in our future as retired educators.



I hope that many of you can attend the September 16th meeting. You can pay your dues there and the new yearbooks will be available. Please contact me with questions about dues or changes of address, phone number or email address.

–Diane Laase

dlaase@hotmail.com

405-692-0456/405-206-0456

Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association Saturday, September 16, 2023

Health and Wellness Center

11501 N. Rockwell Ave., Oklahoma City

- 9:30 am** *Registration and Coffee*
- Greeters** *Nancy Bailey & Jim Roblyer*
- 10:00 am** *Call to Order*
- Presiding** *Kenya Kraft & Joe Wynn, Co-Presidents*
- Devotional** *Opal Floyd*
- Pledge of Allegiance** *Danna Senkowski*
- Welcome New Members and Guests**
- Memorial Minute** *Kenya Kraft*
- Treasurer's Report** *Diane Laase*
- Program**



Kenton Peters, Naturalist

Will Rogers Gardens and Arboretum

www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/will-rogers-gardens

Business

Election of 2024-2025 Nominating Committee

Other

Announcements & Adjournment

Memorial Minute

Listed below are those members who have passed away since our last meeting:

Zed DeVaughan
Joyce Pybas

Need to Pay Your Dues?

Fill out the form on the right → and mail it 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

OREA Web Site:
www.orea.org

Like us on Facebook:
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, STATE _____ 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 _____

Make check payable to **OCREA.**

TOTAL _____

OCREA - Why Join?

- ➔ OCREA is a powerful voice in our legislature. Be heard and protect your retirement.
- ➔ OCREA keeps members informed on issues that are important to our current and future well-being.
- ➔ OCREA is a way to stay connected with fellow retired educators.

Annual Dues for **OCREA** are \$15.

4 meetings a year.

5 newsletters each year.

We encourage you to reach out to other retired educators and ask them to join **OCREA**, or rejoin if they have let their membership lapse. Our unit works with OREA to improve our benefits and encourages fellowship with other retired educators.

Pioneer Award

Pioneer Awards recognize and commend members who have reached their 90th birthday. If you have reached the age of ninety years or know someone who is or will reach ninety before May 1, 2024, and that person worked in the field of education in any capacity such as administrator, teacher, or school personnel, please notify me. Send a brief history of the honoree, which will be used in the awards ceremony. Please notify me by March 1, 2024

Marilyn Davis
Awards Chair

mdavclv@aol.com

