

Capitol Chronicle

Summer 2022

Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association

Volume 22-23

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.



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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 the coming year. 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 2022 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 the coming year. Thank you!

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

Diane Laase

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



Weldon Davis Selected for Honor



Weldon Davis, longtime OCREA leader, has been named to the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame. He will be inducted into the prestigious hall of fame in a ceremony to be held November 4 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. Other 2022 inductees are H.J. Green, a noted coach and Tulsa Schools administrator, and David Pennington, longtime Ponca City School superintendent.

OCREA members certainly know Weldon's leadership and his dedication to Oklahoma education and educators. He was nominated for the Oklahoma Hall

of Fame honor last spring by current OCREA co-presidents Kenya Kraft and Joe Wynn.

Following his graduation from college in the 1960s, Weldon taught for one year at Barnsdall before returning to his home town of Lawton where he spent two decades as a teacher, counselor and Cameron University adjunct professor. During his time in Lawton, he served as president of the Lawton Association of Classroom Teachers.

In 1980 Weldon was elected as president of the Oklahoma Education Association, a position that he held for six years. He was the OEA's first multi-year president. The 1980s were an active pivotal time for the OEA and Weldon traveled the state representing the organization. His leadership at OEA was marked by new training and advocacy opportunities for teachers, efforts to recruit and elect pro-public education legislative candidates, and work to secure additional state revenue for schools and better retirement benefits for educators.

After leaving the OEA post in 1986, Weldon worked for 16 years in administrator positions at Oklahoma City Public Schools, including six years as principal at Northwest Classen High School. He retired in 2004.

Post-retirement Weldon has held leadership positions in the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association, including vice president (2008-2010) and president (2010-2012). Since 2012 he has chaired the OREA's Governance/Elections Committee.

Weldon has served three terms as Oklahoma County Retired Educators Association president. He currently serves on our county unit's executive board as past-president.

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 OCREA Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2022 OCREA Scholarship Recipients. The scholarships are awarded to college education majors who are preparing to do their student teaching. Six education majors received scholarships at the April meeting.



L-R: **Bailey Nolan**, University of Central Oklahoma; **Katie Welborn**, Oklahoma Christian University; **Kaylee Foust**, University of Central Oklahoma; Annette Fisher, OCREA Awards Chair; **Chrissy Mason**, University of Central Oklahoma; Kenya Kraft, OCREA Co-President; **Esther Vineyard**, Southern Nazarene University. Not pictured: **Lauren Leighton**, University of Central Oklahoma.

Tips to Protect Yourself

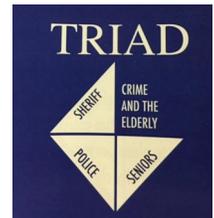
- ◇ Know that wiring money is like sending cash.
- ◇ After a disaster, give only to established charities.
- ◇ Talk to your doctor before you buy health products or treatments.
- ◇ Don't send money to someone you don't know personally.
- ◇ Don't agree to deposit a check and wire money back for anyone.
- ◇ Don't reply to messages asking for personal or financial information.
- ◇ Know that the fraudsters will pose on the internet as interested romantic partners.
- ◇ Conduct background checks on a caregiver before hiring.
- ◇ Know that the federal government will never call you on the phone and ask for personal information.
- ◇ Have a plan in case a medical emergency arises.
- ◇ Fraud victims have been approached:
 - * In the grocery store
 - * Knocking on your door
 - * Through the phone
 - * Through the internet
 - * Through the mail

It is okay to hang up the phone, not answer the door, not open an email or piece of mail, or say "No, thank you" to anyone who approaches you.

OKC Police Department Triad Program

Featured speakers at the April OCREA meeting were **Sheryl Presley** and **MSgt. Bob Skalla** from the Oklahoma City Police Department TRIAD Program.

TRIAD is an agreement between local law enforcement and older/retired persons to work together to reduce the criminal victimization of the elderly. They provide education and victim-assistance programs to older persons living in the Oklahoma City community. The goal of the Oklahoma City TRIAD is to help prevent senior citizens from being the target of crimes. Go to www.okc.gov/departments/police/community-programs/triad for more information.



MSgt. Bob Skalla



Sheryl Presley

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

2022-2023 OCREA Meetings
are scheduled for

Saturday, September 17, 2022
Saturday, November 12, 2022
Saturday, February 18, 2023
Saturday, April 15, 2023



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

Strength in Unity
OCREA / Capitol District



OKLAHOMA COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS (OCREA)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2022-2023

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

NAME _____

SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

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 _____

About OCREA

The **O**klahoma **C**ounty **R**etired **E**ducators **A**ssociation was organized for all members of the Teachers' Retirement of Oklahoma County. Anyone who receives a retirement check (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.

Interesting programs and activities are planned for our members. Officers and committee chairmen act as liaison to the community and legislature. They sit as members of the important boards and commissions, which regulate and govern the Teachers' Retirement System.

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.**

OCREA
10801 W Country Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73170



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Upcoming Meetings

September 17, 2022
November 12, 2022
February 18, 2023
April 15, 2023

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 PresidentJim Roblyer
Secretary Danna Senkowski
Past President Weldon Davis
District DirectorJoe Wynn
Executive Secretary/Newsletter
..... Diane Laase

OREA Member Benefits

www.orea.org/membership/benefits

Joyce Pybas receives Pioneer Award

Joyce Pybas received the Pioneer Award at the April meeting. Joyce earned her BS in Vocational Home Economics Education from Oklahoma A & M (now OSU) and an MS in Vocational Home Economics Education from OU. During her 39½ years in education, she served in many capacities including a Vocational Home Economics teacher in Wister, Tishomingo, Wilson and Konowa. She was a counselor for 15 years. Joyce was named State Supervisor of Home Economics (now Family & Consumer Sciences) at the Oklahoma Department of Vocational & Technical Education (Career Tech) and retired from that position in 1987.

The Pioneer Award recognizes and commends members who have reached their 90th birthday and for their years of service to education.



Marilyn Davis, Awards Chair, presents the Pioneer Award to Joyce Pybas at the April OCREA meeting.



Several Executive Committee Members attended a reception for Joyce on May 19. L-R: Marilyn Davis, Weldon Davis, Kenya Kraft, Joyce Pybas, Diane Laase, Jim Roblyer.