# 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



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

# **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 <u>Tuesday, October 3 in Tulsa</u>. OCREA needs voting delegates to attend the convention. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact Joe Wynn (<u>j. wynn@rocketmail.com</u>), Kenya Kraft (<u>kenyakraft@aol.com</u>), or Diane Laase (<u>dlaase@hotmail.com</u>).

#### **OKC Parks & Recreation Department**



The mission of OKC Parks is to provide cultural, social and recreational OKC PARKS | 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/parksrecreation

## 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 "howto" 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 vearbooks 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 K	Kraft & Joe Wynn, Co-Presidents
Devotional	Opal Floyd
Pledge of Allegiance.	Danna Senkowski
Welcome New Member	ers and Guests
Memorial Minute	Kenya Kraft
Treasurer's Report	Diane Laase
Program	W/N/

# WILL ROGERS GARDENS

Kenton Peters, Naturalist Will Rogers Gardens and Arboretum

www.ok<u>c.gov/departments/parks-recreation/will-rogers-gardens</u>

#### **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: <u>www.facebook.com/</u> <u>okctyrea</u>

Strength in Unity



# 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 e	emailed <i>Capitol Chronicle</i> newsletter.
OCREA DUES \$15	
OCREA DUES (SPOUSE) \$15	
SCHOLARSHIP DONATION	
POSTAGE FOR YEARBOOK \$ 3	
OREA (STATE) DUES \$42	
Make check payable to <b>OCREA</b> .	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

OCREA 10801 W Country Dr. Oklahoma City, OK 73170



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### **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

#### **OREA Member Benefits**

www.orea.org/membership/ benefits

# **Volunteer Hours**

Many OCREA members regularly improve the lives of others in our community by volunteering their time and talents. Enclosed with this newsletter is a Volunteer Hours Form. The total volunteer hours are reported to OREA on a yearly basis (January 1-December 31).

Volunteer (unpaid) hours fall into three categories:

	UNTEER HOURS ARE REPORTE		
	is when reporting volunteer hours	. Description of what constitutes	volunteer (unpaid) hours
hree categories:			
HILDREN/YOUTH - tutoring wolving youth	g, mentoring, volunteer teaching, o	church youth work, youth organi	rations, special projects
OMMUNITY - church activi	ties, hospital/nursing home, public	c office (sheriff, city hall, etc.), do	cent (museums, garden
ours, etc.), public service bo	erd trustee/foundation, mobile m	eals/nutrition/transportation, s	ervice organizations, (RSVF
ARP, AAUW, VFW, etc.)			
REA - serving as officer, att	lending workshops/seminars, lobb	wine, attending convention, scro	obook rommittee work e
table services or content to	terrang menonopay seminar 2, 1040	ryang, butchising convenience, seria	poods, committee work, e
Please u	se this form to record your volunt	teer hours to turn in at the unit	meetings
Month/Year	Community Service Hours	Children/Youth Hours	OREA Hours
Total Hours			
Total Hours			

- \* **CHILDREN/YOUTH** tutoring, mentoring, volunteer teaching, church youth work, youth organizations, special projects involving youth.
- \* **COMMUNITY** church activities, hospital/nursing home, public office (sheriff, city hall, etc.), docent (museums, garden tours, etc.), public service board trustee/foundation, mobile meals/nutrition/transportation, service organizations (RSVP, AARP, AAUW, VFW, etc.)
- \* **OREA** serving as an officer, attending workshops/seminars, lobbying, attending convention, scrapbook, committee work, etc.



More than 180,000 volunteer hours were reported to OREA from the small and large units in the state of Oklahoma between 2019-2021!

Please use the enclosed form to report your volunteer hours. Bring it to the September 16th Unit Meeting or you can mail or email it to Nancy Bailey, 1542 Grace Way #82, Moore, OK 73170; baileynancy01@gmail.com.