

## Conference features speakers, honors

By Renee Gottesman

The annual OEA-Retired Fall Conference was packed with presentations and announcements. Held October 5 at the Salem/Mid-Valley UniServ Office, our new President, Marty Bronstein, opened the conference with a welcome.

The main speaker, Paul Engelmeyer, manages the Audubon Society's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary in Yachats, and made a dramatic impression with his display of maps and descriptions of bird and fish migration. He said the Audubon Society initially purchased the 1,000-acre sanctuary to protect forest habitats but eventually realized the dependent relationship animals have between the old growth forests and the sea for nesting, migrating and breeding.

He said the Society's objective is to study and preserve these lands. Engelmeyer said the government

agency that oversees preservation, the US Forest Service (USFS), is only required to have a plan, not implementation, but over time various groups have become allies with the Audubon Society to implement research and develop projects apart from the USFS.

Engelmeyer stated that citizen involvement is critical

to assist efforts in making the USFS accountable to its standards and guidelines.

He summed up the greater objective as to, "Conserve for purpose of... providing ... for present and future generations." Engelmeyer may be reached at pengelmeyer@peak.org.

Honored OEA-Retired members included Janet Jackson and her husband in the October 4 Statesman Journal

with an article regarding the completion of their 10 years of experiences visiting all of Oregon's state parks (see Member camps out article on Page 5).

Another honored members was Jerry Wilkins, who was featured in NEA-Retired's September 2010 This Active Life magazine about his retirement activities. Also, Terri Domenigoni was awarded a trophy from NEA for her leadership role in OEA-Retired's participation at the Western Regional Conference held in Portland last April

The Conference was chaired by OEA-Retired Directors Judy Richards and Greg Abbott, who introduced the first speaker, OEA President Gail Rasmussen, who shared updates on OEA activities. She said a decision on retiring OEA Executive Director Jerry Caruthers' replacement will be made by the end of October. OEA-Retired President Marty Bronstein was one of the members of the search team.

Rasmussen also announced that bargaining has been completed with the professional staff but the associate staff bargaining is in mediation. She also said that the NEA Pacific Regional Conference will be held February 25-27 at the Portland Hilton. Ray Johnson, chair of the Host Committee, will be recruiting OEA-Retired members to assist (See Volunteers needed article on Page 2).

She was followed by two con-

See Web, Page 8

### IS YOUR BALLOT IN? DUE TOMORROW – NOV. 2 OEA-RECOMMENDS Candidates

Governor - John Kitzhaber  
U.S. House of Representatives:  
District 1 - David Wu  
District 2 - No recommendation  
District 3 - Earl Blumenauer  
District 4 - Peter DeFazio  
District 5 - Kurt Schrader  
U.S. Senate - Ron Wyden

### Ballot Measures

Support - 70, 71, 72,  
Oppose - 73  
No position - 74, 75, 76



At the OEA-Retired Fall Conference on October 4, At Large Directors Judy Richards and Greg Abbott assist Audubon Society's Paul Engelmeyer with a map of Ten Mile Sanctuary.

Photo by Bruce Adams

# From the president

## By President Martin Bronstein

I know I shouldn't be surprised by how busy we seem to be in September and October. After walking into my own kindergarten classroom as a five-year old in the 1950s (I'm being vague about the specific year on purpose) the Fall has always been somewhat crazy and this Fall is no exception.

There are a lot of things going on with OEA these days and I am glad to report that OEA-Retired is involved with a lot of the craziness. Like with any strong organization, adjusting to change is the key to staying relevant. We:

- are engaged in the selection of a new OEA Executive Director to replace the retiring Jerry Caruthers,
- are participating in the work groups charged with implementing the recently adopted OEA Mission, Vision and Core Values,
- are facing an important general election and
- on an extraordinarily positive note, helped the OEA Foundation (which is a high profile priority for OEA-Retired) reach the milestone of having awarded over one million dollars in grants to thousands of students across the state!

George Bernard Shaw observed that, "Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." I believe change is healthy. With the recent adoption of OEA's Mission, Vision, and Core Values by the 2010 OEA Representative Assembly, OEA has put together five Work Groups for the new Goals that are also a part of the recently developed and adopted document.

The Work Groups reflect OEA's commitment to include all of the stakeholders in our Association with active and retired members, professional and associate staff members and confidential and management staff. The

Work Groups met September 24 to begin the work that will move the Goals from the "where the rubber meets the sky" to where it will have to "meet the road!"

With a new executive director coming on board, new Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Goals to implement (and live by), with an election to battle, with the next million dollars to raise and give away for the OEA Foundation, and to continue to move OEA forward, these are truly busy times. So, what else is new?



## Volunteers needed

Are you interested in helping with the NEA Pacific Regional Leadership Conference on February 25-27, 2011 at the Portland Hilton & Executive Tower?

Several people are needed to help with registration and hospitality information. NEA will pay volunteers for parking and some meals and will be able to attend the Conference sessions.

If interested, contact Host Committee Chair Ray Johnson at 503-246-2073 or rayugene@att.net and state whether you prefer to work on:

- registration on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning,
- other miscellaneous tasks on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning and/or
- hospitality desk on Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning.



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## 2010-11 CALENDAR

### 2011

November 1	PrimeTimes published
November 2	General Election
November 15	Retired Board, Salem

### 2010

January 24	Retired Board, Salem
February 1	PrimeTimes published
March 2	Read Across America
March 7	Annual Assembly, Salem
April 1	PrimeTimes published
April 10-12	NEA-Retired West Regional, TBD
April 15-16	OEA RA, Portland
May 16	Retired Board, Salem
June 1	PrimeTimes published
June 28-29	NEA-Retired Annual Meeting,
June 30-July 5	NEA RA, Chicago
July 18	Retired Board, Salem
October 3	Fall Conference, Salem

# Goal exceeded

By Janet Jackson

## **Read to me**

*Read to me riddles and read to me rhymes  
Read to me stories of magical times  
Read to me tales about castles and kings  
Read to me stories of fabulous things  
Read to me pirates and read to me knights  
Read to me dragons and dragon-book fights  
Read to me spaceships and cowboys and then  
When you are finished- please read them again.*  
by Jane Yolen

In January the OEA-Retired Literacy Committee set a goal to distribute 500 books to places where children could get their hands on them and take them home. As of September 30, we have placed 578 books in locations around the state!

On each of my travels this summer to visit Oregon State Parks (See Member camps out article, Page 5) I took a box of books with me and looked for places to leave them. I left 30 books at the Women's and Children's Resource Center in Lakeview, 30 books at a Family Resource Center in Enterprise and 145 books at LaPine Elementary School.

In each place the staff was delighted with the books and the opportunity to put them in the hands and homes of the children they serve. Thanks to everyone who has donated to our cause. Hmm, maybe we can reach 800 by the end of the year. Wouldn't that be great?

If you have books you would like to donate in your community call me at 503-357-8753 or email at [gogirl2@comcast.net](mailto:gogirl2@comcast.net) and I will send you some labels.

## PERS adopts rates

By Bruce Adams

It is now official. At its September 24 meeting, the PERS Board adopted the rates that individual employers will have to pay to PERS in the 2011-13 biennium. The amount of the rate increase varies greatly from employer to employer but, on average, employer rates will more than double.

As PERS Board member James Dalton observed, "This is not new information and should not be a surprise." The Board has been working on this rate increase for months and months and it has been covered in newspapers and on television news. Still, this is a significant cost to employers and will likely be one in the future.

Also, this meeting was the last one for Bethel School District teacher and OEA member Thomas Grimsley. In his remarks to the PERS Board, Grimsley said that PERS is "a sound system" and that it compares well to the other 100-plus similar retirement systems in the United States.

We thank Tom for representing the PERS Coalition on the Board. The PERS Coalition is made up of all the employee groups (including OEA) that represents PERS

members. Grimsley will be replaced on the Board by Pat West, who has been active in the firefighters union.

In the last session, the State Legislature passed SB 897, which was designed to assure PERS pre-retirement estimates are accurate. The PERS Board has a problem with this law. They consider it very difficult and costly to implement so they propose to ask the Legislature to remove the "guarantee" provisions from the SB 897 data verification process.

New rules about domestic partners are not in effect yet because PERS is awaiting clarification from the US Internal Revenue Service. For more information, please contact PERS.

## 'Superman' opens

The barrage of negativism continues against our public school system with the film release in September of "Waiting for Superman." The opening was followed immediately with Oprah airing a special show on public education that featured the film and the so-called education reformers featured in it. Then the first week of October, NBC broadcast "Education Nation," a week-long special on education with "Waiting for Superman" and its producers playing a prominent role in the NBC event.

No one is concerned about criticism of our schools as long as it has constructive, valid points. NEA President Dennis Van Roekel, in reaction to the documentary, said: "The American public is smart. They've been told 'Waiting for Superman' is supposedly a groundbreaking film, they have heard from the film's producer and stars, including controversial D.C Chancellor Michelle Rhee, and they didn't like what they saw. Nowhere in the film or its discussion have teacher's voices been heard.

"The producers of 'Waiting for Superman' missed an opportunity to engage in a constructive, collaborative dialogue with educators about how to truly transform public education. Instead, the film demonizes public education, teachers unions and, unfortunately, teachers. They missed an opportunity to focus on how educators—the real superheroes—are, on a daily basis, turning hope into action in the nation's schools, one student at a time, one school at a time, one community at a time.

"Bashing educators won't work. Talk to us. Work with us on our Priority Schools campaign, which is our commitment to transforming persistently low-performing, priority schools into great public schools. Together we can make incredible things happen for students and the nation."

For additional information about NEA's Priority Schools campaign, visit [www.neapriorityschools.org](http://www.neapriorityschools.org).

### Members featured

Two members of OEA-Retired were honored with their photos on the 2010-2011 OEA Calender. If you did not notice, Kathryn Warrior and Nancy Lewis are pictured together on the back side of the book. The same photo is also on the cover of the 2010-2011 Resource Guide for OEA members.

# Board tackles plans

**By OEA Director Paul Zastrow**

And another OEA Board meeting, September 24-25, to report—one of around six scheduled for the year to conduct the business of the organization between OEA Representative Assemblies.

Normally, a two-day affair, where the first day deals with working on our Strategic Planning process—this time with other OEA members who are working on the OEA Goals Work Groups, aligning the what we do with both the how and why we do things as an organization and creating strategies and tactics to reach our goals. Plans are coming together and moving forward and the OEA will be the better for all the efforts.

The OEA Board also worked on our Board Norms and our Board Standing Rules, coming to agreements that we then adopted on Saturday during our normal 'work session'.

A good BBQ with all attendees—work group members, board members and staff and families—culminated the efforts for Friday evening, with the event held outside the OEA offices. Good food, good company and a good way to relax after a long day of productive work.

OEA requested that we all stay at the Embassy Suites, Washington Square, for our evenings as its group rates are very favorable, as well as having them cater the breakfasts as a part of the charge for staying! This is another way of keeping our collective costs of operation down, so that more dollars are available for member-related programs. Early starts for the Budget Committee and then the regular meeting got underway at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Past OEA Board member, Caryn Connolly, now on the State Board of Education, gave a report regarding happenings there, including consideration of the new Oregon Common Core Standards, virtual education and other issues that will be faced soon, including the lack of funding for K-12 education.

The Search Committee to replace retiring OEA Executive Director Jerry Caruthers has been hard at work, and the plan is coming along on pace. We had a special OEA Board meeting October 23 to interview the top candidates and offer a contract to the best choice. I do not know who all have applied, but am certain the screening process will make the best recommendations to us.

On the Board's plate also was a lengthy Executive Session to explain the processes we have undergone with both Associate Staff Organization and Professional Staff Organization negotiations. The ASO is doing typical bargaining, and no real agreements have been reached to date. The two sides—ASO and Board teams—are now in mediation and will meet again soon. The PSO, on the other hand, has achieved tentative contract agreements, with the OEA Board ratifying at this meeting and PSO to cast its vote later.

We spent a great deal of time as well discussing the political arena, including an independent campaign for governor, which will explain how our recommended

candidate, John Kitzhaber, is a better choice for education and Oregon's future.

In regular Board action, we accepted reappointment of OEA-Retired members, Barbara Davidson and Don Colgan, to the Congressional Advocacy Team and Bobbi Yambasu to the ByLaws and Policies Committee, as well as accepting other recommendations from OEA President Gail Rasmussen for positions not concerning OEA-Retired members.

The Board agreed to donate \$1,500 to the World Arts Foundation and \$600 for Jobs for Justice from the \$8,000 set aside for Board contributions. In other action, we approved both our Board Norms (the behaviors we will demonstrate) as well as the Standing Rules.

A good start to the new academic year, even under unfavorable circumstances with the lack of money, 'furlough days' and the negative news promulgated by media and those wishing schools would go back to the 'good old days'. Now, time to gear up for the elections of education-friendly candidates, work on making the OEA more responsive to its members and keep a positive light on all education employees whenever and wherever possible.

For me, that means doing the requisite phone calls, the door-to-door canvassing, attending political meetings and electing my chosen candidates on the local, state and national levels. Thus, no long wine tours of northern California, postponing trips to places I want to see and being available to truly be a voice of the OEA in the public eye. Perhaps as 2011 rolls around, my time will again be my own for a while and escapism will again rule and warm sunny climes await!

## Materials sent

**By Vice President Terri Domenigoni**

Fall has arrived and with the season members again should have received the membership mailing with materials and a new survey. I hope you all have taken the time to send in your membership as well as complete the survey. If you did not receive the mailing, be sure to contact me at 503-654-9910 or [tdomenigoni@comcast.net](mailto:tdomenigoni@comcast.net).

The surveys are important as they help our OEA-Retired Board focus on the issues and programs that are of interest to our members and we hope you will choose to participate in OEA-Retired activities throughout the year.

As chair of the Communications Committee, we have a few projects to be working on during the fall. One priority will be tallying the surveys and getting the information to the Board so that those members who volunteered to help with phone banking, literacy or the Foundation can be notified when the events occur.

This past summer, former Communications Chair Marty Bronstein worked with OEA to update our website. There are a few corrections still to be made but we are working on trying to keep it current for our members. Don't forget to check it out when you have the time. Go to the OEA website and click on "Members."

# Member camps out

By Janet Jackson

In 1994, my husband Ken and I bought a small camping trailer so we could camp in the winter and in the rain. (He is a roofing contractor, so when the sun was shining, he was working!) We realized we kept going back to the same two or three parks, so in 2000 we set a goal of visiting EVERY state park by the end of 2010.

Over the past 10 years, we have traveled thousands of miles up, down and across the state, visiting every park, scenic area, viewpoint, natural area, heritage site, recreation area--all 208 of them! We both were born, raised and educated in Oregon but found we had a lot to learn about the history, geology and geography of our beautiful state and have never been more proud to be Oregonians. We wore out the trailer and starting staying in yurts and cabins where they were available—and we love our new camping style.

We had to overcome a lot of obstacles. We used state maps, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department website and the OPRD guidebook, but sometimes we would be driving along and come upon a State Park sign that wasn't in any of those. Other times we couldn't find a park that was in one or all three. I frequently emailed OPRD with questions and they were always very helpful with their answers.



Ken and Janet Jackson pose on an Oregon Parks and Recreation boat in front of Government Island.

One tricky one was Government Island in the Columbia River. We don't have a boat and bungee jumping off the I-205 Jackson Bridge didn't seem like a reasonable plan. I emailed OPRD about our problem and two young park rangers gave us a ride to the island and a great tour in the OPRD boat.

Lots of people ask us what our favorite park is, but it is impossible to choose just one, due to the great diversity in scenery and significance. You'll just have to

go out and find your own favorite. But we do know what really makes our state parks great, the park hosts. These volunteers take real pride in their parks; they know all there is to know not only about their parks but the surrounding area as well. (The November 2009 issue of PrimeTimes featured an article by June Buck on being a state park host).

The hosts work long hours handling reservations, greeting and assisting campers, keeping the parks clean—and even clean the restrooms—they are truly wonderful ambassadors to tourists in our state.

The park rangers are also a dedicated bunch who work hard to keep our parks running smoothly. The ranger at Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint (north of Redmond) was even playing big band music from his boom box in the storeroom to entertain visitors—and everyone was smiling and tapping their toes.

We celebrated completion of our visits on September 26 at State Capitol State Park (yes, the Capitol grounds are now a State Park) with a family picnic and we were given a beautiful plaque from OPRD recognizing our accomplishment. In addition, we were invited to the dedication and ribbon cutting of the new 2010 park, Beaver Creek State Natural Area, on October 1, where we were congratulated by Governor Kulongoski and OPRD Director Tim Wood. We were able to congratulate them in return for meeting the governor's challenge of opening a new park every year.

It's been a great trip and we have lots of memories and two thick scrapbooks. Now we are looking forward to returning to some of the parks for a longer stay.

## Seniors using web more

Contrary to the contention that "oldsters" do not know how to use technology, The Oregonian reports that, "The fastest growing group of (social networking) users are those older than 50."

According to the August Pew Research Center's Internet and America Life Project, "for adults 50 to 64 years old, the use of social networking sites has jumped by 88 percent in the past year. For those 65 and older, it has doubled. The younger generation remains the biggest users of Facebook and other sites. But the reports shows that seniors make up the fastest-growing group."

The Pew Report says that several factors are contributing to why older adults are logging on to social networks, such as:

- It helps bridge the generation gap. The sites bring people of all ages together in one space.
- More social networks users are more likely to reconnect with people from their past. These reconnections can be powerful support when people are entering another phase of their life, such a retirement or a new career.
- older adults are more likely to be living with chronic disease and those with disease are more likely to seek support online.

# Reservations open

**By At Large Director Greg Abbott**

Reservations are still available on the Spectacular South Africa tour beginning October 28, 2011. Lasting for 13 days, you will be able to enjoy such places as Johannesburg, Soweto, Kruger National Park, Safari Game Drive, a garden tour, Knysna, Featherbed Nature reserve, Ostrich Farm visit, a winery tour, Cape Town and Table Mountain.

The trip includes 20 meals (11 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 5 dinners) and roundtrip airfare from Portland for \$4,749 double occupancy. To reserve a seat, you need to book by May 28, 2011 with a deposit of \$250 per person with final payment due on August 28, 2011.

If you would like a brochure, contact me at 503-537-7878 or at gabbott100@verizon.net. Each year these trips fill up so it is good to book early.

Last month, I was able to present a check from Collette Vacations to OEA-Retired for \$796, the amount of the commission from the trip we sponsored on the Russian River this last October. We are reimbursed because Collette is an NEA-sponsored travel agency.

# Retirees attend picnic

**By Region I Director Bobbi Yambasu**

Region I retirees have been busy since the July Board meeting. Despite cloudy, rainy weather over 60 members and recent retirees showed up for the Not-Back-to-School Picnic September 7 in Tigard's Cook Park.

After lots of yummy food and some fundraising games for the OEA Foundation, which collected \$53, attendees participated in a variety of presentations that included discovering geocaching, getting advice from a Master Gardener, learning about community and school gardens and walking the trails in the park.

Obviously, the good nature of the attendees reached the skies because they cleared just as the picnic broke up for the day.



While others wait their turn, Barbara Gornick attempts to claim a prize with her quarter toss and raise money for the OEA Foundation at the Region I Not-Back-To School Picnic on September 7 at Cook Park. *Photo by Terri Domengioni*

Several retirees have been working the UniServ phone banks for the upcoming election to support OEA-PIE recommended candidates. Also, all Region I Uniserv Councils, except for Beaverton, have at least one OEA-Retired member regularly attending their meetings.

# Feds have health web

Oregon US Senator Jeffrey Merkley recently announced a new web resource to learn more about the benefits of the recently-enacted health reform law. The newly-created website, [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov), is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

This may all be "old hat" to you by now, but just in case, here is a run down on the new law that may affect you:

- **Effective Upon Enactment:** \$250 rebate to Medicare beneficiaries who hit the "donut hole" in 2010. (Beginning in 2011 there will be a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the donut hole.)
- **Effective 90 Days After Enactment:** Immediate access to insurance for Americans who are uninsured because of a pre-existing condition, through a temporary high-risk pool.
- **Effective Six Months After Enactment:** Prohibits health plans from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. (Beginning in 2014, this prohibition would apply to all persons.) Requires health plans to allow young people up to their 26th birthday to remain on their parents' insurance policy, at the parents' choice.
- **Bans health plans from dropping people from coverage when they get sick.** Prohibits health plans from placing lifetime caps on coverage. Tightly restricts new plans' use of annual limits to ensure access to needed care. These tight restrictions will be defined by HHS.
- **Effective January 1, 2011:** Eliminates co-payments for preventive services, such as immunizations, colonoscopies or mammograms, and exempts preventive services from deductibles under the Medicare program. Requires plans in the individual and small group market to spend 80 percent of premium dollars on medical services, and plans in the large group market to spend 85 percent. Insurers that do not meet these thresholds must provide rebates to policyholders.

# Calls help pass bill

Congratulations goes to all those of you who phoned/ emailed/wrote to convince Congress to pass the emergency \$26 billion jobs bill that saved around 300,000 workers from being laid off.

The legislation is expected to bring \$270 million to Oregon to save 1,600 teacher jobs for a year and a six-month extension of increased health care benefits granted during the recession. All Oregon legislators voted Yes, except for US Rep. Greg Walden, who voted No.

# Books coming in

Public Education Network Weekly reports that the charter school movement is a major political success but a civil rights failure, according to a report from the Civil Rights Project at UCLA.

As the country moves toward greater segregation of students of color into schools with lower achievement and graduation rates, the rapidly expanding charter school sector is even more segregated than regular public schools. An analysis of 40 states, the District of Columbia, and several dozen metropolitan areas with large charter school enrollments reveals that charter schools are more racially isolated than traditional public schools in virtually every state and large metropolitan area in the nation.

The charter effort, which has largely ignored the segregation issue, has been justified by claims about superior educational performance, which are not sustained by the research. Moreover, decades of social science studies find important benefits associated with attending diverse schools, and, conversely, related educational harm in schools where poor and minority students are concentrated.

The report recommends that the US Department of Education update its now archived guidance on civil rights regulations for charter schools and strengthen these by including provisions known to have been successful in programs like magnet schools, which combine school choice with high-quality, diverse student bodies. To read more go to: <http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/k-12-education/integration-and-diversity/choice-without-equity-2009-report>.

## AG protects consumers

To protect consumers against fraud, the Oregon Attorney General's office has an email alert to warn about unscrupulous practices. In the Scam Alert at the end of August, AG John Kroger warned Oregonians to be wary of offers to sell timeshare properties.

He said that property owners are reporting contacts from dishonest companies with legitimate-sounding names, such as International Timeshare Consolidators (ITC). These companies mislead consumers by offering to help to sell their vacation properties. Posing as an agent or broker, the fraudster will produce an appraisal or offer a very generous bid for the timeshare or vacation property. Before the sale is finalized, the consumer will be told that they owe taxes or administrative fees. Once the property owner has provided their financial information, paid the "fees" or other charges, the broker or agent will vanish without a trace.

Kroger said that, unfortunately, as with many other scams, it can be almost impossible to locate the culprit. According to the Better Business Bureau, the address ITC deceitfully provided to consumers has received stacks of undeliverable mail, and countless visits from stunned customers.

He offered that if you are a timeshare owner and someone contacts you offering assistance with the sale of your property, take the following precautions to reduce the risk of falling for a scam:

- As a general rule, never give your credit card number or other personal information over the phone,
- Be wary of companies that charge up-front fees of any kind. Consider opting for a company that offers to sell for a fee only after the timeshare is sold,
- Ask them to send you written materials and make sure they corroborate any offers made over the phone,
- Do your research before transacting business with any company and compare their offers to industry competition,
- Verify the business address and phone number and contact them yourself,
- Ask if the company's salespeople are licensed to sell real estate where your timeshare is located. If so, verify this with the State Real Estate Agency licensee search,
- Check whether the Department of Justice has received any complaints about a company using our new online search tool Be InfORmed.

To sign up for the Scam Alert go to [www.doj.state.or.us/finfraud/scamalernetnetwork.shtml](http://www.doj.state.or.us/finfraud/scamalernetnetwork.shtml). Also, the Department of Justice has a Consumer Protection Hotline: 1-877-877-9392. For other information go to [www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov).

## Who did the spending?

For those with short memories, here is one reminder edited from the August 9 issue of the Prineville Central Oregonian newspaper:

"Twenty years of the previous four White House administrations, spanning a period of 28 years, were in the hands of Republicans Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush. Where was the conservative outrage over "fiscal responsibility" during these 20 years?"

"President Reagan demanded a 500-ship Navy at the same time he cut taxes, mainly to the wealthiest Americans. Upon leaving office after eight years, he left behind a \$1.5 trillion national debt.

"After only four years, President George H. W. Bush was defeated for reelection but added an additional \$1.5 trillion to bring the total national debt up to \$3 trillion.

"At the end of President Bill Clinton's eight years in the White House, an additional \$1.5 trillion had been added to the national debt. However, the Clinton administration balanced two annual budgets, the only administration of the four to do so.

"So, when President George W. Bush entered the White House the national debt was \$4.5 trillion. When he left office in January 2009 the national debt was approximately \$10.5 trillion, more than double the previous national debt. Now, who is it that needs 'fiscal responsibility'."



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## Web: Much here

*Continued from Page 1* current breakout sessions. The NEA Member Benefits session, presented by Theresa Muench, gave a general update of benefits available to members, including credit cards, life insurance, travel and discounts on consumable items (e.g., washing machines, restaurant meals).

She also displayed the website and demonstrated how to access various sections. The Member Benefits website can be accessed at [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) by registering your name and home and email addresses and then you can explore benefits appropriate for you and your family.

Muench's final suggestion was for members who have made past purchases of an insurance policy through NEA to make sure the beneficiary preference noted is current.

The second breakout session speaker was Steve McNannay, OEA Choice Trust. McNannay clarified issues around health care for retired teachers prior to and after receiving Medicare. A major issue was the difference in cost between family coverage and husband and wife (or significant other) only coverage. Check OEA Choice's new booklet and rate charts on insurance and medical coverage for in-depth information.

After a varied and tasty lunch, Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations Consultant, spoke about current Oregon politics. She opened with a celebratory statement of the lack of any Bill Sizemore bills on the ballot! She continued with a plea for OEA-PIE contributions and then gave a November election rundown of candidates in the

critical races and ballot measures.

She stated that the OEA supported two Republican candidates who supported the tax package last year and won their primaries despite a Republican attempt to defeat them. Wimmer told us the OEA plan for winning the election is to call all of our members, target voters called and canvass on October 16.

She emphasized that the general community respects teachers, so when talking to people who have not yet made up their minds our input is important.

The final speaker for the day was OEA Vice President Hanna Vaandering, who spoke about the newly released documentary film, "Waiting for Superman," and the OEA Foundation. Hanna strongly recommended that OEA members view the film, which is being promoted by the National Stand for Children and The United Way. The film lauds the greatness of charter schools and denigrates the skills of public school teachers. Vaandering said we all need to refute the poorly researched claims of the film.

Vaandering next showed a video ad that is being played on TV that promotes the Foundation and the work educators do with children with the donated funds. She concluded with a plea for assistance in the OEA Foundation office to help process applications.

### *Thought for the Day*

*Seen it all, done it all. Can't remember most of it.*