

November – December 2021 OEA-Retired Advisory Council Report by Kathleen Purdy

Happy Fall! Thanks Veterans for your Military Service!

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Throughout the year, the OEA-Retired Representatives have been instrumental in various member outreach activities. These included the virtual OEA-Retired Fall Conference on Racial Justice in Education 101: Grounding Retiree's Understanding to Effectively Talk About Race and Racial Justice. It was held September 30, October 7, 14 and 21 in 90 minute sessions. OEA-Retired would create a Racial and Social Justice Task Force and attendance at the webinar was one of the requirements for participation. Carol Kinsey, OEA-Retired Board of Director and Kathleen Purdy, District Retired Representative attended each session.

I have used multiple strategies to reach our retirees to thank them for being a member and also to update their current contact information. Because we would be assembling the House Screening Committees, I have also used this method to reach retirees interested in participating on this committee, especially those currently not involved in other OEA-Retired positions, such as councils, board, or committees. I used available telephone numbers, our OEA-Retired postcards and emails to contact every member ranging in age from 48 years-old to our two members that are 90 years old. This assignment took me 6 months to complete.

Additionally, I serve on the Program and Services Committee, chaired by OEA-Retired vice-chair Phil Long. We are to work with our District in planning and coordinating the **2022 Pre-Retirement Planning Workshop**. We are asking our District Office to help with registration, printing and mailing.

Sometime between **January 1, 2022 and February 21, 2022**, is an opportunity for OEA-Retired Districts to engage members on matters or topics that means the most to them. These would be called **OEA-Retired Roundtables**. In recent surveys, members have shared that having their voices heard would strengthen their connection to OEA-Retired. These Roundtable conversations would provide an opportunity for that need to be met while also providing valuable information to OEA-Retired leadership and assist in achieving OEA-Retiree's Committee Charges and Grant goals. We are asked to convene groups of 6-10 people for these meetings. Conversations should include a mix of recently retired and more longtime retired members and members who may not have had much prior connection to OEA-Retired. I will try to gather a diverse group of members in terms of age, race, gender, job classification while active and location. The meetings will be scheduled for one hour via Zoom. Happy Holidays from Kathleen. My contact information is: ecoeavp@yahoo.com (330)257-9913