

Heads up

- Member views count. Watch for member survey
- Follow news, features and updates on AFT-Oregon Retirees website
- Learn about Alliance for Retired Americans at <https://retiredamericans.org/> and sign up for Friday Alerts
- Center for Budget and Policy Priorities says Trump Poverty line proposal hurts seniors, those with disabilities. See: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/administrations-poverty-line-proposal-would-cut-health-food>

Actively Retired in Oregon

AFT-OREGON RETIREES

Scam targets Medicare beneficiaries

“Scammers are calling Medicare beneficiaries and offering them free genetic testing,” according to an alert from the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA).

“If the retiree is interested, the thieves ask for the person’s Medicare number,” the alert notes, “which can be used to steal their identity or file false benefit claims on their behalf.”

The alert adds that “Medicare experts caution that seniors should never offer private information over the phone.”

ARA explained that: “The Department of Health and Human



Services (HHS) has some tips for seniors on how to approach genetic testing offers and protect themselves:

- “Do not accept genetic testing unless it was ordered by a doctor. If a testing kit is sent to you, send it back and keep track of the sender’s name and the date.
- “A trustworthy physician

is the only one who should approve any request for free genetic testing.

- “No one outside of your physician’s office should have your Medicare number.
- “Contact the HHS OIG Hotline if you suspect any case of Medicare fraud: 1-800-447-8477 or oig.hhs.gov/fraud/hotline”

Achievement highs and lows: 2019 Legislative Session

The long 2019 Legislative session with its Democratic “super-majority” adopted a wide range of laws from revenue for education, to rent and housing, to political campaign contribution, to raises for state employees, to tightening environmen-



tal regulations. A major accomplishment was a multi-billion dollar increase in Oregon’s business tax, an

effort supported by many businesses, geared specifically for K-12 schools. The long-needed and awaited change came with a high cost: public employee contribution to reduction of the PERS deficit; and dropping proposed laws to limit parental

Dear Retiree Members . . .



Louise Currin
President

“Joining us ... will be AFT-Oregon's newly elected President, Jaime Rodriguez.”

I can hardly believe that we are in the middle of summer. I don't know about all of you, but even in retirement summer months seem as busy as when I was working—vacations, family, recreation and taking advantage of nice weather.

Our next event will be our annual summer picnic at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, August 21 hosted by Everice Moro in her beautiful backyard in the Brooklyn Neighborhood in Portland. Joining us as our guest will be AFT-Oregon's newly elected President, Jaime Rodri-

quez. I hope to see many of you at the picnic.

Union Friends Picnic

**August 21, 2019
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
2827 SE 35th Place
Portland**

Membership Meetings

Starting in September we will resume our monthly membership meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. The Oregon AFL-CIO office (3645 SE 32nd, Portland) will again be the site of most AFT-Oregon Retirees' events. I am also working to secure a speaker who can give us a recap

of Oregon's recent legislative session and a preview of things to come.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that I report the passing this summer of one of our active, charter members, Thurston Ohman. Thurston has attended our AFT-Oregon Retirees' meetings regularly since we were chartered. His questions and active participation in those meetings was always valuable and welcomed. He will be sorely missed.

Louise

Actively Retired in Oregon

Published quarterly by AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, Oregon 97219. Office: 971-888-5665.

President
Louise Currin

First VP
(vacant)

Secretary-Treasurer
Deanna Woods

VP Membership Program
Claudella Walland

VP Legislative Activities
Greg Monahan

Editor
Val Jack

Editorial Assistant
Dick Schwarz

Contributors to this issue:
Louise Currin
Greg Monahan
Dick Schwarz
Deanna Woods
Claudella Walland

Find us on *Facebook*

Printed by AFT members of Local 3922, Portland Community College Federation of Classified Employees.

AFT announces 2020 presidential endorsement process

A new endorsement process for presidential candidates has been announced by AFT President Randi Weingarten.

It is designed, she said, to ensure “unprecedented member input and engagement” in deciding who the union will support.

Elements of the new process are to include:

- Increasing member engagement, input, and feedback by using new tools and technology, national town halls, Facebook Live, and text messaging
- Directing candidate en-

gagement with members at live events

- Engaging affiliates and members with candidate campaigns before an AFT endorsement

Members can check AFTvotes.org for updates on events and actions.

Recall aims for Governor Brown

Oregon Republican Party Chairman Bill Currier has filed a petition to recall Governor Kate Brown. The mid-July filing has 90 days to collect 280,050 valid signatures to make it onto a ballot. Recall supporters cite the Governor's support for cap and trade climate legislation – which, ironically, was unsuccessful – among reasons for their effort.

Meanwhile in Washington State . . .

Seattle's “democracy vouchers” have been upheld by the Washington Supreme Court. Under the program, every eligible city resident gets four \$25 vouchers to use in the 2019 election for the seven city council district positions. Voters can apply one or more, or none, of the vouchers to one or more candidates, who then can receive their value in public campaign funds. They have no separate value. Opponents indicated they may seek U.S. Supreme Court review.



Greg Monahan
VP Legislative
Activities

It was an eventful (Legislative) session, to be sure, and a lot of excellent progressive legislation emerged from it.

Analysis

from Page 1

decisions not to immunize children; and gun safety. For her support of the tax legislation, Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) insisted that state employees now will be required to contribute to lowering the PERS deficit (they had no role in creating). Immense pressure by Democrat leadership brought enough Democrats together for passage of Senate Bill 1049, which is expected to reduce the amount of money going into IAP accounts by between seven percent and 13 percent depending on PERS member tier. The PERS Coalition plans to take the state to court, arguing that the bill defies the court's decision in the *Moro* case. New Justices on the State Supreme Court bare closer watching of the case.

What did pass

Among new laws adopt-

ed were laws to:

- control rents (a little), enable more housing on existing lots, and funds for more subsidized housing;
- add funds for a “real” raise for state workers, whose negotiations recently ended successfully;
- require publication of donor lists to shed light on “dark money” in political campaigns, and refer a measure to voters to limit those contributions;
- strengthen PECBA, Oregon’s public employee bargaining law, in light of the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court’s *Jannus* decision declaring public employee fair share unconstitutional. Responsibility will be on public workers to opt out of

membership. Unions also gained strengthened bargaining rights;

- end mandatory sentences for juveniles facing serious charges;
- create special driver’s permits for undocumented people, helping to ensure those drivers are safer on the road. These special licenses explicitly will *not* count as proof for things like flying in planes or voting eligibility;
- provide mandatory paid family leave; and
- refer a measure to voters to increase the tobacco tax.

What couldn’t finish

A high priority and massive cap and trade bill to control greenhouse gas emissions couldn’t muster votes to pass the Senate. In the works by many over many years, its prospects withered against a Senate Republican walk-out to deny a quorum, costing each a \$500 per day penalty for missing nine days. The walk-out reneged on a promise made after they walked out earlier in the session. Supporters may take up the legislation in the short session early in 2020.

LATEST

Businesses end quest for ballot on tax

An expected referendum challenge to the 2019 Legislature’s landmark business tax bill evaporated in late July after a group of Oregon businesses pulled back.

Oregon Manufacturer’s & Commerce included in its reasons the Legislature’s move of any referendum vote to January 2020, as well as removal of previous petition and referendum permission for individual voters to print their own copy of a petition to sign and submit.

Under the new business tax, which is expected to raise \$1-billion per year (though it will not begin until later in this fiscal cycle), businesses will pay a 0.57 percent tax on Oregon sales above \$1-million. Exempt from the tax are groceries, gas, hospitals and long-term care businesses.

AFT-Oregon Retirees



10228 SW Capitol Highway
Portland, Oregon 97219

Phone: 971-888-7667

Visit AFT retirement issues
www.aft.org/retirement

Upcoming Dates:

- 8/21/19: Union Friends Picnic, (See Presidents Column, Page 2 for information)
- 9/18/19: Member Meeting
- 10/16/19: Member Meeting
- 11/20/19: Member Meeting

Member meetings convene at 10 a.m. at the Oregon AFL-CIO (a handicap accessible location)
3645 SE 32nd Avenue
Portland

A primer on major terms in health care reform discussion

Discussion of health care reform by 2020 presidential candidates stirs memories of the 2008 campaign and its wild speculation of mythical proportion when then Sens. John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama described their plans for health care access and affordability.

AFT-Oregon's Federation News produced a three-part series in 2008 beginning with untangling terms that are incorrectly used and/or misleadingly interchanged. It is reprinted to help listening to the "new" debate.

Excerpted from
Health Care Series, Part I
Federation News, March-April 2008

“The public debate, however, is tinged with terms meant to bring a conditioned and usually negative response from voters. Descriptions that include references to “socialized medicine,” and “government–run health care,” or “Canadian-style” health system are always used when a candidate wants the public to be scared and fearful of an opponents proposal. They tap into myths and apprehensions about government, blind faith about “the market” and economic freedoms.

“Three fundamental terms

are important for sorting through the myths in health care debates.

“**Universal**’ health care. All citizens have access and are covered. By itself, it does not describe how done or paid.

“**Single-payer.**’ Describes a way to pay for universal and comprehensive coverage. Doctors and health care providers are in private practice and paid on a fee-for-service basis, like current private insurance, regardless of individual or group plans. Payment is from a single source, government-operated fund. Medical practices and hospitals are not owned or managed by the government. Medicare is an example of

single-payer health care. Canada operates a single payer system. www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=25520

“**Socialized**’ medicine. The government employs all health personnel and health facilities, including doctors and hospitals, and personnel are salaried. Great Britain and Spain operate examples of socialized medicine. In the United States, examples of socialized medicine include doctors in the Veterans Administration and military. And the government owns and operates veterans hospitals and military hospitals. www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=25521”