

**Heads up**

- Sign up for Oregon Health Authority Corona Virus updates at: <https://tinyurl.com/sy9petk>
- Read Gov. Brown's COVID-19 Executive Order at <https://tinyurl.com/EO-20-03>
- Read here DHS [policy to limit exposure to COVID-19 at long-term care facilities](#)
- Follow news, features and updates on AFT-Oregon Retirees website

AFT-OREGON RETIREES

# Actively Retired in Oregon

## COVID-19 Seniors are vulnerable group

The impact of Gov. Kate Brown's emergency declaration to fight spread of the corona virus has begun reaching to ordinary every day activities.

Following through with authority under its emergency authority, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) immediately stopped visitation of family in nursing homes.

Under the Executive Order 20-03 issued March 8, OHA and the state Public Health Director were directed to "take all actions necessary and authorized under [statutes] to respond

COVID-19 Resources

➔	Individuals and Families <small>Materials in multiple languages</small>	+
➔	Early Child Care, Schools and Higher Education	+
➔	Housing Services	+
➔	Healthcare Providers, EMS, PSAPs and Clinical Laboratories	+
➔	Local Public Health Authorities and Tribes	+
➔	Media Resources <small>Media requests, B-roll, social media cards</small>	+

OHA established a continuously updated Coronavirus page ahead of the Federal Government's response. Find answers to questions at <https://tinyurl.com/qvjmykr>

to, control, mitigate, and recover from the emergency."

The order directed deploying emergency volun-

teer health care professionals; designating emergency health care centers under ORS 401.657; and issuing guidelines for private busi-

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### Republican walkout stifles bills Legislature calls early end to session

As I write this brief report, the 2020 Legislative session has come to a complete stop.

Republicans in both the Senate and the House have walked out and abandoned the state in order to prevent a quorum in each house, thereby preventing the passage of the so-called "Cap and Trade" bill ([SB 1530 B](#)) that would limit carbon emissions and fulfill the state's commitment to aid in the battle



Greg Monahan  
 VP Legislative

against climate change.

As a result, almost no bills have been passed, and nearly fifty are stalled or dead in both houses. These include bills to help part-time faculty at the community colleges and universities get health care as well as efforts to address homelessness and the state's growing drug abuse crisis.

Several senators had publicly declared before the session, they would not "walk." Only Sen. Tim Knopp (R-Bend), running for re-election this year in a district turning more Democrat,

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## Dear Retiree Members . . .



Louise Currin  
President

Learn here how to store your emergency information on your phone:  
<https://tinyurl.com/jyt5st94>.

At our last meeting we had an informative speaker address Earthquake Preparedness. It was a great presentation with great information.

Attendees learned practical ways to prepare themselves for emergencies. I took away a couple of simple ideas that take little or no preparation.

During many types of emergencies you may lose access to your municipal water source. Did you know that your hot water heater is a source of emergency water?

Also, it is important to have a supply of biodegradable toilet paper that

can be used with home-made compostable toilets using large utility buckets and the seat from your home toilet. An internet search will give you the “how to.”

Smart phones can also be a great help during an emer-

gency of any kind.

We hope to see you if you are in the Portland area. If you would like us to have a presentation in your area, please contact me.

*Louise*

President  
louisecurrin@comcast.net

### Next meeting . . .

Two guests will provide up-to-date information on the Corona Virus, known as COVID-19, at the next AFT-Oregon Retirees meeting, Wednesday’s, March 18.

Speakers include Teri Mills and Marilyn McDonnell, who are members of the Oregon Nurses Association, an AFT affiliate. Mills also is an AFT member of PCCFFAP 2277, Portland Community College Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals.

They promise to bring the most current information to address members concerns and questions.

### Actively Retired in Oregon

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### Know before voting: Tips for picking a candidate

Here are handy tips for learning about candidates beyond speeches and ads.

*Websites.* These provide a trove of information. AFT’s user-friendly website gives you solid national information at [www.aftvotes.org](http://www.aftvotes.org). Each candidate’s campaign websites cover views, policies, programs and promises.

*Voting scorecards.* Check online for AFT’s, AFT-Oregon’s and other organizations’ grading of incumbents and previous office holders’ voting records.

*Newsletters.* AFT-Oregon works with other local unions to interview and share information on candidates.

*Voter’s Pamphlet.* Information on *who* supports the candidates, as well as candidates’ education, training, experience, and

political priorities.

Questions to ask include:

*Candidate’s stances on important issues.* Evaluate basis for the candidate’s beliefs on the issues. Avoid focusing on a single issue to determine your support. A candidate who is good on one issue may be a model of corruption on everything else. A candidate with integrity who is “wrong” on one issue may be great on all others.

*Do candidates listen to voters and experts?* Some do. Some don’t. Consider if a candidate is willing to change when wrong; Do they demonstrate caring about working people? Believe strongly about equity and the rule of law? What evidence of their integrity have you found? Can they deal with both basic and highly complex challenges?

*What experience and knowledge do the candidates bring to the specific offices, and how do you know?* Education? Experience? Training? Do they have a history of delivering on promises – doing and not just talking? Are the candidates able to work collaboratively as needed?



Deanna Woods  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Legislature

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### LATEST

*The 2020 Oregon Legislature ceased business March 5, three days before its mandatory March 8, conclusion, after House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) and Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) declared the session “functionally” over. They cited insufficient time remaining to process all bills delayed by the two-week Republican boycott.*

(increasingly “blue”) kept that promise.

This 2020 walkout, the second in two consecutive legislative sessions, increases the likelihood that one or more ballot measures will be on the November ballot to address this issue.

At least one (Initiative Petition 64) would levy a steep fine for such a walkout and prohibit that fine from being paid from campaign expenses. (Were supporters to donate money directly to senators and representatives to pay the fine, those funds would constitute income that would have to be declared on tax forms.)

Another (IP 63) sets a limit on unexcused absences, risking loss of seat; others discussed would lower the number of senators or representatives necessary to constitute a quorum in either house.

AFT is certain to support these efforts to prevent a small minority from continuing to block all legislative business.

As most know already from a steady stream of campaign ads and news, this is an important election year. Anyone de-

voted to the union movement, and to moving the state and the nation forward rather than constantly backward, will need be active in supporting candidates.

Stay vigilant and stay informed!

### **Bills suffocated by Republican boycott**

A sampling of bills that died at the end of the Legislative session. The bill number links to full text.

**SB 1520** . Requiring schools to offer free breakfast to more than 100,000 additional children. Details at: <https://tinyurl.com/u9cu26l>.

**SB 1552 B**. Expanding community mental health. Details at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx3oea37>.

**HB 4123 A**. Increasing requirements for public officials in Oregon to disclose financial conflicts of interest. Details at: <https://tinyurl.com/uop7he9>.

**HB 4146**. Providing part-time faculty members at public institution of higher education who qualifies for health care benefits will pay 10 percent of insurance premiums for employee coverage, with state picking up balance of premium; allows bargaining over employee portion between employee and school. Details at: <https://tinyurl.com/vod5bu6>.

**HB 5201 A**. Providing \$50-million to fast-track affordable housing. Details at: <https://tinyurl.com/ra8c6zd>.

### **News for navigating seasonal issues**

#### ***Election dates and voter registration.***

Amid mounting statistics and concerns, the primary season calendar marches forward. Important 2020 Oregon primary election dates, according to the Secretary of State, include:

- Voters' Pamphlets delivered April 22-24;
- Voter registration deadline April 28;
- First day ballots are mailed April 29.

Election day for ballot return is May 19.

***Am I registered to vote?*** Voters can check

their registration status at: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/pages/myvote.aspx>

***Where's my tax return?*** Check the status of your federal tax return using the IRS online tool on the [irs.gov/refunds](https://irs.gov/refunds) website. Or, try [Where's My Refund?](#) Filers can check from 24 to 48 hours after e-filing. Paper filers will need to wait four weeks before checking. To use, filers will need social security number, filing status and exact refund amount entered on their return. Check state return status at (similarly named link): [Where's My Refund?](#)

## AFT-Oregon Retirees



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Phone: 971-888-7667

Visit AFT retirement issues  
[www.aft.org/retirement](http://www.aft.org/retirement)

### Upcoming Events:

July 27-30 AFT Biennial Convention, Houston, TX

### Member Meeting Dates 2020:

- March 18 COVID 19
  - April 15 Election of Alternate Delegates to AFT Convention
  - May 20 Elections to new positions of Secretary and Treasurer
  - June 17 (program TBA)
- Meetings convene at 10 a.m. at Oregon AFL-CIO (a handicap

## ORDER

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OHSU provided links to patients and staff for information sources on Coronavirus outbreak (links are live in PDF version of Newsletter):

- [OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page](#)
- [Multnomah County Health Department](#)
- [Clackamas County Health Department](#)
- [Washington County Health Department](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 page](#)
- [CDC travel notice](#)
- [WHO page](#)

Other include:

Lane County:  
[www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus)

nesses regarding appropriate work restrictions, if necessary.”

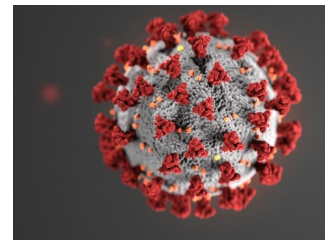
The order also directs, after consulting with medical experts “creating and requiring the use of diagnostic and treatment guidelines and providing notice of those guidelines to health care providers, institutions and facilities.”

Restrictive visitation rules came only two days after the emergency order when the Dept. of Human Services issued its “an additional preventive step” intended “to protect older adults and Oregonians with underlying chronic

medical conditions” and those with compromised immune systems, a population considered most at risk.

The guidance directs nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities, including those providing memory care, to:

- Restrict visitation to only essential individuals;
- Limit essential visitors to two per resident at a given time;
- Screen all permitted visitors for respiratory or other symptoms potentially indicating COVID-19 and for recent travel to an affected geo-



*Coronavirus image from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

- graphic area or high-risk setting prior to entering the facilities;
- Document the screenings for all visitors;
- Limit community outings; and
- Support residents’ access to socialization when visitors are not able to enter the facility through virtual visits.