

Heads up

- Getting a vaccine: <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>
- Sign up for Oregon Health Authority Corona Virus updates at: <https://tinyurl.com/sy9petk>
- Gov. Brown's COVID-19 Executive Orders at: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19#executiveOrders>

Vaccination era challenge

CDC safeguards for getting together

Priorities for vaccinations has produced a mix of individuals with none, one or two shots scattered among family, friends, neighbors and workplaces.

What to do and how best to mix — if at all — was illustrated by Teri Mills, RN, MS, CNE in a presentation to the March 17, meeting of AFT-Oregon Retirees.

Mills, a retired Portland Community College nurse educator, and Local 2277 member, urged caution noting that CDC guidelines are evolving as more is learned about the virus, helped members find answers in her presentation: “You’ve been vaccinated, now what?”

Home (small) gatherings offers a start in getting back together for fully vaccinated individuals.

Some combinations may be able to forgo prevention methods, while other combinations are best served by observing prevention



CDC guidelines, as of March 8, 2021, for most appropriate prevention methods when mixing vaccinated and unvaccinated persons.

—Graphic by Teri Mills

Legislature receives bills on voting

Georgia, Arizona and Iowa are grabbing the headlines and news talk on efforts by more than 40 state Legislatures with over 300 bills aimed at restricting election participation and curbing voting opportunities.

While these voter suppression efforts are get-

ting all the attention, Oregon's 2021 Legislative session has at least 16 bills, mostly moving in the opposite direction expanding voter participation and style of election.

These range from Senate Bill (SB) 776, allowing

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Members: See Page 3 for Officer Nomination, Election information

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Louise Currin
President

Learn more about
Multnomah
County's Family
Caregiver Support
center click:
<https://multco.us/ads/family-caregiver-support-program>

Connect to the
Apr 21, 2021
Zoom meeting
at 10:00 AM
PDT by click-
ing:
<https://aft.zoom.us/j/7781127565>
Meeting ID:
778 112 7565
One tap mobile
+1669900683
3,778112756
5# US (San
Jose)
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5# US
(Tacoma)

Dear Retiree Members . . .

I hope many of you are now vaccinated for COVID-19. I've had two doses of the Pfizer-Biontec vaccine and have completed my two-week waiting period. Visits with family will resume as will trips the grocery store, pharmacy, small neighborhood shops, and personal care appointments.

I also might re-enroll at the local gym depending on their capacity policy. Personally, I am not going to dine inside, but with nicer weather dine outside with friends and wait for lower numbers in the greater population to venture inside.

Our annual summer Union Friends Picnic, will be in-person, outside this summer, on a date and at a location to be announced in the next newsletter.

For this event, I hope to

have the technology together so that we can have the program section on-line as well. I anticipate heading back to in-person meetings in the fall with an on-line option.

Our meeting presentations until summer are scheduled. In April, Loriann McNeill of Multnomah County's Family Caregiver Support program, will reprise her visit advising on services available for those caring for loved ones at home.

In May, we will be conducting nominations for officers followed by a mail ballot election. (Offices with only one candidate may be elected by acclamation at the May meeting).

In June, Atty. Richard Schneider will reprise his presentation entitled, "You need more than a will in Oregon." We hope you can join us via Zoom for

these events.

As I mentioned, officer elections and nominations are coming. If interested in becoming part of the AFT-Oregon Retiree board, please refer to the election announcement in this newsletter. If you have questions, feel free to contact us at retirees@aft-oregon.org or call me at my phone number below. All officers' terms are up—President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership VP, and VP for Political Action. The Executive VP position has been unfilled for a while and our Membership VP is not running for re-election.

Stay well and safe! See you on Zoom.

In solidarity,

Louise

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Gatherings in the vaccination era

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observing prevention methods including masks, social distance, hand washing and well ventilated areas.

Mills provided a chart showing the various combinations from vaccinated to unvaccinated individuals along with individual risk conditions, that might gather in a home, matched to appropriate prevention steps for the mix. For example, no preven-

tion methods are needed in mixing vaccinated and low-risk unvaccinated household members. However, mixing unvaccinated high-risk persons in the home or unvaccinated, even with vaccinated persons from outside the home, still demands observing prevention.

More detailed CDC recommendations for small gatherings is at: <https://tinyurl.com/3aae5e3m>

Actively Retired in Oregon
Published quarterly by
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SW Capitol Highway, Port-

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MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

Notice of Nomination and Election of Officers

Nominations

Nominations for the offices of President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President Membership Program, and Vice President Legislative Activities will be accepted **May 19, 2021** from the floor at the Annual Meeting AFT-Oregon Retirees. The meeting will convene at 10 a.m. virtually via Zoom. Members will be sent by both e-mail and U.S. Mail, notice of the meeting with a link for joining the meeting.

Nominations may **also** be made in **writing** and must be received no later than 10 a.m., May 19, 2021 by the Elections Committee, AFT- Oregon Retirees Chapter, 10228 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, Oregon 97219; or, by e-Mail to retirees@aft-oregon.org.

Candidates for officer positions must have been a **member** of AFT-Oregon Retirees for a period of at least **six (6) months** at the time they assume office.

Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years beginning July 1, 2021.

Election

A secret ballot election for the officers will be conducted by U.S. Mail.

Ballots for this election will be mailed to members **Thursday, May 26, 2021**. Any eligible member who has not received a ballot in the mail by **June 2, 2021** or any member who spoils a ballot may request a new ballot by contacting the Elections Committee, AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter at, retirees@aft-oregon.org. If you request and return another ballot, only the replacement ballot will be counted.

Returned ballots must be **postmarked** no later than **June 8, 2021**. A stamped envelope will be included for voter convenience. **Counting** of ballots will take place at **10 a.m., June 15, 2021** at the AFT-Oregon Retirees office 10228 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, Oregon 97219.

Legislature



Greg Monahan
VP Legislative
Activities

A question in the Legislative session is whether Republicans will walk out to prevent anti-walk-out

As with everything else in our lives, COVID-19 has had an impact on this year's legislative session, requiring committees to meet virtually and severely limiting floor sessions.

There is good news on the budget. Oregon seems better off than some other states because it is not dependent on a sales tax, and many laid-off were relatively low wage workers paying lower income tax. That should not be the case, but it does lower the impact of layoffs on Oregon's budget. The American Rescue Plan, the new COVID relief bill passed by Democrats in Congress and signed by President Biden, will channel \$1.4-billion in federal money to Oregon, filling the budget hole created by the Pandemic, making budget choices in Salem easier than with-

Few PERS issues are before the Legislature this year. Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) is advocating HB 2867, which would ensure that out-of-state retirees, moving back into Oregon would have their pensions refigured (upward) in a more timely manner. Details on bill and more information on OPRI is at www.opri.org. Two AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter officers, Secretary Deanna Woods and myself, serve on the OPRI Board.

There are also bills in the Legislature this year to penalize lawmakers who boycott sessions. It will be interesting to see if they pass, given that Republicans will almost certainly walk out to prevent anti-walk-out measures.

As always, I encourage you to stay informed and stay active.

AFT-Oregon Retirees



10228 SW Capitol Highway
Portland, Oregon 97219

Phone: 971-888-5665

E-mail: retirees@aft-oregon.org.

Visit AFT retirement issues
www.aft.org/retirement

Upcoming Events:

Member Meetings 2021

(All meetings begin at 10 a.m.)

- April 21 *(by Zoom)*
- May 19 Annual Meeting *(by Zoom)*
- June 19 *(by Zoom)*

Nominations and Elections:

- Retiree Chapter Officers, nominations May 19 *(by Zoom)*; mail ballots sent May 26; ballot returns postmarked by June 8, 2021.

Covid-19 information resources

Links to state, local and national sites with Covid-19 updates and information:

- [Multnomah County Health Department](#)
- <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus>
- [Washington County Health Department](#)
- [Lane County Health Department](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 page](#)
- [CDC travel notice](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>](#)

*Links to voting
and elections bills
in the 2021 Oregon
Legislature:*

[SB 343](#)

[SB 571](#)

[SB 694](#)

[SB 776](#)

[SB 791](#)

[SJR 25](#)

[SJR 28](#)

[HB 2366](#)

[HB 2678](#)

[HB 2679](#)

[HB 2681](#)

[HB 2686](#)

[HB 3241](#)

[HB 3247](#)

[HB 3248](#)

[HB 3250](#)

Voting *continued from Page 1*

16 and 17-year-olds to vote in school district elections; to SB791 establishing ranked choice voting for non-partisan elections; SB571 and HB2366 allowing felons to vote while in prison; to and HB3250 establishing STAR (Score Then and Automatic Runoff) voting. The unusual, and complex STAR system gives each voter the opportunity to score each candidate for each office from zero to five.

Vote count tallies the total score each candidate received, then narrows the field to the top two with contingencies for ties and further counting and tallying among the same pool of ballots. So far, it has not received a committee hearing.

At press time, the ranked choice voting, teens' vote in school district elections, and the House bill allowing incarcerated felons to vote have had public hearings in their respective Legislative chambers.

Others heard include SB343 permitting the Secretary of State to adopt ranked choice voting;

SJR25 proposing a constitutional amendment reducing voting age to 16 ; and HB2679 allowing those 17 on the primary date and 18 on the election date to vote in a major party primary if the major party adopts a rules allowing it.

Only one has had a committee work session to determine whether to recommend it. HB 2681 requires county clerks file with the Secretary of State a report of each individual voter moved to inactive status and the reasons for the move.

Biden infrastructure plan and Oregon

Proposed infrastructure monies, according to Travis Brouwer, assistant director with the Oregon Department of Transportation, could make the Interstate Bridge between Oregon and Washington, the biggest beneficiary.

As reported by KATU-TV, Brouwer noted other projects benefiting could include widening and seismic improvements to the I-205 Abernethy Bridge near Oregon City, and to the I-5 Boone Bridge near Wilsonville, and congestion improvements in Portland's Rose Quarter.