

Speakers, picnics, State Fair, Oh My!

The line-up of excellent speakers at AFT-Oregon Retiree breakfasts continues. Retiree Greg Monahan shared slides from his trips around the world. In April, attorney Richard Schneider brought information on wills and trusts and answered many questions. If you have questions or would like to see a copy of the Budget for 2014-15, which was approved in May, please contact President Currin.

Jun. 17 - Retiree Breakfast, speaker, State Sen. Michael Dembrow

Jul. 9—Union Friends Picnic, Laurelhurst Park, Area C. Cesar Chavez Blvd. & 39th (enter on Oak St.)

Aug. 19—Retiree Breakfast, speaker, Jay Osborne, OPRI (defense of PERS)

Aug. 25 — AFT Day at the State Fair

Sep. 16 — Retiree Breakfast, speaker, Susan Miller, new benefits; Election Info.

Meetings held at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 9th

And, if you have questions as to why some of our State Legislators voted for changes to your PERS, be at the June meeting. State Senator Michael Dembrow, an AFT member, will attend and answer your questions.

Don't miss our annual Union Friends Picnic, July 8, at Laurelhurst Park. Bring a salad, dessert or your choice of picnic food to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, as well as plates and eating utensils. It's a fun picnic with other retirees.

In August, Jay Osborne, Oregon PERS Retirees Inc. (OPRI) will discuss the organization's defense

of PERS benefits. Important information for you, if you are a PERS retiree.

If you haven't yet attended a breakfast meeting, you are encouraged to come and bring another retiree. Meetings are held at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th (near Lloyd Center), beginning at 10 a.m. — Meet new friends, renew friendships and get information of great value to retirees. Questions: retireepres@aft-oregon.org.

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Greg Monahan named to OPRI board

AFT-Oregon Retiree member Greg Monahan, a retired professor of history from Eastern Oregon University, was appointed to the Oregon PERS Retirees Inc. (OPRI) board to represent Higher Education retirees. He will complete the term of the late Gary Tiedman, which ends in September, and then serve a full three-year term until 2017.

Monahan retired two years ago from Eastern Oregon University where he was a professor of history for twenty-six years. While at Eastern, he became active in university governance, joined the Inter-institutional Faculty Senate, and then moved on to the Association of Oregon Faculties, where he remained active for many years. He also served as President of Associated Academic Professionals, AFT Local 6200. He testified three times last year before various legislative committees, twice to object to the cuts in PERS COLAs.

Monahan lives in Portland and makes liberal use of that city's airport to travel around the world, drawing on those experiences to share pictures at a AFT-Oregon Retiree breakfast.

He has been a member of AFT-Oregon Retirees for two years and a life member of OPRI since the mid-1990s, attending board meetings often since his retirement in 2012. He was also appointed to the OPR-PAC.

Congratulations to Monahan for his appointment to the OPRI board.



A new beginning

By Louise Currin, President

I am pleased to have been offered and have accepted the appointment as your AFT-Oregon Retiree President, with President Val Jack's retirement.

It is with regret that the board accepted her resignation. Her retirement is much deserved as she will now be able to spend more time pursuing other interests and with her family.

Val has tirelessly worked for working and retiree members for much of her career and retirement. She held various positions with her local, Portland Federation of Teachers and Classified Employees (111) before serving 6 years as president beginning in 1997. She also served on the AFT-Oregon Executive Council.

The retiree chapter has been her baby. She worked with AFT and AFT-Oregon staff to make sure that all AFT-Oregon retirees had an organization specifically focusing on our issues. In July of 2004 at the AFT Convention, we were officially chartered. She has represented us with AFT on the state and national level, the Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans, and testified numerous times at the legislature. She is a hard act to follow. On a personal level, I will miss the frequent contact that I have with my friend of the last 20 years.

Your Executive Board will soon be appointing a new Vice President for Legislative Activities. In the mean time, I will do my best to continue with those duties. I have been your representative in the interviewing process of statewide political candidates and have taken on the responsibility of questioning incumbent candidates regarding their votes on retiree

issues, specifically PERS.

This fall, AFT Oregon Retirees will be asking members to take an active part in the election process. It is so important that we elect labor and senior friendly legislators. We will make sure that you receive information on candidates and how they stand on the issues, and will have guest speakers at our monthly breakfast meetings who will be able to answer your questions.

In the fall we will increase our organizing efforts beyond the Portland metropolitan area. If you live in those areas and would like to be part of that process, please contact me by email, louisecurrin@comcast.net.

Please check our calendar for upcoming activities. I look forward to seeing many of you participating.

Val Jack: This is not good-by

I'm sure most, if not all of you, received a letter from me recently letting you know I was resigning as President of AFT-Oregon Retirees. This was not a decision made lightly. I love this organization (AFT) and all the people connected with it.

Since 2003 when I worked to organize this Chapter, and our Founding Meeting in March of 2004, I have served as your President. I have not regretted a minute of that ten-plus years as your President. However, it's time to step back and turn the position over to someone with less responsibilities outside AFT.

But I'm not going away. I will continue to put this newsletter together. I will continue to attend our monthly Tuesday morning meetings and attend other activities whenever possible. I will be around to answer questions, particularly about how we got where

(Continued on page 4 - Not good-by)

AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219; 971-818-5665.

President—Louise Currin

First Vice President—Debbi Covert

Secretary-Treasurer—Leanna Hakala

VP Membership Program —Claudella Walland

VP Legislative Activities—vacant

Special Liaison to Retiree Board—Deanna Woods

See us on Facebook.

Editor, Val Jack

Actively Retired in Oregon is printed quarterly by Classified Employees who are members of Portland Community College Federation of Classified Employees, AFT Local 3922.

Note from Val: When I was working, I made a monthly contribution to AFT-Oregon's political fund by payroll deduction. Now retired, I can't do that. But as I pay my bills online, I set up an automatic deduction from my checking account and make a monthly contribution to AFT-Oregon's Political Action Fund. Remember, the first \$50 you contribute you can take as a credit from your Oregon State Tax. (\$100 for a couple) Schedule your contribution today through your bank.



Good News from Affordable Care Act Implementation; School Privatization hurts poor kids

By Deanna Woods, Special Liaison to Retiree Chapter Board

As the ACA has rolled out, reports from a variety of sources have given seniors and others plenty of reasons

to celebrate.

- Millions of Americans have seen a sharp drop in their premiums, putting more money in their pockets. To date, over 8 million Americans have signed up, with more to come—a number greater than expected.
- ACA policies cover more than many previous policies have provided, including preventive care.
- The lifetime limits for essential medical expenses are eliminated now. And there are caps on out-of-pocket medical and drug expenses.
- Americans with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied health care.
- Young people can remain on their parents' policies until they are 26, helping with post-high school expenses like college.
- Many preventive services now have no co-pays: annual wellness visits, screening for diabetes and cancers--mammograms, colonoscopies, etc.
- Increases in information and access to nursing home care as well as consumer protections
- More affordable drug benefits and the gradual closing of the Medicare D doughnut hole
- Steep drops in uninsured admissions to hospitals, which helps reduce costs overall.
- Older Americans able to retire sooner than 65 and engage in other activities. This is having the effect of creating job openings for younger Americans.
- Health care costs going up at a much slower rate than before the ACA implementation.
- The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the national deficit will be reduced by \$109 billion by 2022, because of the ACA's impact on the economy. By 2032, the reduction is estimated to be \$1.6 trillion.
- The ACA enables reduced "job lock," meaning that Americans' ability to buy their own insurance at a much lower price gives them greater flexibility in careers, where they can live, whether they can leave the workforce to raise a family, etc.
- ACA coverage increases Americans' financial security in cases of catastrophic medical costs.
- Insurers have to justify any premium increases of 10% or more before they can increase rates.
- More protection against healthcare fraud.

Some of the many available sources: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/investopedia/2013/10/11/essential-health-benefits-under-the-affordable-care-act/>, <http://obamacarefacts.com/benefitsobamacare.php>, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/02/06/six-economic-benefits-affordable-care-act>, <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/timeline/graphicstextonly.html>, <http://www.aarp.org/health/health-insurance/info-08-2013/affordable-care-act-health-benefits.html>, <http://www.ncpssm.org/PublicPolicy/Medicare/Documents/ArticleID/216/How-the-Affordable-Care-Act-Helps-Seniors>

School Privatization not only hurts poor kids, but shows widespread fraud, mismanagement, and waste, say researchers

AFT's *Reclaim the Promise* Campaign Moving Forward

A report issued this month by *Integrity in Education* and the *Center for Popular Democracy* found that over \$100 million has been "lost to fraud and abuse in the charter industry," because of little to no oversight or consumer protections. Charter school owners claim their private status means their operations aren't open to public scrutiny. (See <http://billmoyers.com/2014/05/05/charter-schools-gone-wild-study-finds-widespread-fraud-mismanagement-and-waste/>. See also <http://inthesetimes.com/article/16606/scathing-report-finds-school-privatization-hurts-poor-kids> and <http://www.nbc4i.com/story/24778722/nbc4-investigates-taxpayers-left-holding-bill-for-charter-schools>)

Public school privatization is a major goal of ALEC, the Kochs' corporate collaborative which has worked primarily with Tea Party Republicans to pass laws making it easier to form charter schools, using tax money to support them. About a decade ago, too, laws were passed that made investments in charter schools a sure thing, so that investors cannot lose – sometimes doubling their money.

Researchers found everything from embezzlement to diversion of funds to other businesses, mismanagement that put children in danger, and charters taking money for services they never provided. Many charter operators

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padding their enrollment for higher revenues. Some charters dumped students once a no-returns payout deadline had passed, so that the weakest students were sent back to public schools without any public funding attached.

Another deeply disturbing fact is that researchers are finding charter school students generally do no better and often worse than public school students. And when test scores are compared both nationally and internationally, the key difference between good scores and low scores is the poverty level of the students.

In summary, the reality is that Americans are now facing a strong movement from ALEC which wants to privatize all public schools. The owner of Fox news, Murdoch, claims there's \$500 billion to be made from pri-

vativization for investors, which many hedge fund managers and others on Wall Street have noted.

AFT is working with a number of other organizations to counter this movement, to protect public schools and move them forward to make them what we know they can be, in its **Reclaim the Promise** campaign. **To see how you can be involved, see <http://www.aft.org/promise/>.**

(Continued from page 2 - Not good-by)

we are.

So, hoping you will attend a breakfast meeting soon and take advantage of the information our speakers bring. See you around sometime — Union Friends Picnic, State Fair Booth, or ????

Union Friends Picnic
July 9 — 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Laurelhurst Park, Area C
39th & Cesar Chavez Bv.
(Enter on Oak St.)

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Join (or renew) AFT-Oregon Retirees Give to AFT-Oregon Political Action Today!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Retired from (Local Name) _____

- Yes! I want to join (or renew my membership) AFT-Oregon Retirees. Enclosed is \$30 for a one-year individual membership.
- I am enclosing \$ _____ contribution to AFT-Oregon Political Action Fund. (I understand that this money will be used to make political contributions. AFT-Oregon and AFT COPE may engage in joint fundraising efforts with the AFL-CIO.) Donations up to \$50 (\$100 per couple) may be taken as a credit from your Oregon State Tax.

Complete and mail this form to AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219

Signature _____ Date _____

Coming: OPRI; Presents from Partners; Benefit Programs

Great fun was had by all! The Union Friends Picnic, again held in the shade of the beautiful tall trees of Laurelhurst brought AFT retirees together with retirees from many other unions. Chief of the barbecue was Jim Gerhardt, ORARA Treasurer and an AF-

- Sep. 16 — Retiree Breakfast, speaker, Susan Miller, new benefits; Election Info.
- Oct. 9 — ORARA Meeting
- Oct. 21—Retiree Breakfast, speaker, Jay Osborne, OPRI
- Nov. 13—ORARA Meeting
- Nov. 18—Retiree Breakfast, speaker, Vickie Burns, "Presents from Partners"
- Dec. 10—Union Friends Holiday Potluck, 11:30-1:00, 3645 SE 23rd, Portland
- AFT Retiree Breakfast meetings held at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th, Portland
- ORARA meetings held at Oregon AFL-CIO Building, 3645 SE 23rd, Portland

SCME retiree. An array of salads and desserts lined the table and nobody went home hungry.

Oregon State Senator Michael Dembrow, an AFT-Oregon Retiree member, brought us information from the last Legislative sessions, including "The Bad," "The Positives" and "The Need" as well as a list of bills which he personally was chief sponsor and/or lead champion.

In September, AFT-Oregon Member Benefits will be presented and explained by Susan Miller. Everyone will have the opportunity to learn about this year's new benefits and ask questions.

Our October speaker will be Jay Osborne, an OSEA retiree and AFT-Oregon Retiree member, currently Chair of the Board of Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. and

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Presents from Partners: How can you help?



A few of the stockings made and donated by AFT-Oregon Retirees in 2013.

Presents from Partners is an annual program sponsored by Labor's Community Service Agency that provides holiday gifts to children whose parents are out of work or are otherwise unable to provide them. Additionally, the children are able to choose a gift for their parent(s).

Last year members of AFT-Oregon Retirees made over 300 stockings so every participating child was able to choose a stocking to take home. In order to keep this new tradition going, the Retiree Board will accept donations of holiday fabric (children's prints preferred, or male-inspired prints), as well as various trims and thread. Small pieces of trim are acceptable (it takes about 1/2 yard of trim per stocking).

Vickie Burns, Director of LCSA, will be the speaker at our November meeting. It would be wonderful if we could present her with this year's stockings at that meeting. If you can donate, or wish to participate in sewing sessions, call Leanna Hakala (503-464-6052) or Val Jack (503-260-5719).

(Continued on page 2 - Presents from Partners)



Election activities

By Louise Currin, President

This summer has been busy for me and other AFT-Oregon retirees. I had the privilege of representing all of you at this summer's AFT Convention and

the Retiree Conference that was held just prior in Los Angeles California.

The Retiree Conference reminded me that we need to continue to be vigilant regarding pension, Social Security and Medicare issues. Please follow the issues statewide and nationally and remember that you can make a difference.

When you have a concern regarding retiree issues contact your legislator. I find email is the easiest way to do this, however, town halls are a good way to establish a relationship with your local elected.

Remember if you have moved that you need to change you address with your local elections office to be able to vote in the upcoming election. In Oregon you can also do this online by going to www.sos.oregon.gov.

AFT-Oregon's, Political and Legislative Committee is in the process of recommendations for candidates and ballot measures. Those recommendations should be arriving in the mail. I have had the opportunity to sit in on most of this election cycle candidate interviews and have asked the hard questions of candidates regarding PERS.

If you live in the Portland Metro Area, please try to attend our monthly breakfast meetings. It is a time to share your retiree experience with other members and to listen to speakers address subjects of interest to retirees.

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See us on Facebook.

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Help Labor's Community Service Agency by shopping

Did you know that you can help fund programs for Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) and other local schools, community organizations or other non-profits by using your Fred Meyer Rewards card? All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and use it when you shop at Fred Meyer.

Fred Meyer will donate \$2.5 million to non-profit agencies through a new program called "Community Rewards." Link your Rewards Card and use it when you shop at Fred Meyer.

And you still get to keep and use all of your Fred Meyer rewards points, fuel points and rebates. Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to LCSA (number 91427) at: www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Fred Meyer will donate up to \$625,000 each quarter to organizations that have been linked. The minimum amount an organization can receive is \$25 per quarter.

Your purchases at Fred Meyer will accumulate points in your designated non-profit's account with some exceptions: Prescriptions, Fred Meyer Gift Cards and Kroger Co. Family of Stores Gift Cards, Green Dot Prepaid Reloadable Products, Bottle deposits, Lottery tickets and promotional tickets, Money Orders, Western Union, Fuel, Sales tax, Tobacco, Postage stamps, Transit passes, Fees, Game licenses, Phone activation, and Visa, MasterCard and American Express gift cards and financial variable load gift cards.

If you do not currently have a Fred Meyer Rewards Card, you may pick up an application at any Fred Meyer store.

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An additional way to help Presents from Partners is to bring a new, unwrapped toy, gift card or cash to the Union Friends Holiday Potluck on December 10.

If you have questions or would like to arrange pick-up of any of these items, call Leanna Hakala.



Your vote matters!

By Deanna Woods, Special Liaison to Retiree Chapter Board

Why Voting Matters—Why Yours Matters!

- **People died for our right to vote.** Both men and women were jailed, tortured, beaten and some died for our voting right, and for the right of citizens to vote. Women’s right to vote is so relatively new that some people who were born around that time are still alive.
- **Not voting usually throws elections to the more extreme candidates.** Extreme candidates draw extreme voters.
- **Not voting dramatically increases the risk that candidates will be elected who do not represent your values.**

Can We Trust Political Ads? Uh, no.

Most ads are so short there is no way they can address complex issues effectively, so fact-checking is necessary. Fact-checking also tells you something about the level of honesty and integrity of a candidate.

- Did they twist language or misrepresent truth?
- What sources did they use for data or quotes?
- Who is paying for these ads?

Koch-Sponsored Ads Less Than Honest

The Kochs’ Freedom Partners are putting \$3.6 million of ads into one ultra conservative Oregon candidate’s campaign. Can we trust them? No.

Fact-checkers tell us that Koch-funded ads have been notoriously misleading, whatever the subject. **Koch ads in Oregon have also been rated as false.**

For example, in the latest Koch attack on Merkley, the claim is that he has only one bill to his credit. What is missing are these facts:

- First-term senators seldom author bills alone. In facts, most bills are a combined effort.
- Many of Merkley’s proposals were incorporated into larger bills.
- Many of Merkley’s amendments were part of bills that passed.

<http://www.factcheck.org/2014/08/measuring-merkleys-record/>

Another charge is that Merkley voted to increase the

debt. That, too, is false. Raising the debt ceiling does not add to the debt, because it does not authorize new spending commitments.

Here is another website for checking Kochs’ Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.politifact.com/oregon/statements/2014/aug/15/freedom-partners/did-sen-jeff-merkley-vote-six-times-more-debt/>

Follow the Money

All states are now seeing money from groups like Freedom Partners. Such groups are usually part of a large network connected to the Koch brothers, including their State Policy Network and ALEC, and now the American City County Exchange (ACCE).

Graphics showing the connections of such organizations are available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/01/06/mapping-the-koch-brothers-massive-political-network/>. It is so extensive, it’s called the “Kochtopus” by pundits and journalists.

This network has \$400 million to date for getting their candidates elected in 2014.

If you want to know what they want from the candidates, go here, to Senator Sanders’ website: <http://www.sanders.senate.gov/koch-brothers>.

For more information about campaign spending in general, go to www.opensecrets.org.

(Continued from page 1 - Meetings)

He will share with us what they do to fulfill their mission: “Looking out for the rights and benefits of Oregon’s retired public employees.”

Vickie Burns, Executive Director of Labor’s Community Service Agency will talk with us about the workings of LCSA, particularly the “Presents from Partners” program held in December.

If you haven’t yet attended a breakfast meeting, you are encouraged to come and bring another retiree. Meetings are held at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th (near Lloyd Center), beginning at 10 a.m. — Meet new friends, renew friendships and get information of great value to retirees. Questions? email: retireepres@aft-oregon.org.

Contribute to AFT-Oregon PAF

If you were a regular contributor to AFT-Oregon's political fund (by payroll deduction) while you were working, you have now discovered as a retiree, that you aren't contributing.

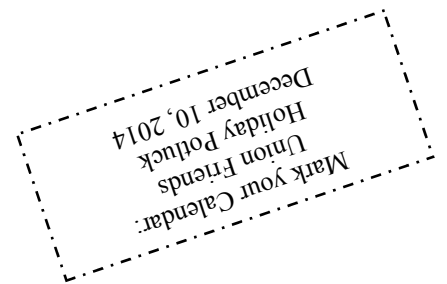
But you can, particularly if you already pay your bills online. Set up an automatic payment from your checking account and make a monthly contribution to AFT-Oregon's PAF (Political Action Fund) in the amount of your choice.

The first \$50 you contribute you can take as a credit from your Oregon State Tax. (\$100 for a couple) Schedule your contribution today through your bank.

With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men, than any other association of men.— *Clarence Darrow*

Review of Retiree records

A committee of members recently completed a review of the financial records of AFT-Oregon Retirees. Any member of the Retiree Chapter who wishes may examine the results of that review. Call President Currin or email: retireepres@aft-oregon.org to make a request.



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Join (or renew) AFT-Oregon Retirees Give to AFT-Oregon Political Action Today!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Retired from (Local Name) _____

- Yes! I want to join (or renew my membership) AFT-Oregon Retirees. Enclosed is \$30 for a one-year individual membership.
- I am enclosing \$_____ contribution to AFT-Oregon Political Action Fund. (I understand that this money will be used to make political contributions. AFT-Oregon and AFT COPE may engage in joint fundraising efforts with the AFL-CIO.) Donations up to \$50 (\$100 per couple) may be taken as a credit from your Oregon State Tax.

Complete and mail this form to AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219

Signature _____ Date _____

Coming: Presents from Partners; Park Bureau programs and more

Retiree breakfasts continue to feature a variety of speakers who bring valuable information each month.

In September, Dick Schwarz reported on the Oregon Retirement Savings Task Force which is charged with making a recommendation to the Governor for a

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- Nov. 18—Retiree Breakfast, “Presents from Partners”
 - Dec. 10—Union Friends Holiday Potluck, 11:30-1:00, 3645 SE 23rd, Portland
 - Jan. 8—ORARA Meeting
 - Jan. 20—Retiree Breakfast
 - Feb. 12—ORARA Meeting
 - Feb. 17—Retiree Breakfast
 - AFT Retiree Breakfast meetings held at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th, Portland
 - ORARA meetings held at 10:00 a.m. at Oregon AFL-CIO Building, 3645 SE 32nd, Portland
-

state-sponsored retirement plan for those without access to workplace retirement programs or who are self employed.

In October, Jay Osborne, Chair of Oregon PERS Employees, Inc. reported on that organization. In addition to Osborne, Greg Monahan also serves on the board. OPRI actively lobbies on behalf of retirees’ interests regarding PERS. They make candidate recommendations for elections based on their backgrounds and past record on PERS. With two reps on the

OPRI Board, our members can give them input, and they bring us information.

Also in October, AFT-Oregon’s Shannon Morrison discussed ballot measures and the effects of a yes or no vote.

In January a representative from the Portland Parks Department will bring information about programs of

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Union Friends Holiday Potluck



Retirees relax at a previous Holiday Potluck.

Don’t miss the fun, good food and good company!

Retirees from many unions continue their tradition of gathering in December for a holiday potluck. The main dish is furnished, as are plates, cups and utensils. Attendees are asked to bring an hors d’oeuvres, salad, dessert or rolls and butter.

This event is an opportunity to connect with retirees you may have worked with over the years in various settings, or met at AFL-CIO functions.

In addition to food to share, everyone is asked to bring one or more new, unwrapped toys which will be donated to Presents from Partners and given to a needy child. This annual event happens because of cooperation from many agencies and individuals and serves over 300 children who might not otherwise receive gifts because their parents are out of work.

If you haven’t attended a Retiree Breakfast yet, this Holiday Potluck is an opportunity to meet with other retirees in a very casual setting. Bring your spouse, friend neighbor, or another retiree and come celebrate with other retirees!

Wednesday, December 10, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. at the AFL-CIO Building, 3645 SE 32nd in Portland.



Proud to be Oregonian!

By Louise Currin, President

I am so proud to be an Oregonian. The voters of this state have once again voted for working people. I am looking forward to AFT-Oregon Retirees being in the forefront advocating for retiree and worker issues. When the opportunity rises, please do what you can to make a phone call, write a letter or visit your legislator in support of issues that are of value to you and other retirees.

With the change in majority in both houses of Congress at the national level to individuals who think about and hold corporations above average Americans, more than ever before, our Senators and Representatives will need our support for their actions shown by our emails and phone calls.

We will do our best keep you informed on issues and opportunities as they arise using our newsletter, email list, and social media. If you are a Facebook user, please “like” our page.

AFT-Oregon Retirees are getting ready for the holidays. Members Debbi Covert, Leanna Hakala, Paula Kingsbury, Margie Osbourne, Claudella Walland, Val Jack and I have made hundreds of Christmas stockings for Labor’s Community Services, Presents From Partners “Unions Labor of Love” holiday party for kids. We are one talented bunch. Again, check out our Facebook page for pictures of these volunteers and their handiwork.

We are also getting ready to participate in the Union Friends Holiday Potluck. Don’t miss this annual event Wednesday, December 10. See additional in-

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Oregon elections go well for labor and retirees

By Greg Monahan, VP Legis-

As many of you now know, Oregon bucked the national trend, electing labor and retiree-friendly candidates to state and national office. Jeff Merkley was reelected to the U.S. Senate by a wide margin, and Governor John Kitzhaber also won reelection. Both were endorsed by AFT and other unions.

For those of us in Oregon, however, the good news came in state legislative elections, where most union-endorsed candidates were triumphant. In the Senate, Sara Gelsler defeated Betsy Close in the Albany-Corvallis district to give the Democrats an extra vote while Alan Bates held on in a contested race to the south in Ashland and Medford. As I write this, veteran Republican Bruce Starr from Hillsboro and Forest Grove leads insurgent Democrat Chuck Riley by only 123 votes in a race that could easily go either way. Even without a victory there, the Senate will still have a very labor-friendly 17-13 split, and even if Riley does not win, his surprising success means that district could turn over the next few years.

Two years ago, the election of four new Democrats in Hillsboro and the areas west of Portland gave that party a majority in the Oregon House, but there were real worries that those tightly contested seats might not hold, especially in an off-year election when many progressive voters do not cast ballots. We need not have worried. Susan McLain defeated Marc Richman, and Joe Gallegos held on to his seat in a tough race, while Ken Helm easily won in North Beaverton and Brad Witt defeated Larry Ericksen in St. Helens. Meanwhile, Brent Barton triumphed over Steve Newgard in Oregon City, and Carla Piluso won in South Gresham. On the whole, House Democrats will wield a 35-25 majority in the new Oregon House.

Labor gets a healthy share of the credit for these victories, and there is little doubt that public employee retirees came out to vote and work for labor-friendly candidates, so THANK YOU!!!

Of course, this process never really ends, and just because we have elected good people does not

(Continued on page 3)



Your vote matters!

By Deanna Woods, Special Liaison to Retiree Chapter Board

The good news – We have seen the end of the endless attack ads and pro-ads for a while, and the reminder phone calls and solicitation emails will take a break.

Many of us are not completely happy with the results of the elections, but there are positive aspects of the outcomes, and there are actions we can take as union members and American citizens in the next couple of years to make a difference.

1. **In Oregon, with a 69.5% turnout, Democrats won BIG.** Elsewhere in the nation, turnout was lowest since the 1940's. *Low turnouts mean the now-extreme Republicans win. Most of the GOPs who won in other states oppose what polls say Americans want. In fact, Democrats have a higher rating in polls than today's GOP.*
2. **The deficit is down to about half, and the unemployment rate is now below 6%.** And if you go to <http://pleasecutthecrap.com/obama-accomplishments/>, you'll find the documented list of Obama accomplishments for Americans is now at 269 and growing.
3. **Polls show that a majority of Americans are very unhappy with America's inequality.** They want the wealthy to pay their fair share of taxes, so that will be a big issue in 2016. *This is a clear sign that more Americans are gathering around this common cause.*
4. **Obamacare is turning out to be a real success!** Literally millions are getting health care they couldn't afford before, premiums tend to be lower, health care costs are rising at a much slower rate than ever before, and Medicare is saving so much money, it will be fully solvent without changes for more years than expected. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2014/10/31/key-study-on-obamacare-2015-premium-rates-is-out>

(Continued from page 2 - Monahan—Elections go well
mean we can rest on our laurels. We will all have to be watchful and active to make sure that these senators and representatives all stay true to their promises and positions. But for now, we can be grateful and happy that a majority of voting Oregonians made their progressive voices heard!

[-and-you-wont-believe-whats-going-to-happen/2/](#)

5. **This Congress has been the least productive in recorded history, but there's no GOP excuse now for accomplishing something for all Americans, not just the wealthy.** What the people who run the GOP are willing to do will be very clear, and there's no one to blame but themselves. <http://www.addictinginfo.org/2014/11/06/irresponsible-conservatives-already-planning-more-partisan-gridlock/>
6. **According to some pundits now, the forecast for 2016 looks promising for the majority of Americans.** More Americans will turn out to vote. The GOP are just "renting" Congress for 2 years. And the majority of Americans can get THEIR message out.
7. **In 4 states, including red states, the minimum wage was raised -- a sign that where voters rally to a cause, they win!**

We have work to do, and in our union, together we WILL make a difference.

(Continued from page 1 - Meetings)

interest to seniors. They sponsor classes on subjects from swimming to art to ballet. Come find something that might interest you.

If you haven't yet attended a breakfast meeting, you are encouraged to come and bring another retiree. Meetings are held at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th (near Lloyd Center), beginning at 10 a.m. — Meet new friends, renew friendships and get information of great value to retirees. Questions? email: retireepres@aft-oregon.org.

(Continued from page 2 - From the President

formation on Page 1. If you live in the Portland area, plan to attend one our breakfast meetings. See details and meeting times on Page 1.

May you and your family have a joyous holiday season.

Discounts for seniors:

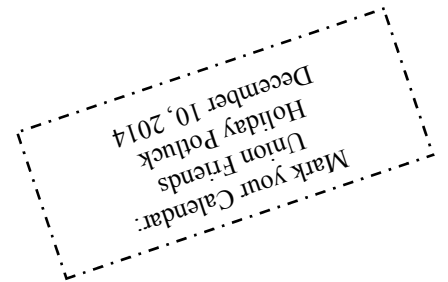
A number of stores and restaurants offer discounts to individuals of a certain age. With the holiday shopping season looming, we are printing a few. Check this website for a complete list:

<http://www.theseniorlist.com/2013/07/best-list-of-senior-discounts-2013/>

- Banana Republic: 10% off (50+)
- C.J. Banks: 10% off every Wednesday (60+)
- Clarks: 10% off (62+)
- Dress Barn: 10% off (55+)
- Goodwill: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
- Hallmark: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)

- Kohl's: 15% off (60+)
- Rite Aid: 10% off on Tuesdays & 10% off prescriptions
- Ross Stores: 10% off every Tuesday (55+)
- The Salvation Army Thrift Stores: up to 50% off (55+)

All that shopping means time for lunch. Applebees, Dennys, IHOP, Steak 'n Shake, Subway, Sweet Tomatoes, TCBY and Village Inn are just a few spots where you can stop for a bite to eat and a refreshing cola, coffee, or even cold water before you head back out for more shopping. Be sure and ask, wherever you stop, if they offer a senior discount.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Portland, OR 97219
10228 SW Capitol Hwy.

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AFT-Oregon
A Union of Professionals



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1453



Join (or renew) AFT-Oregon Retirees Give to AFT-Oregon Political Action Today!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Retired from (Local Name) _____

- Yes! I want to join (or renew my membership) AFT-Oregon Retirees. Enclosed is \$30 for a one-year individual membership.
- I am enclosing \$ _____ contribution to AFT-Oregon Political Action Fund. (I understand that this money will be used to make political contributions. AFT-Oregon and AFT COPE may engage in joint fundraising efforts with the AFL-CIO.) Donations up to \$50 (\$100 per couple) may be taken as a credit from your Oregon State Tax.

Complete and mail this form to AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219

Signature _____ Date _____