



Oregon
PERS
RETIRES INC.

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RETIREMENT NEWS YOU CAN USE



OPRI supports winning candidates during 2020 election

During the 2020 general election, the OPR-PAC supported both Democrat and Republican candidates for Oregon Legislative races in the House, Senate and Secretary of State races. OPRI supported candidates who would be advocates for PERS retirees and issues in the legislature.

OPRI invested \$143,000 from the PAC to support these candidates, with 97% of supported candidates winning their respective races. In the House, all 58 OPRI supported candidates won their election, while in the Senate, 12 of the 14 supported candidates won. OPRI will continue to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to protect retiree benefits.

Looking ahead to 2021 Session

OPRI will be actively working to protect PERS retiree benefits during the 2021 Legislature. OPRI will be introducing legislation to protect the Tax Remedy Payment for retirees who don't timely affirm their residency. We heard from many retirees who have been adversely affected by PERS policy, which only allows retirees to establish their residency once at the beginning of the year. The bill would allow Oregon resident PERS retirees who've seen their tax remedy payment wrongly withheld to establish their residency with the PERS Board to get their payments reinstated. Representative Paul Evans, D-Salem, will carry the bill.

The Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) is the state's largest organization that exists solely to protect the rights and benefits of Oregon's retired public employees. We serve retirees like you by monitoring PERS disbursements, advocating for you at the Legislature and, when necessary, defending you in court. To learn more, please visit our website: www.opri.org

MEET THE OPRI BOARD - DEANNA WOODS

When Deanna Woods retired, she wondered what she would do with her time. But filling her time has not been a problem. The newest OPRI Board member shares that the key is to keep learning and to do something that makes a difference.

Throughout her career, Deanna served in the Portland Public Schools, where she spent 30 years teaching high school language arts and composition. While she says everything she taught was interesting, it was the students she fell in love with.



Deanna enjoys traveling, pictured on the Red Ball Ferry.

“I wanted to work myself out of a job,” she says, as she worked to help her students become independent.

In 1994, she took a two-year leave from district work to work in Washington, DC for the American Federation of Teachers in Education Issues (AFT). While there, she created research-based training materials. These materials helped teachers with their professional development by helping them learn to apply research knowledge to classroom practice. Then, she returned to classroom teaching in Portland.

Since retiring in 2000, she has continued to stay active in the education community, spending five years working with the Onward to Excellence school improvement program for Education NW. She is currently still developing research-based training modules and does training for educators both in America and in the West Bank through the AFT and has written two research-based books on school improvement.

Over the course of the years, Deanna has served on several state-level citizens advisory

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OPRI BOARD - CONTINUED

committees to the legislature and the State Board of Education. For two terms, she was a commissioner on the Oregon Teachers Standards and Practices Commission, and is currently serving on the AFT-Oregon Retirees Executive Board. It was through her AFT service that she first learned about OPRI, through fellow Board member Greg Monahan's reports on the organization.

"Currently, OPRI is providing an invaluable service for Oregon retirees, staying involved with decisionmakers to protect our benefits, assisting retirees with retirement challenges affecting their pensions," she says. "This is a vitally important service at a time when many in America are more willing to cut the benefits of retired Americans in both public and private sectors." She also states that she would like to ensure that both new and current retirees understand the value and role of OPRI.

"Research studies have been done on retirees and what they want from their retirement," she says. "Almost universally, retirees want to make these years have meaning, want to make a difference in the world. That's hopeful for our communities and the state. The fact that Oregon's retirees have a reliable income through PERS is an essential component in their ability to be involved in their communities. They are able to spend locally, supporting their communities. And most importantly, they are able to contribute their knowledge, experience, and wisdom to the wellbeing of those communities."

Deanna has proven that retirement does not mean you can no longer be relevant. When she is not serving through academic training programs and participating in the union, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, and doing at home fix-it projects on her 94-year-old house.

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Did you know that you can give up to \$100/ couple or \$50/person and get the entire amount back when you do your Oregon income taxes?

Contributions are used to advocate on behalf of member interests.

Help us continue to protect your rights and benefits by contributing to the OPRI PAC. opri.org/donate-to-pac

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The date above indicates when your membership is up for renewal. For more information, please visit www.opri.org or send a letter to: Oregon PERS Retirees Inc. | PO Box 12945 | Salem, OR 97309

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