



# Newsletter

*Large enough to serve you. Small enough to know you.*

## Giving in Honor of Wayne

I am contributing in memory of my husband S. Wayne Maxwell to the POE Foundation Fund. It is very fitting to show the gratitude in Wayne's memory to the organization that he so fondly dedicated 14 years of the 50 years he served in an education career.

My children and I have been asked numerous times what they might do in Wayne's memory. We know Wayne would so appreciate you contributing to this outstanding organization that provides services of integrity to the teachers and retired teachers in Oklahoma.

With much appreciation,  
*Carolee Maxwell*

## A Friend Who Will Be Missed

On Tuesday, November 1st, Professional Oklahoma Educators lost a dear friend and colleague. Wayne Maxwell, Director of Retired Membership passed from this life into the waiting arms of his Lord and Savior.

Wayne began his career with POE on July 10, 2008 as a REP. He, along with Jerry Foster, covered all of the state. In January of 2009 Wayne transitioned from being a REP to being the very first Director of Retired Members at POE. RPOE was formed under Wayne's leadership. At Wayne's retirement in July of this year, RPOE had almost 700 members.

As we remember our friend, we wanted to revisit how he introduced himself in the first edition of the RPOE newsletter.

"It is indeed an honor to serve as Director of Retired Member Services. It is my desire that my background and experience in Public education will be beneficial, not only to our retired members, but to the entire Professional Oklahoma Educators organization. As a School superintendent I was not only involved in, but responsible for all aspects of the school mission, requiring the constant shifting of gears. While effective planning and organization was always something in which I prided myself, one phone call could immediately change the outlook of an entire day. I certainly hope my endeavors to serve you in a director's capacity will allow me to stay a little more focused with the primary purpose of providing you with timely information regarding your concerns and to guide you toward various opportunities made available through your P.O.E. organization.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself: Growing up in Tishomingo, Oklahoma in the late fifties and early sixties, the son of a

grocery store merchant, I learned early in life that there were no free lunches. My usual routine was to accompany my father to the family business each morning at 6:30 while my three sisters "dodged the bullet" on this particular responsibility. My daily assignment ranged from sweeping the storefront sidewalk to stacking groceries. It was rarely a situation of finishing any given task as I merely stopped what I was doing around 7:45 a.m. allowing time to walk the six blocks to school. While growing up in this setting was certainly not glamorous or exciting, I like to think that it gave me a sense of stability, security



*Wayne Maxwell*

and an appreciation for hard work. It also provided me with a set of traditional and Christian values which has provided the basic foundation upon which my life has been built. In high school I was, for the most part, a typical teenager, making B's and C's without studying as opposed to applying myself for the "A". Being chosen president of my senior class and captain of the football team were honors probably deserved much more by others and certainly appreciated more in later years than at the time. As the Viet Nam War raged on, I chose to enlist in the U.S. Army right out of high school. I was assigned to a M-60 tank outfit and with limited armor being utilized in the war effort, I was blessed to do overseas time in Germany instead of Southeast Asia. After three years of serving my country, of which I take great pride, I enrolled at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma where I earned a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education. I later earned an additional

# A Friend Who Will Be Missed (cont.)

Masters from the University of Oklahoma in Public School Administration. My first seven years in education were spent teaching and coaching. I left the profession for two years accepting an administrative position with the Boy Scouts of America, but soon realized that my heart was in education. Upon returning to the profession I served as a Principal for five years and for the last twenty-three years as a School Superintendent, retiring in 2005. My wife Carolee and I currently reside in Purcell, Oklahoma. We have a son and

daughter, both adults and both alumni of the University of Oklahoma. We have one eleven year old granddaughter. After retirement we have, together, written a book depicting the colorful life of my wife's full-blooded Choctaw grandfather and have engaged in providing teacher workshops and speaking to school and church groups around the state. I consider myself truly blessed to have grown up in Oklahoma, to have raised my family here and to have had the opportunity to served hundreds of children of various communities across

this great state. For any success I have had throughout my life I owe all the credit to a gracious creator, two caring parents, a loving Christian wife and to a number of dedicated teachers who during my formative years instilled in me a set of lasting values and made sure that I behaved myself. I look forward to the privilege and honor of serving our current retirees and to growing our organization to one of which we will all be proud." Thank you Wayne. You will be missed.

Please call 405\701-5990 today to update your contact information. We need your e-mail.



## Member Spotlight

Getting to know our Retired POE members is important to us. Your stories and experiences are important and we want to hear them. RPOE Director Carol Mattoon would like to showcase RPOE members on our POE Facebook page. If you would like to participate, please send an email to [retire@apoe.org](mailto:retire@apoe.org) with the answer to some of the following questions. You can also mail your answers to Director of Retired Membership, PO Box 667, Norman, OK 73070.

- Where did you teach?
- What was your subject or grade level?
- How long did you teach?
- What have you been doing since retirement?
- What are your hobbies?
- Include a favorite Bible verse or bit of wisdom.
- Share a photo of yourself.

## RPOE New Director

*By: Carol Mattoon*

Dear RPOE members,

My name is Carol Mattoon and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of Retired Membership. Before my life at POE I enjoyed being an Oklahoma educator. I taught for twenty-three years in the Frederick Public School District and for seven years in the Weaver Public School District. I began



my teaching career as a 4th grade teacher. After 4th grade, I taught 4th-6th grade Physical Education. I then taught 7th-8th grade at Weaver and coached boys' basketball. Weaver was a small K-8 school, and I loved my time there. After Weaver consolidated with Frederick, I taught 8th grade English until my retirement. I have talked with many people who said they could never teach kids that age; but I loved my 8th graders. In 2014, I moved to Norman and accepted the position of Regional Education Professional (REP) for Professional Oklahoma Educators. In addition to my new job as Director of RPOE, I will also continue to be a field REP for Region 3. Region 3 includes Creek, Grant, Kingfisher, Kay, Lincoln, Noble, Osage, Pawnee and Payne counties.

I am excited to be in this new position and look forward to the future of our organization. If you need anything, please contact me. My email address is [retire@apoe.org](mailto:retire@apoe.org).