



Plugged In

Fall 2024

'Plugged In' is brought to you by the PGE Retirees Inc. Communications Team: Terry Clelen, Ed Gorman, Jay Tinker, MinhHang Tran, Kimberly Hamling, Greg Rife and EDITOR John McLain. It is published to help members of PGE Retirees stay informed and stay connected. We also use the PGE Retirees website (<https://pgeretirees.org>), e-mails, and our PGE Retirees Facebook Group to provide additional details and feedback from members, too. Contact us at PGERetirees@gmail.com.

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The two unwritten rules of life are:

SPOTLIGHT ON RETIREES

KIMBERLY HAMLING

A desire to give and a need for assistance meet to produce a heartwarming result.

~Kimberley Hamling

Last fall I became acquainted with the nonprofit group “Michelle’s Love”. Their volunteers help single parents who are undergoing cancer treatment with house cleaning, meals, yard work, transportation to doctor appointments or treatment – helping a parent with any assistance they may need. In September I purchased a new car and needed to figure out what I wanted to do with my 2006 minivan. It was a nice minivan, and I wanted to donate it rather than sell it. My sister told me about “Michelle’s Love” and suggested I donate the van to the organization. I called Andy McCandless, Founder of the organization, and told her about my van donation. She usually gets cash donations, apparently people do not donate vehicles to the organization, so she was a little suspicious of why I’d want to donate a perfectly good minivan. She asked me “why aren’t you selling it?” I told her I really don’t need the money or want to hassle with selling it. Anyway, she told me she would call me back if she had a request from a client that needed a vehicle. I was a little put off and thought that if she didn’t call me back by the end of the week, I’d contact Oregon Humane Society or Disabled Veterans and donate the van to them.

A few days later Andy called me back. She just had a parent sign up, who needed a vehicle to get to her cancer treatment appointments. She had been taking the bus and MAX to her appointments. I could not imagine taking public transportation to and from treatment appointments. That afternoon, Andy and I worked together to make this

parent's wish come true. I met the parent and her daughter at a restaurant midway between our houses. Attached is the photo of me presenting her with the keys to the van. Since then, I have attended fundraisers for "Michelle's Love" and my sister has volunteered to help clean parents' homes. It's a wonderful organization and I love what they are doing! Here is the link to their website Michelle's Love – Charitable Organization, Cancer, Charity (michelleslove.org).

EMMETT WHEATFALL

At the recent 2024 Oregon Poetry Association Conference, Emmett was awarded the Patricia Ruth Banta Award. The award is given to the individual or group who deserves recognition for their contributions to the culture of poetry in Oregon. Emmett didn't know he was nominated and was Stunned! - Had no inkling.

CAROL MARESH

Carol was honored to have received a plaque for her time (6 years) on the Northwest Pilot Project Board. Her term ended June 30, 2024. Northwest Pilot Project helps connect low-income and very low-income seniors (55 and over) in Multnomah County who are capable of independent living, with rental housing that is safe, permanent and affordable to them. Perhaps other retirees remember the **Take a Senior to Lunch** program which PGE was a major supporter of until COVID halted our program.

Carol encourages other retirees to join nonprofit boards, as the experience can be quite rewarding.



MISTAKES WHEN DOWNSIZING IN RETIREMENT

Summarized by John McLain from an Article from Investopedia website: By Greg Daugherty, September 28, 2024



Many people fantasize about financing a good chunk of their retirement by selling their current home, buying a smaller place, and investing the difference for income. However, they often reap far less profit than they might have hoped. Here are four traps that await downsizers, with ways to avoid each.

1. MISTAKE: Overestimating What Your Current Home Is Worth

It's easy to fantasize about the high price your house will fetch. Perhaps the neighbors down the street sold theirs for an extravagant sum – or so they said. Any number of websites, including Realtor.com and Zillow.com, will give you information on what homes in your area have sold for recently. The best option is to consult several local real estate agents for an estimate of your home's current market value.

2. MISTAKE: Underestimating New Home Price, Location, and Moving cost

It's worth remembering that the potential buyers of your current home—and the sellers of your next one—are thinking the same way, fantasizing a high sales price. And even if you're familiar with your new home location, possibly from vacationing in the vicinity, it could pay to visit in different seasons to make sure you'll be happy there all year. Far too many retirees move on impulse, regret their decision, and end up calling for the moving van again. And don't forget the cost of moving itself: according to Moving.com, the average cost of moving stuff 1,000 - 2,500 miles cost an average of \$6,400 - \$10,000.

3. MISTAKE: Ignoring the Tax Implications

According to IRS rules, with the sale of a home, most **couples** can exclude up to \$500,000 in gains from their taxable income. That means you won't need to pay taxes on the first \$500,000 in profits you make from selling your home. The rules also consider how long you've owned and lived in the home, among other factors. They're all explained in IRS Publication 523, "Selling Your Home."

4. MISTAKE: Forgetting About Closing Costs

If it's been years since you bought a home, you may have forgotten all the closing costs you had to pay at the time. Those probably included legal fees, recording fees, title insurance, and a long list of miscellaneous charges. Not only will you have to pay closing costs when you buy your next home, but you'll also be faced with a second set as a home seller. According to Realtor.com, those can include real estate commissions as high as 6% and sometimes higher, if you use an agent.

The Bottom Line

Downsizing your home in retirement can reduce your housing expenses, including mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs. Additionally, a smaller home often means less upkeep and maintenance, freeing up time and resources for other retirement pursuits. However, downsizing will take a lot of your time and energy, and need the help and advice from professionals, which you will pay for. You should run the numbers before you start packing. You may find ways you didn't realize would save you money on the switch, or you could decide it pays to stay where you are, at least for now.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: So far, in 2024

Larry Browning, Tia Mitchell, Michael Newman, Barbara Parr, Ty Bettis, Sue Moon, Loretta Curtis, Ruth Burris, Brad Callahan, Suong Vu, Brenda King Bradford, Bruce Carpenter, Jay Jewess, Sunny Radcliffe, Carolyn Moore, Dale Newcomb, Rick Tetzloff, Jay Wong, Laura Macauley, Dennis Wildermuth, Jason Ophus, Chris Buck, donna Powell.

We have about 900 members in our organization, but there are still many retirees who have not yet joined us and won't receive a newsletter or invitations to our activities. If you know of someone who may not know that our organization exists, please invite them to join by sending an email to PGERetirees@gmail.com.

FIND A RETIREE

You can use our website menu item for "FIND A RETIREE" to search for a MEMBER NAME, then follow the directions on the website to request our help to make the connection. We never share contact information without permission.

IN MEMORIAM in 2024

Names and obituaries from 2024 and years past are posted on our website. Please send us an email regarding retirees who have passed away, their obituaries, or a celebration of life event.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

When you change your email address or other contact information you've shared with us, please email PGERetirees@gmail.com. This will ensure that you'll continue to receive the newsletter and other invitations and announcements. HR Confidentiality policies prohibit PGE Headquarters from sharing a list of "who retired from PGE lately", or any other status of current employees or retirees. We get our information solely from our members, so please help keep our records up to date.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

December 12, 2024, Thursday, 11:00 AM

- Look for your invitation in your email inbox soon.
- Monarch Hotel and Conference Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas, OR 97015.
- Optional -- Bring a FOOD ITEM DONATION that will be distributed to local food banks serving people needing assistance with their nutritional needs.
- The agenda includes short presentations by our own leadership team and by PGE executives too. Of course, a lot of time is scheduled for mingling and greeting fellow retirees that you may not have seen in a while. The Two-Bit Brothers (retirees) will provide music and entertainment, and there will be a drawing for prizes as well.
- Food Choices are:
 1. Turkey – Braised and Pulled Mole Spiced Turkey, Charred Corn & Peppers, Chorizo & Apple Stuffing, Roasted Vegetable Succotash, Poblano Queso Mash
 2. Salmon – Blackened and Served on a Bed of Parmesan Roasted Winter Vegetables
 3. Vegetarian – Stuffed Butternut Squash, Soyrito Apple Stuffing, Quinoa, Roasted Winter Vegetables, Parmesan Risotto
- Tickets are \$18 each, and there are three ways to pay:
 1. Look for email sent to you (soon) from us, with a LINK that allows you select food choices and pay for tickets with a credit card through a very secured "online process" we have set up on our website by our contracted webmaster service (<https://www.mediaphysics.com/>)
 2. Send us a written note of your preferences for Salmon or Turkey or Vegetarian, to PGE Retirees Inc., P.O. Box 9073, Portland, OR 97207
please note any food allergies
please include a personal check for the number of tickets at \$18 each
 3. Go to CALENDAR on our website, select December 12 event, and use the LINK to pay with credit card.

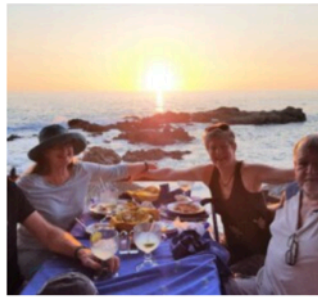
SAVE THE DATES

- Annual Retiree Members Meeting: 11/18/2024

- Regular bi-monthly Board Meetings on ZOOM (second Monday of even months): 12/9/24, 2/10/25, 4/14/25, (All members are welcome to attend Board meetings)

Check the Website Calendar for more events: <https://pgeretirees.org/calendar-2/>.

- Online ZOOM:
 - Virtual Book Club, (see website calendar for details) December's title is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. Join the conversation at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88403047762>
 - Gardening Group (3rd Wednesday of every month!) Join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88170147821>,
 - Monthly Zoom gatherings (4th Thursday of every month) Join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89354898068>
 - In Person: Pickleball, Hiking, Travel Group, Madras monthly meetup, Hillsboro monthly meetup, Clackamas monthly meetup, and Maplewood monthly meetup and occasional lunch dates in Salem.

Hillsboro Meet Up! Wed Oct 23 @ 8:30am 	Monthly Retiree Zoom Meet-up OCT 24 THU 	Hillsboro Meet Up! Wed Oct 30 @ 8:30am 	PGE Retirees Tennis and Pickleball Sessions NOV 4 MON 
Madras Monthly Meet Up – In Person NOV 6 WED 	Hillsboro Meet Up! Wed Nov 6 @ 8:30am 	Meet Up in Clackamas! Wed Nov 6 @ 8:30am 	Travel Tips & Tricks Interest Group NOV 6 WED 

I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."

– Marilyn Monroe

STAY ACTIVE - OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET AND PLAY

NET RESULTS EVENT 7/20/2024

Summer Fun for PGE Employees and Retirees -- It was a beautiful July summer day when a favorite PGE event of years' past returned. For PGE employees that were tennis players – or just fans of the game – Net Results became a mainstay of many summers in the 2000s. This time though, there was a twist or two. Last held before the pandemic, and the recent explosion of pickleball nationwide, an idea was cultivated by our racquet sport aficionado retirees Minhhang Tran and Conrad Eustis to combine tennis and pickleball. Further, Net Results Returns was transformed to make this a successful joint PGE employee/retiree event sure to be repeated in future summers.



Figure 1 – A fantastic turnout for Net Results Returns! Saturday, July 20, 2024, we had a total of 22 participants, including fellow retirees and active PGE co-workers. It was great to see so many familiar faces coming together for this special occasion. Start top left and wrap around to bottom left: Jaisen Mody, Jeff Wheeler, Stan Cunningham, Karla Hendrickson, John McLain, Greg Rife, Ann Cunningham, Barb Kohler, Jay Tinker, Kristin Tinker, Angeline Chong, Ross Hendrickson, Roberta Kanter, Sham Beri, MinhHang Tran, Jeri Petrella, Conrad Eustis, Matt Aldapa, and Jim Piro.



Figure 2 - PGE Retiree Organization President Greg Rife (far right), and VP John McLain (back left) along with current PGE employees L-R Matt Aldapa, Karla Hendrickson, Sham Beri and Kristin Tinker.

Make A LIST of Things that make you HAPPY.

Make a LIST of Things you do every day.

Compare the LISTS.

ADJUST ACCORDINGLY!

ANNUAL PICNIC EVENT 8/21/2024

Camaraderie, fellowship, reconnection, pickleball, and consumption of good food and beverages was shared when PGE retirees, alumni, and friends gathered on August 21, 2024. A cool, overcast day greeted PGE retirees, alumni, and friends at Tualatin Community Park. The weather change was appreciated by most and could not dampen the warmth and camaraderie that was shared by attendees. The food was excellent and plentiful. Drawing prizes were awarded, pickleball was played.

LOST: One of our retired friend's prescription sunglasses were left on one of the tables at the picnic. If you happen to know where they are, please email pgeretirees@gmail.com and let us know so we can reconnect them with their owner!



We highly recommend you browse the photos taken at the Picnic to spot some old friends. Please go to the website to see the many photos of individuals and small groups, with their names. Select the STORIES menu item in the top menu, or use the links below:
<https://pgeretirees.org/portfolio-items/2024-annual-pge-retirees-alumni-and-friends-picnic/>

GOLF EVENT 9/10/2024

It was an exceptional day for golf at Quail Valley golf course in Banks. The turnout was fantastic with 10 teams looking to drive it long and straight in this annual “best ball” event.



It was a reunion of former Finance senior leadership L-R Bill Valach, Bob Tamlyn, Kirk Stevens and Jim Piro. Maybe this was what they were doing all along during those strategy retreats.



Marcia Romito, retired PGE Tax Specialist rears back to launch her tee shot. Marcia was the winner of the ladies closest-to-pin competition.

The participants had a great time, and several teams shot at par or better with the winning Moore family team (Pat, Sandi, Kent and Carrie) shooting a 66 to pace the event. Men's and Women's long drive and closest-to-pin winners were also recognized. Like the Net Results Returns event, the golf tourney was available to PGE employees and retirees alike.

Mark your calendars for next summer if you would like to play golf, pickleball or tennis or just come out and watch and connect with current and former PGE employees. Send an email to PGeretirees@gmail.com to reserve a spot or express interest for next year.

PERFECT JOB FOR A RETIREE

In service to its customers, PGE is committed to educating K-5 youth in PGE's service territory about electrical safety and energy conservation. PGE is seeking paid safety presenters to connect with students at area schools and youth centers to provide informative, interactive, fun and engaging presentations on important topics in the energy industry with props, demonstration units and other materials. To find out more, contact Whitney Welsh on the Community Impact team at PGE via her email whitney.welsh@pgn.com for questions or to schedule a conversation about your fit for the position. A full description of this position is available.

FACEBOOK GROUP – PGE RETIREES and Employees... ONLY!

Join this retiree group of over 600 members who share news, organize activities, and exchange some useful Q&A as well. Our Communications team actively monitors the group to assure that membership is limited to qualified employees, retirees, and family members. There are no advertisements in this private group. To join, search for Portland General Electric Retirees from your Facebook page, request to join, answer the questions, agree to the requirements and your request will be processed.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Board Secretary: The PGE Retirees Board of Directors has an open position beginning in January 2025 for a BOARD SECRETARY who can attend the six meetings (mostly on ZOOM) of the Board, or about 15-20 hours total each year. Meeting minutes are an important part of providing “transparency” to our 900 members.

Please consider volunteering some of your time and talent to join fellow retirees on the Board. Contact Greg Rife at PGERetirees@gmail.com if you would learn more about this fun and helpful group of volunteer board members.

TRAVEL CLUB

Talk about travel plans, questions, suggestions and share tips. Next meeting at Bob's Red Mill on November 6. RVSP to Deb Schallert on Facebook.

If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

HIKING GROUP



or warm drink.

The historic Butteville Store. From left, Jane, Julie Wandell, Kevin De Angelis, Steve West, his grand daughter, Emily, and Carolyn Edmonds Kerr

The latest hike -- Carolyn Edmonds Kerr writes in Facebook: Six of us had an enjoyable 4.46 mile walk this morning, from Champoeg State Park (left) to the Historic Butteville Store(below), and back.

I expected we'd be having coffee in the cafe at the turnaround point, but we couldn't resist the unique flavors of homemade ice cream offered!

If you are interested in joining them on a hike, email Inge at inga_win@yahoo.com or check the [website Calendar](#). They always pack snacks or lunch and occasionally stop on the way home for a bite to eat and a cold



THE GARDENING GROUP

From Lynn Chiotti – Since this group began, drop an email to chiotti1@gmail.com, and Stan and I will research it and share it with our group.

MEET-UPS ARE GROWING IN POPULARITY

Newcomers are always welcome. In-person gatherings of retirees are very popular and regularly scheduled throughout the year, most often in restaurants, pubs, and wineries. There are many groups of retirees that meet on a regular basis including Hillsboro, Madras, SW Portland and Clackamas. Salem meets on a semi-regular schedule, so check the [website calendar](#) and our [Facebook Group](#) Events page often for updates.

OLD MARKET PUB

Another great lunch, with old friends and new ones too.



Check the website Calendar for dates and times for a meet up.

PICKLEBALL

The “West Side” Pickleball Group meets twice monthly, year round. Check out the pictures on the Facebook group searching for MinhHang Tran posts, or the pictures on the website under the NETWORKING menu, then click on “[Learn More](#)” in the Tennis and Pickleball flip box.

“East Side” Pickleball players might be a possibility for a new group, supported by PGE Retirees organization. Are there pickleball players on the east side of the Portland Metro area who are interested in forming a group closer to them geographically? There are two venues on the east side of the area that could support a group of interested PGE Retirees, employees, and their family members.

- The Peoples Courts <https://thepeoplescourts.com/> at 2700 NE 82nd Avenue
- East County Pickleball Courts <https://eastcountypickleballcourts.com/> at 27100 SE Stark Street.

If you are interested in being involved with an east side Pickleball Group, email pgeretirees@gmail.com.

ZOOM GROUP

A monthly Meet-up on ZOOM (at 10 a.m., the 4th Thursday of every month), also provides an opportunity for retirees living far away, or those unable to travel. Check the website [Calendar](#) for upcoming meetups.

WINE CLUB

If you would like to host a tasting at your favorite winery or elsewhere, please email PGERetirees@gmail.com. For example, John McLain is a long-time wine-club member at Lange Estate Winery in the hills behind Dundee. He will be planning a special tasting event in 2025 using his club discounts to benefit all attendees. Perhaps you belong to a wine club and can arrange for a special tasting at your favorite place.

NEW! MAH JONG GROUP has begun!

Interested? Email PGERetirees@gmail.com for more information and to sign up for email updates! This group is in early *learning* stages of the game and currently meet at the Elsie Stuhr Community Center, 5550 SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton, 97005, every Thursday at 10 a.m., where seasoned players are available and willing to play and coach us as we learn together. Once we're confident enough to play on our own we'll decide what day, time, location and how often our group would like to play. Until then, we hope to see you at Elsie Stuhr!

YOUR NEW GROUP HERE

You can start a new group! Ask us for help in starting an interest group of your own. Send email to PGERetirees@gmail.com with your suggestion and of course, your willingness to help with the new group get started.

TOURS ANYONE?

If you've been retired for a while, you may remember the organized tours and annual jet boat rides, etc. that took place. If you're interested in bringing back and organizing one of these or other activities, send an email to pgeretirees@gmail.org and let us know.

VOLUNTEER AT OREGON FOOD BANK

Stay tuned for an upcoming opportunity for PGE retirees to volunteer at the west side Oregon Food Bank in Beaverton. Watch our website calendar and Facebook Group events page for details!

STAY INFORMED – NEW

NEWS FROM PGE HEADQUARTERS

PGE provides real-time updates that are useful for retirees to keep up with what is going on at PGE headquarters. This is a very informative website, where news from many news outlets is centralized in one place regarding PGE. Check out the latest news at

<https://portlandgeneral.com/newsroom>

STATS ABOUT PGE RETIREES' ORGANIZATION

- 900 subscriber/members to *Plugged In* newsletter
- 640 members of private Facebook group
- 15 Board of Directors and an active group of volunteers on the Committees

Please consider joining us. Volunteers are critical to a stable nonprofit organization.

PGE RETIREE BOARD INITIATIVES

- Recently completed:
 - Developed a brochure to encourage current employees to join us
 - Hosted an annual Board Retreat for new members and plans for the future
 - Published an Annual Report for retirees
 - Met and presented the Annual Report to PGE Corporate
 - Hosted annual Retiree Picnic
- Planning the Annual Meeting of all Members (Nov. 18)
- Planning the Holiday Luncheon (Dec. 12)

2024 BOARD STRATEGIC RETREAT

On July 31, the Board of Directors and special guests met together to discuss the status and future direction of the PGE Retirees organization. Each person shared their perspectives and opinions about the recent performance of the Board and Committees, as well as what might be important initiatives to assure a robust and resilient organization made up of retirees, current employees, and their families. The group reviewed and discussed an article that identified the “Top 20 Attributes of an Outstanding Board”. In summary, the current direction of the Board is reaffirmed, with several initiatives that may be launched in 2025, if an adequate number of volunteers come forward.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATED

The Board is composed of 15 Directors. Each year five of the directors' 3-year terms expire. After an outreach campaign to solicit members to serve as Directors on the Board for 2025-2027, the following members were nominated for a vote of the membership:

Greg Rife John McLain Stan Chiotti Cece Coleman Patti Lama

Please VOTE! Members of PGE Retirees Inc received an email ballot on or about Oct. 18 and are asked to vote by Monday, Nov. 4. Newly elected Board members will be announced and ratified at the Nov. 17 online Annual Meeting. All members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting at 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 18 on ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83040921348?pwd=NJwh54dUryeHkHMjQKjEi toRb7DBce.1>

POTPOURRI OF STORIES AND PHOTOS

POETRY CORNER

If anyone wants to share their personal original poetry or just a favorite poem in this newsletter, please send your submission to PGERetirees@gmail.com

Being in the Moment

I'm watching a bee being nosy.
I'm not imploring it to stop.
It's handling bee business.
It just flew on to other blossoms,
all the while continuing to do bee business.
It is not any of my business.

I am me, a non-bee,
being nosy being in the moment.

~ *Emmette Wheatfall*

I'll Still be Loving You

When your hair has turned to winter
and your teeth are in a plate,
when your getter up and go
has gone to stop and wait
I'll still be loving you.

When your attributes have shifted
beyond the bounds of grace,
I'll count your many blessings,
not the wrinkles in your face
I'll still be loving you.

When the crackle in your voice
matches that within your knee

and the times are getting frequent
that you don't remember me
I'll still be loving you.

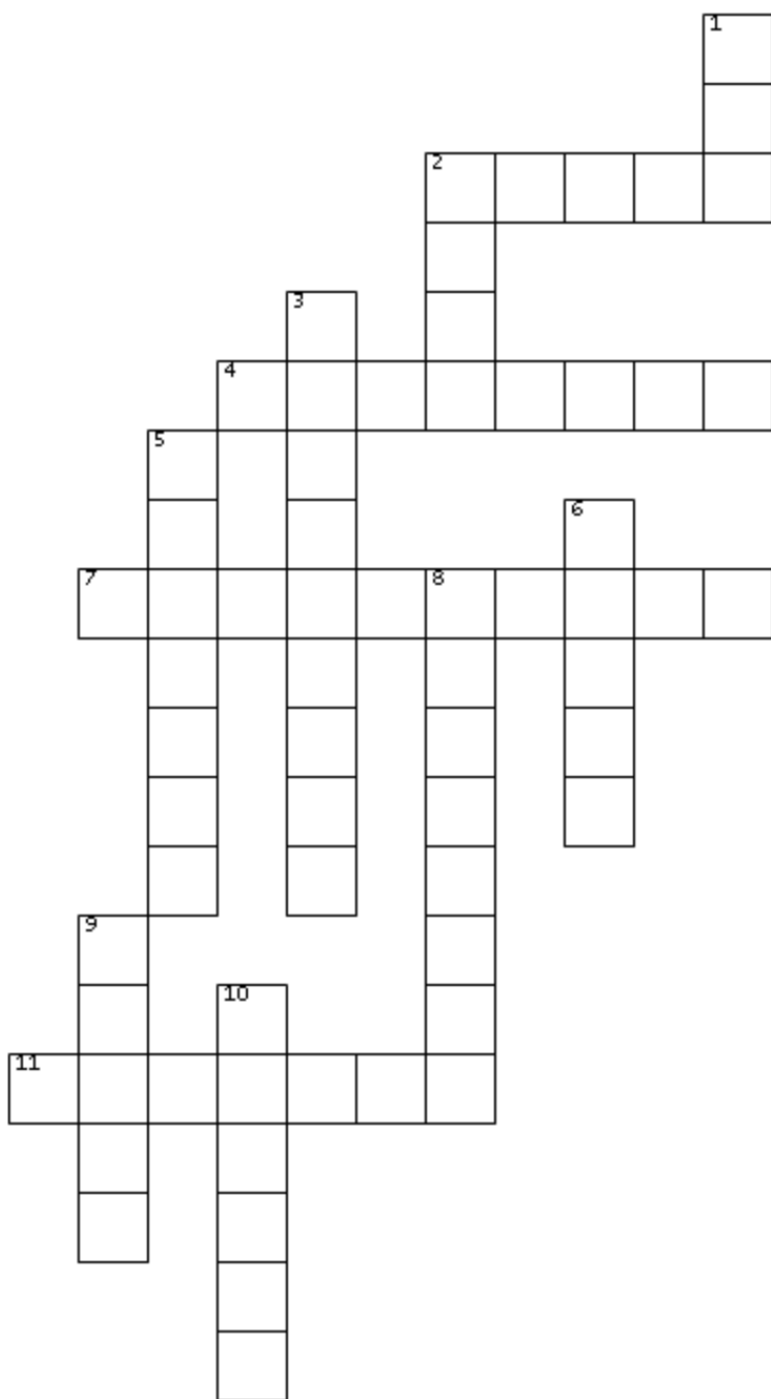
Growing old is not a sin,
it's something we all do.
I hope you'll always understand -
I'll still be loving you.

~C. David Hay

Hey Jude, don't make it bad.
Take a sad song and make it better.
Remember to let her into your heart,
Then you can start to make it better.

~ The Beatles John Lennon/Paul McCartney

HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE – from John McLain



ACROSS

2. an apparition of a dead person, or leaving a relationship of some kind by abruptly ending all contact with the other person

4. a large metal pot with a lid and handle, used for cooking over an open fire

7. a brush with twigs at one end and a long handle that allows a person to fly

11. large melon” in Greek, or the color and shape of a presidential candidate

DOWN

1. A small, nocturnal mammal with wings and big ears

2. An informal term for an evil spirit that eats dead bodies and robs graves

3. the eve of All Saints' Day

5. to distress greatly; shock or dismay

6. the practice of magic, especially for evil purposes; the use of spells

8. system includes over 200 bones,

cartilage, and ligaments

9. a fleshy, typically large fruit with a hard skin, some varieties of which are edible

10. sinister or ghostly in a way that causes fear and unease

Answers are published on the last page of this publication.

PHOTO FAVORITES

As editor of this newsletter, I have selected some notable photos that I find on Facebook from friends and fellow retirees, that I feel are calming and interesting to share within our private group of subscribers.



Elaine A. Cuyler - View from Penner-Ash Wine Cellars in Newberg, Oregon, where my daughter works.



Dore Judd



Inga Winters

USEFUL WORDS

Growing up, long ago, words seemed to have a universal meaning to everyone I knew. A dictionary was the official source of words and seemed to be something that was never changing, a foundation for an adult vocabulary. By the time I got to high school, words not in the dictionary were becoming commonplace among students, but frowned upon by adults and teachers; Bitchin, Rad, and of course Groovy. Growing into adulthood required more than Webster's Dictionary to really be conversant with young people of my age. A conversation among young people included a lot of slang words, but when parents, teachers, or older supervisors joined the conversations, the slang disappeared.

Years later, I discovered how people communicated in a work environment. My first real job was working on a line-crew for a local electric utility. OMG! Words took a second place to ACRONYMS. Every sentence in the workplace seemed to include one acronym or nickname for every three words. Years later, I transferred to the main office staff, and of course a whole new cadre of acronyms to learn. Finally, in 1999, there was the Urban Dictionary, a crowdsourced online dictionary of slang words and phrases.

Now, in my retirement years, the trend is continuing with the rise of social media and digital news channels. Text messages and Facebook posts often contain ACRONYMS that I must search for meaning in Google. Here are some of the most common ones I encounter:

NSFW: “not safe for work” or “not suitable for work”. You may have already seen this term on social media before. The abbreviation NSFW is intended to help you tell quickly and easily that a particular post should not be viewed during working hours or on your work computer.

IDK: I don't know

IMO: In my opinion

IMHO: In my humble opinion

POV – Point of View

"Sus," short for suspicious, is the most used slang term by teenagers in 2023, according to parents in a recent survey. The term gained popularity thanks to the online murder mystery game Among Us. About 62% of teenagers use the word "sus" to call out questionable behavior or suggest one has a devious motive. The report surveyed 682 parents with children between the ages of 12 and 18 and found that **only 2%** knew every slang term on the list. About 3 in 5 parents in the study said they try to stay keep up with slang to communicate with their teenagers, usually by using Google. What slang do parents understand the most? "Salty" is the slang term parents are most familiar with followed by "bougie" and "sus." These are the following words the parents surveyed were most familiar with:

Salty (70%)	Bougie (67%)	Sus (65%)	Bet (63%)
Extra (62%)	Cap (57%)	Finna (56%)	Shook (54%)
Simp (53%)	Yeet (52%)		

Have some fun by looking up the meaning of these words.

HUMOR

Perhaps you can find a good place in a future conversation with grandchildren to use the following riddles.

I don't cry when you cut me, but you do. What am I?

An onion.

What kind of lion never roars?

A dandelion.

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.

What goes tick, tick, woof, woof?

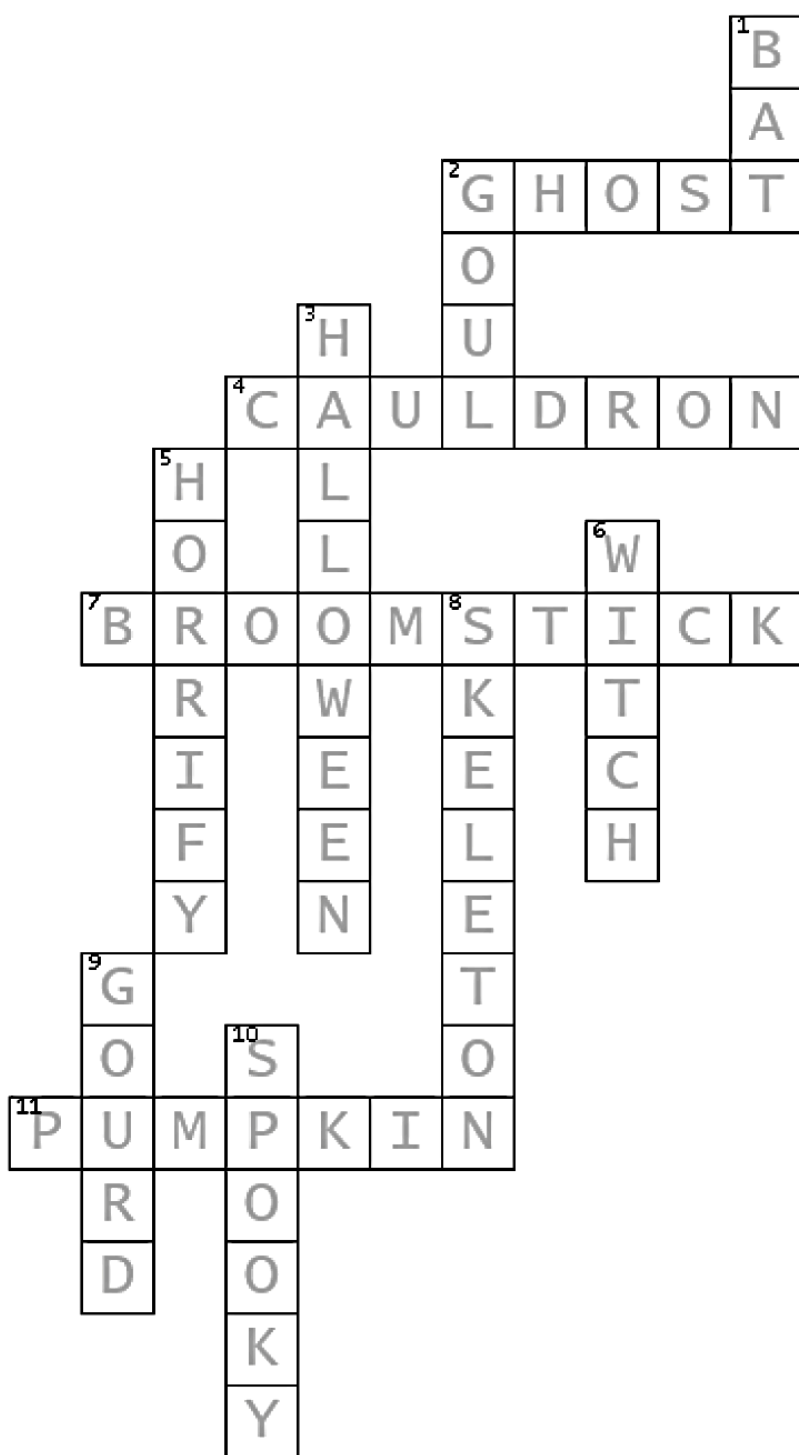
A watchdog!

How many apples grow on a tree?

All of them!

Please send your suggested Jokes and Riddles to PGERetirees@gmail.com

ANSWERS to CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

2. an apparition of a dead person or leaving a relationship of some kind by abruptly ending all contact with the other person
4. a large metal pot with a lid and handle, used for cooking over an open fire
7. a brush with twigs at one end and a long handle that allows a person to fly
11. large melon" in Greek, or the color and shape of a presidential candidate

DOWN

1. A small, nocturnal mammal with wings and big ears
2. An informal term for an evil spirit that eats dead bodies and robs graves
3. the eve of All Saints' Day
5. to distress greatly; shock or dismay
6. the practice of magic, especially for evil purposes; the use of spells
8. system includes over 200 bones, cartilage, and ligaments
9. a fleshy, typically large fruit with a hard skin, some varieties of which are edible
10. sinister or ghostly in a way that causes fear and unease