



Hello current and prospective retirees of PGE and families!

**Welcome to 2021 and to *Watt's Happening*,
your PGE Retirees Inc. newsletter!**

PGE retiree volunteers have been working hard to make sure that PGE Retirees Inc. survived 2020 and will continue and prosper for years to come. This is the first issue of our newsletter *Watt's Happening*.

Where did the name come from? Well, long ago in 2020 BC (Before Covid), we had a contest to name the newsletter. There were lots of great entries, the judges had a difficult (and fun) time, finally reached a consensus and – tah dah! - the winners were:



- 1st *Watt's Happening* by Dennis Johnson**
- 2nd *The Retiree Connection* by Agnes Ewing**
- 3rd *ReCharged* by Susanne King**
- 4th *Senior Circuits* by Sandi Graf**
- 5th *The Hot Line* by Dave Caniparoli**

A belated congratulations to all!

In This Issue

In this issue you will find out about:

- ❖ Membership
- ❖ Elections for members of the Board of Directors
- ❖ Staying Connected: ways we can keep in touch
- ❖ Retirees we are remembering
- ❖ Special Interest Groups, and
- ❖ Advocacy and Volunteering



A message from John McLain, Chairman of the PGE Retirees Inc. Communications Committee:

*"It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom,
it was the age of foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief,
it was the epoch of incredulity,
it was the season of light,
it was the season of darkness,
it was the spring of hope,
it was the winter of despair."*

"Charles Dickens may have written his famous opening sentence of *The Tale of Two Cities* in 1859 but it pretty much describes 2020 – a year of both despair and hope. The outsourcing of PGE Corporate's HR systems and benefits for retirees challenged us to deal with people on the phone who didn't know us and couldn't relate

to us as fellow PGE'ers – but – also gave us an expanded set of choices for benefits. Finding retirees to help build new systems and services that PGE used to provide was a challenge – but – PGE Corporate continued to provide financial support and mutual advocacy to the PGE Retiree organization.

And then, of course, there was COVID-19. The activities, tours, sports events, holiday luncheons and neighborhood gatherings that we love to do together were cancelled – but – retirees also learned and adapted: developing a new database system, creating email and print functions and a new website, recruiting members for the PGE Facebook Group, and developing ZOOM capabilities to "meet and greet" online, including how to use a "webinar". (If you missed our first ever PGE Retiree Holiday Party Webinar you can view a video on YouTube. Search for "**PGE Retirees Org**" and enjoy music by the "Two Bit Brothers" (retirees Bill Valach & Dwaine Wisthoff) and conversations with Maria Pope, PGE CEO and Anne Mersereau, VP of HR.)



2021 is shaping up to be a year of challenges as we continue to combat the pandemic and tackle issues like affordable health care and personal ones like getting older – but – vaccines are coming and we can hope to return to greeting each other with hugs and handshakes instead of Zoom greetings like “You’re muted! Unmute yourself so I can hear you”!

Perhaps Dickens would agree with us regarding 2021 – while we are currently in the deep “winter of despair”, we are also confident and optimistic that “the spring of hope” is assured and will bring us a “season of light” by the end of the year.

May happiness and health find their way to our doors.”

~ John

Membership

PGE Retirees Inc. is a member-based 501(c)(4) organization that provides:

- ✓ **News** about PGE retirees and PGE Corporate so we can stay informed about issues that affect us and keep others informed,
- ✓ Opportunities for **Advocacy** and **Volunteering**,
- ✓ Ways to **Network** and safely gather, and
- ✓ **Resources** to find out more about things you care about.

As of this writing, we have over 900 active members. About 90% asked to receive information on email and have access to the internet; about 10% asked that their information to be printed and mailed. Although we realize that not all of us have access to a computer, email is faster and cheaper and is our preferred way to communicate.

We rely on members for information about one another. Since PGE Corporate, Via Benefits, Northern Trust and other health and insurance providers cannot (and should not) provide PGE Retirees Inc.



with information about retirees (including retirements and memorials), this is truer than ever. PGE Retirees Inc. still sends cards to retirees and/or their families who aren't feeling well, have suffered a personal loss, or are celebrating a special occasion (see **Remembering Colleagues**), so important to become a member of PGE Retirees Inc. and stay connected.



Please invite your retired and soon-to-be retired PGE friends to join. All they need to do is send an email to pgeretirees@gmail.com and ask to be a member. Those without computer access can send their request to our Post Office address. All requests will receive a personal response!

Staying Connected

PGE Retirees Inc. has high hopes for 2021! Now that the systems we built last year are in place, the plan is to keep you informed and connected in the following ways:

- ❖ **Email and Print:** *Watt's Happening* will be sent every two months and flyers will be sent as needed.
- ❖ **PGE Retirees Facebook Group:** Currently about 465 members and growing, the PGE Retirees Facebook Group is the fastest way to stay current and connected with other retirees and events. The group is closed, so even though anyone can see the group and who runs it, only members can see the other members and what they post.
If you need help joining the group, email our Facebook Administrator Mark Lander at landerm@comcast.net.
- ❖ **ZOOM:** PGE Retirees Inc. uses a paid version of Zoom that allows longer meetings and the use of additional features. As Zoom will probably continue to be used for meetings and events for the



foreseeable future, we can host some events, such as the *Maplewood Meet Up* and hosting other events requested by retirees may be possible. If you want some help learning the free version of Zoom, just let us know.

- ❖ **Educational ZOOM Webinars:** We hope to announce at least one Zoom Webinar session every three months on a topic of interest to retirees. The proposed Quarterly Webinars for 2021 will be published soon. If you have a suggestion for a Webinar, let us know!
- ❖ **YouTube:** We are learning more about YouTube and ways to use it for PGE Retirees.
- ❖ **A new PGE Retiree Website!** Work on the new Retiree Website – www.pgeretirees.org - is nearing an end. Look for a special notice to announce its launch for retirees to use as a resource for finding news, activities, history and opportunities for networking and volunteering.

Board of Directors

All members of PGE Retirees Inc., their spouses and significant others are welcome to attend Board Meetings. The Board meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Monday of every even month — February, April, June, August, October and December – currently held on Zoom.

If you want to attend, send a request to PGERetirees@gmail.com at least three days before the meeting to receive an invitation with the Zoom link.

The next Board Meeting is Monday, April 12. **Elections** for Board members are underway, so join now and have a say in who will lead!



Nominations ~ We Need You!

We are currently seeking retirees interested in helping to lead PGE Retirees Inc. through the next crucial years. If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors, submit your nomination today (*we think nominating yourself is a great idea*). If you know another PGE retiree who might like to serve, encourage them to volunteer too!

If you are interested in taking on a larger leadership role in an Executive Board position let us know and we will send you information about their responsibilities. The position of President is open to any current member of the Board; the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary are open to all members of PGE Retirees Inc.



Send your nominations to pgeretirees@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, March 31.

Special Interest Groups

Members can join any of the following special interest groups, all suggested by retirees:

- Biking
- Book Group
- Bowling
- Fly Fishing
- Gardening
- Golfing
- Camping/ RVs
- Technology
- Theater
- Travel
- Volunteering
- Wine Gatherings

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, send an email to PGERetirees@gmail.com, or drop us a note to our PO Box. You will be added to the group membership list and receive information from the group, about the group, and scheduled future activities.



Remembering Colleagues

We remember and celebrate the lives of these colleagues:

Nov/Dec 2020

- Dave Aamodt
- Pam Hunter
- Bill Lehnebach
- Steve Fallt

Jan/Feb 2021

- Barbara Otteson
- Wanda Phillips
- Dallas Sommerville
- John Thronson

We don't receive notices from PGE Corporate regarding retirees who have died. Instead, we receive notifications from family, past coworkers or other retirees by emails to pgeretirees@gmail.com, postings on the PGE Retirees Group Facebook page or letters sent to our PO Box. We appreciate these notifications as we all want to express our condolences and provide opportunities to share memories.

Advocacy - Volunteering

In 2020, retirees and PGE donated \$442,002 to nonprofits and volunteered 8,461 hours in the community. Another \$20,100 was donated in Cause Cards to eligible nonprofits. Way to go Retirees! You can take advantage of the company match year-round for any donations you make to eligible* nonprofits – don't wait until the Employee Giving Campaign in the fall to request a match to your cause.

Retirees in 2020	
Donated	\$317,547.14
PGE Match	\$124,454.46
Cause Cards	\$20,100.00
Grand TOTAL	\$462,101.60



Tours and Activities

Due to COVID guidelines – and for our own safety and health – group tours and activities such as bowling, golf and get-togethers for breakfast & lunch are currently on hold. We are hopeful this will change so stay connected!

Right now, everyone is welcome to attend the **Zoom Monthly Maplewood Meet-Up** held every fourth Thursday at 9:00 a.m. The next Meet-Up is Thursday, February 25. Details on the Facebook page.

Contact Us

PGE Retirees Inc.

- Email: PGERetirees@gmail.com
- Website: www.PGERetirees.org
- Letters: PO Box 2371, Gresham, OR 97030

Watt's Happening is brought to you by the members of the
PGE Retirees Inc. Communications Committee:
John McLain, Judy Francis, Terry Clelen, Ed Gorman, Kimberly
Hambling, Roger Gibson and Mark & Dana Landers
Comments and suggestions are welcome!