SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF OREGON PIONEERS

SDOP News

Oregon Pioneers' Newsletter

November 2026 | Volume 56 | Issue 3

President's Letter

'Tis The Season of Giving!



The Best Gift You Can Give This Year Is Your Time To SDOP.

Preserving Our Past. Serving Our Members. Building Our Future.

Every organization is only as strong as the members who are willing to step forward and help. Our organization has a proud history, a meaningful mission, and a story worth preserving—but its future depends on all of us.

You may have attended meetings, enjoyed our programs, participated in events, or simply appreciated being part of an organization that shares your interest in history, genealogy, and heritage. Now, we invite you to take the next step: **Become an active part of the team that makes it all possible.**

There Is a Place for Everyone Volunteering does not necessarily mean making a major time commitment. There are many ways to contribute, and every role—large or small—makes a difference.

Consider Serving as a Director Our Directors help provide leadership, direction, and stewardship for the organization. Directors bring their ideas, experience, and enthusiasm to the board while helping make decisions that shape the future of our society.

You do not have to know everything about serving on a board. You simply need to care about our organization and be willing to participate, listen, learn, and contribute.

Consider Becoming an Officer Our officers are an important part of keeping the organization running smoothly. Whether serving as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or another officer position, each role provides an opportunity to use your individual talents in service to our members.

Perhaps you are organized, good with numbers, comfortable communicating with others, or simply someone who enjoys helping things get done. **There is a place for your particular strengths.**

Consider Joining a Committee If serving as a Director or Officer feels like more than you can commit to right now, a committee may be the perfect place to begin. Committees give members the opportunity to become involved without taking on the responsibilities of an elected leadership position. You can share your knowledge, learn something new, meet other members, and help with projects and events that are important to our organization.

You might discover that the committee experience is exactly what you were looking for—and perhaps, someday, it will lead you into a leadership role.

Happy Holidays Everyone!



Dina Saunders – SDOP President

Upcoming SDOP Meetings and Events

November, Saturday 14th, Board Meeting at the Beaverton City Library, 10:00 am

February, Saturday 13th at 10:30, Board meeting and Birthday Banquet at The Margarita Factory, 10350 SW Greenburg Rd. Tigard, OR 97223

April, Saturday 17th at 10:00am, Board Meeting, The Reed Opera House, 189 Liberty St NE, Salem, OR 97301

June – TBD

July, Saturday 10th, Annual Board/Picnic meeting in the Pavilion at **Champoeg State Heritage Area**
8239 Champoeg road N.E.
St. Paul, Oregon 97137

11:00 Short board meeting
12:00 Arrive for picnic

This is a Potluck Event. SDOP provides drinks and all the picnic supplies, there is a speaker and usually some music. It is a fun event for the whole family. Come prepared to share some of your pioneer stories.





Oregon's motto, "She Flies With Her Own Wings" (Alis Volat Propriis in Latin), reflects the state's historical spirit of independence and self-reliance.

SDOP Dues

SDOP's dues letters have been sent out to all members who pay their dues annually.

To view the various membership levels and to pay electronically, please visit the SDOP website:
https://oregonsdop.org/dues-payment/

Alternatively, you can pay your dues with a check sent to:
P.O. Box 6685, Portland, Oregon 97228.

Remember, *dues must be paid by end of September each year or you could be dropped from the SDOP Roster and would NO longer receive the SDOP Newsletter.* If you have additional questions and/or concerns, I can be reached at: chris.meinicke@outlook.com or by calling 503-645-3124

With heartfelt thanks to the following major donors to SDOP:

Robert K Powell; Margaret Knighton Stanger; Margaret E Torgeson; Dawn Spencer; Carole M James; David Witter; James H Crouse; Joene Dodge, and Terry Lewis.

Board Members & Volunteers

Officers

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SDOP News is published six times a year (Jul, Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, and May) by Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. Send inquires and submissions to Mark Goddard, Editor - mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com.
Submissions for the January 202 issue should be sent by *Dec. 25*, *2026*. Photos and articles are welcome from all members!

Donations to SDOP

SDOP thanks those who donate to support our programs and operations such as the SDOP newsletter and the scholarship fund. One goal of SDOP is to reward the younger generation, especially those who have an interest in Oregon History. It would be nice if SDOP received additional donations for the scholarship fund and the Junior Awards Programs.

Thank you for financially supporting our efforts to promote an interest in Oregon history with diverse audiences.
Donations made through the website are processed through a secure provider by using your credit or debit card, and no PayPal account is needed. We appreciate each and every donation and will be diligent handling all.

Checks or Money Orders can be made out to **SDOP**.

The mailing address is:

SDOP
P.O. Box 6685
Portland, OR 97228-6685

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers operates as a 501(c)(3) entity. Donations are tax-deductible.

SDOP EIN# is 23-7455151



The road that leads to us…

New Member Fees
(Submit with application)**:**
Junior [birth — 18]: $12.00
Adult [18-60] / Senior [60+]..... $30.00
Includes pioneer certificate and pin
Friend of SDOP.....$30.00

Life Member/Friend Fees:
Birth - 60 .....$300.00
60+.....$150.00
Includes pioneer certificate and pin

Annual Dues (after first year):
Annual dues are due in June.

Junior [birth - 18]: $8.00
Adult Member/Friend [18 - 60]: $20.00
Senior Member/Friend [60+]: $15.00

Adjustments
Printed Newsletter fee: ..... **+**$10.00

Board Minutes

SDOP Special and Regular Board Meeting Minutes - September 19, 2026

The SDOP Board of Directors convened for a special hybrid meeting on September 19, 2026, to address key governance updates and administrative matters. Here are the major highlights and outcomes:

Governance & Bylaws Updated: Following proper 30-day member notice, the Board unanimously voted to pass two new bylaws:

Bylaw 1 (Removal of Directors & Officers): Authorizes the Board to remove a director or officer for cause (failure to perform duties, misconduct, or actions contrary to corporate interests).

Bylaw 2 (Permanent Expulsion & Prohibition): Establishes a formal framework for permanent expulsion and prohibition from future membership or holding office. Additional bylaws regarding Special Meetings and Notice Requirements are currently under committee review for a future vote.

SDOP Board & Business Updates

A Message & Special Presentation

At our recent meeting, Secretary Reggie Burke presented our incoming President Dina Saunders with the official President's Pin. Although it was presented a year earlier than expected due to recent organizational changes, we are excited to step into this next chapter together!

Membership & Welcome Updates

We are pleased to welcome our newest members announced in the September newsletter: 2 Senior Life Members, 3 Regular Senior Members, and 2 Junior Members, as well as 2 Life Conversions.

- Friend Memberships: The board unanimously voted to include both an official certificate and a membership pin with all "Friend" memberships moving forward.
- Official Membership Cards: The board confirmed that official welcome and membership cards will continue to feature our cherished historical covered wagon image.
- In Memoriam: We respectfully remember Shirley Klug and hold her family in our thoughts.

Annual Awards & Scholarships — Applications Open!

Your September newsletter included applications for the Junior Awards and Scholarships, and Miss Pioneer Oregon.

- Deadline: December 15
- Award Details: Miss Pioneer Oregon will receive a total award of $1,000, distributed in two $500 installments at the annual banquet and picnic.

Interested applicants should ensure their completed forms are submitted before the December 15 deadline!

Application forms can be found on the SDOP website at: https://oregonsdop.org/scholarships-contests/

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 2:41 pm

NOTICE TO SDOP MEMBERSHIP

Preservation and Return of Organizational Property

An Important Message from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers (SDOP) wish to inform our membership that the organization's Gavel and Block have not been returned following the transition from the previous administration.

Despite several requests for the return of these items, which are the rightful property of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, they remain outstanding as of the date of this publication.

Our History and Traditions Deserve to Be Preserved

The Gavel and Block are more than meeting instruments. They symbolize the leadership, history, traditions, and continuity of our organization. These items belong to SDOP, not to any individual administration, officer, or member, and are intended for the continued use and benefit of the organization.

The Board respectfully requests that the individual currently in possession of these items arrange for their prompt return to an authorized SDOP representative.

A Shared Responsibility to Our Organization

As members of a heritage organization dedicated to preserving the past, we have a responsibility to safeguard not only the history of our pioneer ancestors but also the history and property of our own organization.

The Board of Directors remains committed to protecting SDOP's property, traditions, and resources for current and future generations.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in bringing this matter to a respectful and timely resolution.
Board of Directors
Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

Introducing Our Board Members

Jeanne Preston



I joined SDOP in 1999 at the insistence of my aunt, Freida Dennis, who was a long-time member of SDOP. I became a life member in 2008 and a board member in 2020. I served as 2023-24 President. I am excited to be back on the board, and look forward to working with the new board members.

My pioneer line comes from my 3rd Great Grandfather, William P. Breeding, who came to the Oregon Territory from Missouri in 1846,





establishing the first blacksmith shop in Salem. In 1850 he returned to move his parents to Oregon and settled in what is now Lane County, marrying Mary Jane Ragsdale in 1851.

In 1875 he moved his family to Whitman County in SE Washington and built a grist-mill at the falls of the Palouse River and platted the town of Palouse City.



Palouse Milling Co. 1885

My 2nd Great Aunt, Mary Elizabeth Breeding, married Samuel Rush. Their son, John C. Rush platted the town of Lamonta on April 3, 1905. Mary died August 27, 1926 in Lamonta. John died October 22, 1941 in Culver.



Mary, John Carson and Samuel at their home in Lamonta

His 1905 brochure announced, "*Lamonta is a new townsite which has just been platted by John C. Rush. It is located in the center of the main grain raising belt of Crook County, and upon the surveys of the Columbia Southern R.R. extension from Shaniko, and of the automobile road, and upon the main county road from Shaniko via Madras to Forest, Laidlaw, Redmond, Sisters and Bend.*"

I also have ties to the City of Spray. Spray was named for John Fremont Spray, the community's founder and first postmaster, and his wife, Mary E. Spray, who was Mary Ellen Breeding, my great-grand aunt. The post office was established in 1900. In that same year, John Spray established a ferry to carry people across the John Day River, and he helped establish a school and a store in the community.

Spray, Oregon



I am so proud of my pioneering family, still amazed at the stories of their coming to the Oregon Territory, and proud of their accomplishments which stretch from the Willamette Valley to eastern Oregon, and in the rolling Palouse hills of SE Washington.

The best of holidays to all of you!

Jeanne Preston

By the Scholarship Committee

We would love to see our College Scholarship and Jr. awards program grow. If you would like to donate to these programs, visit the Donations and Dues link on our website.

You can help earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card! Fred Meyer is donating $2.5 million per year to nonprofits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give.

Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to SDOP at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for SDOP by name or by our non-profit number 86878.
- Then, every time you shop and use your RewardsCard, you are helping SDOP earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

Volunteers Announcement

On behalf of our Nominating Committee, the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers currently has opportunities for active members to serve on our Board and committees. We're always looking for new ideas and perspectives.

Officer positions under consideration are: **president-elect, secretary and treasurer**- position openings - 2027

Board member positions: beginning June 2027 – 5 positions. Beginning June 2028 – 5 positions.

Standing committees: Nominating, Finance, Events, Governance, Technology, Public Relations and Membership. Are any of these of interest to you?

We welcome our Friends of SDOP to join our committees. We value you highly!

Our meetings are held six times a year, in person, by phone or electronically. July, September, November, January, February, April and June (same months as our newsletter).

Many of our meetings include an event or visit of interest to our members.
Active members in good standing, if you would like to help us carry on our Mission, please consider joining the SDOP team. You can start by replying to volunteer@oregonsdop.org. Please include phone number.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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Portland, OR 97228-6685

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SONS and DAUGHTERS of OREGON PIONEERS
INCORPORATED JUNE 13, 1901



Celebrate 125 years of Oregon pioneer heritage! Commemorate the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers' 1901–2026 milestone with our special anniversary sweatshirts, featuring a vintage covered wagon design and the inspiring message, **"Preserve the Past, Inspire the Future."** A meaningful way to honor our history and wear our pioneer pride!
Orders yours today at:
sdop-tradingpost.square.site