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Issue 2024/2025 IV August 2025

News and updates from the OK JCI Senate 2024/2025

FOCUS OKLAHOMA

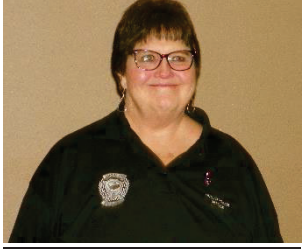


Time just keeps moving on and so do we! We just had our social at Eskimo Joe's in Stillwater with 24 of us enjoying the food and company. That is what makes these trips worth attending, the socializing and catching up portion of the trip. Getting to see how our friends and family are doing and what they have coming up. We have tried to plan out a social or event for each month. Please remember to review the Calendar of Events and make your plans to join us. September has a group of us heading to Columbus for the US JCI Senate Fall Board and then for the history buffs, heading to the Clinton/Elk City area for the Route 66 museums and lunch on the 27th. Remember to enjoy yourself, join in on some of the festivities and love your family!!

PRESIDENT RANDY SURSA #49485



FOCUS OKLAHOMA



Nancy Cloud #52750 - Bob Henry Memorial Award Chair

It is time to start thinking about nominations for the Bob Henry Memorial Award which will be given at our year end meeting. The requirements are simple, there is no “application form” to complete and the recipient will be forever grateful for the honor and recognition. Bob Henry was involved with our Senate organization while staying involved in other civic and community organizations. He truly lived the line of the Jaycee Creed – “That Service to Humanity is the Best Work of Life.” Please help us to recognize other “Bob Henry’s” in our organization. I am anxious to see who you nominate and appreciate your support for this distinguished Memorial Award. Nominations are due to me on or before May 1, 2026. Please email them to me at mrscloudnine@aol.com.

PEGGY RIDER #58293



I’m serving this year as OKJCI Senate Chaplain. I would like to celebrate your life events with you. Please let me know about any weddings, births, anniversaries or any other special occasions. I would also like to reach out if you or a family member is ill or if there is a death in your family.

I hope I get to see each of you at one of our upcoming events. We are trying to do events in different areas of the state so everyone will be able to be close to at least one of our events. I can be reached by phone or text at 405-760-8075 or my email peggy_rider12@yahoo.com

**Don't let your
mistakes weigh
you down.
Put them beneath
your feet and use
them as stepping
stones to grow and
rise higher.**



FOCUS OKLAHOMA

Cindy Empting #65595 Chair of the Board



Greetings everyone! This first year of working on the newsletter with Barbara Nickles has given me a whole new appreciation for the printed word! Our goal is to publish a quarterly newsletter during the second month of each quarter to include those three months, plus looking forward to the first month of the next quarter. We also hope to mix it up a bit this year. All of us have been Jaycees and Senators but not all of us “know” each other, so we thought it might be interesting to do just that. We will be doing a feature called “Getting to Know Your Board of Directors” in each newsletter. We also will be including bits of trivia for your enjoyment.



Pat Reffett #77848 V.P.

Our Calendar of Events is included in this newsletter for your reference. Please note the date for the September social is Saturday, September 27. This is a change from the calendar published previously. An email will be sent to the membership before the end of August announcing the specific diner in Clinton where we will meet for lunch.

The calendar includes a community event for the month of November. If you would like to coordinate this event, please let me know. We discussed doing something for the Toby Keith Kids Korral. Someone is needed to find out how we can help and in what ways in order to set a date and obtain participation from our members.

We hope you can join us for our socials, projects, and meetings in the coming months. We have planned a variety of activities in various locations to make it easier for members to attend and reconnect with friends.

In Jaycee spirit,
Pat Reffett

FOCUS OKLAHOMA



Sissie Harmon #63902 “Pay It Forward”

I would like to thank the Oklahoma JCI Senate for all their support and loyalty to this program.

Gloria Albers #79536

We would like to recognize our 1st quarter Birthdays and Anniversaries:

July Birthdays

Gregg Peebles #56000

Lisa Peebles #56001

July Anniversaries

Pam and Rian Peters

Cindy #65595 and Randy Empting FR #121

DeLisa #54310 and Dennis Anderson

August Birthdays

Glen Nickles FR #23

John Wodarczyk #62078

Sandy Crouch #71504

Noel Sumpter #73189

Vic Menendez #34185

Rocky Taylor #60941

September Birthdays

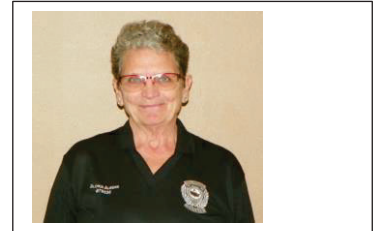
Peggy Nichols #64760

Marcia Werner #62934

I hope everyone enjoys receiving their cards as much as I enjoy sending them.

Director Gloria Albers #79536

(aka Card Shark)



Becky Edwards #62937 Scholarship Chair

The United States JCI Senate Foundation was created in 1987 to provide scholastic funding to all eligible high school seniors who are going to continue their education at any accredited college or vocational school in the United States. To apply for assistance, high school seniors who are U.S. citizens must apply to the JCI Senate state organization in which they reside. The state organization will distribute the applications, judge those returned, then forward the top two academic applications to the national competition coordinated by the Foundation Trustees. The state organization can now also submit the top vocational application for a total of three applications. National winners are chosen by a panel of university level judges selected by the Foundation. Applicants need not be children or relatives of anyone affiliated with the JCI Senate organization.

Oklahoma's scholarship awards are currently \$1,000 each for its top two academic applications and \$500 for the top vocational application. Applications will be available for the 2025-2026 school year by August 1st. The applications will be available at that time on our website, <https://oklahomajcisenate.org/>. The scholarship committee will judge all applications received by the deadline of January 17, 2026. Judging will be held on Saturday, February 7th.

Please help us spread this information to your family, friends, schools, etc. We also want to focus more on vocational applications. Last year, we only received one. My goal is to increase that number to at least 3. Your help is greatly appreciated!



**SHERI MENENDEZ #47839 Membership Leader
Activation/Retention/By-Laws**

Welcome to our newest OK JCI Senators:

- Cara Heck #74083 – Canada JCI Senate President
- Susan Hatcher #58143 - Missouri
- Robert Lippe #84219 – Oklahoma
- Kim Rawls #84220 - Oklahoma

Welcome to our newest Oklahoma JCI Senate Lifetime Members:

- Leslie Talbot #157
- Cara Heck #158

We look forward to seeing you at many senate programs, projects and events throughout the year.

Below are the members due for the next billing cycle – September 2025:

Nancy Cloud – LT	Rob Cronkwright
Charles Edwards – LT	Cheryl Gilchrist
Dudley Griffin	Margarett Haggard
Laura Harris	Barney James
Jimmy Lewis	Sheri Menendez – LT
Vic Menendez – LT	Marcia Werner
Barbara Nickles – LT	<i>Rick Parrish – DEC</i>
Becky Edwards – LT	Stephanie Prewitt – LT
Scott Pryse	Peggy Rider
Noel Sumpter	Jerre Taylor – LT
LaQuita Thornley	<i>Andreas Vandever – DEC</i>
Bill Werner	

If your membership is due, and you are not a Lifetime Member (LT) please take a minute and send in your dues (\$30.00) at your earliest convenience. This will certainly help our treasurer when she has to submit the dues kit in August.

The Directors / Membership team will be reaching out to our members throughout the year to keep them posted on upcoming events and projects.

Should you have any questions, comments, suggestions or just need some general information – please don't hesitate to give us a call. We're anxious to see you at our next meeting or social.

Sheri Menendez #47839

Activation / Retention Chairman

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS:

Anyone interested in becoming a lifetime member of the Oklahoma JCI Senate only needs to pay \$300. Your annual dues for the US JCI Senate are also included within this fee.

According to the by-laws you can make a one-time payment of \$300 or you can make installment payments of one-hundred dollars (\$100) to be paid in full within six (6) months.

Not only does paying lifetime dues help sustain our organization it shows your commitment and support to our organization. If you have questions or need additional information – please contact our treasurer, DeLisa Anderson or me.

Sheri Menendez

Activation / Retention Chairman

Oklahoma JCI Senate Foundation

The Oklahoma JCI Senate Foundation will hold a small silent auction at the General Membership meeting to be held in Tulsa OK in February. The proceeds from the auction will benefit the scholarships we present to our two national nominees. The Foundation voted to present \$1000 to each of the two (2) recipients beginning with the 2026 nominees.

To ensure we always have these funds available – please pay your \$30 annual dues (send to Sharron Sursa, Treasurer) and support the Foundation by donating an item for the auction and bring your money to the meeting!!

We appreciate your continued support for our state foundation.
Sheri Menendez
President



Hello Oklahoma JCI Senators:

As we enter the fall months, we have several things where you can join us in socials and meetings. In September there is the National Fall meeting. It is September 11-14 in Columbus OH. It will be a great time with a chocolate factory tour, Amish tour, candle making and a cooking class. Of course, there is a lot of site seeing to do and lots of places to eat. Think about attending an upcoming national meeting, after the September meeting the next one is January and is in FL. September 20 is a Route 66 museum tour and lunch. Get your kicks on Route 66. October 18 we are considering either a wine festival in Guthrie or maybe chartering a bus for a fall leaf tour on Talamina Drive. Either way we will have lunch and a membership meeting. I hope you will make plans to attend one or all of these events. We would love to see you. If you have any questions, please contact me. 405-760-8075 or email peggy_rider12@yahoo.com

Peggy S Rider
Director
OKJCI Senate



Greetings Senators,

At the BOD meeting/Summer Social, Ron and Nan Holzer provided the names and address of two Colorado Senators currently residing in Okeene. Being in the area in early July, I went by their house to make contact. I was able to have a brief conversation with Sheri Feely and give her a copy of our upcoming calendar. She had just brought Benny home from the hospital after quadruple bypass surgery and was on her way to get some supplies, so our conversation was short. On behalf of President Randy and the Oklahoma JCI Senate, I invited them to attend a future event. Hopefully Benny's recovery is going well, and he will be back on his feet soon, and they will be able to attend one of our future events. Sheri told me that she is an Okeene hometown girl and is disappointed that the Jaycees no longer sponsor the rattlesnake hunt. I hope that everyone is doing well, and I look forward to seeing y'all soon!

Fred #51340

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the loss of Governor George Nigh, Former Oklahoma Jaycee and OKJCI Senator #02408. Governor Nigh was 98 at the time of his death. He served Oklahoma as the 8th and 10th Lieutenant Governor and the 17th & 22nd Governor. He was the first Governor to serve 2 terms and the only one to win all 77 counties. He also served as President of The University of Central Oklahoma. Before serving in statewide offices, he worked as a teacher and legislator. We all considered him a great man with a wonderful sense of humor and an interesting speaker.

Rest in Peace Governor Nigh



THE OKLAHOMA JCI SENATE STAYS BUSY ALL YEAR WITH REMEMBERING OUR PAST, FUN, ANNUAL MEETINGS, FUN, REGION VIII MEETING, FUN, MEETING, LINN PICNIC, FUN, EATING TOGETHER, FUN, SOCIALS, FUN, GLEN COLE MEMORIAL PICNIC, FUN AND BUSINESS. JUST A FEW PICTURES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!



AWWW, SO SWEET



July

Summer Fun!
Summer Social!

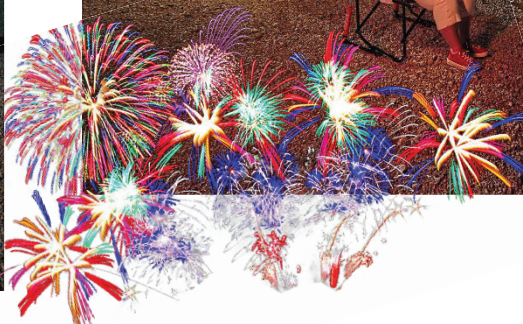




August Eskimo Joes Fun



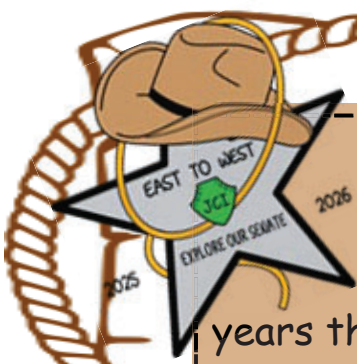
Linn Night Works!!



Linn Picnic – July, 2025

President Bruce's Year Begins!





WANTED: NEW SENATORS

If you know of anyone from your past Jaycee years that may have been overlooked in receiving a senatorship please let us know. We're always looking for people to grow our organization. This is a great way to reconnect with old friends that we worked side by side with on all the fun projects and events. That special member deserves to be recognized for all the hard work and long hours they dedicated to our cause. This is the perfect way to let them know they were not forgotten or overlooked.

WANTED: OLD SENATORS

We miss seeing some of our old Jaycee friends and we haven't stayed in touch with each other as much as we'd like to. We all have "life" going on - but our time is running out. We want to make and keep our connections with each other. We all shared so many important "life" events while working side by side in Jaycees and we want to reconnect with you. Let us know where you are in your life now and what's keeping you busy. We'd love to share your story. Drop us a note or send an email to let us know how your life has changed and progressed since "the good ole days".

OK JCI SENATE – SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

Saturday, September 27, 2025

11:30 am

**Meet for lunch at a local diner in Clinton OK
(location will be announced through email later in August)**

**Tour the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum
2229 W. Gary Blvd.
Clinton, OK 73601**

1:30 pm

Admission is \$8 for Seniors (62+)

**Travel home via a portion of old Route 66 and see some fun road-side
attractions.**

**Please RSVP to Pat Reffett (lpmm@sbcglobal.net) no later than
Wednesday, September 24.**

OKLAHOMA JCI SENATE – CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2025-26

MONTH	EVENT	DETAILS
Sept. 11-14, 2025	US JCI Senate Fall Board	Columbus, Ohio
Sept 27, 2025	Route 66 Museum & lunch at local diner – 11:30 am	Clinton, OK
Oct. 18, 2025	Guthrie Wine Festival & lunch at Stables Café – 11:00 am	Festival open 9am to 5pm
November 2025	Community event	Nov 15 or 22 – possibly Toby Keith Kids Korral support
December 13, 2025	Wreaths Across America	OK JCI Senate groups participate in their area and socialize/meal after
January 10, 2026	Winter Party to celebrate new year	Oklahoma City area – DeLisa checking on restaurant private room
Jan. 15-18, 2026	US JCI Senate Winter Board	Melbourne, FL
Feb 7, 2026	Scholarship Judging General Membership meeting and lunch	Tulsa, OK
March 14, 2026	“Game Day” and meal at El Chico in the Sooner Mall	SoonerCade, Norman, OK Vintage arcade games. Adults \$10, children free. Open 11am to 8pm All arcade games free; coin operated pin ball and prize claw.
April 5, 2026	Easter	
April 30-May 3, 2026	US JCI Senate Region VIII Meeting	Topeka, KS
May 16, 2026	OK JCI Senate Annual Meeting & Elections	To be determined
June 6, 2026	Glenn Cole Memorial Picnic	Tulsa, OK
June 14 – 18, 2026	US JCI Senate Annual Meeting	San Antonio, TX

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President Randy Sursa - #49485

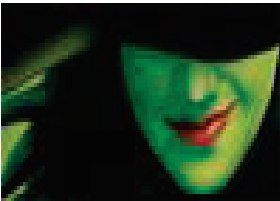
Randy is married to a lovely woman, Sharron #62080. They have two daughters, Jessica and Lauren, five granddaughters, Justice 23 yrs, Audrey 18 yrs, Maky 15 yrs, Whitley 14 yrs, Maddie 13 yrs, and one grandson, Ashton 15 yrs. Randy is now retired and lives with Sharron in Blanchard, OK.

He joined the Chickasha Jaycees then eventually moved and transferred to the Lawton Jaycees. He held many local offices in both chapters.

During his time as a Jaycee, his favorite community development project was the MD telethon events that spanned over three days and included answering phone, the "Nestea Plunge" – which was a dunk tank filled with instant Nestea and 100 bags of ice! Brrr! Metal washers and silver dollars and coins were dropped in the tank. Folks would pay to dive in to find one of the items off the bottom of the tank for a variety of prizes.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie, character or costume?

Answer: The original Friday the 13th and Jason.



Vice-President Pat Reffett - #77848

Pat was married to her dear late husband Terry for 50 years. They have 1 son together, Michael. Pat also has a wonderful daughter-in-law Kendall and one granddaughter, Kenley, who is now attending college. Pat is retired now and lives in Lawton near her family.

Her home chapter was the Lawton Jaycees. She has a heart for service. Her favorite community development project was helping operate the Lawton youth and adult ball parks and concession stands. They were responsible for league play and manning the concession stands. Pat really enjoyed this project because it involved the entire family and all of the people she met during that time.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie, character or costume?

Answer: I like witch costumes and I love the movie Wicked. I'm not sure if it is considered a Halloween movie though. (Editor's note: We'll allow it)



Chaplain and Director Peggy Rider #58293

Peggy has a lovely daughter, Sunita Embry and one granddaughter, Jillian Embrey. She had one son, the late Michael Rider. She currently lives in Shawnee, the town of her home Jaycee chapter where she held many local offices. .

Her favorite projects were the holiday projects. Food baskets and our Christmas party for children. We got names of children from the grade school teachers who they believed were in need and provided for those children. Honestly it would be hard to pick just one CD project - I loved all of them. Even trash pick up!

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie?

Answer: Goonies or Beetlejuice



Director Sissie Harmon #63902

Sissie is married to her amazing husband Jim #63903. They have two sons, James(Jimmy) and Christopher Harmon. She also has four grandchildren, Jesse, Michael, Izabella and Edward. She and Jim currently reside in Chickasha where they are both enjoying retirement.

Sissie was a member of 4 different chapters. She originally joined the Ada Jaycees, then transferred to Chickasha Jaycees. Following that she joined the Marlow Jaycees, then it was the Oklahoma City Jaycees who awarded her a Senatorship. She was a Jaycee on the move!

Her favorite community development project was helping at the Christmas Wonderland at the Bethany Children's Center. It was fun to participate, especially knowing the great work they do for children.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie?

Answer: *I don't have a favorite - I don't like scary movies.*



Director Fred Williams #51340

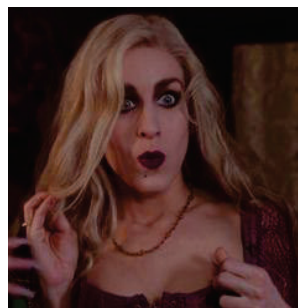
Fred currently resides in Wichita Falls and is enjoying his retirement of 219 days - but who's counting? He has two daughters, Michelle and Jennifer. Three grandsons, Shawn, Dylan and Jackson and one granddaughter Skyla.

He joined the Enid Jaycees in 1986 at the age of 33, and it stayed his home chapter. He was happy when the U.S. Jaycees By-laws changed in 1987, which allowed him to stay active through his 39th birthday.

His favorite community development project was hard to pick one favorite: Daisy/U.S. Jaycees Gun Safety/Shooting Education Program; Run, Punt and Pass; MDA; St. Jude's; Okeene Rattlesnake Hunt; and many more. But he would have to say that his favorite was helping the Children's Center in Bethany, because of the wonderful work they do providing excellent pediatric medical and rehabilitative services for severely handicapped children.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie:

Answer: The original 1978 Halloween movie with Michael Meyers, starring Jamie Lee Curtis.



Gloria Albers #74536

Gloria was married to the late Jay Albers and has two daughters. The late Tiffany Albers and Angie McGaha. Angie's husband is Jay and they have three children, Blayz who is a senior this year, Ember, 13 yrs and Gentry, 9 yrs. She still resides in Newkirk and enjoys her grandkids and quilting.

She originally joined the Newkirk Jaycees which remained her home chapter for all her Jaycee years.

Her favorite community development project was the Angel Christmas Shopping. She found it very heartwarming and rewarding to see the excitement on the kid's faces when wrapped Christmas gifts were delivered to their homes and knowing she was helping deserving kids.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie?

Answer: Hocus Pocus - I kinda identify with the ditzzy blonde witch - lol!



Secretary Nancy Cloud #52759

Nancy (Becker) Cloud met her late husband Jack #49502 through Jaycees. She has two sisters, Diane Webster and Debbie Becker #79537. She has 2 nephews, Ryne and Tyler, 1 great-nephew Baker and 2 great-nieces, Nora and Navy. She originally joined the Tulsa Jaycees and it remained her home chapter throughout her Jaycee career. She held many local offices and was very active with her husband Jack. Nancy currently lives in Tulsa with her sister Debbie and enjoys spending time with all of her family.

Nancy's favorite community development project was the Children's Christmas Shopping Tour and Food Baskets. "I loved helping take over 100 kids shopping every year for their families and then giving them big food baskets knowing we were helping deserving families."

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie.

Answer: *Hocus Pocus* – I love seeing all the little kids' costumes when they come to the door.



Treasurer DeLisa Anderson #54310

DeLisa is married to very nice gentleman, Dennis Anderson. They have a blended family with 7 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren! They currently reside in McLoud where DeLisa is active in the community.

She was the charter President of the McLoud Jaycees. Eventually she transferred to the Oklahoma City Jaycees where she finished her Jaycee career.

Her favorite community development project was Adopt a School Christmas. The chapter would choose an inner-city elementary school to adopt. The children would write letters to Santa, then the Jaycees would go get the letters and go shopping. They would then meet and wrap the presents. The day of the school's Christmas Party, the chapter would have Santa come in to meet the children, then when the children returned to their classrooms, they each had a wrapped gift on their desks. ❤️

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie?

Answer: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!* I love everything about the Peanuts group.



Chairman of the Board Cindy Empting #65595
Newsletter Co-Editor

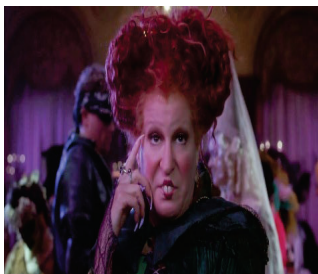
Cindy is married to fun and ornery Randy FR#121. They have three sons, Blaine, Kelsey and Wade, two grandsons and one granddaughter. Blaine has a son Byron, 17 yrs and a daughter Delainey 16 yrs. Kelsey's wife is Kaci and has one son, Truitt, who is 4 months old. Wade is engaged to Jacque, they will be tying the knot in September this year. She and Randy are still living in Ponca City.

Cindy was a founding member of the Newkirk Jaycee Women, which then merged with the men a year later. They moved to Ponca City when Randy was hired on as a police officer and she eventually transferred her membership to the Ponca City Jaycees.

She has two favorite community development projects, one for Newkirk and Ponca City. Her favorite one for Newkirk was the annual Halloween Festival which provided a safe and fun environment for kids on Halloween. Her favorite one for Ponca City was the Run, Punt and Pass. She always enjoyed both boys and girls participating in this activity and seeing them move on to compete on the State level.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween movie?

Answer: Disney's – The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. The scenes of Ichabod being chased by the headless horseman terrified her as a child.



Newsletter Co-Editor Barbara Nickles #62938

Barbara is married to a kind gentleman, Glenn (aka Nick) Nickles, FR #21. They have two children, a daughter Lori Fanning and a son, James (Jamie) Nickles. They have three grandsons, JJ, Trey and Robbie and one granddaughter, Tatum. They live in a beautiful little spot in Ponca City.

Barbara joined the Ponca City Jaycees which remained her home chapter. She held all of the local offices.

Her favorite community development project was Washing the Pioneer Woman Statue. It allowed her to meet and learn more about the mayor of Ponca City and garnered a visit from Channel 4 News. However, Jaycees Against Youth Smoking – JAYS – has been the most impactful project on her life. It has led to her being active and an advocate of the American Cancer Society.

Trivia question: What is your favorite Halloween Movie?

Answer: Without a doubt – Hocus Pocus – I love Winnie!

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Greetings Senators,

I will personally provide a prize to the person that can identify the year this photo was taken, the location and identify the most people in the photo. You can email your answers to s2m8r1@gmail.com.

Good Luck!

Fred #51340

OK JCI SENATE OCTOBER SOCIAL

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 18, 2025**

Please join us for lunch at
11:00 am at

Stables Café

223 N. Division Street

Guthrie, OK 73044

(www.stablescafe.com)

Afterwards, visit the

5th Annual Guthrie Wine and
Craft Festival

224 East Oklahoma Avenue
near Downtown Guthrie

Free admission

Open from 9am to 5pm

Please RSVP for lunch to Cindy
Empting

ckempting@gmail.com

no later than October 16, 2025

YOUR OKLAHOMA SENATE TEAM

PRESIDENT	Randy Sursa	randysursa@aol.com
COB	Cindy Empting	ckempting@gmail.com
Vice President	Pat Reffett	lpmm@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Nancy Cloud	okjicisecretary24@gmail.com
Treasurer	DeLisa Anderson	delisakay75@gmail.com
Director	Charles Edwards	chasnbeck@aol.com
Director	Sissie Harmon	sissie21@sbcglobal.net
Director	Fred Williams	s2m8r1@gmail.com
Director	Gloria Albers	mamag5479@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Peggy Rider	peggy_rider12@yahoo.com
Bob Henry Program	Nancy Cloud	mrscloud9@aol.com
Scholarship Chair	Becky Edwards	beckyllynne53@gmail.com
Sgt At Arms	Charles Edwards	chasnbeck@aol.com

Senate Trustees

Dale Crouch #77010
Bill Werner #60976
Jim Harmon #63903

WE BELIEVE

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life.

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations.

That economic justice can best be one by free men through free enterprise.

That government should be of laws rather than of men.

That earth's great treasure lies in human personality.

And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

