

# The Journal

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with the National Retired Teachers' Association (NRTA)—AARP's Educator Community



MAY, JUNE 2019

VOLUME 72, ISSUE NO. 5



Unit 33 - Whitman County held their April meeting at the Pullman Depot Heritage Center, a train station that has been purchased by the Whitman County Historical Society and is currently being renovated into a museum. The unit donated to the renovation project.

*Pictured (left to right) are Rex Davis, Lu Luhring, Annette Pettenger, Penny Bettas, Kathy Storment, Linda Marler, Alice Davis, and Don Kackman.*

## WSSRA At Work For You



*A message from the president*

## Communication Paves The Way



*by Linda Averill, Ph.D., president*

As our year winds down, I salute the many people who have worked so hard this year to keep our organization moving forward; from Dr. Burke and our very capable office staff to the unit officers and committee members. Each played a valuable part in helping us grow whether in numbers, activities, or contacts with our legislators.

Our legislative goals were impressive, while only a few were met, this is a start and with determination and a united front we can be heard, and make some progress. We have a strong legislative team that works hard for us but they cannot do it alone, we have to respond quickly when they ask for our help. We owe them our gratitude and much thanks for the time and effort they put in working on our behalf.

Your executive board and the committees have met throughout the year, setting goals that will keep our organization relevant to all of our members. We have tried some new membership enticements that have worked for many of the units.

As your unit elects new officers and new committee members are selected, take a moment to thank those who served and are stepping down, then step forward and offer your help to the new regime. Each member, doing a small part, makes the large task manageable.

I enjoyed my travels around the state, visiting the local units and coordinating councils this year. While I observed many differences in the way reports and meetings were handled, each group was warmly welcoming. It was a delightful experience, a wonderful year, and I thank each of you for your help in making it a success.



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**THE JOURNAL**  
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**JOURNAL INFORMATION**

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Material appearing in The Journal, in addition to records of action by the board, councils, committees and units, is presented to promote the general welfare of WSSRA members and otherwise to fulfill the purposes of this association, as defined in Article II of the bylaws.

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**Upcoming JOURNAL  
article deadlines**

**June 15, 2019**

for July/Aug./Sept. 2019 issue

**September 5, 2019**

for Oct./Nov./Dec. 2019 issue

**WSSRA At Work For You**



*A message from the executive director*

## Representing Your Interests



*by Alan Burke, Ed.D., executive director*

Fascinating. Interesting. Frustrating. And certainly challenging. Those are some words heard around the Capitol the past few months as the 2019 legislature—in fits and starts—carries out its duty to provide the Governor with a consensus biennial budget for 2019-21.

And WSSRA has been there from the beginning representing your interests in matters of policy and budget. We appreciate all of you who have followed Peter Diedrick's weekly reports, and really appreciate all who have emailed, called or written legislators as key pieces of legislation emerged on committee agendas or showed up on proposed budgets.

Specifically, our advocacy efforts start with work on restoring the Plan 1 TRS and PERS COLA—a benefit that was taken away in 2011 and has not returned—in spite of consistent statements from legislators on both sides of the aisle that school retirees deserve a COLA. Unfortunately, eight years of talk has resulted in only the 1.5% COLA increase in 2018 which clearly was not enough to come close to the 16% in lost pension purchasing power over the last decade. Peter has more on the COLA fight in his legislative summary on page 4.

In addition to the COLA, we have been promoting bills or making sure that funds appear in the final budget that support retirees from Plans 1, 2, and 3. First among that list is the Medicare Health subsidy. Right now, members who are in PEBB receive \$168 per month to defray health insurance costs. That amount stood at \$183/month until 2011 when it was reduced to \$150/month and stayed there until last year. Yes, 2011 was a very bad year for school retirees!

We are asking that the rate be put back to \$183, an idea that has the support of the House—but not of the Senate—at least not yet. Import-

tantly, the Medicare subsidy is issued to any retiree regardless of retirement plan. Thus, all of our members in PEBB—whether in Plan 1, 2, or 3—get this benefit.

Other Plan 2/3 bills of note—the effort to reduce the full retirement age to 60, the opening of part time work to early retirees, and the uncapping of the 180 VEBA restriction for teachers—are in various stages.

First, the Age 60 bill did not receive a hearing this session but we soon expect to receive a “fiscal note” from the Department of Retirement Systems that will tell us exactly what the age reduction will cost. That will allow us to tee-up the bill next session for further action—starting with getting a hearing scheduled by House and Senate fiscal committees. The same holds true for the VEBA bill. Incidentally, we did receive a preliminary fiscal note from OSPI on that measure, but we think the numbers are way too high and we will ask for another analysis after session ends.

Second, the opening up of part time retirement options for our age 62 to 65 group is very much alive at press time. Hopefully, final approval will eliminate the 2020 sunset for early teaching retirees, and will open up opportunities for bus drivers, para-professionals, cooks, coaches, counselors, social workers, psychologists, TOSAs, and administrators—all of whom cannot work at all in K-12 after exercising the age 62 early retirement option.

Legislative advocacy is what we do year-round, but especially during legislative sessions. By the end of April (assuming no special session) we should know where we stand with our priorities. Stay tuned for email updates, and know that we can't succeed in Olympia without your help.



## Legislative News



## 2019 Legislative Session Truly Unique



by Peter Diedrick, legislative director

### 2019 Legislative Session Update

This has been a crazy one. Each legislative session takes on a life of its own, but the 2019 Session has been truly unique. Wildly disparate budget assumptions, unruly freshman legislators, and a leadership race in the House of Representatives have contributed to the drama. Dr. Burke covered a number of legislative issues in the Executive Director's column, so I will hit some finer points on both WSSRA's goals and the wider political landscape.

### WSSRA's Legislative Agenda

A tale of two budgets. The House of Representatives' budget proposal includes a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for TRS & PERS 1 retirees. It also restores the Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit to \$183 per month, where it was before the Great Recession. The Senate budget proposal only maintains retiree benefits, but it also contains funding for a study to review other options for retiree insurance. It is safe to assume that this study is not intended to improve your benefits.

Also, the Plan 2 Default legislation (House Bill 1308 & Senate Bill 5360) appears to be headed for passage this year. Currently, new teachers and school employees are defaulted into Plan 3 at a 5% contribution level if they do not pick a pension plan when hired. This legislation would put those employees into the traditional pension plan. We believe that employees who are not actively involved in their retirement planning should be placed in the more conservative and predictable retirement plan. WSSRA sponsored a number of other worthy bills this session, but unfortunately some did not gain traction. Those bills will stay alive in 2020 and the Association will continue to work on them over the interim and next session.

### Senior Citizens Property Tax Freeze

AARP Washington and King County Assessor John Wilson have been pursuing legislation (SB 5160) that would increase the income threshold for a property tax freeze benefiting seniors and veterans. Under the most recent drafts, many school retirees would qualify. Both the House and Senate seem inclined to fund this proposal. We will keep you posted because the vast majority of school retirees would likely qualify for having their property taxes frozen at current levels. WSSRA has been supporting this bill at every step in the process.

### Washington's Revenue Picture

Tax revenue is consistently increasing. There is not a shortage of new income. That being said, legislative commitments and collective bargaining agreements have created a shortfall. Both the House and the Senate are proposing tax increases to cover the difference. The House is proposing a high earners capital gains tax that would fund public services and spending increases like a Plan 1 COLA. Most citizens would be exempt from paying it. The Senate is looking at a broader capital gains tax to create a new state program that would refund sales tax money to individuals who are eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. While a laudable goal, we are concerned this will create a large new tax on seniors and redistribute the benefits only to individuals who are currently employed.

### Next Steps

There is a very good chance the 2019 legislative session will not be completed by the time you receive this *Journal* issue. The message to your legislators is simple. To the House of Representatives, "Thank you for including a Plan 1 COLA and restoring retiree medical benefits in your budget proposal. Please stay strong and insist those restorations stay in the budget." To the Senate, "Include a Plan 1 COLA and retiree medical benefit restoration in the final budget." If you do not know the number for your legislator, information is available at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov). Also, the Legislative Hotline Number is 1-800-562-6000. The operator will send your message to the appropriate office.

Thank you for reaching out to your legislators. Remember, if legislators don't hear from you, they assume it's not important! We need you in the fight.

**WASHINGTON STATE  
LEGISLATURE**

**TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:  
1-800-562-6000**

**WEBSITE: [LEG.WA.GOV](http://LEG.WA.GOV)**



## WSSR PAC: Continuing The Task



by Louie Osmonovich, WSSR-PAC president

WSSR-PAC is gearing up for WSSRA's 2019 Convention in Yakima. We will have our table set-up for the opportunity to make a PAC contribution in support of legislators who are favorable concerning our fight to improve member's benefits. We need all members - not just convention delegates - to help with those contributions. So far, only about 2% of WSSRA members contribute to your WSSR Political Action Committee endeavor to sway legislators to provide fair and earned benefits for retirees. This is especially critical for Plan 1 retirees who haven't had their COLA and Medicare eligible medical expenses raised to keep up with the cost of living increases. It is critical each member let their district legislators know Plan 1 has not had a true cost of living increase for 8 years. We have lost around 30% of our purchasing power since 2011.

The Legislative Committee, which includes some PAC board members, went to Olympia again in January and March this year. We lobbied for our WSSRA legislative priorities, which included TRS1 & PERS1 pension recovery, restoration of retiree health benefits, improving retirement Plans 2 & 3, and protecting retirees in transition to new health providers.

On June 3, at the WSSRA Yakima Convention, the WSSR-PAC will have our annual meeting. WSSR-PAC officers, district PAC representatives, WSSRA lobbyists, and Peter Diedrick, legislative director, will lead this meeting. Any PAC member may attend, but only PAC board members vote on issues. The room and time for this meeting will be available in your convention



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today!**

Online at:  
[wssr-pac.org](http://wssr-pac.org)

**Check Payable to: WSSR-PAC**

**Mail to: WSSR-PAC Treasurer**  
c/o Lora Brabant  
125 West 11th Street  
Port Angeles, WA  
98362-7709

program. WSSR-PAC officers are also involved in the legislative meeting, which will also be held on Monday, June 3, at the convention.

A policy change has been made to allow more time to consider which legislative candidates to support in the fall elections. Previously, the PAC had a very short period in which to learn about and decide which legislators to support. With the change, there will now be more time between the primary and general elections for members to respond with recommendations on which candidates to support. Members should respond through their district board member. Your board member will pass your recommendation to the PAC officers. District PAC board members are: NW-1 Tim Knopf, NW-2 Rob Fletcher,

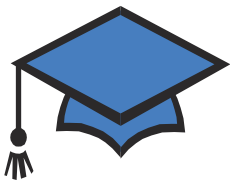
SW -3 Lora Brabant, SW-4 Mina Milligan, E-5 Betty Andrews, E-6 Mary Perkins, E-7 Don Kackman, E-8 Don Parks.

Our PAC Treasurer, Lora Brabant, said the WSSR-PAC "Wall of Support" is getting very good results. Refer back to the January-February 2019 *Journal* article by Lora to see how to participate in the "Wall" or WSSR-PAC.

Thank you to all who have supported the WSSR-PAC with your contributions. I hope you will continue to support us in the future. To those who haven't contributed yet...please come on board! Help us protect your retirement. Thank you, in advance!

**Safe traveling and "Happy Trails to You!"**

## Supporting Future Educators



## WSSR Foundation: Convention Baskets and Silent Auction Items



by Ron Crawford, WSSR Foundation chair

Yes, it is time to get ready for the annual WSSRA convention to be held this year in Yakima, June 3-5. And, that means we welcome WSSR Foundation baskets and silent auction items. The basket program and silent auction contributes to college scholarships awarded to high school seniors intending to pursue a career in education. The WSSR Foundation board and WSSRA thank all of you for supporting the scholarship program.

Last year, WSSR Foundation increased the level of each scholarship from \$1,500 to \$2,500. The funds raised from the convention basket tickets and silent auction items directly support these scholarships.

We are asking all coordinating councils, units, and individuals to bring baskets and silent auction items to the convention. We appreciate your participation in these projects as we work to support future educators.

Here are some thoughts for those of you bringing baskets and auction items to the convention.

- Units can contribute as many baskets or items as they see fit - the more, the better.
- Baskets can be any size (as long as they can fit in the winner's car on the way home).
- Delivery of baskets: bring to convention center and follow signs for WSSR Foundation.
- Silent auction items will be shown in the main ballroom. Baskets will be in the WSSR Foundation room.
- Be prepared to fill out a form when you deliver the baskets and auction items.
- Please remember silent auction items and baskets will be used for scholarships only.

You can also contribute to the WSSR Foundation as a donation or in honor someone by completing the donation form below or online at [wssra.org](http://wssra.org). The WSSR Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and donations can be tax deductible.

### DONATION FORM

#### WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL RETIREES' FOUNDATION

4726 Pacific Avenue SE, Lacey, WA 98503-1216

Please Print

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Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: If you would like the person notified of this gift, you must include their full name and address below.

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<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial	\$ _____
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Person to be Notified _____		
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____

☐ Please check box if you would like to receive a receipt for your records.  
The WSSR-Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Check \$ _____ # _____
Cash \$ _____

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Mike & Sharon Boring - in memory of Carolyn Horne

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Sno-Isle SRA - in memory of Eloise Stendal and Rick Nebeker

Southwest King SRA - in memory of Pamela Riley and Anne Hartley

Yakima County SRA - donation

## ONLINE FOUNDATION DONATION

**Did you know you can make an online donation to the WSSR Foundation? Donations can be a contribution, in honor or in memory of someone.**

**wssra.org**

**Foundation link>Donation Form**

## For Your Health

### Achieving Personal and Social Well-being

In the third of a series of summaries, the health services brainstorming session at the 2018 Wenatchee Convention, the focus of this article is on achieving personal and social well-being through meaningful unit projects, community service, and healthy living.

Since we are all former or active educators, a first suggestion is to consider volunteering at a local school. A one-morning-per-week schedule works wonders for many retirees as they engage in classroom activities like reading to children, tutoring, taking part in Junior Achievement, or serving as lunch buddies. Most of us sincerely miss the kids, and volunteering keeps the kid-contact going.

Outside of education, school retirees engage in a wide variety of community service activities. Programs like meals-on-wheels, assistance at homeless shelters, helping at the local humane society, or church-related volunteering provide many with meaningful opportunities to give back to society. And giving back appears to be the key. Retirees report about their enhanced self-worth and positive disposition after completing volunteer projects.

A career in education also lends itself to reaching out to seniors who are shut-ins, or are experiencing health problems. WSSRA units maintain membership lists of folks who, for one reason or another, are not able to attend monthly meetings but still seek the companionship that they enjoyed when they were healthy. Several units use volunteer drivers to assist in getting non-ambulatory members to meetings—and those who engage in such work are uniformly positive about the experience.

Purely social activities work as well. Book clubs keep us reading, and offer intellectual challenges when participating in group discussions about an author's intent or the relationship one book has on others in a genre. Folks who regularly engage in card games that demand a grasp of strategy and tactics also report positively on those activities. Of course, meeting for coffee and conversation, walking, hiking, or traveling together to local historical sites, parks, or museums provide opportunities for social interaction, exercise, and friendship.

Maintaining a sense of well-being is sometimes difficult to achieve. But it is not impossible. Establishing meaningful relationships, becoming socially active, engaging in regular exercise, and giving back to others are important and perhaps essential components of sustaining self-worth.

## Membership: Strength In Numbers

# Your Input is Needed for Membership Planning at Convention



by Don Parks, state membership committee chair

The annual Council of Committee meeting was held in Yakima on April 9. As part of the meeting, we developed the agenda for the Membership leadership session to be held during the WSSRA Convention in June. We planned a content-rich session, which will include a packet I developed for use at staff meeting presentations, a website presentation, and other membership-related discussions.

Michele Hunter brought us up-to-date on the types of forms and documents available to us from the state office. The April 1 membership compilation report showed our total membership level at 17,388, up from 17,302 on March 1 and down from 17,523 one year ago. We have 790 cash members, 4,099 actives, 12,471 automatic dues deduction (ADD) members, and

28 honorary/life members. It is interesting that all local units show a membership fluctuation of only about 5-6 members in the past month, probably attesting to the "snowmageddon" we all experienced. Remember, our membership potential remains at about 56,000, and we need to overcome about 450 deceased each year. We have work to do!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Yakima convention and I'm hoping for a strong attendance at the Membership leadership session.

**WHAT DO WE WANT? 10% GROWTH  
WHEN DO WE WANT IT? NOW!**

### WSSRA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Do you know a school retiree who should be a member? Clip this form and ask them to complete and return the form today!

DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM  
WASHINGTON STATE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION  
4726 PACIFIC AVE SE, LACEY, WA 98503-1216

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SS Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Personal Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement Plan (CIRCLE) TRS1 TRS2 TRS3 PERS1 PERS2 PERS3 SERS2 SERS3

Name of WSSRA Unit (or school district last employed) \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems to deduct the following dues and any future increases as voted by the membership, from my monthly retirement allowance and to pay such deduction to the Washington State School Retirees' Association.

Should I wish to cancel ensuing deductions I will send a written notification of cancellation to Washington State Department of Retirement Systems and WSSRA.

**DUES DEDUCTION: \$7 per month or CASH DUES: \$84 per year**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

01-Asotin-Pomeroy	06-Southwest King	14-Mason County	21-Skagit/Island/San	28-Thurston County	32-Whatcom County
02-Chelan/Douglas	07-Jefferson County	15-Okanogan County	Juan	29-Benton-Franklin	33-Whitman County
03-Clallam County	08-Kitsap County	16-East King	22-Sno-Isle	30-Southwest Wash-	34-Yakima County
04-Columbia Basin	09-Kittitas County	18-Pend Oreille	23-Sno-King	ington	
05-Grays Harbor/	11-Lewis County	19-Renton-South King	25-Spokane	31-Walla Walla-	
Pacific	12-Lower Columbia	20-Seattle	27-Pierce County	Columbia	

Contact WSSRA for membership information: Michele Hunter, [michele@wssra.org](mailto:michele@wssra.org) or 360-413-5496, ext 116





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**PREPARE  
FOR THE BEST**



## Mini-Grants

### Best Practice for Awarding Mini-Grants

*By Dr. Alan Burke, WSSRA executive director*

Recently, several questions have arisen about the proper way to distribute unit mini-grant awards. It seems that some units routinely give checks directly to classroom teachers, while others work through a principal's office or the district administration.

The best way to properly distribute funds is through the school or district. This alerts the business office of the award, and makes sure that the program identified in the mini-grant is among those supported by the district. This assures the activity will be district approved, and therefore under the umbrella of the district's insurance policy.

Perhaps the best way to accomplish the right mix of notification with assurance that the money will be allotted to the winning teacher is to give the actual check to the principal (or better yet, the school secretary) with a second "ceremonial" check—normally made large enough for a classroom of kids or a faculty group to see—awarded to the teacher. If a ceremonial check can't be produced, a letter to the teacher with a copy to the principal will do. The idea is to make sure that everyone involved is aware of the grant recipient and intended use of grant funds.

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## WSSRA Convention 2019

## WSSRA 72nd Annual Convention and Delegate Assembly

### June 3 - 5, 2019 in Yakima, Washington

MONDAY, JUNE 3	TUESDAY, JUNE 4	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
8:30 am Executive Board meeting	7:00 am Invitational Breakfasts	8:30 am Breakfast
9a - 6p Registration	8:00 am Registration	9:45 am 2019-2020 Leadership Meetings
1:30 pm Break-out Session 1	9:00 am Opening Ceremonies	12:30 pm 2019-2020 Executive Board Meeting
2:45 pm Break-out Session 2	10:15 am Delegate Assembly - First Session	
4:00 pm Pre-Convention Hearing	11:25 am Celebration of Life	
5:00 pm No Host Social	12:15 pm Scholarship Luncheon	
6:00 pm Awards Banquet	1:40 pm Delegate Assembly - Second Session	
	2:05 pm Legislative & WSSR-PAC workshop	
	5:30 pm No Host Social	
	6:00 pm Banquet and Installation of Officers	
	8:00 pm Tuesday Night Social	
<b>Hospitality Room:</b> Monday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday, 8:00 am - 11:15 am and 1:30 pm-4:30 pm		<i>The WSSRA Convention will be held at the Yakima Convention Center in Yakima, Washington</i>

The 72nd WSSRA Convention will be held at the Yakima Convention Center June 3 -5, 2019. Please take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to learn from peers who have established outstanding programs in their local communities. The Convention, as always, should be a priority for all WSSRA leaders and members who are interested in future leadership opportunities.

The Convention will begin on Monday afternoon with breakout sessions focusing on community service, website development, communications/social media, and programs designed to attract and maintain membership of Plan 2 and 3 retirees. Attendees will be able to choose two of the four sessions to attend.

Also beginning on Monday, a room will be assigned as a "hobby room." The idea is for anyone attending the convention to bring items to share from their home-based hobby activities. This will give attendees a chance to share projects that provide meaningful work and positive social interaction during retirement years.

On Tuesday, the work of the Convention will begin with the Delegate Assembly, the time that members review WSSRA operations and policies and make any major governance changes. Before the Delegate Assembly convenes, National Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning, from Spokane, will address the audience with her take on contemporary K-12 issues and concerns.

Mandy has traveled extensively since September sharing her message and experiences with audiences from across the nation. It will be fascinating to hear what she has learned in her interactions with leading educators, politicians, business leaders, and advocates for social justice.

Wednesday is devoted to leadership training sessions featuring presentations from our statewide committees like membership, health services and retirement planning. Also, 2019-2020 unit presidents, treasurers, and secretaries will be given information on local leadership tips, fiscal monitoring, and event recording.

In addition to Convention business, many opportunities to socialize with local unit teams and attendees from across the state will be provided. Long-time Convention participants are always willing and available to share success stories and answer questions that may seem unique, but generally have come up sometime, somewhere in the past. In Yakima, the food is always great and the locals will make your experience fun and rewarding.

Contact your unit president now and let her/him know that you would like to become a delegate, and make plans to visit Yakima on June 3-5, 2019. We'll see you there!

## WSSRA Convention 2019

## Welcome to Yakima

Yakima welcomes you to the WSSRA 2019 State Convention. While you are in Yakima, there are many activity opportunities both at convention and in the surrounding areas.

### CONVENTION

- Hospitality room
- Hobby room
- WSSR silent auction
- Interesting business meetings
- Tasty meals and fun entertainment

### WALKING DISTANCE OF 4 BLOCKS

- Stems wines and gifts
- Hotel Maison (art display)
- Windows Alive (store front window art display)
- Dairy Queen
- Olive Garden

### GOOD DINING (WITHIN 1 MILE)

- Carousel French Cuisine
- Cowiche Canyon
- Second Street Grill

### BREWERIES, BREW PUBS, WINE TASTING

- Berchman's Brewing Co.
- Hop Nation Brewing
- AntoLin Cellars
- Kana Winery
- Gilbert Cellars and others

### MUSEUMS (OUTSTANDING AND UNIQUE)

- Yakima Valley Museum
- Central Washington Agricultural Museum

Enjoy your opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones. We hope you will enjoy the hospitality and sunshine.



## Keynote Speaker

Tuesday, June 4 at 9:00 a.m.



Mandy Manning

**2018 National Teacher of the Year**  
**2018 Washington Teacher of the Year**

Mandy Manning teaches English and math to refugee and immigrant students in the Newcomer Center at Ferris High School in Spokane, Washington, where she is her students' first teacher once they arrive in the U.S.

Mandy began her career as a teacher in the Peace Corps in Armenia. She has also taught in Japan and in schools across the U.S. This global perspective infuses her classroom. Mandy uses experiential projects like map-making to help her students process trauma, celebrate their home countries and culture, and learn about their new community. Mandy has hosted more than 160 teaching candidates in the Newcomer Center. Many teach their first lesson in the Center. For others, the Center is their intercultural field experience. Mandy aims to expose as many future teachers, colleagues, and community members as possible to the diverse environment of the Center. District leaders, school board members, and legislators are regular visitors to her classroom.

As a National Board Certified Teacher, Mandy is an ambassador and mentor to her colleagues and is known for her collaborative style and determination to bring marginalized voices into decision-making. Mandy led a diverse committee in re-evaluating her school's discipline plan and adopting an evidence-based behavioral intervention plan that enhanced academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. This effort resulted in a 74 percent decrease in suspensions in the first year.

## WSSRA Convention 2019: Delegate Assembly

## 2019 WSSRA Bylaw Amendment Change Proposal

The following proposed amendment to the WSSRA BYLAWS is submitted by the WSSRA Rules and Resolutions Committee from the E-5/E-6 Coordinating Council. Amendment 1 would change the minimum of three (3) Coordinating Council meetings a year to a minimum of two (2).

### Proposed Amendment 1-2019: **ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3.A.2 (page B:9)**

BYLAW CURRENTLY READS	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>Section 3.A. Each Coordinating District shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elect its officers from its Local Unit Members.</li> <li>2. Set a minimum of three (3) meeting dates and locations per year.</li> <li>3. Determine its agenda, financing and voting procedures.</li> <li>4. Recommend to the Nominating Committee candidates for the office of President-elect and District Representatives as well as replacements for vacancies in these positions when necessary.</li> </ol>	<p>Section 3.A. Each Coordinating District shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elect its officers from its Local Unit Members.</li> <li>2. <b>Set a minimum of three (3) two (2) meeting dates and locations per year.</b></li> <li>3. Determine its agenda, financing and voting procedures.</li> <li>4. Recommend to the Nominating Committee candidates for the office of President-elect and District Representatives as well as replacements for vacancies in these positions when necessary.</li> </ol>	<p>Section 3.A. Each Coordinating District shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elect its officers from its Local Unit Members.</li> <li>2. Set a minimum of two (2) meeting dates and locations per year.</li> <li>3. Determine its agenda, financing and voting procedures.</li> <li>4. Recommend to the Nominating Committee candidates for the office of President-elect and District Representatives as well as replacements for vacancies in these positions when necessary.</li> </ol>

#### Rationale:

##### Pros:

1. Communication has been enhanced via email.
2. The eastside councils can choose to meet fall and spring and not in the winter when the roads can be treacherous.
3. Units will save money on meals and transportation.
4. This would not preclude councils from having more meetings.

##### Cons:

1. Timing of meetings when legislature is in session. Usually the January meeting has important legislative updates and confirms lobbying specific bills. However, emails and webcasts help with legislative communication.
2. District board representatives and state committee members will need to communicate with Coordinating Council officers, members, and unit presidents. (Note this could be done with emails). Communication will be critical.
3. January/February meeting is when president-elect works on completing committees with Willingness to Serve forms.

Recommendation: The WSSRA Executive Board recommends a **DO PASS**.



## WSSRA Convention 2019: Delegate Assembly

## Candidate Statements

**Bob Duke**

for President-Elect 2019-2020

**Platform**

It would be an honor to serve as WSSRA president-elect. I am committed to the goals of our organization. As president-elect, I will support our President and membership and will perform the duties of the office. I believe WSSRA is a lifeline organization for many of our members. As president-elect I will continue to advocate for the members that most need legislative support. I will support and recognize the efforts of local units to increase membership. Increased membership is essential to the survival of our organization. I will continue to meet with legislators to demonstrate support for the WSSRA legislative agenda.

**Educational Background**

I am a graduate of Rainier Beach High School. I graduated from Western Washington College with a BA in Political Science with a minor in Economics, also a BA in Education. I received Masters Degree in Educational Administration from University of Puget Sound.

**Work Experience**

Teacher at elementary, middle school, high school, college levels. Building administrator at elementary, middle school and high school levels. Served as building administrator in five school districts. Served as Coordinator of Educational Leadership at Pacific Lutheran University.

**WSSRA Involvement**

Member of the WSSRA legislative committee.

**Ron Crawford**  
for Southwest 4  
District  
Representative

For eight years, I was an Agricultural Education teacher and two years high school principal Toledo High School. Then I worked 27 years at OSPI as

Program Supervisor in Agricultural Education, State FFA Executive Secretary and State FFA Advisor.

Following retirement at OSPI I worked several years as an Investment Advisor for Shelgren Financial Group Inc.

I joined Unit 28 Thurston County School Retirees Association in 2013 and served as vice president, president and chair of retirement planning committee.

Currently, I serve as WSSR Foundation president and chair of the WSSRA Retirement Planning Committee.

**Sharon Hoseley**  
for East 8 District  
Representative

I retired in 2007, after thirty-five years of involvement in education. Twenty-six years were spent teaching kindergarten, nine in home base

(parent education) and driver education.

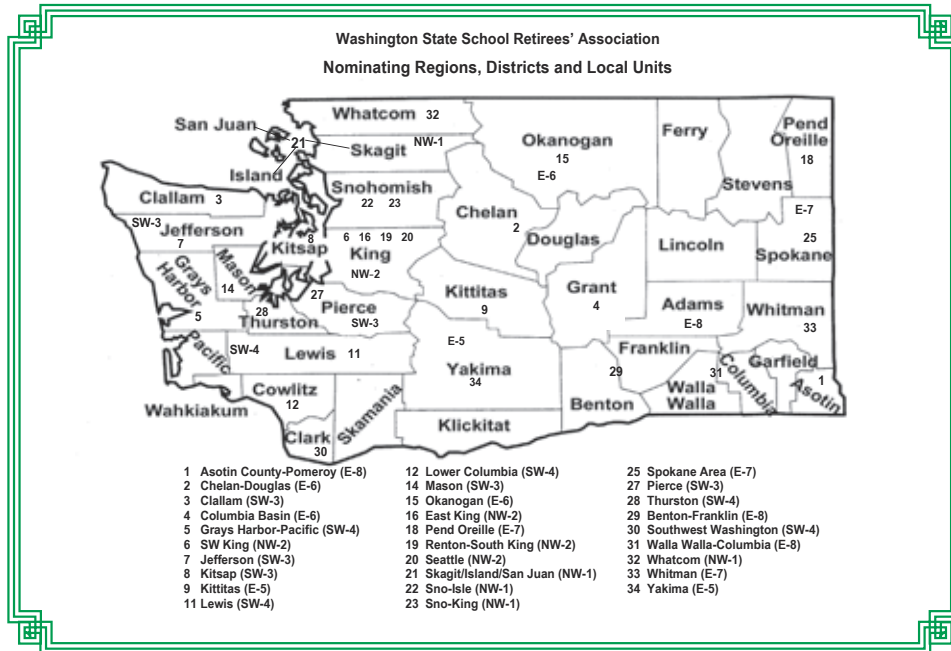
I joined Clarkston-Asotin-Pomeroy Unit 1 as an active member and became involved following retirement. I've served four years as secretary and two years vice president/program of Unit 1; two years as secretary for E-8. I received the Stan McNaughton Outreach Award from WSSRA in 2014 and the Asotin County Youth Commission Adult Excellence Award in 2017. I continue to be active with children through directing dramas at Grantham Elementary and as supervisor for judging of educational posters at the Asotin County Fair in where I involve teachers from Unit 1.

I look forward to continuing my support of WSSRA though serving as representative for E-8 at the state level.

## WSSRA Around The State

## What's happening in...

From the districts



## NORTHWEST-1

**Unit 21 Skagit/Island/San Juan:** This year, **Barbara Robinson**, membership chair, focused on going into the local schools to spread the word about WSSRA and enroll new members. She has been successful in recruiting new active members and getting them involved with the unit. Recently, she was also able to convince **Phil Brockman**, Superintendent of Sedro Woolley School District, to pay for substitutes so two teachers in his district could go with the unit lobbying team to Olympia. They were able to see how the process works, interact with legislators, and share what they are doing in their schools. One

of the legislators even asked to set-up a time so she could visit their school. We are hopeful that this interaction between members, school districts, and legislators can lead to a better understanding of WSSRA needs.

**Unit 22 Sno-Isle:**

Members of Sno-Isle Unit 22 celebrated how their contribution of over \$14,000 to local schools made a difference. They watched a slideshow highlighting the projects and purchases that were funded. Scholarship winners were also announced. It was noted that many applicants seemed to have trouble completing the application according to directions and providing appropriate papers. During the lunch

that followed some members discussed how Unit 22 could help students in applying for scholarships. It was decided to offer after school sessions at a local library to provide the members' expertise to help applicants in a sometimes overwhelming process.

In May, members met in the annual joint lunch event with Sno-King Unit 23. The guest speaker was **Gloria Kawabori** who spoke from the heart about growing up in a Utah internment camp during WWII.

**Unit 23 Sno-King:**

Unit 23 SnoKing (SKSR) provided grants up to \$250 each to 56 active educators in 24 schools in the three area districts. The unit has given

out over \$91,000 since 1997. Grants are presented at staff meetings during which unit representatives talk about membership in SKSR and WSSRA. Many new members are enrolled through these presentations. **Karen McElliott**, new unit grants chair, did a fantastic job organizing the grants process this year.

On March 29, thirty-one members participated in the unit's annual field trip visiting the University of Washington Crew facilities. **Linda Fitzgerald** made the arrangements for the trip. The group saw the original crew facility on Montlake Cut, which was built during WWI as a seaplane training facility. There were many old wooden racing shells still in the building. Next, they walked to the Conibear Shellhouse, which is the current training building. Hanging from the ceiling in the dining area is the Husky Clipper, the shell that was used in the 1936 Olympics by the *Boys in the Boat* to win the gold medal.

## NORTHWEST-2

**Unit 6 Southwest King:**

On April 29, **Karen Adlum** gave her second, much anticipated, talk about succulents with take-home plants for those attending. These demonstrations break attendance records!

## WSSRA Around The State

On May 20, unit members will gather for a picnic at Gene Coulon Memorial Park on Lake Washington in Renton (1201 Lake Washington Blvd. North, Renton). **Keitha Bryson** has reserved a picnic spot under cover. Join us!

The unit appreciates **Keitha's** leadership and shopping, cooking, and planning for meals during the last few years.

Southwest King unit donated nearly \$9,000 in grants to more than thirty PERS, SERS, and TRS workers. SWKSRA membership is not a requirement. **Bill and Nancy Tracy** work very hard to get time in principal's schedules to hand-deliver the checks in faculty meetings. Their efforts are appreciated.

#### **Unit 16 East King:**

East King's Grant Committee, consisting of **Shirlee Hall, Pat Jovag, and Jeani Goodrich**, met for three hours to read, score, and then dis-

cuss applications received. The three used scoring sheets based on the criteria of need, the number of students who would benefit and for how long, and the clarity and specificity of the request.

Fifteen applications were ultimately chosen to be funded. Teachers in high schools, a middle school, and nine elementary schools will receive grants to help their students in math, reading science, physical education, music, and cooking classes as well as aid some students with special needs.

Grant presentations take place at staff meetings whenever possible. This way those who take the time and effort to apply for funds are honored and presenters have the opportunity to talk about WSSRA and East-King and what the unit does. **Robert Fletcher** and **Shirlee and Jim Hall** do the presentations.

East-King's members were eager to hear what April's

## **RETIREE RESOURCES**

**WA Dept. of Retirement Systems** (TRS, PRS)  
1-800-547-6657 [WWW.DRS.WA.GOV](http://WWW.DRS.WA.GOV)

**PEBB and Health Care Authority**  
(health insurance)  
1-800-200-1004 [WWW.PEBB.HCA.WA.GOV](http://WWW.PEBB.HCA.WA.GOV)

**SHIBA - Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors** 1-800-562-6900  
[WWW.INSURANCE.WA.GOV/SHIBA](http://WWW.INSURANCE.WA.GOV/SHIBA)

**Social Security Administration (SSA)**  
1-800-325-0778 [WWW.SSA.GOV](http://WWW.SSA.GOV)

**AARP Washington Office**  
1-866-227-7457 [WWW.AARP.ORG](http://WWW.AARP.ORG)  
Mike Tucker, state president  
Doug Shadel, Washington state director

**Senior Citizens' Lobby**  
360-754-0207 [WWW.WASENIORLOBBY.ORG](http://WWW.WASENIORLOBBY.ORG)  
WSSRA Liaison: Gene Forrester

luncheon speaker, Kristen Deiganes from Evergreen Health Care, had to say about the possibilities of living independently longer at home. Kris explained how her "Home Health 101" covers who qualifies for home-health assistance, insurance involvement, and how one receives help at home after surgery or illness.

Unit 19's March meeting was held at the Chateau in Renton. The guest speaker was Dori Gillam, humorist from Humanities Washington. Her topic, "What's Age Got To Do With It," inspired members to be more aware of valuing people of all ages, from young to old. The Chateau prepared refreshments.

**Karen Jones** and **Tina Underdahl** attended the Renton School Board meeting in March where Renton School District Superintendent Dr. Damien Pattenaude presented Renton/South King members with Governor Inslee's proclamation of Washington State School Retirees Appreciation week (March 18-24). On March 23, **Susanne Perez, Sharon Rasmussen,**

**Unit 19 Renton/South King:** For the past few months, **Karen Jones, Susanne Perez, and Tina Underdahl**, Renton/South King executive board members, have participated in a community project at Renton Brookdale Retirement Home where residents were given free manicures.

**Unit 16 East King: Pat Jovag, Shirlee Hall, and Jeani Goodrich reviewing mini-grant requests.**





## WSSRA Around The State



**Unit 21 Skagit/Island/San Juan: Brian Yon** (*legislative assistant for Representative Luanne Van Werven*), **Barbara Robinson, Diane Visten, Bruce Boyer and active members Tom Andre and Sue Malone from Sedro Woolley School District.**

**Robin Stroben, and Tina Underdahl** helped with the Northwest 2 retirement seminar at the Madison House in Kirkland.

On April 2, the unit executive board held the annual Soup, Salad, and Dessert luncheon for Unit 19 members. The \$10 fee was divided between mini-grants and WSSR-PAC. A book sale was also held with the proceeds going to the mini-grant funds. WSSRA President **Linda Averill** was the guest speaker. She gave members a synopsis of current legislative actions.

At the April 16 unit executive board meeting, held at the Kent Public Library, WSSRA Executive Director **Alan Burke** addressed members, helped them understand the changes in the PEBB/SEBB insurance and how it affects the retired school employees.

Renton/South King's May 7 meeting will be held at Renton United Methodist Church. Guest Speaker Andrea Shirey, a former teacher, will share her expertise in decluttering. On June 11, the unit will gather for a luncheon at the Fairwood Golf & Country Club with **Kris Ripley**, guest speaker sharing gardening tips.

Seven delegates from Renton/South King will attend the WSSRA convention in June: **Rachel Almeleh, Joan Morgenstern, Susanne Perez, Eleanor Raschkow, Susan Scholtes, Robin Stroben, and Tina Underdahl.**

#### **Unit 20 Seattle:**

For the April 9 luncheon, the unit enjoyed guest speaker David Horsey, Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoon-

ist. Mr. Horsey, a graduate from Seattle's Ingraham High School, has been a syndicated editorial cartoonist for decades.

Visit the Unit 20-Seattle's official website, [www.seattlesra.org](http://www.seattlesra.org), for the latest information on scholarships and the unit newsletter, "The Bulletin."

Unit 20, along with other units in King County, sponsored a pre-retirement seminar at Madison House in Kirkland.

On May 9, the unit will participate in a program with Seattle Public Schools to award scholarships to Seattle Public High School graduates. The program will be held at The Stanford Center in Seattle and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## **SOUTHWEST-3**

#### **Unit 3 Clallam Co.:**

At the March school board meeting for Port Angeles School District, school retirees were honored. Clallam County School Retirees' Association President **Lora Brabant** and Vice-president **Beverly Brown** attended along with Daisy, Lora's service dog.

Clallam County School Retirees' Association met at Joshua's Restaurant in Port Angeles on March 19. Kathy Estes, director of the North Olympic History Center (formerly known as Clallam County Historical Society), was the guest speaker. She

spoke about a hands-on history project open to county youth. This year there are nine participants ranging in age from 10 to 16 years old. Kathy extended an invitation to the student presentations to CCSRA members. The event was held at the Lincoln Center, next to the old Lincoln School on 8th Street in Port Angeles on Sunday, April 7. Participants are eligible to win a scholarship. Kathy also outlined several other upcoming events for the history center.

For the April 17 meeting, Bob Nuffer presented a program on mental health for seniors. There was an election of officers for the 2019-2020 year. Results will be reported at a later date.

#### **Unit 8 Kitsap County:**

In February, Sandy from Steadman's Bees gave a talk on keeping bees including the flowers and plants they like and how to care for the bees. It was very informative and well received by the group.

In March, members **Jim Hunt, Craig Miller, Cheryl Miller, Sandy Deason, Allison Morris, Doris Bucher, Cathy McVicker and Patty Marz** traveled to Olympia to meet with legislators. Members had great meetings with Senator Christine Rolfes, Senator Emily Randall, and Representative Michelle Caldier.

In March, **Lane Dowell** and his wife gave a presentation on the Semanick Foundation.



## WSSRA Around The State

They showed the memorial for all fallen Kitsap military, recipients of state football awards, and football honors for West High Wildcats and Bremerton High Knights. They also shared a plaque honoring Chuck Semanick. The talk was very well received and they were congratulated on their scholarships that have helped students finish their education.

### *Unit 27 Pierce County:*

Pierce County was pleased to award 20 mini-grants totaling \$4,422 to educators in Bethel, Carbonado, and Franklin Pierce School Districts. It was heartwarming that Carbonado, a small rural school district of 176 students, was so very appreciative receiving mini-grants supporting their innovative learning projects. The entire student body attended a special awards assembly where kids and educators celebrated their grants.

An ongoing priority for Pierce County continues to be the recruitment of active (still working) members. In the past year, 184 new active members have joined WSSRA during presentations at faculty meetings. What an accomplishment for the unit – growing active memberships from 8 to 184!

The May general membership luncheon meeting featured **Dr. Alan Burke**, WSSRA executive director, who highlighted the legislative session. The agenda also included the

installation of officers and a memorial service for deceased members.

Looking forward to convention in June, the unit is especially proud that PCSRA member, **Bob Duke**, is running for WSSRA president-elect. Bob is a retired principal and currently serves on the state Legislative Committee.

## SOUTHWEST-4

### *Unit 5 Grays Harbor Pacific:*

The February speaker was **Dr. Bill Carter** who discussed the fire that burned and devastated the old Aberdeen High School building on January 5, 2002. He showed photos of the fire and the damage to the Aberdeen High School building. **Bill** taught there for many years and had many personal connections to the building. His program was of a very historic nature.

For the March meeting, the speaker was Moira Connor, activities director for Channel Point Village in Hoquiam. They do many interesting activities there.

Unit 5 continues to do a number of Outreach programs. The unit contributes monthly to the Ocosta weekend backpack food program. When a member passes, a library book is given to the school library at which he/she worked. Six books were recently given to local school libraries. A unit member is an active knitter and makes hand-knitted hats

# Remembering

## Marion Hughes

*WSSRA President, 2001-2002*

Marion Hughes, WSSRA President in 2001-02, passed away on April 6, 2019. Marion was born, raised, and educated in New Mexico where he met his wife of 69 years, Gervadine. Marion was an educator in the Richland School District for 25 years and maintained a lifelong passion for supporting programs designed to give all kids a great education.

In addition to his work in schools, Marion enjoyed boating on the Columbia River and San Juan Islands. He was a Clover Island Yacht Club Commodore and International Order of the Blue Gavel past president.

During his presidency at WSSRA, Marion focused on new methods to increase membership, especially concentrating on areas of the state underrepresented relative to overall regional population. In addition, he worked with the leadership from AARP-WA and RPEC to coordinate legislative advocacy regarding emerging senior issues. Included in his advocacy agenda was assuring that the WSSRA-PAC was successful in its formation and in meeting goals. Finally, he worked with advocacy partners on a bill to separate retirement plans from direct control of the legislature to a dedicated government board.

Marion is survived by his beloved Gerva, five children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

## WSSRA Around The State



**Unit 19 Renton/South King: Karen Jones and Tina Underdahl accepting the proclamation on behalf of retirees from Superintendent Damien Pattenau, Renton School District.**

to donate to local schoolchildren. Hand-written "thinking of you" notes are sent to members who cannot attend unit gatherings for a variety of reasons.

The April meeting was at the Satsop Methodist Church, where the ladies served a wonderful lunch. Students of Elma High School presented the program.

**Unit 11 Lewis County:**

WSSRA Executive Director, **Alan Burke**, accompanied by two Unit 11 officers, made three membership presentations at the Centralia School District's secondary schools. Twenty-one attendees joined WSSRA. **Alan** had an excellent presentation. It was brief, the charts were easily understood, and the \$10 bill for joining was an impressive bonus.

**Unit 12 Lower Columbia:**

In March, Unit 12 welcomed LINKS representative Kim Hoge. She is their educational director for four area school districts. LINKS primarily serves the local communities' lower income families. They offer after-school programs with activities and homework help. The "Beyond the Alphabet" program works with young children, birth to 5 years old. Their outreach programs are extensive and often include the local hospital and Longview's Parks and Recreation program. The unit

was happy to give a donation to LINKS. Its service to the local communities' children and families is remarkable.

More mini-grants were awarded to local teachers. Many wanted to purchase books for their classrooms. A pre-kindergarten special needs teacher bought a book for each child to take home. A stereo was purchased so classical music could be played during a 7th grade writing workshop time. Two teachers needed headphones for their classrooms.

Unit 12 members looked forward to hearing from these teachers, as well as others, about how their purchases made an impact on their students' learning. Unit President **Noel McRae** always puts together a power-point presentation from the mini-grant teachers. It is fun to see the students using their new items.

Unit 12 enjoys meetings and brunch times together on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Somerset Retirement Apartments.

**Unit 28 Thurston County:**

Unit 28 was honored to have Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction, as the guest for the March meeting. School funding, a possible "de-linking" of graduation from testing requirements, and focusing secondary education toward meeting post-graduation needs of all students, not just college-bound students, were all topics that Reykdal touched on.

April's luncheon is always a member favorite. Elementary Mini-Grant chair, **Jo Edwards**, invites current mini-grants recipients to join the gathering for lunch and share how the funds they received were put to use. It is always fun to see and hear about what is happening in the classrooms!

President-Elect **Pam Francis** will be installing new unit officers at the May luncheon. The meeting will conclude with a memorial program to honor members who passed away this year.

Summer is fast approaching. Unit delegates will be heading

**Unit 22 Sno-Isle: Mini-grant winners, Rita Trbic (STEM kits) and Steve Harvey (robotic materials).**



## WSSRA Around The State



**WSSRA members making their voice heard at the Capitol: Barbara Breslin, Terri Fulton, Judy Hollar, Ester Wilfong, Lee Gerig, Lois Sheppard-Gerig, Ann Chenhall, Sharon Dennis, Liz Eaton, Georgia Vincent, Karen Keller**

to convention in early June. August will see members volunteering at The Little Red School House, distributing school supplies and clothing to needy Thurston County students. During this past year, the unit collected more than 600 pairs of socks for this event.

#### ***Unit 30 Southwest Washington (Vancouver):***

When Unit 30 President **Jeanie Anderson** and Vice President **Waneta Filbin** presented the unit's foundation check of \$1,000 to Superintendent **Karen Douglass** of the Carson-Stevenson School District, **Karen** shed tears of joy! (She was expecting \$300 for a mini-grant.) She then spoke of the many students and listed the programs that would be supported by this generous amount.

The February luncheon guest, Nada Wheelock, "Teacher of the Year" finalist, gave examples of how the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools supports students and their families with food, clothing, housing, basic needs, gas money and other needs. In addition, there are provisions for emergency principals' check-books, school programs, and other support. Many schools have 59% of students who qualify for free and reduced priced meals.

It is always an honor each year when Vancouver's Evergreen School District invites unit members to their March School Board meeting to accept the Governor Jay Inslee Award of Recognition for service to the education community. This year, an unbelievably talented chorus of over 50 students, in concert dress, sang acappella, with

only a drum and a percussion instrument for accompaniment - unbelievable!

Unit 30's March 7, 2019 Retirement Seminar drew a remarkable attendance of over 140 potential retirees- many planning to return next year. Much thanks to **Dr. Alan Burke** for its success this year and his continued help for the 2020 seminar.

Unit members always celebrate the "green" for the March gathering, including original, member-created limericks and music. This March, two professional musicians, Kevin and Athena McElrath, dressed in Irish garb, performed "Irish Cabaret," and music of the 20s, 30s, and 40s. Knowing the audience were educators, they preceded each song with its history.

Unit 30 has a new website, go to [wssra.org](http://wssra.org) and find Unit 30 under the Local Units selection. Unit secretary **Mina Milligan** created a beautiful page, and her daughter, Elise Mattson, designed the logo.

Wearing Easter bonnets is a 'must' at the unit's annual Easter meet-up! The gathering also included colorful decorations and door prizes. Guest speaker, Pat Jolotta, a well-known Vancouver author and historian, presented her recently published book, *The Murder Of Joann Dewey In Vancouver, Washington*, a true mystery that happened in 1950. Though tragic, it really captures the 'interesting

history' of how that crime was handled at that time. It also captivated and divided the peaceful Vancouver community.

## **EAST-5**

### ***Unit 34 Yakima Co.:***

"B-5! Bingo!" What fun Yakima County unit members had playing bingo at the last meeting. Money and prizes went home with members that had big smiles on their faces. After transacting business, the monthly drawing was held to benefit state scholarships. The members participate with such enthusiasm that YCSRA often contributes over \$100 each meeting.

## **EAST-6**

### ***Unit 2 Chelan-Douglas:***

February brought so much snow that the unit meeting was very short as speakers from Olympia were unable to attend. However, business was accomplished and members voted to continue supporting Small Miracles, the performing arts program for schoolchildren, and STEM projects - one of which is called "Guys & Guts" and encourages eighth grade boys to consider careers in the medical field. The unit now has 44 new members.

The March program featured speakers from the "Thrive - Chelan Valley" program. This program helps youth from



## WSSRA Around The State



**Unit 30 Southwest Washington (Vancouver): President Jeanie Anderson, Superintendent Karen Douglass (Carson-Stevenson School District), and Vice-President Waneta Filbin. The unit awarded a \$1,000 grant to assist the district with several programs for students.**

Chelan and Manson as they provide mentors for students in need as well as provide “extras” so students can become involved in after-school activities. This program also runs a Friday night teen center so youth have a safe place to go. Chelan-Douglas members were quite impressed by all this group is accomplishing and were proud to donate to its success.

A number of unit members were recognized by the Wenatchee School District during their board meeting in honor of the State’s “Retired School Employees Week.”

#### **Unit 4 Columbia Basin:**

The members of Columbia Basin Unit 4 are enjoying the warmer spring weather and the end of the ice and snow! The unit has been active with several ongoing programs, including awarding a student teacher scholarship to Viridian

Moreno in the Quincy School District. Members also delivered another 100 books to Othello Hospital, as part of the Books for Babies program.

The monthly unit luncheon meetings have presented some very informative programs. Member, **MaryLu Martin**, recently talked about the Five Wishes program, which deals with end-of-life pre-planning issues to consider. She gave each attendee a brochure to fill out, which will let loved ones know about final wishes. The group also welcomed an active member, **Lynn Frey**, who presented a new Early Learning program for Moses Lake. Unit 4 donated \$200 to her to assist in this endeavor.

Another speaker at a luncheon was the Moses Lake Police Chief, who spoke about a program that helps citizens know what is happening with city and county law enforcement protection. Last year, several

of unit members attended this program and reported that it was very good.

**Gayle Talbot, Linda Bishop, and Karen Schafer** attended a recent Moses Lake school board meeting, where **Gayle** and **Karen** accepted a certificate of appreciation from the board for the work that CBSRA does on behalf of the community.

Three members attended the coordinating council meeting in Ellensburg on April 10. **Wanda Harrison, Bev Gilliland, and Lois Palek** represented CBSRA Unit 4. Looking ahead, several members plan to attend the WSSRA convention in June.

#### **Unit 15 Okanogan:**

**Jennie Hedington, Carol Payne, and Rita Figlenski** spearheaded the group’s March social celebrating Washington State School Retirees’ Week as designated by Governor Jay Inslee. Fourteen unit members gathered at

the Cariboo Inn in Okanogan to enjoy food, fun, and frivolity. Attendees found that they were not all as smart as a third grader as they tried to answer third grade questions on geography, science, and social studies. Prizes were coffee cards to local coffee houses. The March general meeting resulted in the following being elected unit officers 2019 – 2020: **Penny Garrison**, treasurer; **Maralee Bowling**, secretary; **Jennie Hedington**, vice president; and **Rita Figlenski**, president.

Scott Clark, board member of the Okanogan County Long-Term Recovery Group, spoke on fire recovery in Okanogan County.

Spring grants were awarded to **Michele Fancher**, Tonasket, for materials/tools to create string art projects merging concepts of art, poetry, and math; **Heather Downey**, Okanogan, for laminating and Velcro supplies; **Sue Hand**, Omak, flexible seating.

**Unit 1 Asotin/Pomeroy: Mini-grant recipient, Steve Stroschein, with member Sharon Hoseley. Steve used his funds to buy left-handed scissors for students.**





## WSSRA Around The State



**Unit 8 Kitsap County: WSSRA Executive Director Alan Burke with unit members Allision Morris, Doris Bucher, and Patty Marz. Allision and Dr. Burke testified at a Senate Ways and Means hearing in support of the Plan 1 COLA and raising the health benefit to \$180 a month.**

In April, the group took a field trip to lunch at Whistler's Family Restaurant in Tonasket. Lunch was followed by a visit to Tonasket Elementary School for a "Boomwhackers" musical presentation and a tour of the school's gardens. OCSRA has helped support both school projects.

In May, the board meeting will be at Magoo's in Omak to finalize a proposed 2019 – 2020 budget. The regular May meeting will be held at Roadhouse 97 on May 17, which is earlier than the usual last Friday to avoid Memorial Day celebrations.

## EAST-7

**Unit 18 Pend Oreille Co.:** Mini-grant information was sent to each of the three school districts in the unit area - Newport, Selkirk, and Cusick.

Grants, in the amount of \$200 each, were awarded in March. The unit received twice the amount of applications as last year. This year's recipients include:

Gavin Gladsjo, Cusick SD, science teacher at Cusick Junior/Senior High School (grades 6-12) is working to revitalize the district's greenhouses and will use grant funds to purchase a heated seed mat for germinating seed, potting soil, shovel, and seeds for various vegetables and flowers.

Randi Lithgow, Selkirk SD, music teacher (grades 6-12), will use the grant to replace music stands. She wrote, "There are a few headless stands... some are leaners, which means that all the music falls off." She said, it is comical at times, but there is a need to replace the worst of

the stands, which would make "rehearsals more productive, and would create a more unified and nice look for our concerts."

**Pam Nichols**, Newport SD, kindergarten teacher will use funds to purchase a mini-laminator, film, photo paper, and ink for student portfolios. She saves the children's work, takes pictures, and creates a keepsake for the families to cherish.

In March, Co-President **Dave Myer** submitted his resignation. **Sandra Ellersick** was elected as president. **Ken Perin** will continue as treasurer and **Sandra** will do double-duty as president and serve as co-secretary with **Sylvia Richards**. The unit was concerned about having to dissolve due to lack of participation but are relieved the officers were willing to continue serving.

### Unit 25 Spokane Area:

Spokane elected new officers, including President **Brad Beal**, Vice President **Bill Marvin**, Secretary **Marilyn Richards**, Treasurer **Kathy Beal**. Most of the committee positions remained the same.

**Bill Marvin** immediately began his work in getting informative and entertaining presenters for unit meetings. In March, Dr. Julie George, ND, naturopathic physician, gave an outstanding presentation with examples of individuals whose ailments were

cured via natural means. She cited the core of any cure is in the blood analysis, which will tell you what is good and those things that are not okay. She emphasized that there is no cure-all for all of human ailments, but for every prescription drug taken there is a reaction, which can be negative or positive.

Scholarship applications were reviewed in March with more than 30 applications in the E7 region, which includes 58 school districts. The scholarship reading committee included representatives from each of the three E7 units. **Les Francis** divided the readers into four groups who met in various locations to spend quality time carefully evaluating each application. This year, scholarships were awarded to students from Mead, Lakeside, Wilber-Creston, Lewis & Clark, Ferris, and Colville high schools. The student teaching scholarship went to a student from Whitworth University. Thank you to the fifteen E7 members for taking the time for this important effort.

The highlight of Spokane's spring was the fourth annual school retirement conference, "Help with Improving Your Retirement 4.0," held on Saturday, April 27, at West Valley High School in Spokane; more than 400 attended. Several speakers included representatives from Washington Retirement Systems, Health Care Authority, AMBA, and VEBA. Topics included sub-

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stitute teaching opportunities, alzheimer and dementia information, legal issues for seniors, and Medicare. Three additional topics were "Making Choices on Plans 2 and 3" by Jim Lusk, "The Retirement Income Puzzle" by Chad J. Bughi, and "Savvy Social Security Planning" presented by Ryan Jordan. SAREA enrolled 45 new members at the conference with a drawing among the new members in which two received a \$100 bill.

The highlight of May was the awards scholarship luncheon at which each of the scholarship winners, with their parents received certificates honoring their award. Each candidate also gave a brief presentation on professionalism and "what this scholarship means to them."

### **Unit 33 Whitman Co.:**

The Whitman County unit developed a strategy of moving their meetings to various sites to encourage new or entice existing members to attend. For example in April, Unit 33, met in Pullman. They were given an informative tour of the Pullman Depot Heritage Center. The center is a museum being developed in the old depot building (built in 1927) and in a rail car. They ordered sandwiches from a nearby sub shop and enjoyed them while they had their meeting at the depot. Points of discussion included the \$2,150 awarded as mini-grants to active members who are still teaching. They voted to donate \$300 to

the Pullman Depot Heritage Center and \$200 to the Spokane units retirement benefits fair. Members were reminded to contact legislators. The group also decided to donate funds, and/or books, for the county libraries or individual schools in the county. It will be an ongoing project called, "Books Forever."

The May meeting was at the home of **Kathy Storment** in Pullman.

## **EAST-8**

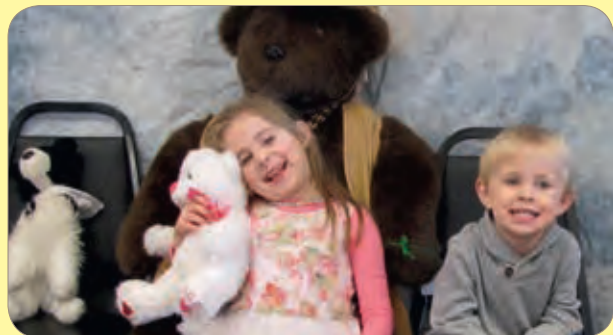
### **Unit 1 Asotin-Pomeroy:**

Active teachers in the Asotin/Pomeroy area who applied for mini-grants have been excited about receiving funds and putting them to good use. **Steve Stroschein** received one and bought left-handed scissors for students in his class and school. He has seen great results in left-handed students with less frustration and better project results. Retired member, **Sharon Hoseley**, presented the grant to him.

The snow caused a problem with program presenters but member **Bonnie Hill** stepped up and presented valuable information and a book review on, *The End of Alzheimer's "The First Program to Prevent and Reverse Cognitive Decline,"* by EE. Bredeesen, MD.

All officers declared their interest in remaining for next year so the slate was voted on and approved. Secretary

**Unit 31 Walla Walla/Columbia:**  
**The 13th annual Teddy Bear Tea, a unit fundraiser and community event, was held in February.**



**Pictured: (top) Jackie Ormsby, 97 year old member, a founding organizer of the Teddy Bear Tea. (middle) The bears were hand-made with donated fur and raffled to two lucky winners. (bottom) The family event is enjoyed by children of all ages.**

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**Bonnie Hill**, Treasurer **Sheryl Andrews**, Vice-President **Judie Hanley**, and President **Kay Andersen**. They will be installed at the May meeting.

Scholarship applications have come in and the scholarship committee is evaluating and scoring them so that the recipients can be invited to the May meeting. Thank you committee members.

Nearly 40 people (including spouses) attended the unit's Retirement Workshop. **Kathi Meshishnek** organized the event that included speakers from DRS, VEBA and Unit 1's own **Judy Jacobs** on health and insurance choices.

**Unit 29 Benton-Franklin:** Snow, ice, blizzard, school closures, a postponed board meeting, and general luncheon meeting created a departure from the general meeting schedule. WSSRA Executive Director **Alan Burke** was scheduled two times to attend a general meeting. He will attend the May meeting.

During School Retirees Appreciation Week, members attended school board meetings in Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick.

Patrick T. Hoban Meritorious Award nominee is **Don Parks**. **Don** is Membership Chair and serves in this capacity at the state level with WSSRA and E-8.

Stan McNaughton Outreach

Award nominee is **Ardith Eakin**. **Ardith** is a leader with the Tri-Cities Quilters Guild. She makes quilts through her church where she has worked on over 100 quilts, many of which have benefitted the Cancer Center, Habitat for Humanity, and the homeless.

Unit 29 awarded eight scholarships. Winners were recognized at the April luncheon. Earlier in the year, 22 local educators received mini-grants. The March program was Heritage University. Heritage, 40 years young, is based in Toppenish, but has opened a satellite campus on the larger campus of Columbia Basin College (CBC) in Pasco. Two of the eight scholarships from Unit 29 were awarded to students at Heritage University Education Program at CBC.

Members were entertained at the April luncheon by Saxtet, a local jazz group.

The May luncheon will include the installation of officers by WSSRA President **Linda Averill** and the Celebration of Life.

**Unit 31 Walla Walla/Columbia:** In spite of days of shoveling snow in February and early March and cancellation of the February luncheon, Unit 31 still completed numerous activities. Drawing for mini-grant winners and delivering the \$200 awards to 16 active members proceeded on schedule and resulted in numerous comments from de-

## Honorary Lifetime Membership

To be considered for Honorary Lifetime Membership, a member must have reached their 90th birthday and have been an active, contributing member of WSSRA for at least 20 years.

**Danny Beatty**, Unit 21 Skagit/Island/San Juan  
**Elizabeth "Mickee" Crowe**, Unit 2 Chelan/Douglas  
**Clayton Engebretsen**, Unit 22 Sno-Isle  
**Clarice Glenn**, Unit 29 Benton/Franklin  
**Louise Gustafson**, Unit 29 Benton/Franklin  
**Jean Hayes**, Unit 27 Pierce County  
**Gerry Jarvis**, Unit 30 Southwest WA/Vancouver  
**Crystal Johanson**, Unit 22 Sno-Isle  
**William "Bill" Laws**, Unit 15 Okanogan County  
**Colleen Pock**, Unit 15 Okanogan County  
**Gertrude "Trudy" Slingland**, Unit 27 Pierce Co.  
**Wilma Stellingwerf**, Unit 2 Chelan/Douglas  
**Reidar Ytgard**, Unit 21 Skagit/Island/San Juan

lighted winners. Unit 31 also sponsored a retirement seminar in early March. Thirty-one people attended from five school districts. A full agenda included speakers from the Walla Walla School District, Department of Retirement Systems, Health Care Authority, VEBA, and AMBA.

What a break in the weather on February 23! The sun brightened the whole day for the thirteenth annual Teddy Bear Tea. **Jackie Ormsby**, who proposed and organized the first Teddy Bear Tea as a

fund raising event for Unit 31, was able to attend at age 97. The Teddy Bear Tea has become more than a way to raise funds. The event is more like a family celebration involving not just members but a wide variety of people in the community. Something about the festive nature of the event elicits the joy of a holiday and encourages both volunteers and those attending. It was estimated that over eighty members volunteered. **Dee Aichele**, chairperson for the Tea said to have a successful event, "it takes a village."

## ADDRESS CHANGES

*Please Notify:*

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Change Service Requested

# Ask a friend to join us



## Vision

WSSRA will provide leadership  
and promote action relevant  
to all retired and active school personnel.

Washington State School Retirees' Association  
*Dedicated to preserving, protecting and improving  
the benefits of educational retirees.*

## The mission of WSSRA is to...

- develop, propose and implement action that will benefit all school retirees.
- propose legislation and legislative action that will enhance school retirees' lives.
- provide the support necessary to strengthen local units of WSSRA.
- foster involvement by school retirees in educational and community activities and organizations.
- communicate to local units the activities and priorities of NRTA, AARP and other entities that affect retired school personnel.
- represent all present and future Washington state school retirees, both classified and certificated.

## Don't delay – ask today

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