

## 2024 Convention Preview

Planning for the upcoming Wenatchee Convention is well underway. Please make plans to join us in the Apple Capital of the World June 3 -5.

It promises to be a top-notch event.

With two keynoters, and a strong slate of Monday breakout sessions, the agenda should offer something for every member. Plus, with celebratory events and acknowledgments occurring all three days, those who volunteered their services in unit or statewide activities will be given a well-deserved “thank you”.

As for the keynoters, we have

- On Monday afternoon, Dr. Gene Sharratt, long-time Washington educator, will kick off the convention with a message of hope and optimism for K-12 education. Gene has been a K-12 teacher, counselor, principal, central office administrator, district superintendent, ESD superintendent, executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council (for higher ed), college professor, and chair of Education Northwest over a long and highly successful career. Perhaps above all, Gene is a champion for kids, and an unabashed optimist about the future of K-20 education.
- On Tuesday morning, Dottie Metcalf-Lindenberger, will lead us through her fascinating journey from a classroom teacher to becoming an astronaut and aquanaut. Dottie, through a multi-media presentation that includes shots of her time on the Space Shuttle, will show attendees that setting high goals, perseverance, high energy, and commitment can lead to wonders for each of us and for those who we teach.

As for breakout sessions,

- On one early session Monday afternoon, Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Accounts Manager, and Jean Bui, Deputy Director of the Employee and Retirees Benefit Division, both of the state Health Care Authority, will provide an update on PEBB Medicare supplement plans. This session will provide the latest on possible 2025 rate reductions in the Uniform Medical Plan (Classic) program, and coverage/cost comparisons with other PEBB plans.
- In another session, Wenatchee attorney and estate planning specialist David Kazemba will review the important elements of establishing and maintaining a strong financial position as the years go on. The estate planning topic is of high interest to retirees, many of whom have completed financial management training, but find themselves wondering how to assure that their assets are placed in a position to endure, over the long term, the inevitable ups and downs of the investment world.
- In a third session, our partners from AMBA will lead a session on senior health care, with tips on how to navigate assistance that ranges from home-based care to assisted living to nursing

homes and, finally, to hospice. All of us have (or will have) to face serious health care challenges for loved ones—whether parents, spouses or other relatives. There are numerous decision points in the health care assistance continuum, and this session will assist in learning the tricks of the trade in finding and financing appropriate care for those in need.

Finally, Wednesday morning will be devoted to the traditional set of leadership training sessions, with an added optional topic of interest from a local Wenatchee source.

Of course, the convention will be filled with opportunities for social interaction, and will include times to celebrate unit achievements in 2023-24, acknowledge the work of WSSRA leadership at the state and local level, pay homage to those who have passed away, and complete the leadership transition from 2023-24 President Ron Crawford to 2024-25 President Rita Figlenski.

We'll see you in Wenatchee!