



UNIT 21
Skagit-Island-SanJuan
School Retirees' Association

December, 2009

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
BRUNCH**

President, Kathy Reim 360-856-4676

Treasurer, Barbara Landrock 360-856-2190

Newsletter, Joanne Jones 360-293-8343

Communications, Eloise Stendal 360-757-2785

Legislation, Robert Warnecke 360-336-3960
Robert Pickering 360-299-0741

Membership, Harriet Smith 360-856-6521

Outreach, Reidar & Millie Ytgard 360-766-5063

Retirement Seminar, Leon Greene 360-855-0918

WendyBrown 360-856-7298

*** Please call now for reservations!**

Wednesday, December 2,2009 SKAGIT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 16701 Country Club Drive Burlington, WA 98233

(Look for directions on the website)

10:30 a.m. \$12.50 per person

wonderful meal: choice of crab melt or frittata punch and no-host bar entertainment

time to visit with valued friends and meet new ones

**Please call before November 23 if you plan to attend.
Please indicate a menu preference.**

RSVP to Eloise at 360-757-2785 Guests are welcome!



TREASURER'S REPORT November 2,2009

Checking Savings

\$2445.56 \$2448.97

would be glad to deliver. Please keep this in mind. Bring the items to any of the meetings, and we'll see that they are delivered.

Reidar and Millie Ytgard



Your local membership dollar: newsletters
website
outreach materials events/social & educational grants
directory
food bank
retirement planning seminars
an all-volunteer team representing you

Address Change

Gail Thompson P.O. Box 416
Clear Lake, W A 98235-0416

FOOD BANK INFORMATION

This month the food collections will go to the Sedro-Woolley Food Bank. As we all know, there are more and more people in need everywhere. Let's do our part and give generously.

A TREASURER IS NEEDED

Barbara Landrock is stepping down from the Unit 21 treasurer's responsibility. Barbara has served the last 15 years taking care of our unit's financial expenses and income. Unit 21 is looking for a member to step in her shoes and handle the unit's finances. **Please contact Barbara or Kathy Reim to volunteer to take her place. Your help is needed!!**

2009 GRANT RECIPIENTS

1. **Tom Andre** - Central Elementary - Sedro Woolley
Purchase Novel-Ties - this will help the students to read and write about literature.
2. **Ann Acosta** - Lucille Umbarger Burlington
Reading material for Social Studies.
Help students develop background for the CBA test.
3. **Kim McSorley** - Samish Elementary Sedro Woolley
Purchase a yearly subscription to Scholastic News for her 3rd grade class.
4. **Tami Moran** - Central Elementary Sedro Woolley
A need for Cuisenaire rods, a decent pencil sharpener that will last for more than one year, and a book shelf for overflow of books.

5. **Debra Claybo** - Lyman Elementary Sedro Woolley

Make literary bags for each letter of the alphabet. These go home with the students. Each bag has games and books to go with each letter.

6. Wendy Albright - Evergreen - Sedro Woolley

Add 2nd and 3rd grade books to the classroom library.

7. Shawna Tesarik - Lyman Elementary Sedro Woolley

Enhance the classroom by buying appropriate books and rewards for the discipline system.

8. Kyle Fagan -Emerson High School - Mt. Vernon

Purchase consumable science supplies to support curriculum.

9. Scott Adams - Emerson High School Mt. Vernon

Replace supply of scientific calculators that stop working, get broken, or go missing.

10. Stan Hayden -Emerson High School Mt. Vernon

Purchase consumable art supplies for fine and graphic arts classes

11. Barbara Rock - Central Elementary Sedro Woolley

Buy math games as a teaching aid for the concepts of place value and basic (+, -, x and divide) operations.

12. Julie Mayer - Lyman Elementary - Sedro Woolley

Purchase books for literature circle.

13. Nancy Raschko, Pam Valentine, Erwin Stroosma - Centennial Elementary - Mt. Vernon

Purchase supplies for books/literacy materials, supplies for math games and practice.

Material will be used for a Parent/Student Academic Culture Outreach evenmg program.

Congratulations to everyone!



Please Clip and Save the Dates:

Unit 21 March 15, 2010 11:30-1:30 Royal Fork Restaurant

2300 Freeway Drive

Mount Vernon, W A 98273

Guest Speaker: Ed Gonion, WSSRA Executive Director Legislative Report: Guests welcome.

Board Meetings: Feb. 8, May 10, Aug. 10 at the Royal Fork.

Coordinating Council Meetings : Jan. 11, March 1 9:30-2:00 Royal Fork Retirement

Planning Seminar: March 13 Burlington Community Center

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Karen Grimes Tana Honeycutt Linda Jennerjohn Marilyn Kenney Linda
Peterson Marquay Peterson Richard Simpson Janice Taylor
Eleanor Turner Strand Wedul Hermann Wild

WE REMEMBER

Florence Bowen Carl Westling Roy Cope Frank Dietz William Dunn Mary Jo
Gloman (wife of Joe Gloman)

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following members on their special occasions



THANK YOU

Shae Denton, a 2007 SISJ Scholarship winner sent us the following e-mail: "Thank you so much. Your scholarship was a huge help. Since the economy isn't the greatest and finding a job in teaching isn't easy, I decided to go back to school. Without the help of scholarships this wouldn't be possible, so thank you very much.

Shae Denton"

2009 LABOR DAY HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

BIRTHDAY

Patty Wade celebrated her 80th birthday in August with an open house at Country Meadow Village.

ANNIVERSARY

Gerald Little and his wife Betty celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on October 23,2009. He joined Skagit Island San Juan School Retirees after teaching at Lucille Umbarger School in Burlington for 25 years.



Reidar Ytgaard braved the wind and rain during a three-day tournament in Burlington to become the Champion in the Elders B Class during a three-way play-off He played is best game in the finals by hitting 53% ringers, winning ten games and losing three. Darrel Jones, Mary Henderson's husband, also advanced to the finals, finishing in Third Place in the same category.

Reidar also is a former Gold Medal Winner in the Washington State Senior Games in Tumwater for his skill in basketball "Hot Shot" shooting. He practices his skill often at Skagit Valley College where he is also widely known for singing the National Anthem prior to SVC basketball games.

Congratulations, Reidar! !!



Balancing the State Budget on the Backs of the Pension System Year After Year Comes Home to Roost.

By Richard Anderson

State Actuary Matt Smith told the Pension Funding Council on Oct. 1 that the State must pay \$650 million into the pension system this year and must double that payment for the 2011-13 biennium or the PERS 1 and TRS 1 plans will be broke by 2015. Senator Joe Zarelli of the Pension Funding Council said the State Investment Board has done a good job delivering an 8 percent gain over the past decade, but the Legislature's failure to make contributions during

the good market years has meant the state lost out on earnings potential.

Over the years the Washington State Legislature has not followed the recommendations of its state actuary or its Pension Funding Council or its Select Committee on Pension Policy. Instead, the Legislature reduced employer contributions to the pension funds in order to realize savings that were then spent on other non-pension political priorities. This has resulted in an unfunded liability for PERS 1 and TRS 1 that now exceeds \$6 billion and growing. In 1989 the Legislature passed bills promising to amortize the Plan 1 unfunded liability by 2024, the year that the last Plan 1 members are expected to retire. This past session the Legislature reneged on that and adopted a "rolling 10 year amortization plan." The result is that the unfunded liability will most likely not be paid off by 2024. Meanwhile, the many millions of dollars in employer contributions that should have accrued to the pension system over the years were not invested and did not earn interest to fund pensions. Furthermore, after creating the Pension Funding Council in 1998, in 2001 the Legislature declared that, "any changes adopted by the Pension Funding Council shall be subject to revision by the Legislature." So much for that! Instead, the 2009-2011 pension contribution rates are 63.7% lower than those recommended by the Pension Funding Council.

Last legislative session the Legislature struggled with a \$9 billion dollar budget shortfall. As the Legislature gathers for its interim session in January, they will face another shortfall of 1 or 2 billion. Any bets on how the pension system will fare? WSSRA and other organizations tied to the Department of Retirement Systems will need to be vigilant to see what manipulations will be proposed next. But you need to be vigilant as well. Check the WSSRA message line on WSSRA.org get involved with legislative hotlines. Contact your legislators when asked to do so. As corporate pension systems fall by the wayside, your own retirement plans could be at stake.