



# *UNIT 21*

## Skagit-Island-San Juan School Retirees' Association

**November, 2010**

### **IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!!!!!!**

January 7, 1947 WSSRA was organized. 18 delegates, who met in Spokane, felt the need for a state organization which would be on the alert to look after the interest of retired teachers and to retain what they had won.

For the past 63 years that long ago stated phrase is still upper most in the minds of our present 17,000+ members.

On January 7, 1954 our Unit 21, Skagit/Island/ San Juan RTA, joined the growing WSSRA Retirees Organization.

Today, more than ever, we need to keep our eyes on the state legislature and be very aware of what they are doing in Olympia.

#### **DID YOU KNOW - - - -**

- Washington State has been underfunding our state pensions.
- Washington State has a shortfall of \$4.5 billion.
- Washington State paid \$770 million To Plan 1 (TRS, PERS) retirement system in 2009.
- Washington State will need \$1.48 Billion to Fund Plan 1 for 2011. Will they have it?

#### **BE VIGILANT - - - -**

- Our Plan 1 (TRS, PERS) COLA is at risk. The Legislature can negate the plan when they wish. They did the same in 2009 with Gain Sharing.
- REMEMBER - Washington State Plan 1 financial problems are not of our making - it is of the

Legislature's making.

What can we do to be aware and vigilant of the 2011 Legislative Session?

We can -

- Know the name and contact number of your Representatives and Senators.
- Keep in contact with them. Express our needs and concerns.
- Get to know them personally.
- Urge them to protect Plans 2 and 3.

We, as a state organization, need to protect Plans 2 and 3 in the coming 2011 legislative session. The state will need a source of funds to relieve the present budget. In 2008 they tried to create an unfunded liability for Plans 2 and 3 by wanting to borrow \$348 million. We stopped them. If they cannot pay back the Plan 1 unfunded liability, how could they pay back Plans 2

and 3?

Unit 21 has been working hard to let the State Legislature know our concerns. Members have lobbied the legislature, served as chairs of state committees, served as District Representatives of NW1 Coordinating Council (served on the State Executive board for 3 years and represented approximately 3200 members.) Three of our members have served as WSSRA State President.

Our unit is dedicated to protect and further the welfare and finances of our retirees. A few individuals cannot do all the work - WE ALL NEED TO STEP FORWARD to continue the work of those who have gone before.

***Barbara Landrock***

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Anne Bertran

Mary King

Melody Buck

Dennis Miliken

Ronald Campbell

Dixie Otis

Pat Chaves-Pickett

Donna Smith

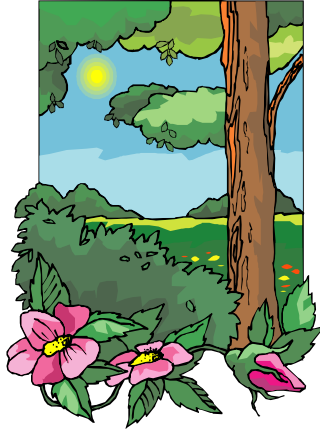
Patricia Cushman	Robyn Soine
Paul Dunphy	Jerry Sommerseth
Betty Ellis	Glenn Springer
Sherry Greene	Harry Weldon
Bill Kicks	

Please join us for our Unit 21 activities and meetings!



## **WE REMEMBER**

Percy Buchanan	6/14/10
Eldeen King	8/25/10
Bobbie Kloke	9/22/10
Dallas Kloke	9/25/10
Ruth Major	8/01/10



MEADOW VIEWS      by Kathy Reim

I have stopped answering the phone. I turned off my radio station. I never turn on the TV, but discovered the music stations. I cannot help but wonder what positive things could be done with the millions spent on advertizing and signs during this political season. I guess in some way it must be helping the economy? I am struggling to make lemonade during this sour time.

I believe in the two-party political system. I can even imagine three or four being a good thing in a democracy. I think of the story of the leader in a village in China who throughout his life found himself challenged by a neighbor who questioned his ideas and proposals. The neighbor died suddenly and the village people came to tell their leader- expecting him to celebrate. Instead he wept. He explained, “I was always a stronger leader because I knew I had to have my ideas thought through and my plans clear. He was a valued part of my life, and I grieve I never told him.”

This all makes sense if the conversations were about the issues and proposals. Right now I want to say, “I don’t approve of your ads- any of them- either side!”

I don’t know if we are getting the kind of campaigning we have demanded. I wonder what makes these campaign “experts” believe this works. Persuasion is an ancient, honored form of discourse. They have twisted it until it is not recognizable.

I am compelled to send a message to the people for whom I vote that I am not okay with their disrespect. We spent our careers helping people respect boundaries. Remember when we said, “No name-calling in my class or my school- *or my country.*” Someone needs to be the grown-ups for America.

*Kathy*

**November, 2010**

Checking	\$5,038.31
Savings	\$4,872.93

November's collection will go to the Hamilton Food Bank. Please bring your cash or non-perishable donations to the Holiday Brunch. We will also accept unused, travel-size toiletries. **Thank you for being generous.** The need is greater now than ever before.

***Remember to check out our website frequently for updates on Unit 21 events and activities.***

**[www.sisra21.org](http://www.sisra21.org)**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR 2010**

1. **John Luvera** - Coupeville Juvenile Detention Center - a. Purchase sandpaper and paint brushes. b. Purchas snack food - provide students nutritious snacks, books to read and other materials.
2. **Julie Mayer** - Lyman Elementary School - changed from 5th grade to 2nd grade - Need picture books and beginning chapter books in the classroom.
3. **Gail Lewis-Wardell** - Lucille Umbarger - Reading books for small groups of Special Education Students grades K-3
4. **Maureen Mulcahy** - South Whidbey High School - Provide ponchos for emergency supplies for each student.
5. **Sally Straatof** - Counselor - Concrete High School - Buy a large bulletin board in the student hallway. Display information for students what services are available for their particular needs. Counselor is working with ARIS and other At-Risk Counselors.
6. **Ruth Hargis** - Lucille Umbarger - Provide basic materials needed for 7th and 8th grade low income students— binders, notebooks, paper, pencils, etc.
7. **Arturo Vivanco** - West View Elementary - Purchase materials such as color wrist bands or soft soccer balls for P.E. Classes.
8. **Miriam Ambrose** - Evergreen Elementary - Purchase materials such as watercolor paper, types of brushes and paints.
9. **Ann Acosta** - Lucille Umbarger - Purchase reading and writing materials. Also, purchase awards for students who do excellent work.
10. **Alicia Robinson** - Prairie Elementary - Penmanship books for special needs students, pencils, whiteboards and pens for resource room students.

11. **Tami Moran** - Central Elementary - Purchase reading and writing materials. Also, purchase pencils, pens, erasers, dividers, notebooks, folders, rulers, and paper. These materials will be given when the students need them.
12. **Stan Harden** - Emerson High School - Purchase and replace graphic art supplies—prismacolor art pencils, prisma black pencils. Prisma white pencils and packs for premier 9x12 black paper.
13. **Rachelle Baxter** - Emerson High School - Purchase books for English improvement classes.
14. **Christopher Gusta** - Emerson High School - Replace copies of paperback books.
15. **Mary Bianchini** - Concrete Elementary - Purchase Scholastic Book Club books for the classroom.
16. **Melissa Brown** - Conway School - Purchase materials for science project—one on liquids and the other on composting.
17. **Shawn Babcock** - Central Elementary - Purchase small flash lights for a science project.

### **We are appreciated**

"Thank you so much for your generous grant of \$100. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving back to schools after your many years of service. You are still making a difference!"

"Thank you so much for the \$100 grant. Last week every student was able to choose a book to order for themselves. So often many kids are left out of being able to order. They will be so excited when the 'box of books' arrives."

### **Unit 21 WSSRA Plan for Legislative Action**

Unit 21 team: Kathy Reim, Barbara Robinson, Diane Visten  
State Legislative Committee Member: Bob Warnecke

#### Goals:

- \*Meet informally with each of our legislators during the recess.
- \*Go to Olympia as requested/needed by state legislative committee
- \*Communicate with Unit 21 members when political action is requested through the following:
  1. Postings on our website
  2. Email to our listed online members
  3. Information in newsletters
  4. Phone calls to those that signed up to be called
- \*Provide information on "How to and How not to talk to Legislators"
- \*Encourage regular letters from our members to keep issues in focus

## Future Dates to keep in mind—December, 2010 to December, 2011

**December 1, 2010 – Holiday Brunch - 10:30 am - 2:00 pm**

**January 11, 2011 - NW1 Coordinating Council**

**February 14, 2011 - Board meeting**

**March 14, 2011 - NW1 Coordinating Council**

**March 21, 2011 - Regular luncheon meeting**

**May 23, 2011 - Board meeting**

**June 6-7-8, 2011 - State Convention - Wenatchee**

**June 20, 2011 - Regular luncheon meeting**

**July 18, 2011 – Planning Retreat**

**August 15, 2011 -Annual BBQ in the Park**

**September ?, 2011 - Board meeting**

**October ?, 2011 - Regular luncheon meeting**

**November 7, 2011 - Board meeting**

**December ?, 2011 – Holiday Brunch**

### EARN YOUR HEALTH COUNTS REWARDS

\$ \$ \$ \$

You can get a \$30 gift card for just taking the health assessment. Plus, you can qualify for another \$30 on your healthy behaviors. You can earn up to \$60 every year if you're 18 and older and enrolled in UMP. Click on the Health Counts Tab at [www.ump.hca.wa.gov](http://www.ump.hca.wa.gov).



---

### GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Those wishing to donate to our GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP FUND, please use the following form. REMEMBER, by donating you are assisting an active school employee to augment their school program. Scholarships speak for themselves.

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to donate in honor of an individual, please check \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to donate as a memorial, please check \_\_\_\_\_

Person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Person to be notified \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please mail to Barbara Landrock, 1407 State Route 9, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9670.**

### **Attention Members**

Even though your Uniform Medical Plan  
is going to be **administered** by Regence,  
your UMP will not change.

### **2010--2011 SKAGIT-ISLAND-SAN JUAN BOARD**

Kathy Reim, Website&Newsletter&Legislative

360-856-4676 [kreim@earthlink.net](mailto:kreim@earthlink.net)

Joanne Jones, Newsletter & Website

360-293-8343, [jcicchettijones@hotmail.com](mailto:jcicchettijones@hotmail.com)

Barbara Landrock, Treasurer & Coordinator

360-856-2190 [bland3@hotmail.com](mailto:bland3@hotmail.com)

Eloise Stendal, Communications

360-757-2785 [Stendal@comcast.net](mailto:Stendal@comcast.net)

Reidar & Millie Ytgard, Outreach

360-766-5063, [rmytgard@wavecable.com](mailto:rmytgard@wavecable.com)

Jo Duckworth, Historian

360-757-6500

Robert Pickering, Retirement Planning

360-299-0741, [rpickering@valleyint.com](mailto:rpickering@valleyint.com)

Robert Warnecke, Legislative

360-336-3960, [BBWarnecke@aol.com](mailto:BBWarnecke@aol.com)

Harriet Smith, Membership

360-856-6521, [hsmith\\_80@hotmail.com](mailto:hsmith_80@hotmail.com)

Joyce Scoll, Secretary & Health



360-293-1140 [joybobs@verizon.net](mailto:joybobs@verizon.net)  
Leon & Bonnie Greene  
360-855-0918  
Barbara Robinson, Legislative  
360-424-8245, [babsann09@comcast.net](mailto:babsann09@comcast.net)  
Diane Visten, Legislative  
360-387-1348, [dvisten@wavecable.com](mailto:dvisten@wavecable.com)  
Sharon Whiting, Directory  
826-3506  
Lonnie Keown, Help with Membership



- **Wednesday, December 1, 2010**  
**Christmas / Holiday Brunch**

**[SKAGIT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB](#)**

**16701 Country Club Drive, Burlington,  
WA 98233**

*(Look for directions on the website)*

**10:30 AM**  
**\$15.00 per person**

- 
- **wonderful lunch: 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.**

**Messages to Eloise at 360 757-2785**  
**Guests are welcome!**

