



# *UNIT 21*

## Skagit-Island-San Juan

### School Retirees' Association

**October, 2011**

Here we go again!

"Here we go again!" says Richard M. Anderson, WSSRA President Elect and Newsletter Editor for Whatcom Unit 32. He tells us that Jay Inslee, Democrat running for Washington State Governor, has announced his priority for Washington is job creation, and he would use state pension funds to finance local businesses. "This is a terrible idea," says Anderson. "Spending retiree pension monies for those much needed jobs only creates more problems."

We are all aware that years of legislative underfunding of Plan 1 pensions has caused a 6.9 billion dollar unfunded liability for the state. Since Plan 1 is already underfunded, does Mr. Inslee have Plans 2 and 3 in his sights?

On Tuesday, September 20th several of our Unit 21 members heard from Don Bunger, President of PAC, and Fred Yancy, lobbyist with the Nexus Group hired by WSSRA, speak to crucial issues facing school employees in regard to the pension issues. The news is serious as the state is in no better shape this year than last. The message is clear. We have not been listened to in Olympia, we are too nice! Now we need to focus our dollars and our efforts on those that will make a difference to school employees. We need to build WSSRA into an organization that will be respected in Olympia.

How you might ask? Don Riffenbery, 2011-2012 WSSRA President, said it well. First, each of us can bring in one new member plus encourage a current member to become more active (maybe that person is you!) Second, each of us can interact this fall with one or more of our local legislators. Show your support and expect support from them. "A cup of coffee together now may pay huge dividends next session."

I visited Kristine Lytton, who is available the first Wednesday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Democratic Headquarters in downtown Mt. Vernon. I attended the grand opening of the Burlington Park and Ride where Jeff Morris and Mary Margaret Haugen were attending. We can put faces to our issues and stories. We can give brief, honest messages about how the pension cuts and loss of the COLA impacts us personally. We can speak respectfully and with pride in our profession.

On October 22, 2011 we had planned "Critical Conversations" to meet with legislators and school employees. This turned out to be not possible. Schedules made it impossible to get them all there at the same time. So Diane Visten and I are asking this of you. Watch for events that our legislators plan to attend. Let us know about those events, plan to go and bring co-workers and friends. We are talking to retirees and active employees. We can promote our cause in a positive way. We need to let them know that we have done our part in this difficult time, but are not willing to lose more. You can mention that we are an alert and aware voting group and will support those that support us.

WSSRA is preparing a Public Affairs Plan. They will need the ability to communicate important legislative information to members at a moment's notice. To do that we need to gather email addresses. Kathy Reim, Diane Visten and I feel that is a good idea, but we need to know from you personally if you are willing to do that. Some of you already have given addresses for us to use; however, we still want to know from you, too, if we can send them on to the state association. Please forward that permission to [babsann09@comcast.net](mailto:babsann09@comcast.net) or to [kreim@earthlink.net](mailto:kreim@earthlink.net). We thank you for your support and consideration.

Barbara Robinson, Diane Visten, Co-Presidents  
Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21

Check out our website at [sisra21.org](http://sisra21.org)

**Dates to Remember:**

October 10 Co-ordination Council at Royal Star Buffet 10 a.m.  
October 17th No host lunch at La Conner 11:30 a.m.  
November 7th Board meeting at Royal Star Buffet 10 a.m.  
December 7th Holiday Luncheon at Skagit Golf and Country Club  
All members are invited to all meetings!!

**Treasurer's Report  
September 19, 2011**

<b>Total Checking</b>	<b>\$3787.73</b>
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$6120.43</b>

Apply for a grant TODAY. Provide a special project for your students! School employees in the following districts need to apply before October 28th: Anacortes, Burlington, Coupeville, LaConner, Oak Harbor, and San Juan Island.

**Note:** On October 17, 2011, we are inviting members and friends to come to LaConner Seafood and Prime Rib for casual conversations. This will be a no host

*lunch at 11:30 a.m. We will need to RSVP to Barbara Robinson  
[babsann09@comcast.net](mailto:babsann09@comcast.net) or 708-9046.*

**Skagit-Island-San Juan, Unit 21 Washington State School Retirees' Association**

**GRANT APPLICATION**

Starting in 2011, first time applicants do not have to be members of WSSRA; however we encourage you to join on line at <http://www.sisra21.org/> to be eligible for future grants. Typically these grants have been for \$100.00 each.

**Please post this at your school!**

All information provided will be used only for this purpose.

Deadline for applications is: Friday, October 28, 2011

Name:

Your home e-mail and preferred number:

School District:

School Name:

School Mailing Address:

School Phone and e-mail:

Best time to call:

Brief description of your needs:

Approximate number of students involved:

Applications may be sent to the website or to Harriet Smith  
[Hrsmith\\_80@hotmail.com](mailto:Hrsmith_80@hotmail.com) or they may be mailed to:

Unit 21 Grant Committee  
7690 Fredrickson Road  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

**Skagit/Island/San Juan  
School Retirees  
1407 Highway 9  
Sedro-Woolley WA 98284**

**PRSRT  
AUTO  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
Permit No. 218**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**WSSRA Unit 21 Holiday Luncheon  
Skagit Golf and Country Club  
Wednesday, December 7**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

