



UNIT 21
Skagit-Island-San Juan
 School Retirees' Association
 November

WSSRA Unit 21 Holiday Brunch

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

SKAGIT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

16701 Country Club Drive, Burlington, WA 98233

(Look for directions on the website)

Time

10:30 a.m.

Meet and Greet – no-host bar open

11:30 a.m.

Lunch

\$15.00 per person

Menu

Choice of crab melt or frittata

Entertainment

Time to visit with valued friends and meet new ones

Please call before November 30 if you plan to attend and indicate a menu preference.

Messages to Diane at 360-387-1348 or

dvisten@wavecable.com

Guests are welcome—bring family and/or friends!

***See last page for mail-in form and entertainment information.**



Treasurer's Report November, 2011	We Remember
11	Fritz Schroeder 7-27-
	Phyllis Ann Nelson 8-22-

11

Total Checking - \$4059.49

Roy Batey

8=27-

11

Total Savings - \$5123.93



Legislation

Plan 1- A CADILLAC RETIREMENT PLAN

1. Losing the COLA was no big deal - it was only bread crumbs to the Plan 1 retirees.
2. Losing Gain Sharing did not have any real effect on a great Cadillac Plan 1 retirement.

SO- SPEAKETH THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE!!!!

OUR State Legislature needs to know just how much we are receiving, monthly, on our Plan 1 retirement check. We lost the COLA because of the unfunded liability. Over the years the Legislature has seen fit to underfund the liability - and at times put a 2-4 year moratorium on payments. The funds are then used to fund other "pet" projects of the legislators. Robbing Peter to pay Paul has been a by-word of the legislative members for many years. They have used retirement funds to balance the budget and other items they deem MORE important.

We need to show them just how wrong they are. SO - **PLEASE** fill out the following and send your answers to Barbara Landrock - 1407 State Route 9 - Sedro Woolley, Washington - 98284. Our legislators need to know just what our retirement is based on.

THE MORE RESPONSES WE RECEIVE—THE BETTER OUR FACTS.

----- -THE YEAR YOU RETIRED _____

YOUR LAST YEAR'S WORKING SALARY _____

THE NUMBER OF YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN RETIRED _____

YOUR AGE _____

THE NET AMOUNT OF YOUR MONTHLY RETIREMENT CHECK _____

PLEASE ESTIMATE YOUR MONTHLY EXPENSES _____

Thank you for taking the time to fill this out and for sending it.

Barbara Landrock

President's Message

Hello and Greetings to you all,

I am writing to you today to remind everyone of just how blessed we all are. Why, you ask? Well, here are some of my reasons.

1. We are retired school employees, who had careers in a field we loved, which made us better people and allowed us to grow.
2. We are still active, in our own ways, and interested in the world around us.
3. We are able to give.

Now that last statement may have you scratching your head. Give? Haven't we all given enough? We gave while we were teaching or working for school districts, to supplement our lean budgets. Today we are asked to give to numerous charities, almost daily, and to help alleviate the tragedies taking place around the world. We give to our families, when needed, and do it willingly.

That last item brings me closer to the charity I want to ask you to consider giving more to in this message. There are people right here at home, in our area, who don't have enough to eat, and have no prospects for a better immediate future. We have donated food to many local food banks, in the past, but we have fallen off in our donation amounts. I am as guilty as anyone because I forget to bring food to meetings, but I am turning over a new leaf and am making it a priority to bring food to the next one. Let's see if we can fill Reidar and Millie's car and make a bigger impact on a problem that is real and near to home. If you can't manage a bag of cans, etc, bring a couple of dollars to add. Remember that we are truly blessed, and we can share our good fortune with others in this small way. Thanks for reading this, and see you soon.

Diane Visten, co-president



Welcome New Members

Donna Cook
Betty A. Haney
Dennis Hauff
Linda L. Jennerjohn
Ruth Newman

Notes from WSSRA Conversations on October 17th at LaConner Seafood & Prime Rib Restaurant:

The luncheon in October held at the Prime Rib and Seafood Restaurant in La Conner was delicious. The meeting was brief, giving adequate response time to difficult questions passed around to all members.

Diane and Barbara are doing a super job as co-presidents. Please pass the word around to try to bring more attendees out to our meetings.

Our December Holiday Luncheon should be a wonderful time for all—last year's was great. To those that don't attend, you are missing a good time for fellowship and a chance to support your School Retirees Association. Plan to attend—and bring a new member, too!

Mary Henderson Jones

Support Active Teachers

We need to support our active teachers through grants. This is tied directly to our outreach, and membership growth is important. It is the way that other successful units have helped their membership grow.



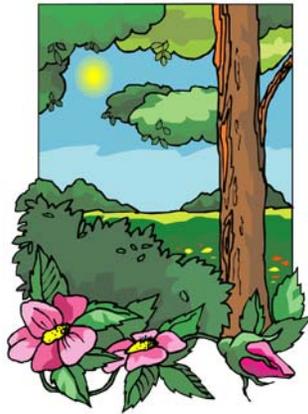
NW1 Coordinating Council Meeting

The meeting of all NW 1 units was held October 10th at the Royal Star Buffet in Mt. Vernon. Units attending were Whatcom, Skagit-Island-San Juan, Sno-Isle and Sno-King. Each unit gave a short report of activities. Fred Yancey, lobbyist for WSSRA, spoke about how our organization is viewed by legislators. They tell us we are "nice old people". We need to talk to legislators between sessions, begin to have an impact and show that we have earned the right to be respected. Other business was conducted.

Members of WSSRA that are interested in more detailed minutes from the meeting can contact B. Robinson at babsann09@comcast.net. All members are encouraged to attend. The next meeting will be 10 A. M. January 9, 2012, at the Royal Star Buffet in Mt. Vernon.

ALERT

Remember to send in your email address so you can be up to date on legislative issues during the coming session. We already have quite a few addresses but need many more. We appreciate your trust in this matter and will use it wisely. If you are not sure that we have your address send it along again. Send it to babsann09@comcast.net ; kreim@earthlink.net or dvisten@wavecable.com .



MEADOW VIEWS by Kathy Reim

Joanne Jones has been editing and formatting our newsletter for seven or eight years now and her hard work and dedication are part of what keeps the view hopeful. It is always about the people.

For Joanne, teaching was always about the relationship with young people. Like many of us, her fondest memories are of kids who came with challenges and troubled pasts - like the young man some years ago from the Secret Harbor School who attended her classes at Anacortes High School. She watched the changes as he moved from a bad attitude and sitting apart in the class to her gradual acceptance and then that of his classmates. It turned out he had a special aptitude for accounting, and a few years later he graduated to go on to become an engineer. Joanne recalls the day she heard him say about her, “She is tough and makes you tow the mark. She is a good teacher.” At graduation his mother brought Joanne a dozen red roses.

Joanne taught in the public schools for 21 years and was drawn to teaching because she enjoyed her business and language classes at Seattle University. The department head recognized that she was skilled in these classes and said, “You should be teaching this.” She went on to finish her education at the University of Washington. After taking some time to raise her children, she earned a Masters degree at Western

Washington University and returned to teaching because she missed working with kids.

That love for young people - to be in their lives in a direct way - has resulted in her serving for 33 years on the Board of Directors for Youthnet. Youthnet provides caring and supportive educational and social services to youth and families and has been an essential resource in this area for youth at-risk.

Joanne has enjoyed helping Unit 21 of WSSRA stay connected to one another. She enjoys working on the newsletter because she values having it look nice and organizing it. We are grateful for her patience as we work to get accurate information to her before the dreaded deadlines.

Joanne also loves racquetball, lived in Germany for three years where she was able to travel throughout Europe, enjoys reading and belongs to an Italian Club in Bellingham. She is a devoted Husky fan, and she has written about 50 children's books that she hopes to publish. These stories sometimes gently demonstrate the value of kindness. That seems fitting from a woman who has done so much to make this a kinder world.

LOCAL BENEFIT FAIRS

BELLINGHAM, WA

Date: November 8, 2011

Time: 8.30 a.m. to noon

Location

St. Luke's Health Education Center
333 Squalicum Parkway
Meeting Rooms E and F

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Retiree Presentation (Medicare)

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Meeting Rooms A and C

Retiree Presentation (Non-Medicare)

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Meeting Rooms A and C

DIRECTIONS: From I -5, take Exit 255 and head west on Sunset Drive, following signs to the hospital. At the corner of Squalicum parkway and Ellis Street, turn right. St Luke's Community Health Education Center is located at the far end of the street on the left-hand side.

MOUNT VERNON, WA

Date: November 8, 2011

Time: 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location

Skagit Valley College
2405 E. College Way
Campus Center Building - Multipurpose Room

SPECIAL EVENTS:

RETIREE Presentation (Medicare)

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Angst Hall, Room A-129

RETIREE Presentation (Non-Medicare)

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SHIBA: In the past retirees have made appointments with SHIBA volunteers to explain benefits of PEBB plans. This year Island Hospital in Anacortes has appointments booked through December 5th, too late for PEBB open enrollment. Mount Vernon does not have a sponsored SHIBA office. Please try to attend a local benefit fair for information.

Joyce Scoll

***For your information—PEBB number: 1-800-200-1002.**

ALERT: We are asking you to make reservations for the December 7 Holiday Luncheon so that we can plan accordingly.

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Send reservations to Diane Visten 307 Arrowhead Point Lane, Camano Island, WA 98292

YES_____ I am making a reservation for _____ people for the Dec. 7th luncheon.
My/Our menu choice(s) are

My name and phone number are

This way you have two choices ...**call or send in your wishes.**

Please make checks payable to WSSRA Unit 21.

****Remember to bring non-perishable food or monetary donations and/or unused, sample-size toiletries for the Food Bank. The Oak Harbor Food Bank will be the recipient this time. Be generous—there is such a great need in our communities.***

Holiday Luncheon Program

The Mount Vernon High School choral group, Synergy, will entertain us with a holiday musical performance. They put on a wonderful program for us last year, and we are looking forward to hearing them again. There will also be background piano music as you enter to add to the festivities. Please join us!

