



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

April, 2013

**WSSRA Unit 21 Salmon Barbecue
and Tulip Town Event
Hillcrest Park in Mount Vernon**

Date and Time:

Wednesday, April 17, at 11:30 a.m.

Cost:

\$12 for full meal

\$10 for full meal

with smaller portion of salmon

**After lunch we will carpool to Tulip Town for a tour costing \$5.00.
We need an RSVP by April 10th so that the Kiwanis members can
be sure to have enough salmon to feed us all.**

**RSVP to either Eloise Stendal at stendal@comcast.net (360-757-2785)
or Diane Visten at dvisten@wavecable.com (360-387-1348)**

**Jeanne Chadwick from Whatcom unit will be there to give us
updates on legislative issues.**



***Please bring non-perishable food items, new travel-size personal items, or monetary donations for the food bank. April's recipient will be the Anacortes Food Bank. Any amount is greatly appreciated.**

On the weekend of February 23/24, we were asked to contact legislators. We needed to contact members right away. Since we have over 550 members, but only about 115 email addresses, we were not able to do this in a timely manner. We are asking again for your email address. We are sure you want to know when important issues arise. We are also sure that you would like at times to be able to express your wishes to our legislators. If that is true, then please forward your email address to Diane or me at dvisten@wavecable.com or babsann09@comcast.net. **Be assured we will only use it when it is needed, and we will not share it.**

Legislators' Addresses

Dist. 10 Sen. Barbara Bailey
LA Wyatt Boeke
INB 109B -788 – 6134
barbara.bailey@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Norma Smith
LA Bradley Sherman
JLOB 435 – 786 – 7884
norma.smith@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Dave Hayes
LA Tanya Smith
JLOB 467 – 786 – 7914
dave.hayes@leg.wa.gov

Dist. 40 Sen. Kevin Ranker
LA Kendall Farley
JAC 215 – 786 – 7678
kevin.ranker@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Kristine Lytton
LA Katherine Drewel
JLOB 310 – 786 – 7800
kristine.lytton@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Jeff Morris
LA Megan Sharp
LEG 436A – 786 – 7970
jeff.morris@leg.wa.gov _____

Dist. 39 Sen. Kirk Pearson
LA Cameron Bailey
INB 115D – 786 – 7676
kirk.pearson@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Dan Kristiansen
LA Brenda Green
LEG 425A – 786 – 7967
dan.kristiansen@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Elizabeth Scott
LA Ashley Stokesbary
LEG 122E – 786 - 7816
elizabeth.scott@leg.wa.gov



Stay up to date with all the legislative issues.
www.wssra.org

Nearing Retirement?

If you are nearing retirement, check out the many resources on the Department of Retirement Systems website www.drs.wa.gov/. On their homepage, look for the link, *Nearing Retirement*. There you will find fact sheets, retirement benefit calculators, planning videos, etc. You will also be able to register for one of their day-long seminars. The Mount Vernon seminar is scheduled for April 27. Register **NOW**, as this fills up quickly.

Retirement Planning at Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon campus. The class is being taught by Thor McIlrath, CFP, (our speaker from last year).

The class is March 28 & April 4, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. OR April 6 & 13 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Tuition is \$49 and advanced registration is required. Call 360-989-1441 with questions or to register.



Active Members Corner:

Retirement should always be in the back of your minds! Active members are those that are still out there in the schools working with our youth. They are the ones that will benefit with the work we retirees do now! We need to stand together and make our voices heard. One way to keep that retirement is to be aware of what it will look like when you get there. We are including information about retirement seminars that will be held in the area that actives can attend. It may seem far off, but you need to be prepared and aware. Plan ahead by attending one early in your career. If you have questions, email one of our officers or committee chairs. We will see that you get answers.

1099-R Tax forms have been mailed.

If you don't want to wait, you can log into your retirement account to access your 1099-R. If you have questions or need information about your 1099-R file, your account is an excellent resource for an explanation of the form's contents.

REMINDER:

The Federal Government is in the process of changing all Social Security checks to retiree recipients to wireless only. Paper checks will cease by March 1, 2013. That means your check will be directly deposited in your bank account or other electronic deposit. Contact the Social Security Office if you have any questions.

Welcome New Members

Actives

Leah Christine Clayberg
Diane M. Lavoy
Denise A. Vanzandt

Retired

Patricia M. Nehring
Mel Krous

We Remember

Harold Allen
Donald Brown
Phyllis Ennes
Elvin W. Haley
Macushla Jacot
May Kirkpatrick
Clarence Ness
Lloyd Oddson
Ron Shanander
Robert Tisdale
Walter Vonnegut

[Anacortes Shipwreck Day—don't miss this!](#)

The WSSRA Unit 21 is offering you all a chance to clear out those closets, storerooms, attics, and garages plus help support a great cause in the process. Unit 21 is planning to rent a booth at the annual Anacortes Shipwreck Day - the mother of all garage sales plus more. All proceeds will go to the scholarship/school mini-grant fund.

This event takes place July 13th, 2013, and is open for the entire day. Literally hundreds of visitors and residents make this an annual chance to pick up bargains, have fun, and enjoy a day in the sun. Wares vary from household cast offs to valuable (?) antiques and everything in between, including truly unique artisan wares. In addition many of the local Anacortes merchants offer items for sale at greatly reduced prices which helps bring out even more customers.

Unit 21 is asking you to donate those “valuables” in your closets, book shelves, attics, garages, etc. to this unique fund raising activity. And come help man the booth for a fun experience. We are focusing on books (appropriate for an educational group), small decorating items, small furniture items that can be easily handled (no large items please), yard art, wall art of reasonable size, jewelry, etc. We request that no large items or clothing be donated. We will not have the space or the manpower to handle them or store them until Shipwreck Days.

If you have items to donate, please contact either Joyce Moon at 360-766-6869 or Joyce Scoll at 360-293-1140. We will store items if you would like us to until Shipwreck Day.

We are also asking for volunteers willing to help with this event – we would love to hear from you and can use all the help we can get. We need to man the booth from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm plus set up and take down time. If you can give us a couple of hours help, it would be greatly appreciated. All items not sold will be donated to a local thrift shop in Anacortes at the end of Shipwreck Day.

Presidents' Message: *Barbara Robinson/Diane Visten*

We have had a busy year so far with our local Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21 activities. Now 2013 looms ahead with more action planned. Please check out the coming events, read the Legislative updates, and see the alert to actives. Our unit is busy updating the bylaws, the mission statement and the directory to reflect our work as we do it today.

Our biggest change that we hope to begin is going green with the newsletter. This edition is being sent to all members, plus a copy online to those that have given us their email addresses. The next newsletter we are hoping to send online to those that have email addresses with us, and they will not be getting a paper copy. We are spending a great deal of time and effort in printing, collating and mailing the paper copies. We really hope to get the majority of our members to receive their newsletters via email by a year from now. We realize that there will be some that do not have a computer, but we are hoping that will be a small number. We also hope that those who have not already given us their email address will see the benefits to them by doing this.

We also want to encourage more members to attend our board meetings. We have a great time, and your lunch is paid for. There is always something of interest for everyone and plenty of opportunities to participate.

Legislative Updates:

The pension school employees will receive will remain safe only when we show the strength in our membership. Even though retirement seems far away for some of our members, pensions are just as important now as in the future....because your retirement can last as many years as your years of working.

All members can help in the effort to protect the pension benefits we receive and improve them. First refer to pages 2,3, and 4 in your WSSRA Journal dated October, November and December Volume 66 Issue No. 2. On these pages our state President, Richard Anderson, Ed Gonion, Executive Director of WSSRA, and Peter Diedrick, Legislative Coordinator, explain where we are, what work needs to be done to protect our pensions, and what to do on each issue. It is a very informative few pages.

Here are some resources to use in gaining up to date information on the pension issues that we all need to know about:

www.wsra.org (there is a legislative tab for pull down information)

WSSRA Legislative message line: 1-800-221-1269

WA. St. Legislature website: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

These resources provide a wealth of information about legislation, legislative calendars, hearings, and how to contact your senator or legislative representative.

Last but certainly not least, we members need to ask a friend to join us. There are membership forms in the Journal, plus you can contact one of our officers or committee chairs for forms. Our voices together can make a difference!



Dates to Remember

April 17 – Salmon Barbecue/Tulip Town Tour

May 13 – SISJ Board Meeting at Royal Star Buffet in MV

June 3, 4, 5 – WSSRA Convention in Pasco

July 13 – Shipwreck Day Fundraiser in Anacortes





Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) is your full-service agency focused on plan designs, negotiations, and implementation of benefit programs. We provide insurance evaluations to assist WSSRA Members in obtaining quality products and services with options and flexible choices.

Washington State AMBA Representative goals are to expand your member benefits package beyond the supplementary health products to include long term care*, final expense whole life*, medical air services*, and many others*.

There are benefits included with your WSSRA membership. For example; travel benefits through AMBA TravelPerx. Discover the automatic benefits you may be missing!

Membership does have its privileges. Your AMBA Representative obtains the necessary information with you one-on-one; discusses the WSSRA Endorsed Benefits and assists your enrollment into one or more of the valuable benefits today. Get in touch with your knowledgeable and friendly AMBA Representative by: mail, phone or email.

George F. Smith
AMBA, WA State Mgr.
1-800-258-7041, ext. 160
george.smith@amba.info
6034 West Courtyard Dr.
Austin, TX 78730

*Qualifications May Apply

**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**

**WSSRA Unit 21 Salmon Barbecue and
Tulip Town Tour
Hillcrest Park in Mount Vernon
April 17
RSVP – See Page 1**

**Guests are welcome
PLEASE JOIN US!**