



Skagit-Island-San Juan
UNIT 21
WASHINGTON STATE
SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION



April, 2014

President's Message

The good news from your co-presidents is that we have been spared again by our legislature and have not lost any more of our retirement benefits or health plan co-pay. The state also paid the full recommended amount into the pension system. Thus, we can breathe a bit easier --- for now.

We must, however, be vigilant, and prepare for elections in the fall. Some legislators would like to change pension programs into a 401K system, and reduce or eliminate the Medicare eligible subsidy to our health care benefit. If there is a Republican majority in the house next fall, we could be facing one or more of these issues.

Unit 21 plans to hold a candidate forum to question candidates for our districts on these issues. It will be at the Burlington Library, and we need you to watch for a date and plan to be there with your questions. We will have more information later, and hope that you all will be paying close attention.

Retirement – A Hot Topic

Seventy eight people spent Friday evening, February 7, 2014 at NW ESD 189 in Anacortes, learning about the issues and planning needs for their retirements.

Jim Mendoza, Education and Outreach Representative from the Department of Retirement Systems, presented a face-paced 2 ½ hour session that touched on the issues for each retirement system, TRS, SERS, and PERS 1, 2, and 3. Each person received a planning booklet and information about a multitude of planning resources, available on the web. Jim encouraged everyone to visit the DRS website (www.drs.wa.gov) to check on their own retirement account as well as to stay current on legislation that could affect their retirement planning. You can even register for full day seminars, presented by DRS, or apply for retirement on the website.

A huge “Thank You” goes to Northwest ESD 189 for hosting the event and to the six Unit 21 members who made the evening a success: Barbara Robinson, Diane Visten, Joyce Scoll, Joyce Moon, Alice Fitzgerald, and Lonnie Keown. Next year’s date: February 20, 2015.

Vancouver or Bust

Yippee!! Ten members of Unit 21 will be taking the train to Vancouver on June 8 for our annual WSSRA State Convention. We are so happy that such a large group will be going and are looking forward to a great event. Board members will be given forms at our board meeting on April 14 to fill out, and any other interested members should please contact Diane Visten at once to be included. The convention begins on June 9, ends on June 11, and will be filled with information to help all units take stock and focus on next year's work to promote and protect our retirement.



Treasurer’s Report

As of February 10, 2014, we have \$3,814.41 in Checking and \$1,566.49 in Savings.

Some important things are happening this summer to watch for!!!

1. July 14, at Padilla Bay, we will be holding our annual planning retreat for the coming year. We welcome any members who are interested and would love your input. We will be having a potluck lunch and doing some scrapbooking for our unit's history as well.
2. The Social Event of the Year!!! On August 9, Saturday, we will be holding a Wine Social at Tulip Valley Winery from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will be expecting wonderful potluck snacks from members. You will be rewarded with great entertainment, as well as wine by the glass, hard cider, or soft drinks that guests provide. You will be hearing more about this later. Please put the date on your calendar now, and invite friends to come along. It would be a good time to get acquainted with all of us.



We Remember

Mary Ellen Bakke

In Loving Memory

Richard Boggio

of Those who have Taught us

Jo An Duckworth

more than we can Imagine . . .

June Thomas

Marion Williams



FLASH-SPLASH! CASTOFFS WANTED!

Unit 21 has once again decided to participate in the Anacortes Shipwreck Day Garage Sale on July 19, 2014. We are renting a double space this year so will have lots of room to fill. We are asking that as you do your spring cleaning you set aside **items in good shape** that you no longer want and **donate** them to the **Shipwreck Day Fund Raiser**. Items should be small enough for us to handle but big enough to draw attention – we do want to sell everything we receive. Proposed themes for this year's sale are kitchen and sport related items but other items will be welcome. Donations can be brought to any of our meetings or we will come and collect them if you wish. We are hoping to get lots of phone calls and donations. All funds raised will become part of Unit 21's teacher mini-grant fund – the more money, the more grants.

As we draw nearer to the date of the sale we will be asking for volunteers to help sort and price the donated wares. We will also need a crew of the able bodied to help us in setting up the booth, working in the booth on the day of the sale, and taking the booth down at the end of the day. We hope you all will consider giving time.

To donate your castoffs please *contact either Joyce Moon at 360-766-6869 or Joyce Scoll at 360-293-1140.*



*We are now on Facebook . . . like us at: Unit 21 Skagit, Island and San Juan School Retirees' Association. We will be able to send out reminders about events, post inspirational ideas and keep in touch.

Kathy Reim

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

**PRSRT
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Permit No. 218**

**WSSRA Unit 21
Luncheon with Superintendents

Max Dale's Chop & Steak House**

May 12, 2014, 11:30 a.m.

No Host

Guests are Welcome

PLEASE JOIN US!

RSVP to 360-387-1348 or dvisten@wavecable.com

Visit our Website at www.sisra21.org