



*Skagit-Island-San Juan*  
*Unit 21*  
*School Retirees' Association*  
 May, 2018



**WSSRA Unit 21**

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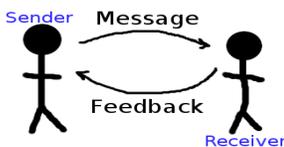
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**Social Media Addresses**

- **WSSRA.org** (for updated organization news and legislative news)
- **SISRA21.org** (Facebook-Website for local news and updates)



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

**Where: Burlington Public Library  
 820 East Washington Avenue**

**When: June 30, 2018**

**Time: 1:00 pm**

**Districts represented: 10, 39, and 40**

**Come one, come all.** We need all interested members and friends to attend our Candidate Meet and Greet. It will give us all a chance to meet candidates for legislative offices from your districts 10, 39, and 40.

This event, being before the primary, will give us a chance to hear and evaluate those running and perhaps give a wider picture of all those who want to represent us.

Each candidate will have a few minutes to speak about their positions regarding our pensions, and then we will be open for your questions.

This is another important year in our state regarding pension benefits, as well as many other considerations for retirees, so we hope that many of you will attend.

*Diane Visten, Legislative Committee*



## ***End of Year President's Report***

It has been a busy and productive year for our WSSRA Unit 21 . Your board started off the year with the yearly retreat/planning meeting last August and then after updating our Unit By-laws, accomplished to following this year:

- Diane Visten planned the Holiday Luncheon for December 2017 at the Skagit Golf and Country Club. We were treated to great Gaelic music for entertainment and speeches from our State Executive Director, Alan Burke and our current president Curt Horne. Over 100 pounds of non-perishables were donated by attendees. The nonperishables were delivered to the Skagit Valley Food Bank by Reider and Millie Ytgard. An auction was also held to benefit our mini-grant and scholarship programs.
- Joyce Moon led our Mini-grant Committee which awarded 25 \$100 grants to educators in our region to enable them to do something above and beyond with their students
- We sent three people to work in conjunction with the WSSRA State Legislative Committee in Olympia in January and March. With your emails, letters and phone calls to our legislators they helped us get a COLA and health care benefit increase for the first time since 2011.
- Lonnie Keown once again planned and scheduled the retirement seminar for current PERS and TRS members. The speakers from the State Retirement System were knowledgeable and took time to make sure everyone's questions were answered. If you know of current educators, you might want to remind them of this benefit we provide.
- We held a general membership meeting in April with Liz Jennings from Community Action of Skagit County as our presenter. She shared with us the results of the recently completed community needs assessment. She presented a good overall picture of what it takes to have secure housing, adequate food and medical care in our region. She included a description of how her organization helps to make that happen. Another 100 pounds of non-perishables were donated for the local food banks at that meeting. Toiletries were also donated and delivered to the Friendship House in Mount Vernon.
- We met our current \$1500 Western Washington University Scholarship Award winner, Allison Rosenberg (a Sedro Woolley High School graduate), and are working with WWU to determine our scholarship winner for this spring.
- In addition to having three Unit 21 members on the Legislative Committee this year, Unit 21 will have three members working on different WSSRA State Committees this upcoming year. Barbara Robinson has been selected to work on the Membership Committee, Diane Visten will again be on the State Legislative Committee, and Bruce Boyer will serve on the Finance Committee. It is unusual to have so many unit members serving on State Committees and reflects on how committed these members are. This coming year, Joanne Jones will chair the NW 1 Coordinating Council meeting which is comprised of the units from the Canadian border to northern King County. Also it should be noted that we have two members who are past WSSRA State Presidents. They are Eloise Stendal and Barbara Landrock. Our unit has a deep history of active members and will be looking for more members to help with our joint needs, especially at the local level. You have heard the phrase "many hands make for light work" and this is true for our organization too.
- Several of our members will be attending the WSSRA State Convention this June in Wenatchee. A synopsis will be shared with you in our Fall newsletter.
- Plans are underway for a candidate forum this coming June 30 at 1:00 pm at the Burlington Public Library. All candidates from our local legislative districts have been invited to give a short speech and then take questions from the audience. It will be important to have a good many of our members and friends attend to demonstrate our numbers and resolve for a continued COLA, increased health benefits and the state adequately funding our TRES and PERS retirement systems. Please put this time and date on your calendar and we hope to see you there. See the invitation to this event on the front page of this edition of your newsletter.

***Bruce Boyer, Unit 21 President***

## Dollars for Scholars

Unit 21 has many things to celebrate and has shared its good luck with others this year. In our goal to support and help the educational process for all, students, teachers, and all other school employees we have three major activities.

- **Mini Grant Program**

This program usually starts our year and takes place during September and October. In early Fall the notice and appropriate application forms are sent to all School Superintendents in our service area. They forward the message to their staff and the race is on. All awards are made on a first come-first served basis with WSSRA Unit 21 members being prioritized over non-members. This year we received 64 applications of which we funded 25. . Applications (representing thirteen school districts) submitted were from all levels of the educational system. Requests varied from special equipment for special needs students to computer program materials, to shop equipment to funding treats for parent meetings. Each of the winning applications received \$25 to help meet these needs.

- **Western Washington University Scholarship**

Unit 21 has worked with WWU to establish a scholarship of \$1500 per year for a student who is about to enter the student teaching phase of their training. Diane Visten who heads this program works with WWU to select a student who meets the qualifications that Unit 21 established when we first arranged for the scholarship to be funded. This year our student of choice was a graduate of Sedro Woolley High School. Next year's awardee has not been yet. Unit 21's goal was to help a future teacher through the extra expenses that go along with getting that valuable classroom experience.

- **Washington State School Retirees' Scholarships**

***The Robert J. Handy Scholarship*** funded by Pemco Financial Center and Washington School Retirees' Association District NW1. This four year (\$900 per year) scholarship was awarded to Alexandria White of Anacortes High School, Anacortes, WA.. Alexandria is interested in working with children with special needs and plans to become a special education teacher.

***The WSSRA Foundation Scholarship*** funded by the Foundation and WSSRA District NW1. Taylor Manning of Sedro Woolley High School has earned this one time \$2500 award. Taylor plans to attend Columbia University and become a psychologist in the school setting.

*Joyce Moon and Diane Visten, Scholarship and Grant Committees*

### The Diet

Surely you jest."  
I exclaimed in shock,  
Then tried to hide my duress.  
"Twenty pounds will have to go," she said.  
I gasped and clutched at my chest.

"Cholesterol's high, blood pressure, too.  
You'll feel better with less weight.  
Your triglycerides are out of sight,  
And your thyroid's low, as of late"

This was not the way to start my day,,  
I had a date for lunch.  
Visions of veggies dances as she talked.  
Did I hear a carrot crunch?

My doctor handed me a long list  
"Start now." she grinned like Ziggy.  
"No bread? No rice? No pasta?" I cried.  
My God, I'll look like Twiggy!

The list contained some very good food.  
She said, "Try it—you'll be pleased."  
But celery and humming bird wing  
Just aren't my cups of tea.

Oh, the pain and agony of it,  
But I must try not do dwell.  
Can I learn t like leafy-green things?  
Is that a chocolate pie I smell?

I decided that what I would do  
Was take on day at a time-  
One day spinach, the next golden squash,  
Perhaps a cucumber rind.

I told my doctor that diet pills  
Might be the answer for me.  
She wrote the prescription, then she said,  
"Follow," emphatically!

"Three times a day pour contents on floor,  
Then bend over from your waist,  
Pick up each pill one at a time.  
I'm sure you'll lose weight post-haste!"

I laughed and chose the healthy diet,  
At this she smirked with glee.  
You see my doctor's a real smart-ass  
And she's thin and thirty three.

I exercised and ate my veggies,  
Now I'm looking like a star,  
But oh, there ard days when I would kill  
For just one lemon bar!

Joanne Jones, Unit 21 Board Member at Large

Burlington, WA 98233

P. O. Box 66 U.S.

WSSRA School Retirees'

Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21

Permit No. 5

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For your continued support and involvement in Washington State School Retiree's Association projects and activities. We appreciate your help. Please consider joining us at the future planning/board meetings.

The Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit21 Board