

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

The Journal

Affiliated with the National Retired Teachers' Association (NRTA)—AARP's Educator Community



October, November, December 2013 • VOLUME 67, ISSUE NO. 2



WSSRA at work for you



A message from the president



Let's Get This Ball Rolling

by Nick Schultz, president

As Veterans Day approaches I hope each of you take a few minutes and reflect on the great sacrifices these brave men and women have made. The many freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today are directly related to our military Vets. Take a moment and recognize them at your next unit meeting.

It was with saddened hearts we heard of the passing of Robert "Bob" Ehrenheim. It was the day of our first board meeting in Lacey that we as a board were informed. I met with Bob only two weeks prior to talk about the upcoming year. He was so ready to serve WSSRA as its future president. He had already made many visits to units around the state. His goal was to visit every unit. We will certainly miss him but will not forget him.

The board introduced and welcomed the three new board members: Joyce Gillie (*SW4*), Rick Nebeker (*E8*), and Kristin Murphy (*Journal Editor*). The next order of business was what to do about the President-Elect position. After much discussion and research, we found that our bylaws didn't really cover this particular situation. At this point the decision is to try to find someone from SW3 or SW4 that would be interested and have that person attend the board meetings until we get this issue resolved.

We had a fairly successful outcome from that very long legislative session. It was due in part to a lot of people in WSSRA doing what past president Anderson said, "Stand Up and Be Heard". We

also had more PAC monies and used it wisely. Bob Ehrenheim's motto was "Act Now" which is exactly what we need to do. This would be a great time to contact your legislator and thank them for their support. The other thing we can do is collect more PAC monies. If each member donated one dollar that translates to \$18,000. Just imagine what we could do if we each donated five dollars. I encourage each Legislative Committee across the state to make our PAC a priority. Remember, there are many rules that have to be followed to stay within the law. "Stand Up and Be Heard" and "Act Now" and let's get this ball rolling.

(continued on page 7)

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- * **WSSRA Executive Committee**
 - **Historian** Rita Requa • **Parliamentarian** Gene Forrester
 - **Journal Editor** Kristin Murphy

On The Cover

Winged Victory Monument, dedicated, in 1938, to the memory of World War I veterans. Located just north of the Insurance building on the Capitol Campus in Olympia, Washington. The monument is traditionally the focus of memorial services for veterans of all

WSSRA at work for you



A message from the executive director



Success Did Not Happen By Accident

by Ed Gonion, executive director

Robert F. Ehrenheim – WSSRA President-elect

Robert Ehrenheim passed away unexpectedly on the morning of August 21st. Board members received the news as they arrived in the state office for their first regular board meeting of 2013-2014. As you can imagine, it was hard to gather ourselves, get through our initial shock and grief and then conduct the business of the meeting. Robert was highly respected in our Association. He believed in the mission of WSSRA, and devoted himself tirelessly to serving our members. He will be sorely missed.

SW Nominating Region – Districts 3 and 4 will search for a

qualified individual to stand for election and serve as President-elect and then President for 2014-2015. The election will be held in June at the 2014 Annual Convention and Delegate Assembly in Vancouver.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

In September, the WSSRA office mailed thousands of letters to invite non-member, retired school personnel to join WSSRA. Local units are beginning their membership activities. The Executive Board again authorized the incentive membership program for local units that awards additional dollars to those that bring in new members.

Although we can count our membership in the thousands, we build this association one person at a time. Each member is vital to our continued success. If you know someone who is eligible to join, please tell them about WSSRA and invite them to join. You could also invite potential members to a local unit meeting or function.

LEGISLATIVE

WSSRA led the successful effort to stop a proposed cut to the PEBB Medicare Eligible Subsidy, which remains at \$150 per month. The bill introduced in the state Senate to force state employees under the age of 45 out of the current pension system into a 401(k) plan was defeated in the Senate. The bill passed by the state Senate to create a defined contribution plan for new employees hired in the future was stopped in the state House.

The success in protecting pensions and benefits for current and future school retirees did NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT. It was the result of the vigilance and hard work by every concerned member in our Association. It was the result of painstaking attention to detail in the fast-changing political environment. It was the result of staff, lobbyists, legislative committee members, and unit officers all working together to implement action plans to counter incomplete information, uninformed opinion, and false information concerning pensions. It was the result of individual members contacting THEIR legislators when we asked them.

Things will not get any easier in the 2014 legislative session. Although this is the “short” session, any bills that did not pass in 2013 can be brought back for consideration. Members must be ready to communicate with your legislators when we ask for your help.



The Journal

Washington State School Retirees' Association
4726 Pacific Avenue SE • Lacey WA 98503

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.wssra.org

WSSRA Office

WSSRA office: Ed Gonion, executive director, • 800-544-5219 / 360-413-5496
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Journal Information

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The WSSRA Journal Policy Board, WSSRA President and WSSRA Executive Board assume no responsibility for items appearing over the signature of any source. While every effort is made to check the accuracy of items accepted, articles cannot be reviewed for technical accuracy.

Material appearing in The Journal, in addition to records of action by the board, councils, committees and units, is presented to promote the general welfare of WSSRA members and otherwise to fulfill the purposes of this association, as defined in Article II of the bylaws.

Journal articles to: Kristin Murphy, editor
• 360-701-5044 • editor@wssra.org

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• February 10 for Mar./Apr./May issue • April 10 for May/June issue

• June 18 for July/Aug./Sept., issue

AARP Washington Office • 1-866-227-7457, 1-888-OUR-AARP • 9750

Third Ave NE, Ste. 450, Seattle WA 98115. John Barnett, state president; Doug Shadel, Washington state director.

Senior Citizens' Lobby • 360-754-0207, 1-800-562-6118 during legislative sessions • 1501 Capitol Way, Olympia WA 98501.

WSSRA Liaison to the Senior Lobby: Gene Forrester

Legislative News

Looking Back and Moving Forward to 2014



by Peter Diedrick, legislative coordinator

2013 SESSION RECAP

WSSRA faced a number of legislative challenges in 2013. However, despite the consistent attacks on retirement security, WSSRA had a successful legislative session. Retirees fought hard and were able to retain their benefits.

The 2013 Legislative Session was a difficult one. It was also much longer than expected. It took legislators 169 days to write the state budget. The session was scheduled to last 105 days. In the end, a budget was passed thirty-six hours before a general government shutdown would have occurred.

School retiree benefits were under attack throughout the session. Members of the Senate's Majority Coalition Caucus sponsored plans to force current and future employees out of their pension based retirement plans. Some senators also proposed further cuts on the state's Medicare Eligible Healthcare Subsidy. Thanks to the efforts of retirees, pension benefits were not cut, the Medicare Eligible Healthcare Subsidy remained at \$150 per month, and the Legislature made the full actuarially recommended pension payment to the state pension fund. WSSRA, its coalition partners, and retirees who contacted their representatives about these issues made the difference.

THE 2013 INTERIM

Major legislative elections will not be held until November 2014, but there are two important races worth noting. A State Senate race in the 26th District on the Kitsap Peninsula will have important implications in the Senate. The Majority Coalition Caucus has a majority of 25/24 in the Senate, and this race will influence how the chamber operates. Also, the Seattle Mayoral race may have significant impacts in Olympia. If Senator Ed Murray wins the Mayor's race, Senate Democrats will need to select a new minority leader to guide them through the 2014 Legislative Session.

EXPECTATIONS FOR 2014

The 2014 Legislative Session begins January 13th. It is scheduled to be a 60 day short session. However, it is important to remember that the state operates on a biennial calendar. Any bill submitted in the 2013 session is still alive in the 2014 legislature. All pension bills dropped in 2013 are still on the table.

There are some unknown challenges as the 2014 session approaches. The makeup of the Senate and House will



be very similar to 2013. The House will continue to be controlled by the Democratic Party, and the Majority Coalition Caucus will keep power in

the Senate by a slim majority. However, several court cases will come into play this session. The legislature still has K-12 funding requirements that were imposed by the Court through the McCleary decision and in fact, the legislature will receive a 'report card' back from the Supreme Court evaluating the last legislative session(s). In addition, the Plan 1 Uniform COLA and Gainsharing suits which will be heard by the Supremes on October 24th, could impose additional spending requirements on the Legislature depending on the court's ruling.

Individual retirees will continue to make the difference. The WSSRA office will need your help in the coming months. Please sign up for the WSSRA Legislative Alert List from the WSSRA webpage (www.wssra.org). We can communicate to you when the most critical junctures of the legislative session are approaching. Your input and support are critical to our success.

WSSRA Headquarters

4726 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503

Phone: 360-413-5496 Toll Free: 1-800-544-5219

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Legislative Hot Line: 1-800-562-6000

Legislative News

We Need Your Support



by Louie Osmonovich , PAC president

Greetings from your new WSSR-PAC Board! I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new President of the Washington State School Retirees' Political Action Committee (WSSR-PAC).

The officers for 2013-2014 are : President - Louie Osmonovich, Vice-President - Edith Ruby, Secretary - Mary Wallon, and Treasurer - Gary Bloomfield.

WSSR-PAC has had a busy summer. The PAC's Board met in July to discuss the 2013 legislative races, the PAC's finances, and the PAC's candidate endorsement process. It was a very productive meeting. We developed a new questionnaire for legislative candidates. Their answers will help us determine who deserves WSSR-PAC endorsements and funding.

WSSRA is growing in influence as an organization, and WSSR-

PAC is a key to that influence. Our ability to donate in our allies' political campaigns puts WSSRA on par with Olympia's most powerful organizations. In 2012, WSSR-PAC gave over \$12,000 in campaign contributions. We need your support! If every member of WSSRA donated \$1 to WSSR-PAC, the PAC would have over \$18,000 in funds to contribute. A few dollars can make a huge difference.

Any contributions to WSSR-PAC should be sent to your PAC Treasurer: Gary Bloomfield, WSSR-PAC, 1928 Circle Loop SE Lacey, WA 98503-2586

Thank you all for your support.



Remembering ...

WSSRA's President-Elect, Robert F. Ehrenheim, passed away unexpectedly on August 21, 2013 at his home in Tacoma. He was born in Tacoma on February 20, 1934, to Fritz and Frieda Ehrenheim, German immigrants to the United States. As a 10 year-old, Bob was a newspaper boy for the Tacoma News Tribune. Bob graduated from Tacoma's Stadium High School in 1952. He married Barbara Ruth Ahlberg on June 18, 1955.

In 1956, Bob graduated from the College of Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in education. He later completed his Masters of Education after beginning his long and successful career in the Tacoma Public Schools. Bob is best known for his years as Mount Tahoma High School's Cross Country and Track coach. Working with hundreds of young men, Bob's success and leadership eventually earned him induction into the Tacoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Bob and Barbara loved to travel. Their passion for overseas travel eventually led them to serve as teachers abroad five different times. They co-taught three times in Germany through the Fulbright Exchange Program: Plön (1959-1960), Buchen/Hainstadt (1976-1977), and Nürnberg, (1988-1989). They also had two international school assignments: Lagos, Nigeria (1982-1984) and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1992-1997). Bob and Barbara operated an international travel company, TravelSphere Tours, leading tours on six continents (only missing Antarctica).

Within the last few years, the normally tough and resilient Bob surrendered to his tender side as caretaker for Barbara through her onset with Alzheimer's.

Bob is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara, four sons Dale (and wife Cheryl), Dean (and wife Jeanette), Dan, and Daryl (and wife Sherri), 15 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his two younger sisters Marlene Phelps of Tacoma and Joanie Wood of Puyallup. A memorial service was held on August 30, 2013.

Source: New Tacoma Cemeteries & Funeral Home



What The New Health Care Law Really Means For You

By Mike Tucker, AARP Executive Council Member

With all the noise swirling around the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, it is only natural to have questions.

Whatever your views are about the law, it is important to understand some basic facts, so you can make the right health care decisions for you and your family.

Here are some things everyone should know about the Affordable Care Act:

- **If you already have insurance**, you and your loved ones have gained important protections. Starting next year, you no longer will be denied coverage if you have a pre-existing condition, nor will you be dropped from your plan if you get sick.
- **If you have Medicare Part D**, you will save on prescription drugs if you fall into the doughnut hole. You also will qualify for important preventive services at no cost to you.
- **If you do not have health insurance or buy it on your own**, there's a new way to shop for it through a health insurance marketplace. The health law creates the new Washington Healthplanfinder (wahealthplanfinder.org) to help you get the coverage you need, with benefits starting next year. Depending on your income, you may also be able to get financial help covering the costs.

Open enrollment in the Washington Healthplanfinder begins this October, and coverage will start as early as January. The health law mandates that all health plans offered to those who buy insurance on their own or in small groups must include a set of "essential health benefits," such as preventive and wellness benefits, prescription drug coverage, and emergency care.

In addition to the marketplace, there are even more benefits and protections to help you and your family. Young adults now have easier access to coverage, because they can stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26. That's a significant benefit at a time when so many young people are unemployed.

Seniors gain, as well. In our own state more than 829,000 people who rely on Medicare for their health coverage can be assured that their benefits are protected. In fact, certain benefits have improved.

If you have Medicare Part D, and you reach the coverage gap or "doughnut hole," you will get more than a 50 percent discount on brand-name prescription drugs, and more than a 20 percent discount on generic drugs. These discounts will continue until 2020, when the doughnut hole disappears altogether. Medicare now covers yearly wellness visits and preventive care. This benefit – at no cost to you – includes screenings for cancer,

cholesterol and diabetes, immunizations, diet counseling and more.

Other parts of the law could have a big impact on people too young for Medicare. Insurers can no longer place dollar limits on the care they cover in a year – or over your lifetime. Further, health insurers must now cover vital preventive services, including screenings for diabetes and cholesterol, mammograms, flu shots and other immunizations, as well as counseling to quit smoking and eat right.

Also, the law helps all taxpayers by increasing efforts to fight fraud, scams and waste in Medicare. And it supports small business by reducing red tape and offering a tax credit.

Given all these provisions, it's no surprise that people have questions about the Affordable Care Act. Fortunately, the answers are just a few clicks away.

For practical, customized information on how the law affects you and your loved ones, just go to HealthLawAnswers.org. In the three years since it passed Congress, a great deal has been said about the health law - much of it inaccurate. Now it's time to understand what it really means.

For more information about
Washington Healthplanfinder,
visit the website at:

www.wahealthplanfinder.org

(President's Message - Continued from Page 2)

In the last Journal, I mentioned that I was restoring a 1946 Oliver Row Crop 70 tractor, well it is finished and I have a picture to share with you. This is one of the very few tractors that came with a six cylinder gas engine with six forward gears and one reverse. It has lots of power and torque which made it a very popular tractor. It was a work horse particularly throughout the mid-west.



Quote: Laughter is the sensation of feeling good all over and showing principally in one place (your face). Josh Billings

<h2>>> JOIN NOW</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;">We need all members' email addresses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please type in www.wssra.org to visit our website.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Then click on JOIN NOW in the lower-left-hand corner of the home page and hit "submit."</p>
<h2>Join Our Mailing List</h2>	

WSSRA

Member Benefits



INSURANCE BENEFITS

- Long Term Care / Home Health Care Insurance
- Cancer Treatment Insurance
- Final Expense Whole Life
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Plan
- Tax Deferred Annuity

TRAVEL RELATED BENEFITS

- Medical Air Transportation Services
- Government Employee Travel Opportunities (GETO)
- AMBA TravelPERX
- La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount
- Rental Car Discounts: Avis, Budget, & Advantage!

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- American Hearing Benefits (AHB)
- Identity Theft Solutions
- Dell Computer Discount Program
- Apple Discount
- 1-800-FLOWERS
- Wirefly – Verizon, Sprint & T-Mobile Phones & Plans
- CU Wireless – Discounted Phones & Plans
- Presto Printing Mailbox

Benefits made available by



For information on benefits, call AMBA at

800.258.7041

or visit www.wssra.org

and select Benefits from the navigation.

On the road in retirement



Exploring Vancouver Island

by Shirlee Hall



Tofino's Inner Harbor

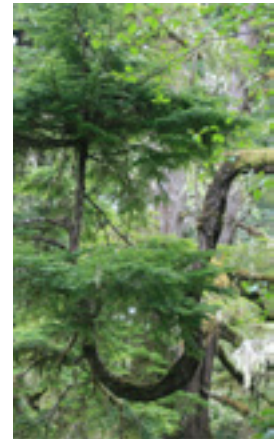
Four of us from East-King SRA, co-presidents Carolyn and Robert Fletcher and Jim Hall and I, took six days last May to explore Vancouver Island by car.

We all made sure our passports were up-to-date (an enhanced drivers' license will not get you on a plane if there's an emergency and you need to return to the U.S. in a hurry). We also made advance reservations for the ferry from Tsawwassen to Nanaimo (those reservations get you on the ferry first!).

Our destination was Tofino, on the western side of Vancouver Island. The ride over the Pacific Rim Highway was gorgeous, but the road was narrow and winding. It took us roughly nine hours to travel from Kirkland to our hotel (Middle Beach Lodge) in Tofino.

We were pleased to find that Middle Beach Lodge is located on the edge of the rain forest with handy trails to the beautiful beach. Rubber boots, raincoats and umbrellas sat in colorful rows ready for use. Our rooms were small but comfortable and had fabulous views. The great room of the Lodge was very inviting, and the breakfast buffet was tasty and offered a variety of choices.

The first evening and the next day we explored the town and surrounding areas. There were lots of great places to stay! Then we drove towards Ucluelet. On the way, we stopped at the Pacific Rim Park Reserve. The well-cited restaurant wasn't open yet but would be in the summer. We loved the attached visitors' center! It featured two stories of nature and First Nation displays. From their deck, we viewed eagles, whales and shore birds.



Rainforest - Tofino

After familiarizing ourselves with Ucluelet, we headed back for a delicious lunch at Long Beach Lodge Resort. We had delicious dinners later right in Tofino at the Shelter Restaurant.

On the second full day in the area, we checked out the local Best Western where a friend and her sister planned to stay in the summer. We were very impressed! It is called, "Tin Wis" meaning "calm waters," and every room (including the stunning dining room) had ocean views. The décor was authentic "First Nation," and we met several First Nation people working there.

We spent the afternoon at the shops in Tofino (Rubio's sells georgous



Pacific Rim National Park Reserve Visitor Center, Tofino, British Columbia

On the road in retirement



Roy Henry Vickers' artist-owned, Eagle Aerie Gallery, in Tofino

amber!). We purchased small pieces of native Roy Henry Vickers' art work at his gallery and bought interesting books at the Mermaid Tales bookshop.

After scrumptious meals back in the Tin Wis dining room, we returned to our Lodge to enjoy our book purchases and afternoon cookies. I thoroughly enjoyed my *Road's End: Tales of Tofino* by Shirley Langer. I read about amazing characters and realized too late that we had somehow missed the experience of the Common Loaf Bake Shop, a popular gathering spot for regulars and travelers.

The next morning we headed back over the mountains for Victoria. We left time, though, to detour into Chemainus for lunch. After delicious, fresh sandwiches at the Willow Street



One of many murals found throughout the town of Chemainus on Vancouver Island's east shore

Café, we checked out the wonderful murals around town (great glimpses of the historic past of the area). We relaxed a bit at the waterside public park.

We arrived in Victoria around 4pm and checked into very nice, spacious rooms at the Hotel Grand Pacific. After exploring several shops, we dined at Milestone's and then enjoyed the beauty of Victoria at night!

The next morning we went to our favorite breakfast spot, Gatsby's. With its tasty food, good service and old-world charm, it got us off to a great start for a busy day exploring beautiful gardens. That day we explored all of Butchart Gardens, only stopping for a bit to have lunch together at the Blue Poppy Restaurant. The gardens were so impressive! The rhododendrons were blooming as were the English and painted daisies; great swathes of tulips in glorious colors were surrounded by blue, white, and pink forget-me-nots! After being amazed at the beauty

surrounding us, we picked up some treasures at the gift shop and treated ourselves to cool sweet treats next door.

We finished the day with more shopping in Victoria and wonderful food at the Waterfront Seafood Grill.



Sunken Gardens at Butchart Gardens in Victoria, B.C.

After a good night's rest, we returned to Gatsby's for a hearty breakfast. We needed our strength for all the walking required to tour the Royal B.C. Museum! The native collection was extensive and fabulous as were the early B.C. environment displays! We required refueling at the museum cafe and had a late lunch.

After another tour around Victoria, we finished with great seafood at the popular Flying Otter Grill on the Harbor.

The next morning we celebrated our very enjoyable visit to Victoria by breakfast at Gatsby's one last time. Then we were off to Swartz Bay to catch our ferry and head home.

Supporting future educators



Make a Commitment to Your Foundation



by Jim Hall, president, WSSR-Foundation

I am entering into my final year on your Foundation Board. It has been a rewarding five years with donations increasing each year. A new member is elected to the Foundation each year for a five-year term. I would ask WSSRA members to consider completing a willingness to serve form when asked by your coordinating council.

We are saddened by the passing of Robert Ehrenheim, our 2013-14 President-Elect. I would like to challenge individual members and units to give generously to the Foundation in Robert's name. My unit (#16) voted to donate \$50 in his memory. Robert served on the Foundation board from 2006-2011, and I had the honor of working with him from 2009-2011.

I would like to thank Marion Mann for her five years of service to the Foundation Board. It will be a challenge to follow in her footsteps.

Our WSSR Foundation scholarship winners have entered their college careers at various institutions of higher learning. Their scholarships are only possible because of our members' support of the Foundation. Funds are the result of individual contributions, memorials for members who have passed, and our convention activities. Unit fund raisers can be creative and

generate additional donations.

End-of-the-year charitable contributions help lower your tax burden, and I encourage you to think of the Foundation as a recipient of these funds. We ask members to remember the Foundation when completing their wills. Bequests to the Foundation can make a huge impact on our future funding.

Foundation Contributors

- Kathy R. Fletcher - in memory of Jerald Ryan and Lu Smith
Okanogan Co. SRA - in memory of Art Himmler
Linda Gaines - in memory of Arvilla Weaver
Southwest King SRA - in memory of Corrine E. Pasquan, Marianne E. Woodward, and Patricia Danielson
Nick & Kathy Schultz - in memory of Bob Ehrenheim
Nancy J. Kleinschmidt - donation
Sno-King SRA - in memory of Bob Ehrenheim
Eileen C. Herling - donation
Chelan/Douglas SRA - in memory of Charles Rinker, Ellen Carlson, and Marlene Bauer
Patricia McKeirnan - donation
WSSRA - donation

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL RETIREES' FOUNDATION
4726 PACIFIC AVENUE SE LACEY, WA 98503-1216

Donor Name Address
City State Zip Phone #
Donation \$ In Honor \$ In Memory \$

Note: If you would like the person notified of this gift, you must include their full name and address below.

(checkbox) In Honor (checkbox) Memorial \$
Name
Person to be Notified
Address
City State Zip

Please check box if you would like to receive a receipt for your records. The WSSR- Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Check \$ #
Cash \$

Strength in numbers

TOGETHER, Building on a Solid Foundation

 by Susan Webber, chair, membership committee

Nick has selected a great theme not only for WSSRA but for the Membership Committee. Membership has a solid foundation of 17,765 members and now it is time to build on that solid foundation. Last year the goal of 18,000 was reached but has declined because of deceased members and members who have not paid their cash dues. The challenge is to encourage cash members to change to ADD to pay their membership. The WSSRA office will be sending out a mass mailing in September to non-members through the Washington State Department of Retirement. This has been very successful in recent years.

The Membership Committee met September 11 to plan for the year. The members worked on membership chair and committee responsibilities. The WSSRA Board has challenged all committees to develop their responsibilities. The committee reviewed the Membership Handbook and discussed some changes. Topics for The Journal were

suggested for the coming year.

After a successful Leadership session, there were several items the Membership Committee needed to develop. Members needed a simple method to explain Plan 2 and Plan 3. A two paragraph explanation was developed based on paragraphs sent from Unit 20. There was a request for certificates that locals could use to recognize members who did an outstanding job of membership promotion. That is being drafted and will be available soon.

Please remember that Michele Hunter can help you with labels, supplies and materials, membership lists, and questions about membership issues. You can contact Michele Hunter at mhunter@wssra.org or 1-800-544-5219.



1. Cut out this form



2. Give it to a retiree



3. Have her/him complete the form



4. Mail it to WSSRA

DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM
WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
4726 PACIFIC AVE SE, LACEY WA 98503-1216

Please print

Name _____ Phone (____) _____
(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)

Mailing Address _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____ +4

SS Number _____ - _____ - _____ Home/Personal Email Address _____

Retirement Plan (CIRCLE) TRS1 TRS2 TRS3 PERS1 PERS2 SERS2 SERS3

Name of WSSRA Unit _____ Leg Dist. _____ Cong Dist. _____

I authorize the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems to deduct the following dues and any future increases as voted by the membership, from my monthly retirement allowance and to pay such deduction to the Washington State School Retirees' Association.

Should I wish to cancel ensuing deductions I will send a written notification of cancellation to Washington State Department of Retirement Systems and WSSRA.

DUES: State \$4 + Local \$1 = Total of \$5 per month

Date _____ Signature _____
White Copy – WSSRA Yellow Copy – Unit Pink Copy – Retained by member

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01–Asotin-Pomeroy | 08–Kitsap County | 18–Pend Oreille | 28–Thurston County |
| 02–Chelan/Douglas | 09–Kittitas County | 19–Renton-South King | 29–Benton-Franklin |
| 03–Clallam County | 11–Lewis County | 20–Seattle | 30–Southwest Washington |
| 04–Columbia Basin | 12–Lower Columbia | 21–Skagit/Island/San Juan | 31–Walla Walla-Columbia |
| 05–Grays Harbor Pacific | 13–Lower Yakima Valley | 22–Sno-Isle | 32–Whatcom County |
| 06–Southwest King | 14–Mason County | 23–Sno-King | 33–Whitman County |
| 07–Jefferson County | 15–Okanogan County | 25–Spokane | 34–Yakima County |
| | 16–East King | 27–Pierce County | |

Taking care of ourselves

How To Be A Smart Patient When Talking To A Doctor



by Pat Lester-Davis, health committee

Taking an active role in your health care puts the responsibility on both you and your doctor. You need to choose a doctor you feel comfortable with and with whom you can communicate. It is important to be able to ask questions of the doctor's explanations. If the explanation is unclear to you or brings up a problem, you may need to persuade the doctor to make the answer more clear. Let the doctor know if you have concerns about a particular procedure or change to your treatment.

When getting ready for your appointment, be sure to bring a relative or friend who can assist you in asking questions, in case you are unable to hear or become confused. Make a list of your concerns and prioritize them. Take information with you such as a list of your prescription medications and any over-the-counter drugs, supplements, or teas. Certain medications and supplements can counteract with medications that you are taking. Consider bringing a list of vaccinations you have had, including when you received them. (These maybe in their file but don't assume the information in your file is correct).

Plan on updating the doctor by sharing any symptoms, giving information about your medications, and describing your routine of taking the medications. Your doctor might want to change your routine. Be sure to stick to the point, you only have a short time to spend at your appointment.

Make good use of your time and your doctors by doing the following:

Be honest. The doctor can suggest the best treatment only if you let the doctor know what is really going on. Don't tell the doctor what you think they want to know.

Decide what questions or concerns are most important. Have a list of questions, pick three or four questions from your list of concerns you want to know about.

Stick to the point, for instance, give the doctor a brief description of the symptom. Write notes when it started, how long, what you were doing when it started. How often it happens, if it is getting better or worse, pain 1-10. What makes it better/worse, comes and goes-constant.

Remember the doctor may not be able to answer all of your questions. They might refer you to a specialist or have you come back for another appointment. If they tell you your symptoms are "part of aging," it might be time to look for another doctor.

References: You The Smart Patient, by Michael F. Roizen, M. D., and Mehmet C. Oz, M. D. with the Joint Commission the Patient's safety champion. Talking with Your Doctor by National Institute on Aging put out by the National Institutes of Health and Human Services

Sponsored Health Insurance Plans after Retirement

- PEBB and Health Care Authority 800-200-1004
www.pebb.hca.wa.gov

Options, Take Home Pay, Etc.

- Department of Retirement Systems 800-547-6657
www.drs.wa.gov

Social Security Benefits

- 800-325-0778 www.ssa.gov

State Insurance Commissioner / Statewide Health Insurance

- Benefit Advisors (SHIBA) 800-562-6900

Quality of Life issues

- WSSRA 800-544-5219 www.wssra.org

The Outreach Corner

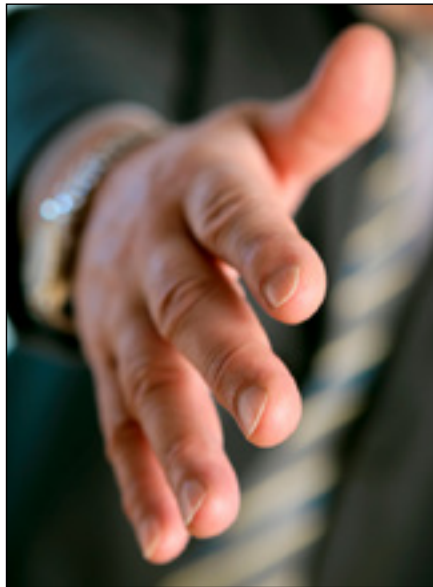
Outreach Break-out Session Ideas



by Mary Jo Geidl, outreach committee

One of the concepts behind the breakout sessions, at the WSSRA Conference in June, was that we can all learn by sharing ideas. Certainly this was true with the Outreach session. While we had very favorable results from the evaluations, the people who attended wanted information on the suggestions that came from the individual units. So the following is a compilation of much of the feedback that came from the meeting's wall of Post It notes.

Many people mentioned various ways of donating to others. Many units give mini-grants to active members for classroom projects. One unit gives a gift basket with school supplies that teachers can use. Collecting coupons on boxes and cans or collecting personal hygiene items for the Resource Room are inexpensive ways to contribute. The unit could collect items for the Children's Museum or could collect coins each meeting for donating socks to a couple schools with a high level of poverty. A grant could be given to the Homeless Kids coordinator to use. Books could be donated to the local library(s) in memory of each deceased retired educator. One unit representative said the unit contributes about \$75 a month to Ocosta Schools for food for the weekend. About 75 kids received the food so they can eat on weekends. Another said that they have a Holiday Brunch, collecting toys and dollars, making outfits for dolls, and bringing food. The proceeds go to the Salvation Army.



Another popular concept is getting the unit away from its regular meeting place to different locations. PCSSA has had field trips to the Tacoma art venues. This year they visited the Tacoma Art Museum, the Glass Museum, and the LeMay Car Museum. If the unit is geographically spread out, at least one or two meetings/lunches could be held in different towns. If the unit is close to water, some beach cleanup could be done. Or the unit could volunteer at the local museum when school children go there on field trips.

Other special activities are a popular thing, whether it is for the entire unit or only for the board. In December, one unit has a cookie sale and Christmas sing-a-long. Another has an annual Food Bank helping day. The unit could have a wine tasting event at one of the local wineries or host legislators for a program - with the public invited. One unit's executive board prepares a soup

and dessert luncheon in April with the money divided between PAC and mini-grants. Another has a Winter Holiday Brunch at the Country Club, inviting guests and having a student singing group as entertainment.

Finally, publicity is always an issue. We really want WSSRA members to get credit for what we do for our communities and we want our members knowledgeable and involved. Some units reach out on a website. Others put the unit's meeting dates on the local newspaper's website calendar and some send out postcards to inform members of upcoming events. One unit has a booth at the local farmer's market. While some meet with district administrator councils to share about WSSRA and classroom grants, others try to get the principals to let the WSSRA representatives meet with their staff at a teachers' meeting. One unit sponsors a new teachers' breakfast and another has joined the Chamber of Commerce to get our name out on the flyer. One representative suggested that members buy a cheap T-shirt and have a logo printed on it saying WSSRA – retired educator willing to help.

We hope that this generates ideas within the membership. While not all the ideas were included, this is an overview of the major concepts that were covered. We hope that you can use or adapt some of them.

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and hit "submit."

History: Past WSSRA presidents

Robert Slingland, WSSRA President, 2002-03



by Rita Requa, historian



Robert Slingland was born in Seattle, but attended elementary schools in five different states across the country. He graduated from Silverdale High School in Silverdale, WA. It was his intent to join the service and then attend college to obtain a degree in journalism.

After serving in US Maritime Service and the Army Air Corps, he attended Central Washington University in Ellensburg, studying speech, drama, English, and journalism. He met Trudy, married her, and moved to Seattle where he enrolled in the UW School of Journalism. Bob returned to CWU and got his Bachelor of Education and taught in elementary, junior high, and high school in Ellensburg. He accepted a journalism teaching job at CWU. President McConnell asked Bob to organize curriculum for CWU's original radio and television minor there. He was promoted to Assistant Professor the following year. Eventually Bob moved to the Tacoma School District where he managed their public television station, KTPS. He spent 24 years there, but also coached baseball and basketball in the Tacoma Parks League.

After retirement in 1985, former WSTRA President Betty Johnson (1993-94) was instrumental in getting Bob involved in his local and state associations. Along with his many committee assignments, he was on the WSSRA State Legislative Committee. It was at the annual convention where many of us remember him telling a joke, often eliciting giggles and an occasional groan, before he announced the winner of a Foundation basket.

Bob was always involved in his community, whether it was Ellensburg Junior Chamber of Commerce or the Exchange Club of Tacoma or the Pierce County AARP volunteer office. The theme Bob chose for his year as President was "Leadership, Legislation---A Little Levity and Away We Go." A lot of levity was needed in that year. The state had a \$1 billion deficit. The Pension Defense Fund had to pay outstanding bills and the Association was \$10,000 short of meeting expenses. TRIP funds came to the rescue. The Pension Defense Fund bills were paid. In the fall of 2002, the Board endorsed I-790, the police and firefighters for pension reform initiative and it passed. Bob's journalism and TV experience helped in the production of film to inform Actives about retirement plans Plans I, II, III options, health service benefits, and gain sharing. The Legislative picture

was not good. Bills introduced to improve or replace gain sharing died in committee.

However, the most significant event during Bob's Presidency was the untimely death of Dr. Pat Hoban, Executive Director of WSSRA. The WSSRA board asked Bob to accept the part time position of Interim Executive Director until a permanent Director could be hired. President Elect Joyce Williams was appointed temporary president. The process to select a new Executive Director took five months. The Board took action to hire Kathy Wynstra. The Board renamed the meritorious award as "Patrick Hoban" award.

Through all this tumultuous times, Bob continued to have a smile on his face and a joke up his sleeve. He continues to serve as officer in his local unit and regularly attends WSSRA Annual Meetings, where you might hear a little levity from Bob Slingland.

WSSRA is missing photos of these past state presidents:

George W. Porter, 1947;

M.C. Olmstead, 1954-1955;

Jean Campbell, 1963-1964;

and Elsie E. Schartow, 1964-1965.

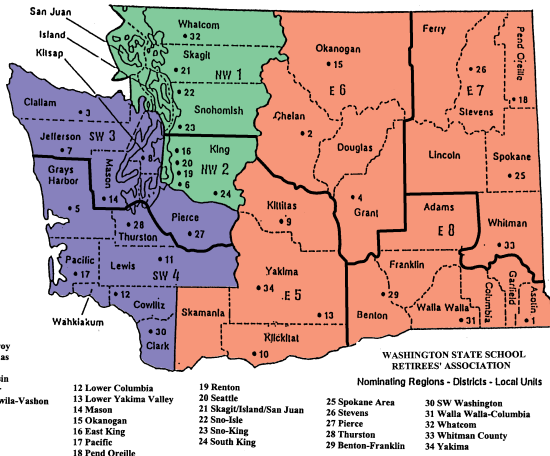
If you have access to photos of these WSSRA past presidents, please contact the WSSRA Office, 1-800-544-5219 or via email: michelle@wssra.org.

WSSRA around the state



From the districts

What's happening in...



NORTHWEST-1

Following the WSSRA convention, *Unit 21-Skagit/San Juan/Island*, held its second annual meeting at the Educational Service District 189 building in Anacortes. The group welcomed Dr. Yelena Rosenberg, who spoke about Heart Healthy Nutrition. AMBA Representative, **Carin Rutledge** presented us with an explanation of benefits for WSSRA members. A delicious catered lunch followed, from Gere-A-Deli.

On July 20, many members helped at Shipwreck Day, held in Anacortes, where they sold books and small items throughout the day. They raised over \$345 for grants.

On Aug. 15, the Second Annual Wine Social was held in La Conner, at Hellam's Wine Shop. Attendees were

treated to fine wine, snacks, door prizes, a beautiful setting, and great entertainment provided by Jeff and Kelly. They were so pleased that **Eileen Wascisin** and her husband were able to be there.

Unit 21 Planning Retreat was held at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center on Aug. 31. Several board members spent time evaluating, planning, and formulating ideas for the coming year.

A board meeting was held on September 16 at the Royal Star Buffet, in Mount Vernon.

We hope to be off to a good start for our new year.

Unit 22- Sno-Isle's Board met July 22 to review convention and plan for the upcoming year. **Brenda Leider** and **Marianne Har-**

vey will serve as Co-Presidents this year. The first order of business was appointing a new President due to the resignation of current President, **Nancy Strain**. The Board also decided to limit the number of meetings this year, stressing more on events with member appeal and less on actual business. Interesting events with dynamic speakers attract more members.

In April we are planning an event including our actives. They comprise almost half of our membership and should be able to attend some things during the year.

September will see *Sno-Isle* hosting a tour of Hibulb Cultural Center at the Tulalip Indian Reservation in Marysville. There will be a tour of the museum followed by a potluck picnic with recognition of new members who will be guests.

On October 15, *Sno-Isle* will have their annual memorial for local members. After a pizza lunch, David and Betty Rookhaber will portray life during World War II, highlighting life during war time for both men and women.

On December 12, *Sno-Isle* will host their annual Christmas Brunch at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. It will feature delicious food, fes-

tive entertainment, and the annual Toy and Joy Shop benefitting the Salvation Army. Members will donate homemade dolls, toys, food and monetary contributions for local needy families.

Unit 23 - Sno-King: Sno-King, Unit 23, once again celebrated together at their annual picnic at Edmonds City Park. The members enjoyed great conversations and great food, including member **Betty Odle's** renowned meatballs. We were joined by WSSRA President **Nick Shultz**, WSSRA President-Elect **Robert Ehrenheim**, and NW 1 District Representative **Marianne Harvey**.

Several members of our unit who had received teacher grants spoke about their classroom activities.

Our officers for the coming year were installed and the unit recognized **Jim Siscel** for his two years of service as our president.

Our annual executive board was held in early August at the Foundation House in Bothell. We adopted our 2013-14 budget; voted to increase the total of our Educator grants to \$7000; and adopted our slate of programs and field trips.

We again participated in the

WSSRA around the state

District Benefits Fairs in September, and **Jim Sisel**, in his new membership roll, plans to schedule "School Visitations" for the purpose of recruiting new members.

Visit our recently revamped website to follow our activities for the year:

www.sksr.org/index.html

Unit - 32 Whatcom: Whatcom members were busy the end of August and the first part of September attending school district benefit fairs. They shared WSSRA goals, offered mini-grant applications and asked active members to share their home emails so they have contacts in each school in Whatcom County. Home emails continue to be a work in progress for newsletter, legislative information, and school contacts.

The September 10th meeting was held in a new location with Board members providing a light lunch. Members in a retirement complex have offered their clubhouse at Festival Square located near Whatcom Community College. Members heard about a cultural program called *Neuvos-Amigos* between American and Mexican students.

In October the unit will meet at Bellewood Acres where members will enjoy a deli lunch, visiting the new farm store and sampling the apple

distillery products.

Due to a light election year and many local forums, WSSRA did not plan a political forum for the first time in many years. However, the Board will be meeting with our local Legislators this Fall.

NORTHWEST-2

August was a month of planning for Northwest 2 units.

East-King, Unit 6, held a picnic at **Ed Monroe's** home in Kirkland. There were ample parking spaces, gardens to enjoy, and shaded spots for comfortable sitting and listening to music provided by **Nancy Peterson** and her friend, Jay Finkelstein. The executive board provided fried chicken, cookies and beverages. Attendees brought scrumptious side dishes to round out the menu. Eating and socializing predominated.

The board also worked on lining up a slate of informative and interesting programs for monthly luncheons at Hector's in Kirkland. Included in the schedule are speakers on health and wellness, environmental and social issues, sports, local history, and the latest news from AARP, WSSRA, and AMBA. AARP presented the latest information on frauds and scams.

Nick Schultz, WSSRA

president, will be the featured speaker for October and **Carin Rutledge** will discuss AMBA benefits for members.

Renton, South-King, Unit 19, planned the year with a potluck luncheon with co-president **Joan Morgestern** as hostess.

Robin Stroben was the representative at the Renton Welcome Breakfast for the 120 new teachers. WSSRA president **Nick Schultz** has been busy, also speaking at Renton's September luncheon.

October's meeting features harpist Bronn Journey, who delivered a widely varied repertoire with wit and humor.

Renton's new superintendent, Merri Rogers, will speak in November.

Southwest King, Unit 6, also made plans for the year at a luncheon board meeting at **Nancy Rudy's** where she barbequed salmon for all twelve of us. Plans include a history of Des Moines presented member **Bill Rudberg**.

October's meeting will feature State Senator Karen Keiser, who will discuss the upcoming legislative session and "Obamacare."

Other plans include Highline's superintendent Susan

Enfield and Graham Kerr, who will gallop with holiday ideas.

Seattle, Unit 20, enjoyed **Fred Yancey**, a WSSRA lobbyist, and **Peter Dierick**, legislative liaison, in September. Each gave some background information on how they arrived at their positions and the legislative session's impact on our members. **Fred Yancey** got everyone's attention by stating, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu."

The October luncheon will feature actress Tames Alan doing a program called "Dining at Downton" about the television series.

The organization's book club is continuing after the passing of **Jan O'Connor**, with **Margaret Nelson** and **Edith Ruby** helping out to keep the group going.

SOUTHWEST-3

Unit 3 - Clallam County: *CCSRA* participated in two board meetings over the summer and attended the WSSRA State Convention in Pasco with seven members: **Gary Gleason, Beverly Brown, Joanne Beck, Lora Brabant, Curt Horne, and Estill and Reba Cornett**.

We enjoyed a pot luck picnic at the Club House at the Four Seasons Ranch hosted by **Eve Farrell**. Our new State

WSSRA around the state

WSSRA President, **Nick Schultz**, gave us greetings and news from the State Board. Twenty attended.

Our meeting programs planned by **Curt Horne** and his committee are as follows: September 17, 2013 -

Paula Simpson Barnes, North Olympic Library System;

October 15, 2013 -

Irene Wyman, History of Clallam County Schools;

November 19, 2013 -

Rod Williams, Former Secret Service Agent;

December 17, 2013 -

Ron Jones and his Magic Strings at Christmas.

The Board decided to change our meeting place to the North Olympic Skills Center for a more economical lunch. The Culinary Arts students will be preparing and serving the lunch. The Board will meet at the Skills Center, too. It is hoped that this will increase participation.

Unit 27 - Pierce County:

We opened the season with new officers (and some not so new): **Alice Coate**, president; **Connie Rickman**, president-elect; **Teddy Tuel**, secretary; **Trudy Slingland**, recording secretary; and **Carolyn Patterson** and **Marianne Candioglos**, co-treasurers.

Event one was the annual picnic/board meeting on August 15 at a Puyallup city

park. It was the last *PCSRA* function we had with **Bob Ehrenheim**.

The first business/luncheon meeting was September 19 with a program regarding a special joint venture of the Tacoma School District and the Tacoma Housing Authority.

October 24 is the date of the annual Legislative Breakfast. All Pierce County Legislators are invited to be guests.

Kathleen Merryman, former Tacoma News Tribune writer, will speak at the November general meeting.

SOUTHWEST-4

Unit 11 - Lewis County: *Lewis County SRA* executive board held a planning meeting in August at the home of President **Carolyn Stella**. A high priority was given to efforts to increase membership, and a plan of action will be developed. A preliminary budget was presented and discussed and was voted on in the September meeting. **Jennifer Ideker**, vice-president, spoke on the need for interesting and appealing programs, and she shared many ideas for making that happen.

In September **Martha Glanz** and **Nancy Ely** represented *Unit 11* in an evening of

scholarship presentations sponsored by the Centralia College Foundation.

Recently Thurston County president **Ronald Crawford** sent the following message to all the members of Unit 28. "As we think about the future, I would like to see our organization take the time to dream and to contemplate the new directions we may want to take in the coming years. We do a fantastic job with our traditional activities such as protecting our retirement and health benefits through legislation, proving pre-retirement workshops, keeping members informed on health and consumer issues, granting scholarships to high school seniors, awarding mini-grants to elementary teachers, and doing community services. Thomas Edison once said, 'To have a great idea, have a lot of them.'"

At its May meeting *Unit 5* members toured the Pacific County Courthouse and were awed by its stained-glass dome. Teddy bears and other stuffed toys for the Domestic Violence Center were collected in May.

The first meeting of the year, *Grays Harbor-Pacific* had Lynn Green as speaker. From its beginning in 2010, she has been the director of The Twin Harbors Branch of The Skills Center. Students come from many schools in Grays Harbor and Pacific

counties to take part in the many skills and training offered. *Grays Harbor-Pacific* looks forward to a great year of interesting meetings and projects.

During the summer, *Unit 31 - Southwest Washington*, held one planning meeting, had a great turnout for their July picnic, and a group of members toured the Port of Vancouver.

Two teams of four have been organized to go into the schools in the Evergreen District and speak about WSSRA.

The executive board met in mid-September. Mayoral and city council candidates in the November elections were speakers at the September meeting.

Unit 12 - Lower Columbia has named **Adrienne 'Andy' Gorman** as their new president. She succeeds **Noel McRae** who served as the unit president for five years. The unit's first meeting of the year featured Detective Kyle Sahim, Longview's police force expert on frauds and scams.

EAST-5

Under the organized leadership of **Kathy Schultz**, plans are being made for the 2013-2014 year. The first general meeting will be held

WSSRA around the state

at the Agricultural Museum in Union Gap on Oct. 7, followed two days later by the *E5/E6* meeting at the same location. Board members are preparing food and decorations for both meetings.

In the background, board members are revising local bylaws, preparing mailings for grant applicants, visiting schools to encourage active employees in education to join YCSRA, seeking a local webmaster and planning programs.

Visit a meeting if you have an opportunity. We always have room for guests.

EAST-6

Chelan/Douglas SRA Unit 2: The executive board planning meeting for 2013/14 was held August 5th. The programs for the year were finalized and budget items were established as follows: The Grant Chairman for coming year is **Star Christman**. Education grants were raised to \$1500.00.

The East Wenatchee and Wenatchee School District coordinators for homeless youth were given \$150.00 each.

Special Project donations were given to Westside Alternative High School, Wenatchee (\$250.00) and to Rock Island Academy (\$300.00).

JoAnn Lewis and Sharon

Salley, membership chairman, and **Rohn Rutledge**, Benefits Representative with AMBA attended the Eastmont School District information fair on September 3, enrolling 12 active members.

Tuesday, Sept. 10, was the first meeting of the year and was held at our new location: Wenatchee Golf and Country Club, in East Wenatchee. We not only enjoyed a wonderful lunch, but also our speaker, Jim Zumini, Executive Director of Hospitality House (men's shelter), Solomon's Porch (teen shelter), Haven of Hope (women and children's shelter) and Hospitality Heights (family shelter), all located in Wenatchee.

Mary Perkins and **Marie Buckner** were the WSSRA delegates to the three-day NRTA Conference in Chicago, Illinois in June. Richard Leider, a widely read and internationally recognized speaker, author and life coach was the keynote speaker and shared concepts from his new book, *Life Reimagined*. His message dealt with changing conversation from "aging" to "opportunity". His new book becomes available in October.

Nancy Valeson, Unit 2 state representative, attended the WSSRA executive board meeting in Lacey on August 22 and 23.

Mary Perkins and Marie

Buckner attended the Outreach Committee meeting in Lacey on August 28.

Our Rock Island Academy tutoring project is up and running again. The students are excited to have us back.

A group of us gather monthly to assemble our newsletter for mailing and make booklets for first graders in elementary schools in East Wenatchee. We are looking forward to another great year!

Unit 15 - Okanogan County: July and August found interested members of *Unit 15* gathered to plot and plan the unit's new year.

Sibyl Wehmeyer's Community Service Committee is taking on both Scholarship duties as well as Retirement Planning. **Maralee Bowling**, Unit Secretary, has taken on Unit newsletter duties this year.

Carol Payne and **Jennie Hedington** have coordinated a full program of meetings including a September meeting focused on legislative issues and membership benefits. **Peter Diedrick**, WSSRA Legislative Coordinator, and **Rohn Rutledge**, AMBA, provided latest information coming down the pike.

Eric Swanson, new to Omak School District as its Super-

intendent, will be a featured speaker at the October business meeting.

In addition, an OCSRA Retirement Seminar is planned for October 22.

October will also see several unit members attending the E-5/E-6 Coordinating Council meeting at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap.

EAST-7

The E7 area is off and running now that summer vacations are over.

Unit 18 - Pend Oreille, Unit 33 - Whitman, and Unit 25 - Spokane were contacted regarding the years upcoming meeting schedule so visits can be made by the E7 representative at an appropriate time. Contacts were made with **Don Kackman** from Whitman discussing upcoming meetings of the E7 group. The *Pend Oreille and Whitman units* will send schedules when the times are determined.

The *Spokane unit* met for a potluck of the SAREA board members at President **Bill Marvin's** home to finalize the year's agenda and speakers.

A picnic was held at Manito Park for some socializing to start the year off.

WSSRA around the state

It has been decided to hold the meetings at a local buffet so members can eat and chat and then have the regular SAREA meetings. It is hoped that this will encourage even more attendance at meetings.

The Christmas luncheon will again be held at the Spokane Country Club and the spring Scholarship luncheon will be again held at Mukagawa College.

An effort is being made to encourage even more active educators to join WSSRA this year. We look forward to a busy and fun year for E7 members.

EAST-8

Unit 29 - Benton-Franklin: The year started with the annual indoor picnic at the Country Gentleman restaurant in Kennewick. Terry Simmelink, long time entertainer, Kennewick resident, and public school supporter provided music.

The luncheon was planned to be a summer social with minimal business and maximum interaction with fellow members. President, **Jim Bumgarner**, welcomed members, visitors and guests including his mother as a special guest. Officers and the Executive board were

introduced and a few announcements were made. The remainder of the meeting proved to be a relaxing event.

The September meeting is the Legislative program. Legislative chair, **Jim Foster**, will ask candidates to state their ideas regarding our WSSRA Legislative packet. Set in a political forum, two candidates running for Senator in the 8th Legislative District will respond.

October brings **Saundra Hill**, Superintendent of Pasco Schools. **Saundra** was a speaker at the 2013 WSSRA convention hosted by us (BFSRA) in Pasco.

The annual Holiday event is the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Toys will be collected at the November luncheon.

Current/future program information and news can be found on the webpage:

<http://bfsraunit29.blogspot.com/>

and in the monthly newsletter. All luncheons will be held at the Country Gentleman Restaurant in Kennewick.

Unit 31 - Walla Walla Columbia: We had our first officers meeting on August 30th. New officers include: **Niels Peterson**, as unit president, **Bob Fox** as treasurer and **Mary Jo Fontenot** as sec-

retary. Also present were **Nancy Withycombe**, past unit president, and **Rick Nebeker**, newly elected E-8 representative.

Our first executive board meeting was on September 4th. New committee chairmen were introduced. Calendar dates were reviewed as were the monthly program topics. Then on Monday, September 8th, we had our first luncheon with 75 members present. Our first presenter was AnnRene Joseph, who debuted her dissertation and related literature in front of our group. Her topic was the effectiveness of creative drama on vocabulary retention. The second presenter was Augusta Farnum, who is the president of the Carnegie Picture Lab. This organization brings art to the schools

of Walla Walla through the efforts of an all volunteer cadre of dedicated individuals.



2013-14 WSSRA Board: (front row) Jim Hall, treasurer; Bob Ehrenheim, president-elect; Nick Schultz, president; Richard Anderson, past president; Ed Gonion, executive director; Eileen Wascisin, secretary. (middle row) Marianne Harvey, NW 1; Patricia Cygan, NW 2; Joan Butler, E 7; Rita Requa, historian; Nancy Valeson, E 6; Joyce Gillie, SW 4. (back row) Gene Forrester, parliamentarian; Gary Gleason, SW 3; Rick Nebeker, E 8. Not pictured—Lloyd Olson, E 5; Kristin Murphy, Journal editor.



The Journal
 Washington State School Retirees' Association
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The mission of WSSRA is to...

- develop, propose and implement action that will benefit all school retirees.
- propose legislation and legislative action that will enhance school retirees' lives.
- provide the support necessary to strengthen local units of WSSRA.
- foster involvement by school retirees in educational and community activities and organizations.
- communicate to local units the activities and priorities of NRTA, AARP and other entities that affect retired school personnel.
- represent all present and future Washington state school retirees, both classified and certificated.

Vision

**WSSRA will provide leadership
 and promote action relevant
 to all retired and active school personnel.**

Don't delay – ask today

You'll find inside...

AARP.....6	History.....14	President's message2
AMBA.....7	Legislative news.....4	Remembering5
Executive director's message.....3	Membership11	Retiree contact information.....12
Foundation10	On the road.....8	WSSR-PAC.....5
Health.....12	Outreach Corner.....13	WSSRA around the state.....15