

# NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association

## DECLUTTER & DOWNSIZE NOW!

Join the Red Door Team for an informative seminar. [The Red Door Team](#) has answers, resources and will provide *giveaways*. Presenters are in touch with the lifestyle needs of our generation and can help turn overwhelming anxiety and stress into happy, profitable, satisfying experiences. They meet regularly and have developed working relationships with trusted advisors in the senior arena. Join in our exploration with The Red Door about...



- The many different living styles available and the pros and cons associated
- How to increase the value of your home to sell at the highest price in today's market
- Resources to help make moving easier
- How to downsize and de-clutter years of personal belongings
- Tips on how to take it step by step, streamlining and sorting
- Strategies to "Empty the House"
- Resources on where to distribute belonging

**Tuesday, September 19, 10:30 a.m.**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church (OSLC):** 215 W. Mukilteo Blvd., Everett.

**LUNCH:** Please bring a salad or other dish of your choice to share. The Sno-Isle board will provide beverages, rolls and dessert.. **NEW MEMBERS ATTENDING FOR THE FIRST TIME DO NOT HAVE TO BRING ANYTHING—JUST JOIN US!**

### **LOOK INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER!**

....Learning Support Funds are available for request—get yours in soon!

....Legislation—"If you're not at the table, you're the meal!" **GET INVOLVED!**

....Updated Calendar for the school year—sneak preview of October's event

....Membership updates

## NEED \$\$\$ FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

### APPLY FOR A \$300 LEARNING SUPPORT STIPENDS NOW!

#### Deadline for applying is December 15, 2017

The application process is easy: 1) Send in your application (see below) 2) along with a short paragraph describing how the funds will be utilized. ALL school employees (certificated,, noncertificated, administrators) may apply. In the past some stipends have been used to purchase books, art/science/music supplies, etc. We encourage partnering with other school employees in a building for special projects. We also encourage your building principal(s) be aware of your request and support your endeavors. If you aren't certain whether your request for a stipend is appropriate, please contact Joan Penewell.

There are **two goals** for this program:

1) *Provide additional direct benefits to students beyond through general school funding sources*

2) *Encourage membership in our organization*

**You must be a member to receive a stipend.** BUT, if you are not currently a member, you can join when you apply for the stipend (cost is \$7 per month, which is taken directly from your payroll).

We publicize the names of recipients in our newsletter and have a lunch event in the spring featuring highlights of recipients' use of the funds. Our membership is very supportive of providing learning support funds and very interested in learning about the numerous ways current school employees "go the extra mile" to support kids. Winners will be invited to send photos or examples of their projects.

Mail your application to: Joan Penewell, 10715 Birch Dr. NW, Tulalip WA 98271

Questions/e-mail application: contact Joan at [two.primes@frontier.com](mailto:two.primes@frontier.com)

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#### Learning Support Fund Application

Deadline is December 15, 2017

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a paragraph with specifics about your request. Cost projections are not necessary. Explain the needs for students and how the money will be used to benefit students

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Sno-Isle Unit 22 needs members who are outgoing and enthusiastic to interest other colleagues in joining our group. We would like to contact faculties in our local school districts and let them know the benefits you already enjoy. We also will be exploring new ways to attract members—classified and certified school employees. We welcome new ideas and innovative thoughts to grow our group and protect our future as educators in Washington State.

Please contact Marianne Harvey if you are interested to talk more about this opportunity for you to get involved and assist our Unit in continuing our growth and development.

425-348-4993

[jimmarh7@mac.com](mailto:jimmarh7@mac.com)

## SNEAK PREVIEW.....

At our October lunch event, we will be featuring the award-winning documentary film “Paper Tigers.” Some Sno-Isle members had a chance to view this film at the recent WSSRA state convention and decided it would be good to share it with all our members.

James Redford, documented the lives of staff and students of Lincoln Alternative High School in Walla Walla, Washington as the director of “Paper Tigers”. Students at this high school had behavioral issues and poor academic performances and were usually suspended from school. After discovering the studies on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the high school changed its approach to handling the students with kindness and in-school suspension versus automatic punitive punishments. The teaching methods and behavior management at Lincoln help to combat the “toxic stress” by caring for the students’ lives outside school and having a gentler approach towards their behaviors. The new approach is doing so well at Lincoln that it is entering

## Support CHRISTMAS HOUSE while doing your regular shopping...

Spread the word to family, friends and coworkers! Stores contribute to CH based on your shopping activity. There is no cost to you .and these are fast, easy ways for you to help provide holiday gifts to children of Snohomish County

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Christmas House and they will receive money from Fred Meyer and you keep all your usual card benefits. Visit the website today and search using 88943. [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)

Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), designate Christmas House as your charity, and when you shop through this site (same great merchandise and prices as the amazon.com), CH will receive 5% of each dollar you spend - there is no extra cost to you and it is a great,

[iGive.com](http://iGive.com)

Sign up is free. Designate Christmas House as your charity and make online purchases from over 1,400 participating stores, Christmas House receives a commission. After you join, download a button and it will appear on participating websites whenever you visit their site.

# LEGISLATION—THEN AND NOW

Submitted by Tim Knopf

The longest legislative session in Washington State history adjourned July 20 after three separate 30-day special sessions that stretched the regular 105-day session to an amazing 193 days. This has been a remarkable session, and will long be remembered due to its great length, the titanic changes it will make in the ways public schools are organized and funded and sadly, for the bitter division of the two sides.

As I explained at length in last month's newsletter, the Washington State School Retirees Association made no forward progress on our legislative goals this session--we were skunked.

Here are the four legislative goals for which WSSRA staff and the legislative committee labored this year:

1. Restore the Plan 1 COLA.
2. Restore the Medicare Healthcare Benefit to its former \$183 per month from the current \$150 per month.
3. Make the actuarially recommended payment to the state pension funds.
4. Maintain the PERS 2 and TRS 2 retirement plans for future school employees.

I could claim that we did achieve goals three and four above, but that is only because the legislature didn't have to take any action on them--they were already doing them! We came really close to making a partial step towards restoring the Plan 1 COLA with House Bill 1484, but it died in the House Appropriations Committee even though that committee's chair was a co-sponsor of the bill. We also thought that we would see the restoration of the PEBB Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit to its original \$183 per month, but we were wrong. It remains frozen at \$150 per month, just as it has every year since 2011.

With the billions that the legislature committed to spend over the next two years to satisfy the state Supreme Court's McCleary Decision on school funding, you'd think that at least some of that money would land on us. Incredibly, it missed us completely. Too much time has passed for us to be satisfied with marching in place. We need to see improvement. When times were tough and money was short it may have been enough to say, "Well, at least we didn't lose anything!" but all of us who have gone without a COLA since 2010 HAVE lost something- purchasing power, and we won't regain that, even if the legislature passed a COLA bill tomorrow.

In order to discover what happened this session and what we can do about it in 2018, I recently asked for meetings with the legislative candidates from our area that WSSRA endorsed in the 2016 general election: Lillian Ortiz-Self & Strom Peterson (21<sup>st</sup>), June Robinson & Mike Sells (38<sup>th</sup>), Kirk Pearson (39<sup>th</sup>), and John Lovick (44<sup>th</sup>). I will share with you what I've learned in those meetings.

BUT, I can say that right now, the mission for ALL/EACH of us should be to communicate with our legislators and let them know our stories so they will better understand our issues and value our goals. To help you get started on that, their names, office telephone numbers, email and mailing addresses and are provided in this newsletter.

Learning how to be more effective at communicating with legislators will be the focus of Sno-Isle Unit 22's general meeting Tuesday, November 21st. We are fortunate to have secured the assistance of WSSRA Legislative Director, Peter Diedrick, in our task that day. I hope that you will be there.

Ironically, the state's longest legislative session may still not yet be over. When legislators adjourned July 20, they had not yet passed a capital budget. Even though the details of that budget had been negotiated, Senate Republicans refused to approve it without what they called a "permanent fix" to the state Supreme Court's Hirst Decision on water rights. Rejecting the House Democrats' two-year moratorium compromise proposal, Senate Republicans chose to hold out for their "permanent fix."

This impasse over the Hirst Decision has the two parties playing a game of "chicken" with a \$4 billion public construction budget that includes \$1 billion for schools and which puts 10,000 jobs on hold until the issue is resolved. As of today, August 20, the legislature seems no closer to an agreement, and the start of the 2017-18 school year is nearly upon us!

***It's safe to say that never before in state history has a legislature been this ideologically divided.*** Unfortunately, school retirees are caught in the middle, and we feel the pain. That's why it is important for you to share your struggle and your story with your legislators. If they know who you are and what you care about, it will be harder for them to ignore your issues.

See page 7 of this newsletter for a list of legislators. CONTACT THEM...GIVE THEM YOUR FEEDBACK! Keep the list in a handy place (by the phone, your computer, on your refrigerator) for easy reference.

Get a message to your legislators by supporting **WSSR-PAC**, our political action committee. It endorses legislative candidates aligned with our goals and provides donations for their campaigns. When the PAC can place a check in a candidate's hand for the legally maximum amount, it gives WSSRA greater credibility. It gets legislators to listen to us. <http://wssr-pac.org/> 1-800-562-6000, 1928 Circle Loop, Lacey WA 98503

## SHOUT OUT TO OSLC!

Sno-Isle is extremely fortunate and thankful to have OSLC (Our Savior's Lutheran Church) host events and meetings without cost or obligation from our membership. All events and meetings have a nonsectarian focus.—"Service to Others" is a goal we all can embrace. **THANK YOU OSLC!**

## Upcoming 2017-18 SNO-ISLE EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER:

Monday, Sept 25, 9:30am—Board Meeting. OSLC

### OCTOBER:

Monday, Oct 2, 9:30am—COORDINATING COUNCIL, Mt. Vernon

Tuesday, Oct 17, 10:30am—LUNCH EVENT—"**Paper Tigers**", OSLC

Monday, Oct 30, 9:30am—Board Meeting. OSLC

### NOVEMBER:

Tuesday, Nov 21, 10:30am—LUNCH EVENT—"**Legislation and You**", OSLC

Monday, Nov 28, 9:30am—Board Meeting, OSLC

### DECEMBER:

Tuesday, December 5. 11:30am—LUNCH EVENT—'**Celebrate Giving**', Sno-Isle Tech "Le Bistro"

### JANUARY: NO LUNCH EVENT

Monday, Jan 8, 9:30am—COORDINATING COUNCIL, Mt. Vernon

Monday, Jan 29, 9:30am—Board Meeting, OSLC

### FEBRUARY:

Tuesday, Feb 20, 10:30am—LUNCH EVENT, program TBA

Thursday, February 22—ANNUAL RETIREMENT SEMINAR, Everett School Dist. Office

Monday, Feb 27, 9:30am—Board Meeting. OSLC

### MARCH:

Monday, March 12, 9:30am—COORDINATING COUNCIL, Mt. Vernon

Tuesday, March 20, 10:30am—LUNCH EVENT—'**Learning Support Funds & Scholarships**', place TBA

Monday, Mar 26, 9:30am—Board Meeting. OSLC

### APRIL:

Tuesday, Apr 17, 10:30am—LUNCH EVENT—'**Be Healthy**', OSLC

Monday, Apr 30, 9:30am—Board Meeting, OSLC

**MAY:** LUNCH EVENT with SNO-KING Unit, program/date/time/place TBA

**JUNE:** June 4-6, STATE WSSRA CONVENTION, Wenatchee WA

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

ALL members are invited to attend and participate in our planning/decision-making process. Meetings are scheduled for 9:30am, once per month (except May) throughout the school year.

## COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Sno-Isle board members and state representatives meet tri-monthly with nearby units to share individual unit activities, lessons learned, and thoughts about beneficial changes.

# PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Co-President Ken Harvey

Recently we took my granddaughter on a train trip to Portland. She had been on the steam train that travels from Elbe to Mineral and enjoyed it so much she has wanted to travel a longer distance. I've traveled by train many times and had great adventures throughout the country. For a couple of years now it's been an experience I've wanted to give to her and it was so worth it - the three of us rode for only \$160 round trip. She commented how much nicer it was than having to sit on a plane.

That was one thing I was able to mark off my "to do" list. I don't call my list a bucket list because it implies more finality than I want to ponder. I read where someone called it their life list, while another termed it their awesome list. Still someone else called it their itch list - things they were just itching to do. A "to do" list is just fine with me and the experiences are still as rewarding.

This past year we took a 15day road trip to Arizona (which I think retirees are supposed to do) and it was another check on the old "to do" list. In fact, in retirement, it has become so much easier to work on some of those things I've always wanted to do that I wind up doing them and then realizing later that it was something I had thought about.

Two years ago I had on my "to-do" list the goal of attending an SRA lunchtime event. Though it wasn't as monumental as a long desired trip to a new destination, I'm glad I attended. Over the next two years I was treated to many interesting topics. The Red Cross - on how to set up an emergency kit, AARP- about new sophisticate schemes to trick seniors, a knowledgeable appraiser who did an "antique road show" with items we brought, as well as wonderful holiday luncheons with the choir from Kamiak. As an added bonus, I got to reconnect with former colleagues plus meet lots of new friends that were part of the school community.

Whatever you call your list - we hope you will consider joining us for our kick-off luncheon on Tuesday, September 19 (see front page for full details). The topic will be on decluttering and downsizing. I'm sure it will touch on quite a few things that I can do to simplify my life and give me more time for my list of life adventures.

Please join us—I think you will be glad you did.

**KEEP IN TOUCH, STAY  
CONNECTED.....**

<http://www.sno-islesra.info>



Like us on  
**FACEBOOK**  
Sno-Isle SRA

## OUR MEMBERSHIP

### REMEMBERING...

We remember with thanks and gratitude the following recently deceased members who dedicated their lives to educating children: Orville Boling, Alice Danielson, Darlene Degross, Darleen Raines, Donette Walser

### WELCOMING...

Becky Berg, Kathryn Christensen, Paul Clymer, Sherie Daurie, Cindy Daugherty, Margaret Decker, Kathy Dinwiddie, Deborah Halliday, Jerrilyn Hamley, Stephen Harvey, Gary Jablinske, Cheryl Jones, Jeanne Kelln, Stephen Konek, Linda McMechan, Martin Menia, Elizabeth Meisner, Saranne Moreschi, Pam Nodus, Rhoda Onken, Marykay Rockenstire, Miriam Waterhouse, Charlotte Williams

### *Need a ride to Sno-Isle Event?*

We have many members who are willing to pick other members to attend events.

Call or e-mail Marianne Harvey if you need a ride to the next Sno-Isle Event.

[jimmarh7@mac.com](mailto:jimmarh7@mac.com), 425-348-4993

# 21st, 38th, 39th and 44th District Legislators: 2017

**21st Legislative District:** *Representing part of Snohomish County including Mukilteo and part of Lynnwood, Edmonds, and Everett.*

**Senator Marko Liias, Democrat**  
Email: marko.liias@leg.wa.gov  
(416 Legislative Building)  
PO Box 40421, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7640

**Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self, Democrat**  
Email: lillian.ortiz-self@leg.wa.gov  
(330 John L. O'Brien Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7972

**Representative Strom Peterson, Democrat**  
Email: strom.peterson@leg.wa.gov  
(324 John L. O'Brien Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7950

**38th Legislative District:** *Representing part of Snohomish County including Everett, Marysville, and Tulalip.*

**Senator John McCoy, Democrat**  
Email: john.mccoy@leg.wa.gov  
(314 Legislative Building)  
PO Box 40438, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7674

**Representative June Robinson, Democrat**  
Email: june.robinson@leg.wa.gov  
(332 John L. O'Brien Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7864

**Representative Mike Sells, Democrat**  
Email: mike.sells@leg.wa.gov  
(438B Legislative Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7840

**39th Legislative District**  
*Representing eastern Skagit and Snohomish counties, and the northeast*

*part of King County.*

**Senator Kirk Pearson, Republican**  
Email: kirk.pearson@leg.wa.gov  
(115D Irv Newhouse Building)  
PO Box 40439, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7676

**Representative Dan Kristiansen, Republican**  
Email: dan.kristiansen@leg.wa.gov  
(335C Legislative Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7988

**Representative John Koster, Republican**  
Representative Koster has resigned, effective August 31, to take a position as the Executive Director of the County Roads Administrative Board. The decision on his replacement for the remainder of his current term has not been made as of August 20..

**44th Legislative District:** *Representing part of Snohomish County including Lake Stevens, Snohomish, Mill Creek and part of Marysville.*

**Senator Steve Hobbs, Democrat**  
Email: steve.hobbs@leg.wa.gov  
(239 John A. Cherberg Building)  
PO Box 40444, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7686

**Representative John Lovick**  
Email: john.lovick@leg.wa.gov  
(429B Legislative Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7804

**Representative Mark Harmsworth, Republican**  
Email: mark.harmsworth@leg.wa.gov  
(466 John L. O'Brien Building)  
PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7892

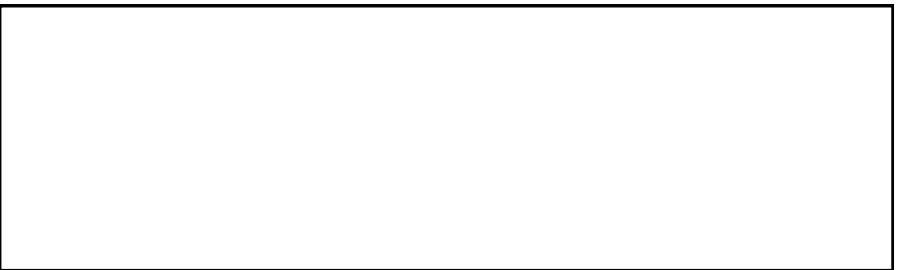
**SNO-ISLE  
WSSRA UNIT #22**

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Marysville WA 98271

**RETURN SERVICE  
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**Saves \$ for Student Scholarships and Learning Support Funds ...sign up to get your newsletter online:**

Contact Jim Harvey, [jimmarh7@mac.com](mailto:jimmarh7@mac.com) or call 425-348-4993

**2017-18 SNO-ISLE BOARD**

**CO-PRESIDENTS**

James Harvey and Ken Harvey

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

Mike Lanctot & Brenda Leider

**TREASURER**

Joan Penewell

**SECRETARY**

Cheryl Hogle

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Membership—**

Marianne Harvey & Brenda Leider

**Scholarships & Learning Support Fund—**

Karen Carpenter and Joan Penewell

**Legislative—**Tim Knopf

**Facebook/Website—**Ken Harvey

**Newsletter—**Jacque Jensen

**Retirement Planning—**

Marianne Harvey

**Community Service—**

Marianne Harvey & Ann Bain

**Health—**Nancy Strain

**Friendship—**Ken & Ella Haller

**2017-18 SNO-ISLE REPRESENTATIVES TO  
STATE WSSRA**

**Linda Averill, President Elect**

**Marianne Harvey, Membership & Nominating Committees**

**Jacque Jensen, Outreach Committee**

**Tim Knopf, Legislative Committee**

**Mike Lanctot, Foundation Trustee and Awards Committee**

**Nancy Strain, Executive Board Health Committee Liaison**