

# NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association



Join us in welcoming WSSRA Legislative Director, Peter Diedrick. We will learn the latest on what our state legislature plans for Washington's retired school employees. We will learn why all WSSRA members need to "share their stories" with local legislators, and the easiest and most effective ways to do that. We will also enjoy the company of two local legislators. Representatives June Robinson and Mike Sells from the 38th Legislative District.

WSSRA's lobbyists and legislative committee have worked tirelessly since 2011 to restore the Plan 1 COLA and the Medicare Healthcare Benefit to its former \$183 per month and to keep the legislature paying its full share to the state pension funds and maintain the PERS-2 and TRS2 plans for future school employees. Despite six years of hard work, we have achieved only half of those goals. BUT, working together, we can do so much more. Come on November 21st and learn how!

**NOTE:** We plan to give members the opportunity to write and send emails or letters after the meeting. If you are comfortable bringing a laptop that can access Wi-Fi that your fellow members could use to email legislators, please let us know at [timknopf1@yahoo.com](mailto:timknopf1@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday, November 21, 10:30 a.m.**

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

**LUNCH:** \$5.00 (pay at the door) buys you an autumn soup/salad luncheon with pumpkin pie for dessert. Water and coffee will also be provided.

*RSVP to Marianne Harvey by November 14: 425-348-4993*

## **LOOK INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER!**

- ....Learning Support Funds—currently employed members can still request
- ....Legislation—See what Tim has to share with us this month
- ....Updated Calendar for the school year—sneak preview of upcoming events
- ....Health Care Options—Nancy shares some important/time-sensitive info

# **FINAL NEWSLETTER NOTICE & APPLICATION**

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

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

ALL school employees (certificated,, noncertificated, administrators) may apply. 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.

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).

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

E-mail your application to: contact Joan at [two.primes@frontier.com](mailto:two.primes@frontier.com)

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## **Learning Support Fund Application**

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.



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## **WE ARE REMEMBERING...**

David Karber recently passed away. Many of us remember our friend as a vocal advocate for retirees. He was a member of WSSRA and the Sno-Isle Unit for many years and was very actively involved in legislative issues. His wife Mary Ann and daughter Judith Karber are also long-time Sno-Isle members. We are thankful for all he has given to support educators.

### ***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.



### **SNEAK PREVIEW to one of Sno-Isle's Outreach activities...**

At our December 5 lunch event, we will once again gather to celebrate the "gift of giving." Along with food and festivities, attendees are asked to bring donations of new toys (or \$\$ if preferred) for the Christmas House. We will again meet at LeBistro and have food prepared and served by students of Sno-Isle Tech Center under the direction of Chef John (new to the crew this year!). Fortunately, there is no increase in cost...it remains \$15 per person. **Attendees must make reservations by November 30. Be sure to look for the reservation form in the flyer being sent to you in mid-November and respond quickly!**

Below are additional opportunities to help out with Christmas House endeavors. In addition, there are numerous volunteer opportunities. To learn more about Christmas House and ways to support their efforts in helping families in need, go online to <http://www.christmas-house.org/> or call 425-338-2273. For those who wish to donate money, you can mail your donation to PO Box 717, Everett WA 98206.

### **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**

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.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Submitted by Tim Knopf

## Meeting with Representatives Robinson and Sells

On September 21, I enjoyed meeting Representatives June Robinson and Mike Sells of the 38th Legislative District. We discussed the challenges that legislators faced during the monumentally long and divisive 2017 Legislative Session. They revealed how they held on for the restoration of our Medicare Eligible PEBB Health Benefit through the regular 105-day session plus three 30-day special sessions, but lacking any Republican support, they finally had to give up and end the session.

They emphasized that they need to hear more of us share our stories. They clarified that the most effective citizen communications are authentic and individual. Simply signing your name to a petition or cutting and pasting someone else's words have much less impact than a letter or email thoughtfully and individually written. Both Representatives Robinson and Sells indicated interest in attending our November 21 lunch event.

## Legislative District 45 Senate Race May Tip Control of the State Senate

By the time you receive this newsletter the November 7 general election will likely be history, and the hotly contested State Senate race in the 45th Legislative District decided. This race set new spending records of over \$2.4 million by the candidates and \$3.8 million by political action committees. Necessitated by the untimely death of incumbent Andy Hill, this race determines which party will control the State Senate during the 2018 Legislative Session. A victory for Democrat Manka Dhingra swings Senate control to the Democrats who control the House and the Governor's office. A victory for Republican Jinyoung Lee Englund maintains Republican Senate control and extends the impasse between the deeply divided houses of our legislature.

On October 24, the Washington State Supreme Court heard arguments on whether the legislature has met the requirement to amply fund basic education as outlined in their McCleary case decision. The Attorney General's office declared success following changes and funding increases made during the 2017 session. On the other hand, Thomas Ahearne, attorney for the McCleary and Venema plaintiffs, contended that these changes fell short of the McCleary requirements. A ruling from the court is expected soon, and much depends on that ruling!

## The Select Committee for Pension Policy and COLA Options

The Select Committee for Pension Policy (SCPP) has met monthly since the legislature adjourned in July. A committee of legislators, state directors, regional employers and active and retired state employees, it studies issues affecting the state's public employee retirement system and recommends potential changes to the legislature. Two topics examined at the committee's October 17 meeting dealt with a PERS/TRS Plan 1 COLA.

**Option A** would be a one-time 3 percent COLA only for those retired ten years or longer. This option would benefit retirees who, on average, retain only 75% of their original purchasing power. It excludes those on the Basic or Alternate Minimum Benefit since they have a built-in on-going COLA.

**Option B** would be a one-time 3 percent COLA on up to \$25,000 of all retirees' annual benefits except those on the Basic or Alternate Minimum Benefit. The benefit cap would limit this benefit increase to at most \$750.

If you want to communicate your preference on these options before their November 14 meeting, you can contact these local legislators on the committee:

Senator Barbara Bailey, Republican, 10th Legislative District

Senator Steve Hobbs, Democrat, 44th Legislative District

At our November 21 Sno-Isle Unit 22 luncheon meeting, we'll update you on these issues and on any others that arise by then. I look forward to seeing you on November 21.

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

### ***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 (her phone/e-mail address is located in various places in this newsletter) if you need a ride to the next Sno-Isle Event.

## **Upcoming 2017-18 SNO-ISLE EVENTS**

### **NOVEMBER:**

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

Monday, Nov 27, 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—***“WSSRA Now”***, Executive Director Alan Burke

Thursday, February 22, 4:00-8:00pm—ANNUAL RETIREMENT SEMINAR,  
Everett School Dist. Office

Monday, Feb 26, 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.

***“THANKSGIVING DINNERS TAKE 18 HOURS TO PREPARE. THEY ARE CONSUMED IN 12 MINUTES. HALF-TIMES TAKE 12 MINUTES. THIS IS NOT COINCIDENCE.”—ERMA BOMBECK***

# PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Co-President Ken Harvey

I started writing to politicians sometime in the 1980's. I planned to help change the world. Well, I'm not sure how that worked out. Though it really doesn't hurt to let people who are elected to represent us know our opinions.

Of course, back then my letters were hand written or typed and I always anticipated the replies. Today I keep copies of the emails that I send so that I know what I've written; back then I probably rambled on and on, covering way too many subjects.

Henry Jackson was great at responding. I know his staff probably were the ones that answered me, but I'm pretty sure he signed the letters (I smeared the ink once). In one of his replies there was even reference to an earlier correspondence. It was then that I became hooked on writing to my representatives.

On November 21, our own Tim Knopf, who has had so much experience sharing our viewpoint with legislators, will give us ideas and hints on communicating with our elected officials. Representatives Mike Sells and June Robinson are also slated to talk and listen to us.

Our organization's mission is to protect and enhance our members hard earned retirement. We, as individual members, play an important part. By communicating and telling our personal stories we put a "face" on what we are asking for. On November 21, consider bringing an electronic device that you can send an email on and practice what we learn from Tim. We will have some extra devices available and paper, envelopes, and stamps to send an actual letter.

Also, don't forget our December 5 event at Le Bistro. We will bring toys and other items for Christmas House in Everett. Christmas House is always so grateful to Sno-Isle for our generosity and I'm sure this year will be the same.

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

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



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

## OUR MEMBERSHIP

Whether a new or existing member, Sno-Isle provides numerous opportunities for you to be involved and commune with other educators looking towards or in the midst of retirement. We have monthly lunch events that are informative and enjoyable from September through May (except January). We collectively provide financial support to current educators and students planning to attend post high school education, as well as, contribute to community activities. You can volunteer and participate in a variety of activities. We look forward to your involvement with WSSRA and the Sno-Isle Unit. Please join us at your earliest convenience at one of lunch events. **REMEMBER, First time member attendees receive their lunch free!**

### *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

# HEALTH: OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR PEBB PLANS FROM OCTOBER 15 TO DECEMBER 7

Submitted by Nancy Strain

Last week I was in Lacey attending the WSSRA State Health Committee meeting. Our major agenda was hearing from Norm Rice and Jennifer Barnes, who are from HCA. HCA administers our health/dental insurance for PEBB members. In the PEBB information (“Your Benefits”) you should have recently received in the mail, December 7 is the deadline for making any changes in your coverages.

The information presented by Norm Rice and Jennifer Barnes was for retirees, focusing on supplemental coverage and Medicare. Something I didn’t know is that Kaiser Permanente’s Medicare Advantage coverage is only good if you reside in their area. Whereas, Uniform (PPO) is worldwide. Kaiser Permanente members have Plans A and B under Medicare.

Uniform (PPO) is Premera-Blue Cross. Their Hospital/Medical services are under Plan F. These members will need to search for a Plan D, unless they have diabetes or other serious medical health issues. Also, Plan F doesn’t use the \$150 from the state. But F does cover 100%, with no deductible and no out of pocket.

I’m sure many of you have been studying your PEBB pamphlet. Plan options will be found there. Part D information is found near the back. Other resources:

- 1) The Benefits fairs held throughout the state— Look in “Your Benefits” for other locations and dates. Drop by the one scheduled closest to us: **November 17, 9:am—12:30pm, Everett Community College/Walt Price Fitness Center, 2000 Tower Street. There will be a presentation for retirees from 9:30-10:30 and a UMP presentation from 10:30 to 11:am.**
- 2) [Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).
- 3) Contact Sam DeRosa, a SHIBA representative in the Tri-Cities, at 509-396-3413 or [samnellel@hotmail.com](mailto:samnellel@hotmail.com). You can also contact a local SHIBA rep. in our area, if you know one.

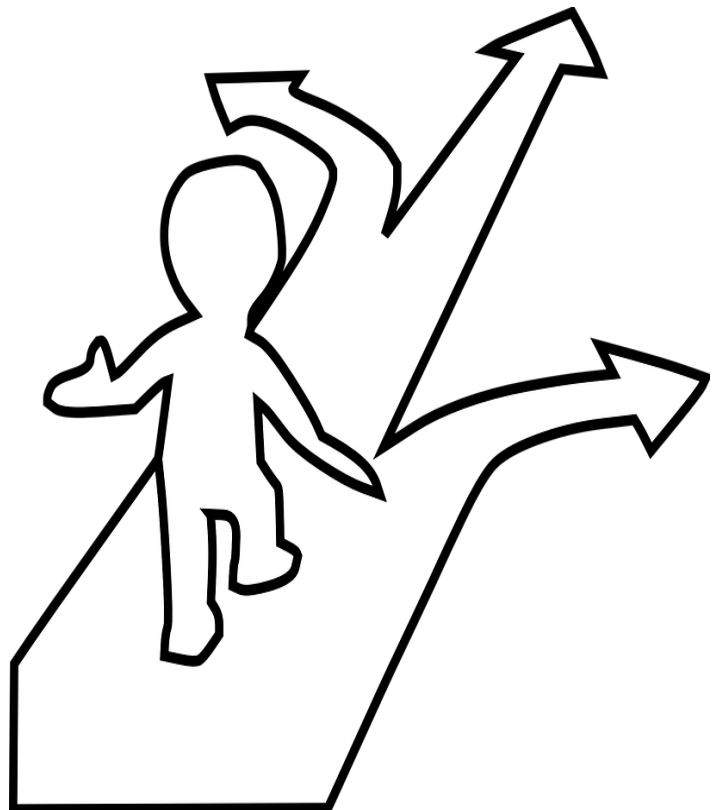
4)For Benefits questions, call the specific carrier, see p. 7 in the pamphlet. They have websites and phone numbers listed.

5)[www.hca.wa.gov/pebb](http://www.hca.wa.gov/pebb)  
or call 1-800-200-1004

This is just an overview of Retiree Monthly Benefits/ premiums. Norm Rice said there are very few changes. Many of you have been through this enough, so you know the ropes and don’t have very much to consider. Every other year I compare premiums/benefits, just to see if I should change. I had trouble with the Dental about 3 years ago. I signed up for Delta and found I couldn’t keep my regular dentist. So the next year I changed again and had the same problem. Now, I am back to my former dentist! If you’re a new retiree or Medicare member, you will probably be the ones who need to do the most studying. Be sure to use some of the resources listed above.

One more item of interest for Medicare members. New cards to be delivered by November 1 will have new numbers, not our social security number!

I encourage you to take the time to review your options and make follow-up contacts as needed to ensure you are making choices that best work for you.



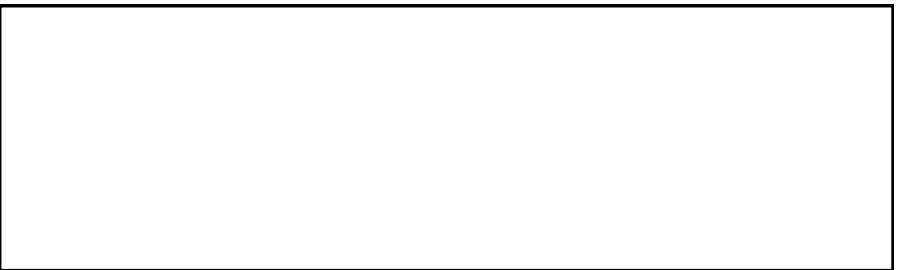
**SNO-ISLE  
WSSRA UNIT #22**

10715 Birch Drive NW  
Marysville WA 98271

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REQUESTED**



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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
EVERETT, WA  
PERMIT NO. 93**



**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**

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**Scholarships & Learning Support Fund—**

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**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, Health Committee**