

NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association

This is the first newsletter of the year. Read about the new editor, scholarship opportunities and a timely legislative update.

Our second monthly meeting!

Tuesday, October 16, 10:30am

WHERE: Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 215 Mukilteo Blvd

Food created by: The firefighter lady.

COST: \$5 per person. **Pay at the door.** Please let Marianne Harvey know you are coming so we will have enough food 425-348-4993

SPEAKER: **Meet your candidates luncheon.**

President's Message:

Hello, my name is Ken Harvey and I serve as president of Sno-Isle #22. Whether you are a new or longtime member I would like to invite you to attend one of our lunch events this year. We have arranged a variety of presentations that we hope will entertain and inform. Besides great topics you will also enjoy a delicious catered lunch for just \$5. A real bargain! If you are a new attendee your lunch is free.

One thing you won't need to worry about is being pressured to join a committee. We promise! We do have lots of opportunities to help fulfill our mission but we would rather have you attend, relax, and meet new friends that also served in public education.

Also, we don't carry on business at our luncheons like some organizations - we save that for our board meetings, which you are always welcome to attend.

So, I ask that you give one of our lunches a try and I'm pretty sure you will have a good time plus a good meal. Our next event is 10:30 Tuesday, October 16. We meet at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. 215 Mukilteo Blvd, Everett, WA 98203. Hope to see you!

Remember to bring "two cans" of food for the foodbank!



Do we have your email? We have nearly 1000 local members but only 240 emails. If we have your email we can alert you to legislative issues and send reminders about events. We do not share your email address. Contact Michele Hunter with your name and email. michele@wssra.org

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

(Submitted by Tim Knopf 9/27/2018)

Octoberfest Meet Your Candidates Luncheon

WSSRA Sno-Isle Unit 22 General Meeting

10:30 am on Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 215 Mukilteo Blvd in Everett.

This Octoberfest-themed event will provide you the chance to meet some of our local WSSRA endorsed legislative candidates. These include:

Legislative District 10: Scott McMullen or aide, candidate for House Representative Position 1

Legislative District 21: Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self

Legislative District 38: Senator John McCoy and Representative Mike Sells

Legislative District 39: Ivan Lewis, candidate for House Representative Position 1

Legislative District 44: Senator Steve Hobbs' representative, Representative John Lovick
and Jared Mead, candidate for House Representative Position 2

The following local legislators have also been endorsed by the WSSRA but are unable to attend:

Legislative District 21: Senator Marko Liias and Representative Strom Peterson

Legislative District 38: Representative June Robinson

These legislators and candidates have been endorsed by WSSRA because they have shown their support for our legislative goals or because they are in positions of power from which they can advance our goals. These are the people for whom we ask you to vote.

It is important to attend this meeting to share your concerns face-to-face with your current and future legislators. It's also important that we attend in large numbers to show that retired school employees are a group worth their attention.

ONGOING SNO-ISLE VOLUNTEER/GIVING OPPORTUNITIES...

CHRISTMAS HOUSE: They were able to provide a book for every child this year. When you do your fall cleaning, if you find any children's books (suitable for kids ages birth through 18) and the books are "like new" or gently used, Christmas House would be delighted to receive them. Perhaps your neighbors, relatives or friends have some they would like to donate. Bring any you collect to a Sno-Isle event and we will get them to Christmas House.

IMAGINE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: At every Sno-Isle event you can bring recyclable items! We collect and deliver to ICM. Suggestions for items to collect include the following: empty plastic food containers (e.g. yogurt containers) and meat trays—please clean first!; toilet paper and paper towel rolls, beads, feathers, ribbon, cereal / cracker boxes, tag board, CD cases, thread spools, stickers, wire, paint stir sticks, panty hose, artificial flowers, junk food boxes, cookie /cupcake boxes. If in doubt —just bring it!

TOUCAN TUESDAY: If you bring two cans of food to any Sno-Isle event we will be sure to get it to the local foodbank. It is always greatly appreciated!

**DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA OR NEED FOR YOUR CLASS OR SCHOOL?
SNO-ISLE SCHOOL RETIREES HAS THE ANSWER**

This fall ALL school employees are eligible to participate.

Learning support funds are now available in TWO categories.

25 MEMBERS will receive LSF of \$400

25 NON MEMBERS will receive LSF of \$100

The goals for this program are to:

Provide additional benefits to students.

Encourage new membership in the organization (It is easy to join and only costs \$7 per month and is taken directly from payroll.)

Please apply today and let non-members in your school know of this terrific opportunity.

Mail: Joan Penewell 10715 Birch Dr. NW Tulalip WA 98271

Or you mail E-mail the information: two.primes@frontier.com

LEARNING SUPPORT APPLICATION

DEADLINE DECEMBER 1, 2018

Name _____ School _____

District _____ Home phone _____

Home E-mail _____ Address _____

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC with your request. Funds may be used for classroom supplies, special events, field trips, all school projects, etc. Please include what you plan to purchase for your classroom or school and how the needed items will be used and the expected desired outcome.

KEEP IN TOUCH

<https://sno-islesra.info>

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A note from the new editor:

My name is David Davis and I am the new editor of the newsletter. I taught elementary school for 39 years in Everett. This is the beginning of my third year of retirement. My first year of retirement I decided that I would “just be retired”. I took time to figure out what I was going to do with all of my time! During the second year, I started coming to Unit 22 functions. I found them interesting and entertaining. I also was able to reconnect with many friends. This year, I find that I am the editor of our newsletter. Writing a classroom newsletter was never my favorite thing, so this is sort of ironic. I have always thought the quality of our newsletter was exceptional. That was due to the expertise of your previous editor, Jacquie Jensen. I have a lot to learn, but will try my best.

Plan 1 Members- A Call to Action!

Why don't PERS 1 and TRS 1 Retirement Plan members have an annual COLA? Could it be because their plans went into effect in 1933, over 85 years ago?

All 10 other Washington State retirement plans have some kind of COLA. Most have an upper limit of 3% per year while the LEOFF plan is limited only by the amount of inflation. Plan 1 members get nothing.

During the 2018 Legislative Session we were able to convince legislators to award Plan 1 members a 1.5 percent one-time salary increase. That took effect with your July retirement check. So, after losing between 16 and 25 percent of your purchasing power, you were “generously” given 1.5 percent to last you for the rest of your life. If you ever want to receive another COLA, then this is your year to act.

Last year our lobbyists said that the most effective weapon in their arsenal was the ability to hand legislators the first-hand accounts written by members (and constituents) about what life has been like without a COLA. You can provide the tools to achieve an ongoing COLA in the next session by simply writing about YOUR life without one.

You can bring your personal accounts to our October general meeting on October 16th and hand them directly to your legislators there. Or you can email them to me (Tim Knopf) at timknopf1@yahoo.com or mail them to me at 932 Wetmore Avenue, Everett, WA 98201.

I will make sure that your comments get to your legislators. If you rather not include your name, simply identify your city or legislative district. You are your own best advocate; share your concerns today!

REMEMBERING...

We remember with gratitude and fondness the following recently deceased members: Bob Timm, Judith Mills, Madeline Torvinen and Teresa Wright

The gifts these individuals have given to education will be remembered and appreciated eternally by many colleagues and students they served.

A college Education Is Expensive.
Most Students Need Financial Aid.

Help promote this program

Let family and friends know about Sno-Isle's Scholarship Program.

Sno-Isle School Retiree Association is again offering TWO \$2000 scholarships for students planning in a career in education.

Requirements for this scholarship are:

Applications are limited to students residing in Snohomish County, Camano Island or South Whidbey Island.

Students must attend a two or four-year college or university within the State of Washington.

Students must plan a major in education.

Applications for 2019 are available: Deadline March 1, 2019

<https://sno-islesra.info/scholarships>

Karen Carpenter at 425 347 2719

New Members:

Beverly Wellen, Marilyn Donohew, Laura Neyens, Ken Hansen, Brooke Hougen, Alison Brynelson, Ray Cox, Dennis Friedrich, Billie Hagen and Cindy McDaniel

We look forward to seeing you at Sno-Isle events and hope you will become involved in some of the endeavors we pursue in the community and in support of educators and students!

Attend your first lunch free of charge!

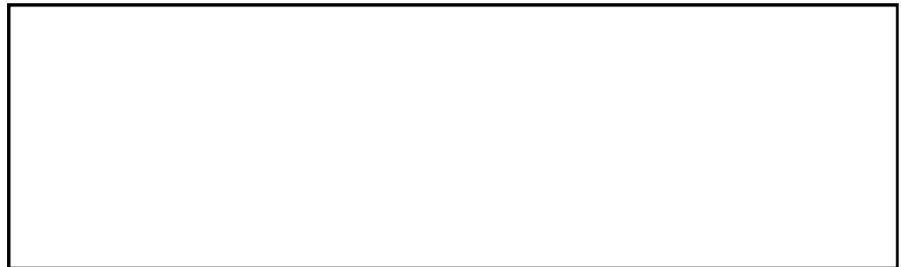
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Marianne Harvey & Ann Bain

Health—Nancy Strain

Friendship—Ken & Ella Haller

**2018-2019 SNO-ISLE REPRESENTATIVES TO
STATE WSSRA**

Linda Averill, President

Marianne Harvey, Membership and Nominating Committees

Tim Knopf, Legislative Committee

Mike Lanctot, Foundation Trustee and Awards Committee

Nancy Strain, Health Committee

MEET SNO-ISLE BOARD MEMBER & WSSRA PRESIDENT ELECT : LINDA AVERILL

Linda, born and raised in Everett, is a product of the Everett Public School System. She graduated from Everett High and that summer worked at Everett Public Library as she attended Everett Community College. That was when she met her future husband, Steve. From ECC she transferred to the University of Washington. After a year at the U, she applied for teaching jobs in Montana and accepted one that was a rural one-room country school with 10 students (grades 2-7) across the river from Brockton. Montana gave her an emergency teaching certificate. The winter of 1968 she gave the students a two-week winter break, took a train home, married Steve and they flew to his base in California for a week's honeymoon before she returned to teaching in Montana and he left for Vietnam. Following her year in Montana, Linda returned to Everett and completed her final year of college at Seattle U, receiving her B.A. degree. As she substituted, she completed her 5th year at U of W. When she received a contract to teach in Everett. it was a librarian's position at Jackson Elementary. After a few years she was transferred to Lowell Elementary. Woodside Elementary was in the planning stages and she was on the committee. Linda was the first librarian at Woodside where she set up and opened the library. At that time technology was emerging and a library conference had showcased a program that computerized the checkout system and printed the overdue notices. Linda was captivated! She broached the subject with an administrator who told her if it ever happened in the schools the high school would be the first to get it. Linda's response was "well, send me there". Two years latter he did, and the library team secured the funding and computerized the Everett High Library as a pilot project.

Throughout her years in the K-12 school system Linda continued her own schooling, attending Western where she received her M.Ed. and Principal credentials and she completed all of coursework, tests, projects and thesis necessary to earn a PhD from Nova U of Ft. Lauderdale.

But it wasn't all work, summers were often spent exploring the U.S. Linda, husband Steve, and son Steven would travel in truck and camper to Alaska, Yellowstone, Carlsbad Caverns, and even the World's Fair in New Orleans and from there they continued on to the Florida Keys with a short stop at Disney World. After 30 years, Linda retired. She and Steve have taken some cruises, though now he prefers to stay home. Linda continues to do some traveling, most often with her sister. Together they have visited China and the Mediterranean. They also took their mother on a cruise to Alaska.

Post retirement activities include time for more reading, a class in wire wrapping (jewelry making) and community service activities. Linda is very active on the board of Christmas House. She is a director, the grant writing chair, and handles the book table during the Christmas season. Linda is also a member of the Everett Elks (a past Exalted Ruler) and a life member of the Everett Rock and Gem Club. She has enjoyed her affiliation with the Snolsle unit. Her year as WSSRA president-elect was enlightening and she is looking forward to the Convention in Wenatchee where she will be installed as State President.



SNO-ISLE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: Ken Harvey

Well, the time for the last newsletter of the year has arrived. It seems appropriate, though perhaps a little routine, to look back on our year together. We have about 975 members, an increase of about 13 over last year. That might not seem like a lot, but there were 15 units statewide whose membership declined. This year we got our Facebook page up and running as well as a webpage. We are Sno-Isle SRA on Facebook and you can find our webpage at <https://sno-islesra.info>.

Thanks to Tim Knopf we were able to keep members informed during the legislative session. Things move fast in Olympia so being able to get “real time” information out helped greatly in attaining some of our goals. We were also present at local district’s benefit fairs as well as hosting a well attended retirement seminar. It has been a busy, rewarding year for our Unit.

We had some great programs and wonderful lunches. We started the year in September by hosting the Red Team who gave hints about decluttering our residences and our lives.

In October, we watched the thought-provoking documentary Paper Tigers. The film featured how a dysfunctional alternative high school in Walla Walla turned itself around by adhering to the idea that students who were identified as “at risk” had caring adults in their lives.

During our November luncheon led by our own Tim Knopf we learned effective ways to connect with legislators and tell “our story”. We were honored to have Peter Diedrick share insights, as well as listen to local legislator Mike Sells.

In December we had a wonderful holiday brunch at Le Bistro - Snohomish County’s culinary skill center. We collected a significant amount of toys and cash and checks totaling \$598 for Christmas House, a local charity in Everett. We enjoyed listening to the Kamiak High School Jazz Choir.

February’s luncheon featured information about Snohomish County’s Omsbud program. Our other guest, WSSRA Executive Director, Alan Burke, updated us on current efforts of the legislative committee to impact legislative decisions regarding needs for retirement plan enhancements for PERS and TERS retirees.

In March we celebrated recipients of our learning support funds and learned how they put our \$300 to use. One of our scholarship recipients told us what an impact our \$2000 had in helping her attain her educational goal related to special education.

In April, Travis Hots, fire chief of Snohomish Fire District #22, shared his experience as a firefighter. He talked about life during the wildfire season leading strike teams wherever help is needed. Travis is known to many locals for his dedicated command during the mud slide tragedy in Oso. He also gave some great safety tips. Our caterer provided a meal that she fixes those working in the fields on call.

On May 15, Sno-King will join Sno-Isle at Le Bistro for a presentation by Bree Loewen, author and leader of Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR).

Do you have any ideas of programs for next year? Drop me a line at kenwes55@comcast.net. Would you like to help out next year? We have openings in our health and membership committees. Probably our most important need next year is an editor for our newsletter. Without this position, it will be very difficult to communicate with our members. We will miss our wonderful editor, Jacquie Jensen, but she will help a new editor (or editors) get started.

Have a wonderful summer and be sure to join us next year as we work to increase our membership and thus our ability to help the community as well as working to improving our well-deserved retirement benefits.

"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

— Mark Twain