

# NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association

**In this newsletter you will find a legislative report, information about scholarship recipients, a day in the life of teaching during a pandemic and some humor about kids and masks.**

## President's Message:

Who would have thought when we met back in February that it would be the last time we saw each other this school year! Even though we were unable to meet, the wheels of our organization continued to turn. Through the hard work of our legislative committee, our lobbyists, and our director, Alan Burke, we were able to achieve a goal we've worked on a long time—a 3% cost of living raise for our plan 1 members.

At the local level, Sno-Isle was able to hold a retirement seminar the day before the Everett School District announced buildings would be closed. The event was well attended and we got many new members while informing people of the many aspects of retiring.

Our scholarship committee was able to meet while social distancing and awarded 3 scholarships to deserving students. See the article for more details.

Our unit was also recognized by the state for reaching an all time high in membership after enrolling 68 more members this year for a total of 1005. We also received a Unit of Distinction Award.

In this issue is a survey. We would appreciate it if you filled out what's applicable. It will help us plan our new year. We will be meeting later in the summer. If you would like to join us to plan the year, contact me, [kenwes55@comcast.net](mailto:kenwes55@comcast.net) and I will notify you of the date (probably August as we plan to meet outdoors). It would be nice to get fresh ideas!

Stay well!

Ken

## June 2020 Legislative News Update

June 18, 2020

Since early March the COVID-19 pandemic has infected 27,000 Washingtonians and killed over 1,200 of them, devastating their families.

The Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" effort to halt the virus has divided us into "essential" and "non-essential workers" making masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing our new norm. While COVID-19 revealed our healthcare workers as the true heroes they are, it also furloughed or laid off nearly a million Washington workers, affecting everything from the smallest cafe to mega-corporations like Boeing. Experts predict that many businesses and up to one-third of restaurants now closed may never reopen.

While many Washingtonians have lost their incomes, we school retirees regularly receive our pension checks. Plan 1 members will even see a long-awaited 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) beginning in July. However, for state retirees the financial pain might be just starting.

Since March when the 2020 legislative session ended, the Washington State budget has flipped upside down with astounding velocity. When the session concluded, Washington had almost too much money; today we face a predicted revenue loss of nine billion dollars over the next two bienniums. Making things even worse is that the first half of that loss (\$4.5 billion) must be made up in a single year because the current fiscal biennium is half over July 1st.

Every branch of state government will take a hit. Governor Inslee has killed an expected state employees' raise of 3%; he has asked department heads for new budgets containing 15% cuts, and has required one-day-per-week unpaid furloughs for many state workers. The budget approved in March will no longer balance, and the state must fill the gaping hole that has opened beneath its feet.

Though this is an election year when legislators would rather campaign than meet in session, an emergency legislative session will likely be held in August to make the cuts that will get us through.

What does this mean for retired school employees? By then it will be too late to kill the Plan 1 one-time (but permanent) 3% COLA. However, many legislators will want to shrink or kill the (up to) \$183 monthly medical benefit paid to PEBB members over age 65. This was slashed to just \$150 per month in 2011 after the last recession and only recently restored to its original \$183. This funding is entirely discretionary (read that as unprotected) and ripe to be plucked by a desperate Legislature. WSSRA will fight to protect our medical benefits, reminding legislators that it's not wise to cut seniors' health benefits during a pandemic that targets the elderly.

"Interesting times" lie ahead for Washington State and for retired school employees. Please remain vigilant and stay safe.

Tim Knopf, Unit 22

## SHARING GOOD NEWS

### Sno-Isle Celebrates Scholarship Recipients

As our world was turned upside down this Spring, it is exciting and rewarding to announce this year's scholarship winners. Karen Carpenter, Cheryl Hogle and Joan Penewell met, at least 6ft apart and outdoors in April, and after scoring and completing the evaluations of many qualified students, the committee selected two students to receive a \$2500 scholarship.

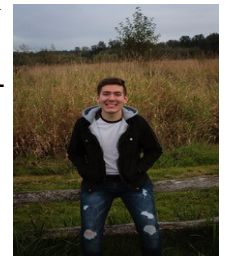
**Rachel Foster** is a first-year junior at Western Washington University. She is from the town of Lake Stevens, Washington, and is the youngest of a family of five, including her parents and her two older sisters. Her hobbies include running, reading, and listening to music, and during quarantine she's been learning how to become a beekeeper. She graduated from Lake Stevens High School in 2019, and is now attending Western to become an elementary school teacher. Both of her parents are teachers, and their example has encouraged her to choose education as a profession of helping others.

She thanks the Sno-Isle Retirees Association for this wonderful opportunity!



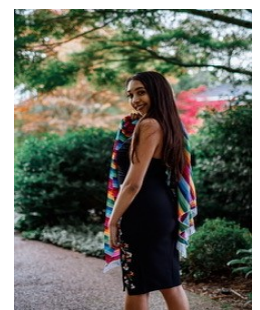
**Jayson Dick** is graduating this year from Marysville Pilchuck High School. He will attend Western Washington University this fall. Jason has held many leadership positions and has a passion for music. He knows that becoming a music teacher will be the best way to share his gift, and he is looking forward to teaching and providing opportunities for students of all ages to learn and make music.

He plans to use the scholarship award to further his education and with becoming a teacher, Jason believes he will pay this award forward.



The committee has awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> scholarship beyond the budgeted amount with the approval of the Sno-Isle Board. This awardee will receive \$1000 to attend Everett Community College in the fall.

**Anahi Valdez** is graduating from Marysville Getchell High School. Her interests include being able to enjoy nature's beauty in every way! She loves to go on hikes to clear her mind when life gets a little stressful. She also enjoys helping others, which is why for next year she will be trying to pursue a pathway in special education or human services while attending Everett Community College.



You might have seen this on Facebook. What might be overheard in a classroom when masks are required:

Please don't snap Billy's mask in his face.

Your mask is not a necklace, bracelet, or any other form of jewelry.

You should not be using your mask as a slingshot. Please put it back on your face.

Please do not chew on your mask.

Your mask should be on your face, not on the back of your head

I'm sorry your mask is wet, but that's what happens when you lick the inside of it.

I'm sorry you sneezed. Here's a tissue. Wipe out the snot as well as you can.

No, you may not blow your nose in your mask.

Why is your mask soaking wet? You just came back from the bathroom?

And you put it back on your face after you dropped it?

I'm sorry you broke the elastic on your mask by seeing how far the band would stretch.

Now you'll have to hold the mask on your face ... or use this duct tape.

Please take the mask off your eyes and watch where you're walking. I don't care if you have X-ray vision.

Please take the mask off of your pencil and stop twirling it.

I know the mask fits over your pants like a knee pad, but please take it off of your leg and put it on your face.

What do you mean you tried to eat your lunch through your mask?

Please don't share your mask or trade masks. I don't care if you like Ingrid's mask better than yours.

I'm sorry, but your mask is not school appropriate.

We're not comparing our masks to other kids' masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.

No, you may not decorate your mask instead of doing your work. I don't care if you have a Sharpie.

You're not a pirate, please take your mask off your eye.

Try to get the gum off as much as you can.

Please don't use your mask to pick your nose.

I'm sorry you tripped, but that's what happens when you put your feet inside the elastic of your mask.

No, your mask doesn't make it hard to get your work done.

Your Mom will need to get you a new mask since you chewed a hole in that one.

Why is there a shoe print on your mask?

No, you cannot eat the snow through your mask.

I don't care if you were in art class and being creative; we do not decorate our masks.

We do not beam other kids in the face with balls. No, their masks don't make it not hurt.

Please don't plug your nose holes with your mask.

Who's making that noise?

I'm sorry your ponytail is stuck, that's what happens when you see how many times you can wrap it around your mask.

I'm sorry to tell you, but your child thought her mask made her a superhero. She tried to fly off the jungle gym at recess ...

I'm sorry your breath stinks in your mask, maybe we should all try to brush better.

Please take those cookies out of your mask. No, you are not a chipmunk.

## Teaching During a Pandemic

Kathie Webber shares her experience in a nutshell.

I teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade science at Centennial Middle School.

A typical day at home for school starts with me checking my email at 7:00 a.m. Every Monday we are supposed to record attendance from the previous week. This is a record of kids that have not opened up your Canvas page to do any work.

Out of 144 student this could be anywhere from 15 to 25 kids.

We're keeping track of engagement, are they kind of trying. No grades really.

Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. is our Science Staff Zoom meeting.

Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. is our entire school Staff Zoom meeting.

The Zoom meetings last anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes.

I also meet with my teaching partner on Zoom at least once a week to discuss, plan, and plot out what we're going to put into Canvas for the week. This meeting has been known to last anywhere from 2 to 3 hours.

For a number of hours each day I track which kids are signing into Canvas to complete the work. I start sending out emails halfway through the week when I notice some kids haven't signed on yet.

On Friday morning I send out emails to parents when I notice that their son or daughter haven't started working on science yet.

My weekly lessons are available on Canvas until Sunday at midnight.

The new lineup of weekly lessons come out every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.

They have 8 days to work on the lessons each week.

The total amount of time of their work for the week generally runs from 1 to 2 hours only.

This is only a fraction of what I do each week. Many hours of individual lesson plan searches, creating power points, creating and modifying videos of me teaching.

And then I have to find time for exercise, sleeping, family, meals, shopping (once every 14 days).

I am looking forward to summer starting June 20<sup>th</sup>!

Kathie Webber

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

Centennial Middle School

Snohomish, Wash.

## On the Web

Member Melissa Dilling shared what can be accomplished during distance learning in the midst of a pandemic. The video explains about a project middle school students were collaborating on and then shows how they adapted once school closed.

<https://www.facebook.com/112436640129395/posts/284197392953318/?vh=e&d=n>

Every year Silver Lake Staff creates an end of the year music video. They certainly didn't let a pandemic stop them this year - in fact that is what the video is about! Check it out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvbni3mUQyk&fbclid=IwAR0-PG-stoMYsUXAWpHrTYteKdefRfc5b9GkbQuFhQsj-j-fypa4BAWUbbU>

Stay home, stay safe, and make a difference by volunteering 1:1 from a distance! Cedar Way Elementary School is seeking volunteers for the 2020-21 school year to listen to a student read over the phone or read aloud to the student. Details will be e-mailed over the summer. If interested (no need to commit right now), please contact Leann Onishi, Title 1 reading specialist at Cedar Way Elementary, Edmonds SD.

E-mail: [OnishiL@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:OnishiL@edmonds.wednet.edu)

Voice mail: (425) 431-223

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## Member Survey

Since this coming year may still look a little different it makes it especially challenging for your board to plan events. For our members who have attended lunch events in the past we are curious how you feel about the coming year.

If in the fall we have entered Phase 3 would you feel comfortable attending a lunch event? \_\_\_\_\_

How should lunch be handled? Bring your own \_\_\_\_\_ Order from Subway \_\_\_\_\_

Other ideas? \_\_\_\_\_

We realize that many of our members are still working which makes joining us for lunch difficult. If you are able to attend we would love to hear from you.

Would you ever be interested in an after school social event?

If so any suggestions?

These questions are for our retired members:

Have you attended any lunches in the last several years? \_\_\_\_\_

We currently meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Is Tuesday a good day for you? \_\_\_\_\_

We have our program at 10:30 with lunch following. Does this time work for you? \_\_\_\_\_

We currently meet at Our Saviors Lutheran Church Is this a good location for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Many of you belong to other groups that have presentations at their events. We're always looking for new ideas for our members. Please share some good programs you've seen that might work for us.

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You can email or mail the survey to Ken Harvey at [kenwes55@comcast.net](mailto:kenwes55@comcast.net)





## New Members

Larry Pederson	Vicky North	Patrick Walker	Allen Vance
Gayle Andrews	Linda Beam	Janice Johnston	

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!

## REMEMBERING...

We remember with gratitude and fondness the following recently deceased members:

Dominic Soriano	John Bellersen	Marjorie Carter	Greg Coffin
Demitrios Prekages	Charles Randall	Kathryn Hamilton	Dennis Kujath
Crystal Johnson	Donna Patchett	Janice Truant	

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

**SNO-ISLE  
WSSRA UNIT #22**

10715 Birch Drive NW  
Marysville WA 98271

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**Newsletter**—David Davis

**Retirement Planning**—Marianne Harvey

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**2019-2020 SNO-ISLE REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE WSSRA**

Linda Averill, Past President

Marianne Harvey, Foundation Trustee and Nominating Committee

Tim Knopf, Legislative Committee  
Kay Bishop, District 1 Representative

Look for a newsletter in August. The Board will have a better idea about future events at that time.