

NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association

In this newsletter you will find a legislative report, information about Learning Support Stipends, an invitation to The Parade of Giving that benefits Christmas House.

President's Message:

Greetings!

This normally would be the newsletter that we would be reminding members to reserve a place at our holiday luncheon and toy drive for Everett's Christmas House. Alas, it is only one of many things that are different this year. I'll miss getting together, having a fantastic meal and listening to high school students entertain us with wonderful music. I always marvel at how many toys and cash donations we donate to make Christmas a little brighter for families in need. Though we are unable to gather this year we can still help. Sno-Isle will be running a drive though toy drive on Tuesday, December 1, from 10:30 AM - Noon. Just drive up and someone will safely unload your donation. You can also bring cash and checks. It will be at our usual gathering place - Our Saviors Lutheran Church on Mukilteo Blvd. See the article in the newsletter for more details.

I want to end by thanking those volunteers who are writing notes of appreciation to our over 400 members currently working in a challenging environment. If you ever have had doubts about a small act of kindness having an impact -one of our writers even got a thank-you back for the thank-you card we sent! I'm still writing my notes but it got me to thinking of how many people in our community could use a simple thank-you. Health care worker and essential workers in grocery stores are just two of the many who could use an acknowledgement of the hard work and long thankless hours they are putting in. I plan to let them know how much I appreciate them. I hope you join me in reaching out and saying "thanks" to these heroes.

Stay well!

Ken

November 2020 Unit 22 Legislative Article

Nine days ago, the historic 2020 general election entered history. While many Washington State counties are still counting their last few ballots, even the close races have been largely decided by now.

During each general election the Washington State School Retirees' Association endorses legislative candidates who have demonstrated or expressed strong support for issues important to school retirees and whom are competitive in their races.

For the November 3, 2020 general election WSSRA endorsed 106 candidates (including Governor Inslee). WSSR-PAC, a legally separate organization that works closely with WSSRA, also contributed \$24,500 in PAC member-donated funds to WSSRA endorsed candidates facing close races.

Statewide WSSRA endorsed 72 Democrats and 34 Republicans, 97 of whom won their races. That's a 91.5% success rate for our candidates!

Our NW-1 Region covers parts of the Salish Sea from north King County to the Washington-British Columbia border and incorporates Legislative Districts 1, 10, 21, 38, 39, 40, 42 and 44. The results in these districts are as follows:

Legislative District 1:

All three WSSRA-endorsed candidates in District 1 were incumbent Democrats who handily won their races: Derek Stanford, Senator; Davina Duerr, House Position 1 and Shelley Kloba, House Position 2.

Legislative District 10:

In the District 10 Senate race we endorsed challenger Helen Price Johnson, a Democrat over Republican incumbent Ron Muzzall. In the first days after the election, challenger Johnson was ahead, but as additional votes were counted Senator Muzzall passed Johnson to win re-election by less than 2%.

Something similar happened in the race for the open House Position 1. WSSRA-endorsed Democrat Angie Homola led on election day but was narrowly defeated by Republican Greg Gilday who edged ahead as later counts came in.

WSSRA-endorsed incumbent Democrat Dave Paul successfully defended his House Position 2 by 812 votes.

Legislative District 21:

Our only endorsed candidate in this district, was Democrat and incumbent, Lillian Ortiz-Self. She won her race for House Position 2 by 32%.

Legislative District 38:

All three WSSRA-endorsed candidates in this district were Democrats and incumbents, and all three won re-election by significant margins: Senator, June Robinson; House Position 1, Emily Wicks; House Position 2, Mike Sells.

Legislative District 39:

In District 39 WSSRA endorsed the Democrat challenger Claus Joens for House Position 1 over Republican incumbent Robert Sutherland. Representative Sutherland won re-election by over 20%.

Legislative District 40:

All three WSSRA-endorsed candidates in District 40 were incumbent Democrats who easily won their races: Liz Lovelett, Senator; Debra Lekanoff, House Position 1 and Alex Ramel, House Position 2.

Legislative District 42:

In District 42 WSSRA endorsed the Democrat challenger Alicia Rule for House Position 1 over Republican incumbent Luanne Van Werven. Ms. Rule won the race by 2%!

WSSRA also endorsed incumbent Democrat Sharon Shewmake for House Position 2, and she defeated challenger Jennifer Sefzik by 2% to win re-election.

Legislative District 44:

In this district WSSRA endorsed incumbent Democrat John Lovick for House Position 1 and Democrat April Berg for open House Position 2. Both candidates won their races.

Why Does WSSRA Endorse Legislative Candidates?

The members of the Washington State Legislature created our retirement systems: PERS and TRS 1 in 1933; PERS/TRS 2 in 1977, TRS Plan 3 in 1995 and PERS Plan 3 in 1999. Legislators created Plans 2 and 3 with annual automatic Cost of Living Adjustments of up to 3%. Legislators created the monthly PEBB medical benefit of \$186 for retirees over age 65. Between 1995 and 2010 legislators instituted the Uniform COLA for Plan 1 members. However, when state funds ran short in 2011, it was the legislators who killed that Plan 1 Uniform COLA and it was the legislators who voted to cut the PEBB Medical Benefit for all by \$36. In 2019 legislators returned the PEBB Medical Benefit to \$186 per month and in 2020 legislators gave Plan 1 members a one-time 3% COLA.

Washington State legislators are extremely important to Washington School Retirees because they have such tremendous power over our pensions and our lives as retirees. That is why we endorse candidates who are responsible and who care about issues important to us as seniors and school retirees. That is why WSSR-PAC was formed in 2002 to deliver campaign contributions to “candidates that support Washington State school retirees’ retirement and health care benefits”.

School retirees need good friends and champions in the Legislature because, as the saying goes, “In the Legislature you are either at the table or on the menu,” and we always want to be at the table!

If you wish to contribute to WSSR-PAC:

Go to their website at wssr-pac.org to donate online.

You can send a check to:

WSSR-PAC c/o Lora Brabant, WSSR-PAC Treasurer
125 W 11th Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

You may email Lora at serving4ever@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted by

Tim Knopf

Unit 22 Member

WSSRA Legislative Committee Member

Members Step Up to the Plate

Sno-Isle members volunteered to write letters of thanks to all of our active members for the classroom challenges they are facing during this time of Corona Virus restrictions. Thank you to our letter writers: Brenda Leider, Ann Spence, Sue Rookaird, Margie Tish, Marilyn Donohew, Deb Hebenthal, Karen Carpenter, Marianne and Jim Harvey, Cheryl Hogle, Liz Meizner, Sue Lanctot, Kathy Brodniak, Linda Averill, Ken Harvey and David Davis.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

A SECOND CHANCE TO APPLY FOR LEARNING SUPPORT FUNDS

School Employees have another opportunity to apply for \$\$\$ for their schools. \$10,800 remains available to Sno-Isle members and \$800 for non-members. **The deadline for this 2nd round of applications is January 15, 2021.** October awardees may apply again. Selections will be made on a lottery basis.

\$5,400 SENT TO CLASSROOMS

Thirteen members of Sno-isle received \$400 checks including 4 new members and 2 non-members received \$100 in October for their students. Checks were sent to Kathy Kramer, Angee Markham, Dana Vance, Kim Moritz, Kristi Post, Kailani Tibayan, Rita Trbic, Robin Foster, Terry Aspden, Joe Vellegas, Nichole Richard, Julie Harvey, Maggie Doud, Collen Knutzen and Kelly Williams.

Notes from previous Learning Support Winners.

“WSSRA, thank you for supporting View Ridge Elementary with the “HUGE” grant. \$400 in books have been purchased and entered in the system for all 500 kids. You truly make a difference in our kids lives!

Kristie Post ...Librarian”

“Thank you so much for supporting me and my students with the learning support grant!”

Joe Vellegas



NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

SNO-ISLE CAN HELP!

IT'S EASY ~ APPLY TODAY

**SNO-ISLE is unit 22 of the Washington State School Retirees' Association
Serving Snohomish and Island Counties
ALL school employees are eligible to participate.**

Learning support funds are available in TWO categories.

40 MEMBERS will receive LSF of \$400

10 NON MEMBERS will receive a one time LSF of \$100

The goals for this program are to:

1. Provide additional benefits to students.
2. Encourage new membership in the organization (It is easy to join and only costs \$7 per month with automatic payroll deduction in most districts.)

You must be a member to receive a \$400 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) or visit our website to join online - <https://wssra.org/join-wssra/>

By becoming a member you help support service projects like this. Our Snohomish County Unit (Sno -Isle 22) is 1000 members strong. The state organization has 18,000 members. A primary goal of WSSRA is to protect and work to enhance the retirement of public school employees.

Mail to: Joan Penewell 10715 Birch Dr. NW Tulalip WA 98271
Or you mail E-mail the information: two.primes@frontier.com

**LEARNING SUPPORT APPLICATION
DEADLINE January 15, 2021**

Name _____ School _____
 Principal _____ School Phone _____ District _____
 Home phone _____
 Home E-mail _____ Address _____
 Are you a member? _____

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.



IT'S A PARADE!!

Join the Parade of Giving

December 1, from 10:30 – 12 (noon)

In the parking lot at

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

215 Mukilteo Blvd.

Your Sno-Isle friends will be driving through the parking lot and some will be on hand to accept the donations of new toys, books, cash or checks for Christmas House. Every donation will make a difference to someone. Drive through, see who's working, wave, say "Hi" and drop off your donation. You can enjoy some time with members (social distance and masks) and help a child have a...

Joyous Christmas

REMEMBERING...

We remember with gratitude and fondness the following recently deceased members: Dominic Soriano, Irma Akins, Walter Hall and Julia Sohlberg.

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

New Members:

Lorena Caldwell, Nancy Depner, Larry Pedersen, Joseph Vellegas, Kailni Tikayan, Marilyn Hambleton and Dekires Pace

We look forward to seeing you at Sno-Isle events (in the future when we are able to gather safely) and hope you will become involved in some of the endeavors we pursue in the community and in support of educators and students!



"Isn't there an app for this?"



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**SNO-ISLE
WSSRA UNIT #22**

10715 Birch Drive NW
Marysville WA 98271

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Membership— Marianne Harvey and Margie Tish

Scholarships & Learning Support Fund—

Karen Carpenter and Joan Penewell

Legislative—Tim Knopf

Facebook/Website—Ken Harvey

Newsletter—David Davis

Retirement Planning—Marianne Harvey

Health—Liz Meisner

Friendship—Brenda Leider, Sue Rookaird, Anne Spence

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 another newsletter in January.