

NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association

In this newsletter you'll hear the latest Legislative Report, a President message and receive an application for Learning Support Grants.

President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

Have you ever tried to tell someone what the organization you belong to actually does? You might tell them that Sno-Isle Unit 22 is one of 30 units of Washington State School Retirees' Association. WSSRA is less of a mouthful. WSSRA has 17,100 members statewide.

At the state level, the association works to protect and enhance retirement of all school employees. It should also be mentioned that we encourage those entering education by offering, with the help of Pemco, over \$60,000 in scholarships reaching 40 students entering education statewide. More about our wonderful state organization can be found at: <https://wssra.org/index.php>

On the local level each of the 30 units have different projects and outreach. Sno-Isle 22 is blessed with almost 1000 members and that allows us more of an outreach. We support school employees by offering \$400 stipends for school projects. We are supporting four students with \$2500 renewable scholarships. For many years we have supported Everett's Christmas House at our holiday luncheon. We usually fill a pickup truck with toys and last year gave over \$1000 in cash donations. We also have helped Imagine Children's Museum and local food banks. You can find out more about our local at: <https://sno-islesra.info>

I guess, to sum it up, WSSRA works to protect and enhance retirement, encourages those entering the field with scholarships, and works to make a difference in local schools and the community.

Ken Harvey

SNO-ISLE HAS \$10,000 TO GIVE AWAY

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY ~APPLY TODAY

DO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS



Help is on the way for your classroom and school. This year's stipend is \$400. Get your school community involved. For example: school employees can combine their applications for special projects. Deadline for applications is December 16, 2022

NON-MEMBERS ... Go to sno-islesra.info for all the information you will need to join this special organization and receive a learning support stipend.

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.***

30 MEMBERS will receive \$400 for projects that benefit students.

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 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. We can send you an application or visit the state 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: Joan Penewell 10715 Birch Dr. NW Tulalip WA 98271
or E-mail the information: joanpenewell@gmail.com

LEARNING SUPPORT APPLICATION
DEADLINE December 16, 2022

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.

WSSRA Sno-Isle August 2022 Legislative Report

Reported by Tim Knopf

***Save this date: October 18th 11:00 a.m. to
12:30 pm.***

FREE “Brown Bag Meet the Candidate Luncheon”

Come to a **FREE “Brown Bag Meet the Candidate Luncheon”** (and bring your friends) held by our own **Unit 22 of the Washington State School Retirees’ Association** with the cooperation of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church for you, our members, and the public on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 215 Mukilteo Blvd, Everett, Washington 98203.

Bring your own sack lunch, and we will serve coffee, tea and cookies for all.

Speakers will be the general election legislative candidates in the 10th, 21st, 38th, 39th and 44th Legislative Districts. After brief introductions, we’ll divide the room up by legislative districts and constituents will meet the candidates from their districts for questions and answers.

October 18th Candidate Attendees (so far)

10th L.D.

House Position 1: Clyde Shavers, Dem. (Challenger); **Greg Gilday**, Repub. Incumbent

House Position 2: Dave Paul, Dem. Incumbent;

21st L.D.

Senate: Janelle Cass, Repub. (Challenger)

House Position 1: Strom Peterson, Dem. (Incumbent)

House Position 2: Lillian Ortiz-Self, Dem. (Incumbent); **Petra Bigea**, Repub. (Challenger)

38th L.D.

Senate: June Robinson, Dem. (Incumbent) Maybe; **Bernard Moody**, Repub. (Challenger)

House Position 1: Julio Cortes, Dem. (Open Seat)

House Position 2: Mary Fosse, Dem. (Open Seat)

39th L.D.

House Position 1: Robert Sutherland, Repub. (Incumbent); **Sam Low**, Repub. (Challenger)

House Position 2: Carolyn Eslick, Repub. (Incumbent); **Jessica Wadhams**, Dem. (Challenger)

WSSRA 2023 (DRAFT) LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Pass Plan 1 COLA Legislation

Reinstate a permanent Cost-of-Living Adjustment for PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees. At minimum, WSSRA is seeking COLA legislation to provide inflationary increases in July 2023 and July 2024.

Protect and Expand Retiree Healthcare Benefits.

The Legislature lowered the Medicare Healthcare Benefit from \$183 to \$150 in 2011. In 2018 and 2019 we successfully lobbied for increases back to \$183 per month. Protecting and expanding the Medical Benefit at \$183 per month will help keep retiree medical premiums affordable.

Equalize Plan 2/3 retiree health insurance (HB 1911 & SB 5700).

Under current law, PEBB retiree insurance allows Plan 3 retirees to defer PEBB insurance if the retiree has alternative insurance. No such exceptions are made for Plan 2 retirees. If the 60-day window is missed, a Plan 2 retiree can never access PEBB insurance. That needs to be corrected.

Pay Off the TRS 1 & PERS 1 Unfunded Liability

The State Actuary has the Washington State Legislature on a plan to pay off the Unfunded Accrued Actuarial Liability (UAAL) in TRS 1 and PERS 1. WSSRA fully supports that plan. WSSRA also supports efforts to speed up the payoff dates and insists the \$800 million TRS 1 payoff scheduled for June 30, 2023.

Recapture Lost Purchasing Power in Plan 2/3 Pensions

Inflation is approaching 10%. Plan 2/3 retirees max-out at 3% increases and retain the remainder in an inflation bank for future years. Attention should be paid to whether Plan 2/3 retirees are maintaining sufficient purchasing power.

2022 WSSRA Endorsed Candidates

Our Washington State School Retirees' Association (WSSRA) mission is to develop, propose, and support action benefiting all school retirees. In every general election we endorse candidates who have a proven track record of support for our legislative priorities, or if new, indicate likely support for our priorities and our WSSR-PAC makes donations to their campaigns as our funds permit.

In the 10th, 21st, 38th, 39th and 44th Legislative Districts **WSSRA** has endorsed the following:

10th L.D. House Position 1: **Clyde Shavers, D.**; House Position 2: **Dave Paul, D.**

21st L.D. Senate: **Marko Liias, D.**; House Position 1: **Strom Peterson, D.**; House Position 2: **Lillian Ortiz-Self, D.**

38th L.D. Senate: **June Robinson, D.**; House Position 1: **Julio Cortes, D.**; House Position 2: **Mary Fosse, D.**

39th L.D. House Position 1: **Sam Low, R.**; House Position 2: **Carolyn Eslick, R.**

44th L.D. Senate: **John Lovick, D.**; House Position 1: **Brandy Donaghy, D.**; House Position 2: **April Berg, D.**

Select Committee on Pension Policy Discussing a Plan 1 COLA

The Washington State Select Committee on Pension Policy (**SCPP**) meets between sessions to consider and recommend pension-related measures for consideration by the Legislature once the session begins in January. It means a great deal to have their support for a measure for which we lobby. (Senator June Robinson is an important member of that committee.) While we will be meeting candidates on October 18th, the SCPP will meet to discuss what sort of COLA to recommend to the 2023 legislative session.

Based on a report from WSSRA Legislative Director, Peter Diedrick about their September meeting held on the 20th, The Select Committee on Pension Policy did vote to move a COLA proposal forward, but we were disappointed with the limited scope of the recommended bill draft. The proposal to be studied next month is a 3% increase with an added amendment to study funding for a future permanent Plan 1 COLA.

If you are a Plan 1 member and have concerns to share (politely) with the SCPP, please write to the committee at state.actuary@leg.wa.gov. A copy of your letter will go to each of the committee members prior to their next meeting and could have a real effect on their deliberations.

Sincerely,

Tim Knopf

It was almost Fall when members enjoyed a Victorian Tea. Delicious sandwiches and sweets were perfect with the delicious tea!

Our opening event was put on by “The Travelling Tea Bags”.

You can call for information: Sharon Curd and Barbara Johnston @ 425-348-5986



Questions about health care? Visit WSSRA website <https://wssra.org/index.php> and click on Current News. **Choose Q & A: 2023 UMP Classic Cost Issue**

**SNO-ISLE
WSSRA UNIT #22**

10715 Birch Drive NW
Marysville WA 98271

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



2022-2023 Sno-Isle Board

PRESIDENT

Ken Harvey

VICE PRESIDENT

Marianne Harvey

TREASURER

Joan Penewell

SECRETARY

Open

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership— Open

Scholarships & Learning Support Fund—

Scholarship position— **Open**

Legislative—Tim Knopf

Facebook/Website—Ken Harvey

Newsletter—David Davis

Retirement Planning—Marianne Harvey

Health—Liz Meisner

Friendship—Brenda Leider, Sue Rookaird, Anne Spence

2022-2023 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