

NEWSLETTER



Washington State School Retirees' Association

In this newsletter you will find a legislative report, information about Learning Support Stipends, a day in the life of teaching during a pandemic and an article entitled "A Woman Who Made a Difference".

President's Message:

Well, welcome to a year that promises to be unpredictable. Your board met in August and roughly sketched out the year. We decided to aim for meeting 4 times this year. In October we plan to have a Zoom meeting about upcoming local elections. Beyond that, the year is still pretty fluid.

We will use health guidelines to inform our decisions about gathering in person. Most likely some or all of our "lunch events" will need to be virtual. Except for Tim Knopf, the board has limited experience running a Zoom or other virtual events but that's not to say we won't try! If you know of a good presentation let us know. If you know of something and would like to lead a Zoom meeting really let us know!

Also, in this issue you will find our Learning Stipend application. The board decided to add an extra ten \$400 stipends. Please note the deadline of October 16 is much earlier than usual. We wanted to get the funds out sooner to help with whatever needs have come up in this unusual year. Please pass the word on to school employees who might not know about us. Remember, our membership is open to all school employees.

Stay well!

Ken

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Dear Sno-Isle Unit 22 Members,

As you know, the battle against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting job losses and business closures have created a perfect storm attacking the finances of our state. Not only has the state struggled to fund its pandemic fight, it will take in dramatically reduced revenues in the years ahead!

As early as the 2020 session's end in March the implications of multiple disasters on the state budget were becoming clear. In fact, Plan 1 members receiving a recent long-awaited and much-fought-for 3% cost of living adjustment should know that they nearly lost it to an emergency budget-cutting veto.

For the next two legislative sessions, there will be tremendous pressure to cut state expenses. The state must balance its budget! This could endanger measures like the \$183 per month provided towards the health expenses of PEBB retirees 65 and older.

Times are so bad that we'll have to fight just to keep what we've already fought for and won. Without friends in the legislature, we are endangered! Experts say, "In the legislature, you're either at the table or on the menu."

This is why the WSSRA Board carefully examined every legislative candidate after the August primary, scrutinizing their positions and legislative history. The Board also considered the recommendations of our lobbyists and input from local unit members before forming their list of endorsed candidates for the general election. These are the candidates most aligned with the values and issues important to school retirees and senior citizens. These are the people for whom we believe you should vote by November 3rd.

WSSRA Board Endorsed Legislative Candidates in the NW-1 Region:

1st Legislative District

Senate: Derek Stanford Incumbent Democrat

House Position 1: Davina Duerr Incumbent Democrat

House Position 2: Shelly Kloba Incumbent Democrat

10th Legislative District

Senate: Helen Price Johnson Challenger Democrat

House Position 1: Angie Homola Open Seat Democrat

House Position 2: Dave Paul Incumbent Democrat

21st Legislative District

House Position 1: Strom Peterson Incumbent Democrat

House Position 2: Lillian Ortiz-Self Incumbent Democrat

32nd Legislative District

House Position 1: Cindy Ryu Incumbent Democrat

House Position 2: No Endorsement

38th Legislative District

Senate: June Robinson Appointed Incumbent Democrat

House Position 1: Emily Wicks Appointed Incumbent Democrat

House Position 2: Mike Sells Incumbent Democrat

39th Legislative District

Senate: No Endorsement

House Position 1: Claus Joens Challenger Democrat

House Position 2: Carolyn Eslick Incumbent Republican

40th Legislative District

Senate: Liz Lovelett Incumbent Democrat

House Position 1: Debra Lekanoff Incumbent Democrat

House Position 2: Alex Ramel Incumbent Democrat

42nd Legislative District

House Position 1: Alicia Rule Challenger Democrat

House Position 2: Sharon Shewmake Incumbent Democrat

44th Legislative District

House Position 1: John Lovick Incumbent Democrat
House Position 2: April Berg Open Seat Democrat

The WSSR-PAC, the legally separate political arm of retired school employees, awarded WSSRA-endorsed candidates in really close races with checks towards their campaigns of between \$250 and \$2,000. Even though only 2% of WSSRA's nearly 18,000 members contribute to our Political Action Committee, the PAC was still able to distribute \$24,500 this year.

Please consider contributing to the PAC. You may do so at the WSSR-PAC website: <https://wssr-pac.org> or you may send a check written to WSSR-PAC in care of our PAC treasurer:

Lora Brabant
125 W 11th St.
Port Angeles, WA 98362

WSSR-PAC Contributions for NW-1 Region Candidates 2020 General Election

| LD | Position | Candidate | Party | Amount |
|----|----------|----------------------|-------|---------|
| 1 | HP 2 | Rep. Shelly Kloba | D | \$1,000 |
| 10 | Senate | Helen Price Johnson | D | \$1,000 |
| 10 | HP 1 | Angie Homola | D | \$ 500 |
| 10 | HP2 | Rep. Dave Paul | D | \$1,000 |
| 38 | HP1 | Rep. Emily Wicks | D | \$ 500 |
| 39 | HP1 | Claus Joens | D | \$ 250 |
| 42 | HP1 | Alicia Rule | D | \$ 500 |
| 42 | HP2 | Rep. Sharon Shewmake | D | \$ 250 |
| 44 | HP1 | Rep. John Lovick | D | \$ 500 |
| 44 | HP2 | April Berg | D | \$ 500 |

For members who live in the 39th Legislative District, our sister unit, Skagit/Island/San Juan REA, is hosting a virtual Zoom candidate forum for District 39 at 10 a.m. on October 1st. If you wish to attend live, contact Tim Knopf at timknopf1@yahoo.com for the Zoom entry code. The forum will also be recorded and that recording will be available for viewing at the WSSRA website.



WSSRA –PAC award winner Helen Price Johnson



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 October 16, 2020**

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.

Teaching During a Pandemic

September 6, 2020

My name is Jessica Stalter, and I am a first-year special education teacher. I graduated cum laude from WWU and was twice the recipient of the Washington State School Retirees Association Scholarship in 2017 and 2018. I accepted the position of Life Skills teacher for students with moderate to severe needs at Granite Falls Middle School in late June, with the hopes that we would be returning to in person learning in the fall. Alas, that was not to be and the last couple weeks have had me attending numerous tech and curriculum trainings, communicating with parents, and basically just scrambling to find ways to make life skills work remotely.

Communication from my district to parents was very late, we were instructed the morning before school started to send an email out to parents containing a self or district made video/instructions on how to access Canvas and that their student should attend their 1st period Zoom meeting at 7:35am. I modified the schedule for my students and met with students from 8:30-9:30am and the rest of the day was reserved for individual parent conferences that were arranged via a Google Form. We followed the same format for the next day, and will start after Labor Day with a four-period schedule. I have several families that are concerned about their child's ability to access the curriculum and related IEP services through remote learning because of their disability.

We were given a boxed curriculum to use called Accelerate Education, with the idea that students who chose the 100% online model (do not return to school) can work at their own pace using the lessons. I am encouraged to use it and have been spending my time pouring through numerous grade levels because my students are so all over the place. There is also a concern about physical materials and I was warned not to give them away because they possibly might not get returned. I don't feel right about making families print worksheets (equity issue) so I have been spending time adapting physical worksheets to a digital format and purchasing digital downloads on Teacher Pay Teachers. I have also created numerous free accounts for websites I intend to have students visit to practice skills and have also looked into purchasing programs with paid subscriptions to make data collecting easier.

Already I can think of things that I wish I would have done. I wish I would have made earlier contact with our tech department and made sure my special needs students had the proper devices distributed (touchscreen, QR code log in programmed). I wish I had collected materials that could have been sent home (whiteboards, manipulatives, etc.). I wish I would have met more with my paras before school started and done some tech training with them, as they were not invited to the PD like certified staff. But, we are in the thick of it now and living each day to the next. We are trying to build solid relationships and routines with positive vibes that students with special needs will be returning to the building for face to face teaching soon!

Jessica Stalter
Special Education Teacher
Granite Falls Middle School
jstalter@gfalls.wednet.edu

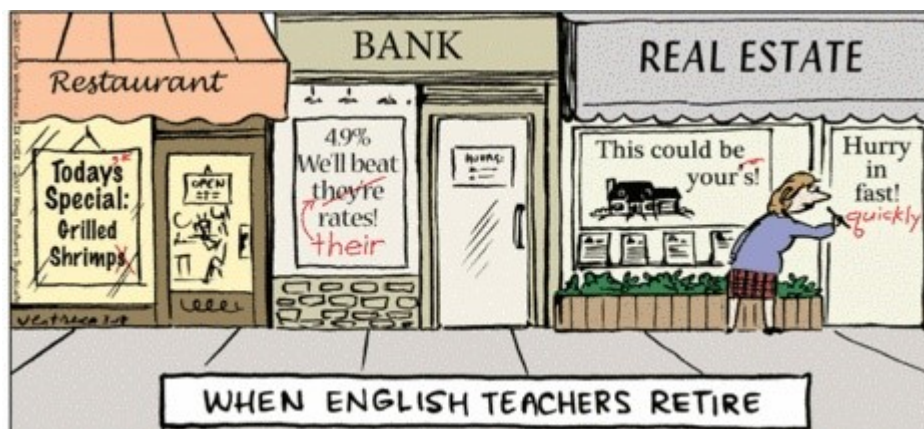
Treasurer's Report 9/5/2020

Joan Penewell

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Checking | \$15,813.21 |
| Money Market | \$ 4,869.15 |
| CD | \$ 5,172.38 |

The preliminary budget for 2020/21 is based on the Covid Virus.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Communication | \$ 4,730 |
| Postage/printing/web | |
| Events/Programs | 0 |
| Learning Support Grants | \$17,000 |
| Scholarships (2) | \$ 5,000 |
| Convention ? | \$ 2,000 |
| Legal/Office Expenses | \$ 65 |
| Membership | \$ 15 |
| Retirement Planning | \$ 75 |
| Coordinating Council ? | \$ 100 |
| Donation to Foundation | \$ 150 |





Woman's Columbian Book Club of Everett

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment our state historian, Karen Keller asked each unit to pick a woman who made a difference.

Sno-Isle Unit 22 decided to honor Alice Baird, founder of Woman's Columbian Book Club of Everett now known as the Woman's Book Club (WBC) as a woman who made a difference. In 1894, Everett was growing into a small industrial town with no paved streets, street cars, and hardly any boardwalks. Entertainment and social life was geared to what men liked.

A book club was just what many women needed after moving from larger towns and cities. The group met at Alice Baird's home. Mrs. Baird was elected president and the group voted to do one good thing a year for their city (along with meeting to discuss books).

Their first goal was to create a public library. Under Mrs. Baird's leadership the group wrote to each of the other 450 Women's Book Clubs around the country asking for donations. By the summer of 1896 more than a 1000 books had arrived. The city was committed to the idea of a library but gave it no funding to build one. Under pressure from Mrs. Baird and the group the city donated three rooms in City Hall and in April of 1898 Everett had its first library.

We are indebted to Alice Baird and the Woman's Book Club (who still meet today). They saw a need, rolled up their sleeves and made it happen. As the plaque that still hangs in the entrance honoring Mrs. Baird states - "Our lives are richer because of her."

**SNO-ISLE
WSSRA UNIT #22**

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Marysville WA 98271

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Ken Harvey

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Marianne Harvey

TREASURER

Joan Penewell

SECRETARY

Cheryl Hogle

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 an October newsletter. Keep October 20 open for a possible Zoom meeting