

# NEWSLETTER

Washington State School Retirees' Association



**In this newsletter you'll get details about our first event of this year, a legislative report and application information about Mini Grants.**

## Pizza Party!

Tuesday, September 16

We hope you can join us for our welcome back pizza social. We will gather at our usual spot, Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Find out what friends have been up to since we last met and welcome new friends. Hear what plans are for the year and give input for future events. Learn how our scholarship recipients are doing and some of the projects our grants funded. Not to mention some rousing games of Bingo with prizes!

Please call Marianne Harvey 425-238-3124 or 425-348-4993 or email Ken Harvey at: [kenwes55@comcast.net](mailto:kenwes55@comcast.net) and let us know if you plan to attend so we will be sure to have enough food.

We will provide a variety of pizzas, salad, and coffee/tea (plus of course dessert). If pizza isn't your thing, bring your own lunch and join us for no cost and still enjoy good conversation and fellowship.

We are asking for \$10 to cover the cost of the pizza. Any extra collected will go into our scholarship fund.

**Since we did mention prizes we are asking for "white elephant" items for the prize table.**

We will have coffee hour starting at 11 AM and serve lunch at 11:30.

Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
215 Mukilteo Blvd, Everett

# Legislative Update

August 24, 2025

Please read through to the end of the article, as it contains an important call to action. As you may already know, earlier this year, the Washington State Legislature came very close to passing Senate Bill 5085, which would finally restore an ongoing COLA for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees. The bill would merge TRS 1 and PERS 1, which are both underfunded, with LEOFF 1, a pension plan for law enforcement officers and firefighters that is overfunded by around \$3 billion. While the Senate passed the bill over loud opposition from firefighters and police officers, the House wouldn't go along, favoring a different bill that would move the \$3 billion pension surplus into the general fund. At the end of session, neither bill passed, and the legislature ordered both SB 5085 and the House's pension bill to be studied by the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP), a special committee that meets when the legislature is not in session. Our goal is to have the SCPP formally recommend that the legislature pass SB 5085 in 2026.

So far, the SCPP's work has gone as well as we could have hoped. Presentations by committee staff have highlighted two crucial points: First, LEOFF 1 members would not lose any benefits under SB 5085. Second, the extra money in LEOFF 1 came from the state, not from police officers and firefighters. We need to drive these points home.

**Call to action:** If you have not already done so this summer, please contact your state legislators and let them know that most TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees did not receive a COLA in 2025 and that SB 5085 is the only workable solution to the problem. You can do this by email, letter, or calling the legislative hotline at (800) 562-6000.

Thank you,

Emmett Mills  
Legislative Coordinator  
Washington State School Retirees' Association

**[emmett@wssra.org](mailto:emmett@wssra.org)**

Office: (360) 413-5496 ext. 2

Cell: (541) 602-4806

# Mini Grant Application—2025-2026

Teachers or school staff working with students are eligible for our \$300 Mini-grants. The purpose of the Sno-Isle mini-grant program is to assist in providing supplies, equipment, help with field trip costs, or other special project outlays that can be used to defray costs not included in regular classroom budgets.

We've all been in education so we've tried to make it as simple as possible to complete the application.

Email completed application to Joan Penewell at [joanpenewell@gmail.com](mailto:joanpenewell@gmail.com)

or mail to Joan Penewell 10715 Birch Dr. NW Tulalip WA 98271

The application should include the following information:

1. Title and description of the project or activity (maximum one paragraph)
2. Educational value or goal of the project (one or two sentences)
3. Provide a basic project budget (doesn't have to be precise) that includes how the \$300 will be spent
4. Name of school, school address, grade level(s) and number of students to be served

Print your name and provide your home email address. Please state that you are a member. Non-members can apply for a grant and then join at [www.wssra.org](http://www.wssra.org). Enrollment information can be found under the "Membership" tab.

1. Applications are due by November 24, 2025

Recipients will be notified through an email. If possible, the award will be presented at a faculty meeting.

For more information about what our local Snohomish County Unit 22 offers including scholarships visit <https://sno-islesra.info/>

A mini-grant committee will read the applications and determine the recipients.

*Sno-Isle 22 is an affiliate unit of the Washington State School Retirees' Association (based in Lacey, Washington) which has a statewide membership of 17,000. Our purpose is to improve pensions and health care benefits for retired educators. We also offer mini-grants to Snohomish and Island County educators, and provide scholarships to high school seniors interested in a career in education. Please request a membership application and consider joining our association. Dues are \$7 per month and are primarily directed to legislative advocacy regarding pensions and health care benefits.*

*Learn more at [www.wssra.org](http://www.wssra.org). Enrollment information can be found under the "Membership" tab.*

**SNO-ISLE  
WSSRA UNIT #22**

10715 Birch Drive NW  
Marysville WA 98271

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



## 2025-26 Sno-Isle Board

### **PRESIDENT**

Ken Harvey

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Marianne Harvey

### **SECRETARY**

Kay Bishop

### **TREASURER**

Joan Penewell (Looking for a replacements)

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership—Open

Scholarships—Liz Meisner

Legislative—Tim Knopf

FB/Website—Ken Harvey

Newsletter—David Davis

Health—Nancy Strain

Friendship—Brenda Leider, Sue Rookaird, Anne Spence

### **STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

Legislative Committee—Tim Knopf

District 1 Representative—Ken Harvey

### **UPCOMING DATES**

September 16—Pizza Party

October 28

December 9—Holiday Celebration

February 17—Hibulb Cultural Center

April 21—Lighthouse Tour

May 20—Scholarship Luncheon



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Visit our website <http://sno-islesra.info> for extra information and newsletters