

NEWSLETTER

Washington State School Retirees' Association



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

Sno-Isle 22 Holiday Luncheon

December 9

10:20 Social time 10:50 Performance

Featuring music by OSLC Preschoolers

Please join us on Tuesday, December 9 at 10:20 AM, as we gather for our luncheon to benefit Christmas House and enjoy each other's company. We hope you can attend.

We will be collecting unwrapped toys for Everett's Christmas House

**We will be meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
215 Mukilteo Blvd
Everett, WA 98203**

Our Lunch

Lasagna Rollups or Hearty Vegetarian Soup

Salad

Roll

Dessert

Price - \$15 Payable when you arrive

Coffee and tea will be available at 10:20 AM



So we have the right amount of food we would like to know how many will be attending.

Please email Ken Harvey kenwes55@comcast.net or text Joan Penewell at 425-308-1906.



Christmas House is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization in Everett, Washington that provides an opportunity for qualifying, low-income, Snohomish County parents to select free holiday gifts for their children age infant-18.

Christmas House was founded in 1981 by Roy Fraser in his garage. Roy had heard of children in Snohomish County who had not received anything for the prior Christmas and was determined to change that. He established the first annual Christmas House and stocked it primarily with used toys and handmade items, which they refurbished and gave away to families in need. They served more than 100 children the first year. Unfortunately, Roy did not live to see the second Christmas House, but his memory lives on as the 39th year of giving continues. The general format of how Christmas House functions has not changed over the years, just the number of families and individual children who benefit from his

dream over three decades ago.

Sno-Isle 22 is a big contributor to this organization. Our donations are put to good use. Please consider bringing an unwrapped item to our holiday luncheon. If you would like more information or to find out how to volunteer visit: <http://www.christmas-house.org>

If you are unable to attend but would like to support our donation to Christmas House, send checks payable to Christmas House or Sno-Isle 22 and we will add it to our donation. Send donations to:
Joan Penewell
10715 Birch Dr NW
Tulalip, WA 98270

Our Scholarship Recipients

Anna McPherson is a junior at Washington State University (Pullman), majoring in Music Education and Saxophone Performance. A 2023 graduate of Snohomish High School, she is actively involved on campus as Vice President of the Jazz Society, Treasurer of the Crimson Book Review, and a consultant at the Undergraduate Writing Center. She also works as a Teaching Assistant in the English Department. After completing her undergraduate studies, Anna plans to attend graduate school and eventually return to the Seattle area to pursue a career in music education.

Derek Olson, a third-year student in the Secondary Mathematics Education Program at Western Washington University, is from Everett High School and plans to become a high school math teacher. Through Western's Compass 2 Campus Program, he mentors students along with those who need extra support at Sehome and Lynden High Schools. He is thoroughly enjoying his time at Western and the opportunities it provides to make a positive impact in local schools.

A Scholarship Surprise!

The Sno-Isle 22 scholarship fund had a pleasant surprise! Crystal Johanson, longtime member who died in 2019 stated in her will she wanted \$1000 of her estate put in the Sno-Isle scholarship fund. Due to a record keeping glitch this money was never distributed until now. The interest earned was \$340.10 making the total deposit \$1340.10. Thank you to the Johanson family for their diligence.

If you have the chance to add Sno-Isle 22 scholarship fund to your will, you certainly would be helping future teacher achieve their dream.

November 2025 Legislative Update

Last month, important new information came to light in the Select Committee on Pension Policy's (SCPP) study of two bills concerning the overfunded LEOFF 1 pension plan.

The first bill, SB 5085, which WSSRA strongly supports, would use the LEOFF 1 surplus to provide an ongoing COLA to TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees. The second bill, HB 2034, would transfer the LEOFF 1 surplus into the state's general fund, allowing lawmakers to spend it.

At the SCPP's October 21 meeting, representatives of a national law firm contracted for the study appeared before the committee. The attorneys made it very clear that SB 5085 had the better chance of receiving approval from the IRS, pointing to HB 2034's mechanism of returning pension contributions to the state as potentially problematic. They also indicated that if either bill were to pass, it would take the IRS between one and two years to rule on it. All of this information should dissuade lawmakers from trying to balance the budget with the LEOFF 1 surplus.

At the SCPP's November 18 meeting (which occurred after this article was written), committee members are expected to have an opportunity to recommend a course of action to the legislature regarding the two proposals. WSSRA is urging committee members to formally endorse SB 5085.

As the 2026 legislative session draws near, the WSSRA Legislative Committee is preparing to go to work on your behalf. In what will be another bad budget year, our focus will be on ensuring all retirees receive ongoing COLAs and that PEBB health insurance benefits are not targeted for cuts.

Longtime member Marianne Harvey passed away on November 5. Marianne was very active in Sno-Isle 22 and the WSSRA state organization. She was a special person and will be deeply missed by her Sno-Isle family.

If you would like to send a card to her family they can be reached at:
1415 84th ST SE #107 Everett, WA 98208.

Memorial services are set for spring and will be announced at a later date.

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

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. *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. 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

Open

SECRETARY

Kay Bishop

TREASURER

Joan Penewell **Looking for a replacement since 2024.**

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

December 9—Holiday Celebration

February 17—Hibulb Cultural Center

April 21—Lighthouse Tour

May 11—Scholarship Luncheon



Visit us on Facebook to stay up to date. Just search **Sno-Isle SRA**

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