



SUMMER, 2015

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

*The legislative session is over. But SURPRISE (!) there is still **VERY IMPORTANT WORK TO DO! PLEASE READ THE VITAL INFORMATION ON THE LEGISLATIVE PAGES IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**

***AUGUST 31 10 A.M. ALL MEMBERS--LET'S WALK the Anacortes WATERFRONT Meet at NWESD Building and walk, then meet for lunch at Gere A Deli's at 11:00. Social and fun--let's show up for this and support our organization!**

***SEPTEMBER 21 9:00 AM. Royal Star Restaurant in Mt. Vernon--NW Coordinating Council (That's YOU-Babe) Chance to meet the new WSSRA Executive Director**

***SEPTEMBER 21 6:00-9:00 P.M. PUD Building in Mt. Vernon-Candidates Forum presented by US in partnership with the League of Women Voters. Port Commissioners and mayoral candidates will speak. We need you there for support AND you are promised a VERY interesting evening.**

OK, yes, it's the same day as the Coordinating Council, but both are important. Take an extra nap or something. We need you!!!!!!

***OCTOBER 5-16--Mini grant applications being accepted from active members so they may apply for our \$100 yearly grants to enhance their students learning. This is a much enjoyed and appreciated tradition. Tell teachers you know to look on our website and get an application right away!**

***NOVEMBER 2 10:00 a.m. Mt. Vernon --Board Meeting--open to all members AND your lunch is provided. Place as yet undetermined because the Presidents haven't found one "fun" enough yet! Stay tuned on that!**

***DECEMBER 2 "Save The Date" Holiday Lunch Skagit Golf and Country Club--This years' event will be limited, so please get reservations in early. Look for information to come out soon!**

CAN I INFLUENCE THE LEGISLATURE????

THE ANSWER IS. . .YES!

HOW????

The legislature has finished its multiple sessions, BUT OUR WORK IS NOT DONE!
A KEY GOAL OF WSSRA AND UNIT 21 is to represent the interests of the active and retired school personnel to the state legislature. It is important that EACH of the 18,000+ members of WSSRA contact their representative between sessions.

THAT MEANS YOU AND ME!!!!

Five goals were presented to our membership. They are **critically important** to us in our retirement.

1. Maintain the PEBB health subsidy--this was part of the biennium budget and has been kept.

2. Oppose change to the pension plans--A defined contribution retirement system will hurt the state's ability to attract and keep highly qualified professional educators.

3. Make the actuarially recommended payment to the state pension funds. Plan 1 pension fund is underfunded due to past legislatures having skipped payments by the state.

4. RESTORE PLAN 1 COLA-Plan 1 retirees have not received a COLA since 2011. This has severely affected retirees.

5. ALLOW RETIREES TO SUBSTITUTE TEACH--Many retirees in Plan 2 and 3 are restricted from government employment until age 65. Allowing retirees to work part-time in schools would reduce the current substitute teacher shortage.

HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS TO YOUR LEGISLATOR. This is where we have must contact legislators and tell them how passing these goals would help us. The legislators RESPOND to their constituents. The BEST time to contact them is NOW between session by e-mail, letter, and phone.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEGISLATORS IS ON THE WEBSITE!!!!!!!!!!

WHAT DO I SAY?--

1. Give contact information including email and legislative district.
2. Refer to proposed legislation or bill number if possible.
3. Describe pros and cons of legislation
4. Describe how you are personally affected by legislation
5. Request specific action clearly.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Barbara Landrock--Legislative Committee Call 360 899-9136 with questions and/or to get your legislative district number

State Convention

"That Old Convention Feeling"

Five grand old teachers from Unit 21
Heading across the pass, where cool it was NOT,
They found out the dry side was really, *REALLY* HOT (High 90's!)
But they cranked the air conditioner
way up high
And proceeded to learn their
legislative stuff
And vote a dues raise--that was really rough!
New officers got elected
Raffle baskets got collected (we won a few!)
Scholarships were given
Retiring Ed Gonion (Director) can now start "livin' "
Awards were won--
Dick Anderson, (Bellingham) (Patrick Hoban Award) for all he's done,
And just when you feel you might start snoring,
You meet the NEW director, Dr. Mike Boring!!!
(No offense, Mike!)
And to top it all off, nothing makes you feel so grand
As the stirring strains of the Wenatchee H.S.
Mariachi BAND!
(And a great and inspiring time was had by all!)

Is your phone ringing?????



You may have received a phone call recently from one of our members. We are checking to see if you are getting your newsletter either by mail or online. We are finding that a few numbers and addresses are not working. Please let us know when your address and phone number changes. We also want to know if you have questions, concerns or ideas for events you would like to have. More phone calls will be coming so if we missed you this time you still will have an opportunity to have input. We want to hear from you. If we leave a message be sure and check back with us.



A Time to Remember



**We honor the memories of:
Elisabeth Roald, LaConner
Hermann Wild, Mount Vernon
Janice Nielsen, Oak Harbor
Judy M. Rich, Mount Vernon
Bonnie K. Salter, Mount Vernon
Arthur Kermoade, Anacortes
Ronald Bucholz, Burlington**

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