



Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21 School Retirees' Association September, 2018



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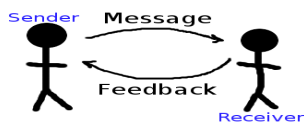
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Social Media Addresses

- **WSSRA.org** (for updated organization news and legislative news)
- **SISRA21.org** (Facebook-Website for local news and



President's Message

And on to a new year for our S/I/SJ Unit. Your board met on August 13 and had a good time planning and organizing for the new year (our charter year runs from July 1 through June 30) and we hope that you join us for some of the events we have in store for you. So that you can put them on your calendar now, we have scheduled a general membership meeting for **November 5**. Carl Bruner, Superintendent of the Mount Vernon School District will be our guest and will share with us what is of interest in his district. We have also arranged for Jeff Burgess from the Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) group to inform us about the variety of insurance programs that are available through our affiliation with them. Because members receive a group rate, there is a substantial reduction in costs for services that are available (and no, he is not there to sell you something that day). What a great way to learn about insurance options available, i.e. travel insurance, vision and dental plans, long term care insurance, guidance on Medicare, savings on travel and tours, discounts on technology such as Apple products. Our legislative team will also be available to talk with you about legislative candidates and share with you the WSSRA goals for the upcoming legislative session. AND best of all, we are going to pay for 1/2 of your lunch. This buffet lunch will include all you can eat, beverage and desert. You will pay \$5 and we will pay the other \$5. **So mark your calendar for Monday, November 5, and we hope to see you at the Royal Star in Mount Vernon at 11:00 am.**

The annual Holiday Luncheon has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 5 at 11:30 am and will again be held at the Skagit Golf and Country Club. More information will be in the next newsletter.

As some of our long standing board members get older it is becoming more imperative that others step up to fill in and help carry the load. Many members contributing, makes less work for everyone. One position that has opened up is that of Treasurer. Barbara Landrock has been doing this task off and on for a number of years and now that it is harder for her to get around, she is ready to hand this position off. If you would like to take over that position, let me or someone on the board know. In the meantime, I will fill in during the interim and would be happy to do a joint venture with someone while they learn the job. Last year's books have been reviewed and reconciled and we are just entering into the new budget year, so this is a great time to come on board. If you are interested or have questions about the position, give me a call or email me (see contact info in the Board Member list to the left of this message).

Bruce Boyer, Unit 21 President

**You are invited to join us for lunch
11:00 am on November 5, 2018 at the Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon Washington.
We will pay 1/2 the cost of your lunch and have arranged an informative meeting for you.
We hope you will elect to join us.**

*****Unit 21's Western State University Student teaching Scholarship awarded! *****

Unit 21 is pleased to announce that our Student Teaching Scholarship for the coming year is Kayla Rafferty, whose home is in Yakima.

Kayla wishes to teach English and has quite an impressive background. She completed Running Start at Yakima Valley College and then transferred to Western Washington University to develop her skills as a writing tutor and future educator. She has a 3.9 grade point average and will have a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature with a teaching emphases later this month. She will be taking part in Woodring College's Secondary Education Post Baccalaureate professional program, helping secondary students to grow as writers, and other related skills.

Kayla plans to work in Yakima schools with the English Language Learner program that encourages growth of multilingual students

We will be inviting her to attend our Holiday Luncheon but will have to see if her schedule will allow this. We know that she is a great choice for this year's scholarship and hope that she does well during her last steps toward her goal.

Diane Visten, Scholarship Committee

Unit 21 sponsored Candidate's Forum Great Success

If you were at the Burlington Public Library on June 30 with many of our members and a number of interested citizens, you would have heard from 16 state legislative candidates from Districts 10, 39, and 40, as they spoke to retiree concerns and more. We were pleased that Kris Lytton was our moderator for the day.

All candidates were given questions to review prior to the event, and were asked to speak to one of them. Each candidate was allowed three minutes to talk about their backgrounds, and their opinions on the issue of their choice.

These included:

- Re-instituting the funds to our medical subsidy to bring that subsidy to the former amount of \$183 per month.
- Supporting COLA for Plan 1 retirees
- Supporting options for teachers wishing to substitute teach after retirement.

Following that portion of the program, the large group divided into three smaller groups, and asked questions of the candidates from their district. This led to some lively discussion and many areas of concern were discussed.

Unit 21 Business/Committee Reports

Treasurer Report—August 27, 2018

Checking account = \$9585.04

Savings account = \$7111.09

Upcoming Unit 21 Meetings:

- September 17, 2018 –Royal Star Buffett, Mount Vernon, 10:00 am
- November 5, 2018—Royal Star, Mount Vernon, 9:30 am—followed by general meeting to start at 11:00am

Coordinating Council Meetings (at the Royal Star in Mount Vernon, 9:30 am)

- October 1, 2018
- January 14, 2019
- March 11, 2019

Lest we forget

We fondly remember five of our members who have passed away:.

Kenneth Guernsey

Robert Warnecke

Marlene Lang

Harriet Smith

Richard Riehl

A donation was made to the scholarship fund in honor of each of these individuals.

A valuable service offered by Unit 21

Our focus on gaining new members is changing just a bit. We have two kinds of members in our WSSRA Skagit, Island, San Juan Unit 21 organization. We have members that are retired and those members that are still out there actively working in our schools. We always have made many efforts to gain members from the retired population. Now we are going to focus our efforts on speaking to prospective members from the working/active population. They are crucial to our organization as they are our future. They will need to carry on our work of protecting and enhancing their retirement years.

This past spring I visited two schools in Sedro Woolley. My hope was to find out what they know about their pension plans. I wanted to see where our organization could support them and also inform them about their pension goals. I was pleased to see that many were in the beginning stages of preparing for their retirement years but also gratified to see that they had many questions that our unit could help answer. In that way these working people could see that our organization had a purpose and was a good resource for them.

I visited Clear Lake Elementary School and Samish Elementary School in the Sedro Woolley District. I was not only made very welcome, I gained 18 new "active" members. This past August I visited Clear Lake Elementary and was privileged to be a part of a welcome back activity. The staff was enthused and excited to be starting a new school year. They were also curious and interested about the information our Unit 21 shared with them about their pension plans. Now, after my experience with these two schools, I feel it is important that our unit members reach out to other schools in other districts and provide the same kind of support. Along the way we hope to also gain more new members to keep our organization moving forward. If you know people currently working in our schools please let them know how we can support them. Let them know that we are an important resource. Invite them to join. We have a lot to offer.

Barbara Robinson; Membership Committee

New Social Security cards on their way!

Washington is on the "to be shipped soon" list. Three things you should know about your new card are:

- * Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything as long as your address is up to date. If you need to update your address visit your [My Social Security account](#).
- * Once you get your new card destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.
- * Your new Medicare Number is a unique combination of numbers and letters. Your new number uses numbers 0 thru 9. The letters S, L, O, I, B and Z are never used.

Watch out for scams. Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give them personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.

Election Time in Coming Soon!

Our local areas that include the 10th, 39th and 40th Legislative Districts all have important political races going on. Many of the people running for these offices are familiar to our voting members. Just in case you are not up to date on those running for office, the **League of Women Voters of Skagit County is holding a Candidate Forum on October 22nd at 6:30 pm at the Skagit PUD building (1415 Freeway Drive, Mount Vernon, WA.** Our Unit 21 held a candidate forum for the primary this past spring. We do not plan one for the fall and will be supporting the league with this event. This is a great opportunity for you to hear from the people that will impact your future!

Hope to see you there!

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Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21
WSSRA School Retirees'
5024 324th St NW

M E N U

Skagit-Island-San Juan WSSRA Unit 21 General Meeting

Great Food — Great Program - Great Companions

Great and helpful information

**Come join us for lunch at the Royal Star Buffet Restaurant
2300 Freeway Drive, Mount Vernon, WA**

November 5, 2018 at 11:00 am

**And, best of all, we will pay 1/2 of your lunch cost
(You pay \$5 and we pay \$5—what a deal!)**



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