



Skagit-Island-San Juan
Unit 21
School Retirees' Association
November 2019



President's Message

Unit 21 has had a busy summer and fall. After 5 of us attended the successful WSSRA June Convention, we have done the following:

1. Prior to our summer retreat, our finances were audited and found to be in excellent shape. The only suggestions were to put the checking and savings account numbers; our Annual Report to the Secretary of the State; our 501 c)4 and Federal ID status into both the President's book as well as the Treasurer's book.
2. We held our August Retreat at the Burlington Police Station and after finalizing our budget for this fiscal year we prioritized our action plan for the year.
3. Sponsored, with the League of Women Voters, a community forum featuring two of our local legislators (Representatives Dave Paul and Norma Smith from the 40th District). They talked about how they found some issues to work on together in Olympia, with hopefully more collaboration in the future.
4. Co-hosted, with the League of Women Voters, a community forum on the impact of homeless students in our local schools. Several District representatives were present to share how this issue is affecting them and how they are dealing with it. This event had over 100 people attend and we thank those of our members who decided to join us. The more people that attend such events, the more the community and legislators see us as "active" and "community oriented", both of which will help us as we work with legislators during the year. Also, if you are doing any volunteer work please let me know because WSSRA is going to use the number of volunteer hours done by our members when we push for a COLA and other fiscal issues this coming legislative session
5. Attended a benefits fair held at La Conner School District to introduce WSSRA to their members. We were able to add three new active (currently working) members at that time.
6. Created and distributed goodie bags for all La Conner School District personnel. These bags contained a pencil with our email address, a small note pad with our logo and address and some treats to help with their energy level. We also held a drawing from new enrollees at each location for one of our mini grants.
7. Revised our mini-grant application form and have sent out the introductory letter and grant application form to all regional school superintendents. If you know of someone who is currently working in one of our local school districts, be sure to remind them to apply. Last year we gave out 25 grants for \$150 each and are doing so again this year. Applications may be turned in from Oct. 7-21.

Elsewhere in this fall newsletter, you will find articles on some of the above items and our upcoming Holiday Luncheon, our award winning Membership Chair Barbara Robinson, and other pertinent information.

Contact me if you have questions about what your Board does, when it meets or ideas that you would like us to consider.

I hope to see you at one of our future events.

Bruce Boyer, Unit 21 President

WSSRA Unit 21

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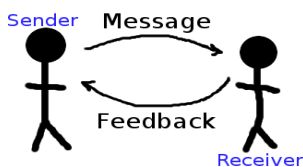
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Social Media Addresses

- **WSSRA.org** (for updated organization news and legislative news)
- **SISRA21.org** (Facebook-Website for local news and updates)
- **WSSR-PAC**
1928 Circle Loop



We fondly remember those of our members who have passed away: |

Dona Hargrave, Bow, WA

Alan Swanberg, Mount Vernon, WA

Rae Heiner, Bow, WA

A donation has been made to the WSSRA Scholarship Foundation in honor of each of these individuals.

Treasurer's Report, November, 2019:

Checking account balance =

Savings account balance =

Western Washington University Student Teacher Scholarship

This year's Student Teacher Scholarship winner is Carissa David. She grew up in Costa Rica where she became interested in Early Childhood Education. Originally intending to focus on International Business as a major, she became involved in the YMCA Early Learning Center and realized that she needed to change her major to Early Childhood Education.

We are delighted to be able to help her complete her education at Woodring College and to further her goals of teaching and then promoting social justice for children and families. She thanks our unit for helping her to reach her goals.

We are inviting her to attend our Holiday Luncheon, and hope that she can attend, and perhaps speak for a few moments.

Diane Visten/Scholarship Chair

Patrick Hobson Award goes to Unit 21's Barbara Robinson

We know that Barbara Robinson is one in a million and now all 17,500 members of WSSRA know it too. We have appreciated Barb's energetic and enthusiastic approach to each task we have asked of her. Her dedication to our organization is exemplary. This past spring members of our Unit 21 Board nominated her for the Patrick Hoban Meritorious Award. In June at the WSSRA State Convention, Barb was awarded this prestigious honor. Items considered for this award are: how the nominee has volunteered his/her time for the fulfillment of WSSRA goals, how the member has achieved beyond the norm in performance to accomplish the responsibilities of his/her duties, and finally, how the nominee inspired and encouraged fellow constituents in their performance to achieve the WSSRA goals. Our unit is so proud of her and are delighted to see her win this award. When asked to comment, Barb said "she was surprised but honored to be given this award and that the unit is a huge part of the reason she was given this recognition. We are a team." Next time you see Barb at one of our events, whether it is at a membership drive, a general membership meeting, a legislative meeting or a voter registration booth, be sure to tell her job well done and thank her for the work she does for us.

Bruce Boyer, Unit 21 President

Membership Committee Report

On September 17th I attended the State WSSRA Membership Committee Meeting at the Lacey office.

We discussed the differences in the Program 1 and 2 Membership Incentive program. Our unit has chosen to offer the benefits of Plan 2. Each new member receives a cash bonus of \$10 when they sign up at a sanctioned unit event. Our unit is focusing on building our membership with Plan 2/3 members as they are our future. We will continue to recruit Plan 1 people as we need active retiree's to support our work on our board. Our voices must be heard, those that are now retired and those that are still working. To do that we need members!

Alan Burke, WSSRA Director, spoke on the legislative issues coming with the next session. He provided postcard sized lists of what the goals are for Plan 1 on one side and Plan 2/3 on the other side. One of our most important goals is the Plan 1 Cola however there are other important goals that we continue to work on also. Plan 2/3 school employees age for retirement is an important issue.

We shared ideas for membership recruitment including what to emphasize when contacting potential members. You can be an important part of that goal. Invite a friend to join, or tell your younger school employees about our work.

Contact the WSSRA.org site and be sure your email address is listed. We only use it when you need to know legislative information in a timely manner. You want to be informed and you want a chance to have your voice heard.

Our unit is growing and we are gaining Plan2/3 members! Now we just need some of those great Plan 1, 2 and 3 members to come to one of our board meetings. Contact Bruce Boyer or Barbara Robinson to get dates and places.

All are welcome and you get a free lunch!

Come Join Us!

Barbara Robinson (babsann09@comcast.net)

NW 1 State Membership Committee/Skagit Island San Juan Unit 21 Membership Chair

Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21 Calendar			
Event	Date	Time	Location
NW-1 Coordinating Council Meeting	October 7, 2019	10:00 am	Royal Star Restaurant 2300 Freeway Drive Mount Vernon,
Unit 21 Board Meeting	November 4, 2019	10:00 am	Lonnie Keown's Home
Holiday Luncheon 	December 11, 2019	11:30 am	Skagit Golf and Country Club 16701 Country Club Drive Burlington, Wa
NW-1 Coordinating Council Meeting	January 13, 2020	10:00 am	Royal Star Restaurant 2300 Freeway Drive Mount Vernon,
Unit 21 Board Meeting	February 17, 2020	10:00 am	To be determined
Retirement Seminar	March 6, 2020		To be determined
NW-1 Coordinating Council Meeting	March 9, 2020	10:00 am	Royal Star Restaurant 2300 Freeway Drive Mount Vernon,
Unit 21 Board Meeting	May 11, 2020	10:00 am	To be determined

WSSRA Legislative Committee Update

At our last state membership meeting we were given the new legislative goals for the upcoming session starting in January 2020. They are:

2020 Legislative Agenda for Plan 1 Members:

- ◆ Institute a permanent TRS1/PERS 1 COLA
- ◆ Increase the PEBB Medicare Subsidy
- ◆ Support the State Actuary's plan to eliminate the unfunded liability for TRS and PERS Plan 1
- ◆ Reopen the PEBB enrollment window for employees who missed the original 60-day deadline
- ◆ Eliminate the cap on substitute teaching

2020 Legislative Agenda for Plan 2/3 Members:

- ◆ Maintain the 3% COLA
- ◆ Reduce the early retirement factor (ERF) full retirement age to 60
- ◆ Increase the PEBB Medicare Subsidy
- ◆ Remove the 180-day cap on TRS VEBA benefits
- ◆ Allow September retirees to collect a COLA the following July
- ◆ Reopen the PEBB enrollment window for retirees who missed the original 60-day deadline

Barbara Robinson, Unit 21 Legislative Committee Representative

Homelessness: How it affects our Students and our Schools August 19, 2019

On August 19th, our Skagit, Island, San Juan School Retiree's Association co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of Skagit County, an event on Homelessness and the Impact on our Students and our Schools. We began with our moderator giving us a briefing on homelessness in our county, providing a background to our subject.

Next Phil Brockman, Superintendent of the Sedro Woolley School District informed with an explanation of the McKinney Vento Act which is a mandate from the Federal Government that sets out guidelines and provides support to each school district when dealing with the issues of student homelessness. Representatives from Anacortes, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley and La Conner school districts then shared what is common across the schools and what is unique to each district. We heard stories of how this issue affects students. It makes learning a most difficult task for those students who are not always sure where they are going to sleep that night or where their next real meal will come from.

A panel of service providers next spoke of their programs and how they support homeless students and their families. Groups such as Anacortes Family Center, Community Action, Family Promise, and Friendship House told stories of how they are successful in supporting the families and how their programs continue to be needed.

This event was one of several as we learn about the homelessness issues our community faces. It was an eye opening event and it was also an inspiring event. There are many in need and there are many stepping up and making a difference. Since we, school retirees, have had some experience with student issues we felt this would be an important program to present. We had over 100 people attend, including community leaders plus some legislators. We feel the more we know the better the chance we can meet the needs. Our goal of informing was successful. We have seldom had this large an audience. We are hopeful that this discussion will lead to more people working on this issue. It is very important to those that are working in the schools and to those that are retired but still are concerned about our schools and our students.

Barbara Robinson



*Skagit-Island-San Juan Unit 21
Washington State School Retirees' Association*

Holiday Luncheon

When: December 11, 2019

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Skagit Gold and Country Club
16701 Country Club Drive
Burlington, Washington

Cost: \$15.00

Menu: Country Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad with Ranch Dressing, Roll, Coffee, Water, Punch and Cookies

Entertainment:

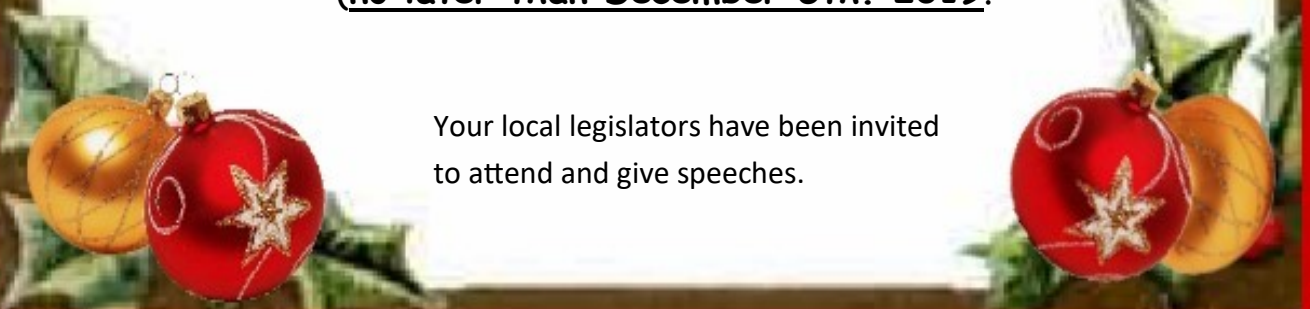
Activity: Drawing for gift baskets and goodies. Funds generated will be used to

Food bank Contribution: Please donate items of food and/or personal hygiene products for those in need.

RSVP: Diane Visten at dvisten@wavecable.com (360-387-1348)
or Bruce Boyer at bnpboyer@msn.com (360-939-0833)

(no later than December 5th. 2019.)

Your local legislators have been invited to attend and give speeches.



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WSSRA School Retirees'
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