



Skagit-Island-San Juan

Unit 21

Washington State School Retirees' Association

October 2020



### President's Report

Unit 21 Skagit/Island/San Juan School Retirees' Newsletter

Our Board met via ZOOM on August 21 and September 28, where we made plans for this coming year. Some of the upcoming activities will be to:

1. Do a candidate virtual forum for legislative candidates in our area. This will be recorded and available for members to see at our WSSRA.org unit site by early October. A big thanks to Peter Diedrick and Alan Burke for their assistance with setting up and moderating these forums. We are not doing a candidate forum for the 40th legislative district as one position was not contested and the others were huge winners in the primary.
2. Developed a plan to assist local school districts this coming year with our "mini-grants" money. With local districts not starting in buildings, there are new needs for staff and students, which we will try to assist via buildings and/or district funding.
3. Decided that we will host virtual meetings this year with speakers from our area. One of the speakers will be Bill De Hon, a local member talking about issues that affect our finances. We will email you the dates and times for these virtual meetings. In order not to miss out on these meetings, it is important that we have your email address in our unit files. **We do not release** your email address to anyone outside of our unit, including the state WSSRA office. You can send your email address to Bruce Boyer at: [bnpboyer@msn.com](mailto:bnpboyer@msn.com) and we will make sure you are notified of important upcoming ZOOM meetings.
4. We will continue to make our yearly donation to the Boy's and Girl's Clubs in our area.
5. We will be making our \$1,500 WWU Scholarship contribution to help a senior in education related fields during their quarter of student teaching. This year's recipient is Patrick Kissinger of the Mount Vernon area. He is majoring in social studies.
6. This year, due to Covid-19, there will not be an in person retirement seminar in the spring. Instead, there will be a ZOOM forum held this winter with representatives from the Department of Retirement, Health Benefits, VEBA and others making presentations. More on this later, but we wanted you to know about the change now. *Bruce Boyer, Unit 21 President*

### Health Insurance Alert

The State of Washington is making some big changes in the offerings of medical benefits this year. There will not be any local health care benefit presentations this year (due to Covid-19), but there will be a ZOOM forum with the Health Care Authority and the Public Employee Benefits Board to explain the new PEBB MA-PD Medicare Advantage options that will be available to PEBB members on January 1. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter in a few weeks, when more information is available.

**Vote411 is a website source of information specific to your ballot. It is non-partisan and can be found at <https://onyourballot.vote411.org/build.do>**

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WSSRA School Retirees'  
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Meet Patrick Kissinger, the newest recipient of the Skagit-Island-San Juan (Unit 21) School Retirees Association Scholarship. Patrick is a Western Washington University student nearing the completion of his Masters in Education in Secondary Education. His family is from the Mount Vernon area and he hopes to teach in that area when his program is completed. He will be doing his student teaching during the 2020-21 academic year and hopes to do so in the Mount Vernon area.

Patrick is interested in Place Based Education (localizing the curriculum, bringing in community voices and getting students involved in mutual aid for the community. He is excited about the challenges ahead. He views teaching as a means to encourage community involvement during difficult times and problem solve to help those communities become stronger in adversity.