Fluid and Flexible!

 Someone recently reminded me that we are fluid and flexible. After all, we worked or are working in schools. Fluid and flexible is something that we have been perfecting our entire careers.

 New bus routes, new nutritional guidelines; new bell schedules, start times, end times; new tardy policy, discipline policy; new grading system, computer system, graduation requirements; new standards, curriculum, testing. And, of course, new students and parents every year. Oh, yes, we know how to flex.

 We missed getting together at our March luncheon. Governor Inslee had proclaimed that whole week as School Retirees Appreciation Week. We had a great program planned. And we intended to do a fundraiser for the WSSR-PAC, the organization that gives contributions to legislative candidates who support our retirement and healthcare benefits.

 April’s luncheon is also cancelled. We will miss hearing our elementary teachers describe the projects funded by our mini-grants. We will not have the opportunity to hear first-hand from our Finance Committee about the 2020-2021 budget. April is also when we vote for next year’s slate of officers.

 The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) surprised us. But this is where we remind ourselves that we are fluid and flexible—and the work continues. See the next column for information on how we can support the PAC with our donations.

 Barb Dittrich, Finance Committee chair, has submitted a summary of the 2020-2021 budget. [See page 2.] We hope to vote on this budget at our May luncheon.

 In this issue you will also find information on the Nominating Committee’s proposed slate of officers. We will vote this year by email.

 Take care! Stay well! We hope to see you in May!

 Pat Slosson, TCSRA President

Parade of Projects

 We are very sorry that we will not be hearing from our elementary mini-grant recipients at the April luncheon, which had to be cancelled. We will share the project reports and thank you notes whenever we get back together. Meanwhile, a teacher from Garfield has let us know that her students thoroughly enjoyed their owl pellets. They loved picking through the pellets to find the little bones to put together into tiny skeletons.

 We had many interesting applications. Other science requests included magnifying glasses and frog hatchery kits. There were requests for field trips to Tacoma and the Capitol. Most subject areas were covered with books, a guest author visit, a robot mouse, chess sets, LEGOS, CD players, rhythm instruments, and music books. We also funded an African Biome Map and an IditaRead Reading Challenge using iditarod.com.

 These grants meet needs for extra resources that the Thurston County teachers in our public schools can put to good use. We all know that the need is great, and TCSRA is grateful that we are able to help. Our $7,000 budget allowed us to make 39 awards. A complete list of recipients was published in the December 2019 Bits & Pieces.

 Jo Edwards, Elementary Mini-Grant Chair

Make a Contribution to the WSSR-PAC

Online: wssr-pac.org

Make check payable to: WSSR-PAC

Mail to: WSSR-PAC Treasurer
c/o Lora Brabant
125 West 11th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362-7709