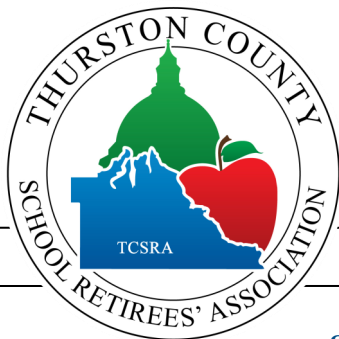




Bits & Pieces

Please see the October and March program corrections directly below and the photos on page 3.

www.wssra-units.org/thurstoncounty/ September 2026

Unit 28 of the Washington State School Retirees' Association
Serving retired and active school employees and our community.

CELEBRATE THURSTON COUNTY SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

In 2026 as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and the freedoms we enjoy, let's take time to celebrate the Thurston County School Retirees' Association (TCSRA). We began in 1974, so we've been around for **72** years and are still going strong!

We are a volunteer organization. We are so thankful for our past volunteers and for those serving on our board and committees this year. Without you, there would be no newsletters, mini-grants, scholarships, lunches, or community service.

We celebrate **Sharon Dennis** who, at the WSSRA Convention in June, was awarded the Silver Apple Award for her contributions to the WSSRA Foundation. This foundation awards scholarships to high school seniors going into education and to student teachers.

There is still more work to be done, so we will be circulating a volunteer sign-up sheet during our September picnic. Lend a hand and celebrate TCSRA. We have a robust membership and want to keep it growing and vibrant!

Do you know a recent retiree you can invite to a luncheon and introduce to TCSRA? The Hospitality/Luncheon Committee has planned interesting and fun programs for the year. We look forward to seeing you soon! Bring a friend and **be sure to make a reservation**. [See the bottom of the next column.]

Make sure we have your email for upcoming newsletters that will be online. See instructions on page 2 in this newsletter.

Gail Feagins, TCSRA Co-President

In Memoriam

We note the passing of **Barbara Breslin, Joan Engel, Marion D'Entremont, Sam Hunt, Nancy Motomatsu, Marc Spiegelberg, and Ken Spinharney**. We offer sincere condolences to their families and friends.

IT'S TIME FOR A PICNIC!

September is a time for beginning again, renewing acquaintances, meeting our new members, and jumping into new activities. And what better way to get started than at our annual picnic!

We will meet at the Woodland Creek Community Park, adjacent to the Lacey Community Center, on Friday, September 18, at noon. We will be located in Shelter A. Bayview will once again cater our picnic with boxed lunches.

Luncheons in October through May will be at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club.

We have an exciting slate of programs for the year. For the list, check out page 10 in the new 2026-2027 TCSRA Directory. Please note the following corrections:

October 16: *The Declaration of Independence and Its 250th Anniversary in 2026*—TCSRA member, **Art Dolan**.

March 19: *AI: The good, the bad, the ugly*—**Kathy Bounds**, member of the Clark County School Retirees' Association, repeats her well-received WSSRA convention presentation from last June.

Friday, September 18, 2026 — 12 Noon

Woodland Creek Community Park, Shelter A

**Boxed lunches,
catered by Bayview**

\$20 per person



LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

If you receive my luncheon notification email, please reply if you plan to attend by **noon on Friday, September 11**.

If you **do not receive an email**, or if you need to **cancel or add to your reservation**, email me at dazicar88@gmail.com, or call me **no later than noon on Friday, September 11 at 253-381-2592**.

To be added to the email list for notification, please send me your email address.

ZiNita Carrell, Email Committee Chair

Each month we will randomly draw the name of one of our "active" (not-yet-retired) members, who will receive a Starbucks gift card in the mail.



This month's winner is:
Angela Farley
North Thurston Public Schools



Check this box each month to see if YOU are the lucky member.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Bits & Pieces, TCSRA's newsletter, is published nine times a year, September through May, as a member service. Starting with the October issue, this newsletter will be distributed only via email. **If you did not receive an email copy on September 1st, please sign up using the following steps:**

1. On your computer, tablet, or cell phone go to wssra.org and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage.
2. Fill out and submit the form that says, "**WSSRA Members - Join our email list!**"
3. Watch for an email from the **Washington State School Retirees' Association**. If you don't receive one, check your spam folder.
4. Open the email and click on the link that says, "**Confirm Subscription.**" This adds you to **Constant Contact**, the secure email service with which we send out our newsletter every month.

COMING NEXT MONTH . . .

- Our first **email only** newsletter.
- Three pages with our regular columns: legislation, education, health or consumer information, and community service.
- Mini-grant news—all about how and when to apply.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

To begin the 2026-2027 TCSRA year, we're offering a review of the 2026 Legislative Session and a preview of the next one. Please click [here](#) to access the report for up-to-date information

OUR NEW DIRECTORY

For the past two years, we have used the three small photos on the covers of the directories to represent our not-yet-retired members. This year, we have photos of our own retirees as volunteers. Left to right: TCSRA retirees packing a legislative hearing room; **Dennis Crisp** presenting a mini-grant; and several members, including **Vicki Carter**, spiffing up books at the South Sound Reading Foundation.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFO!

It has been a couple of years since we published a directory with contact information for everyone. Since you have your directory handy, please take a minute to check your entry. Let us know if anything has changed by contacting **Sharon Dennis** at sed6501@outlook.com or at 360-438-5351.



CONGRATULATIONS, SCOTT LE DUC!

TCSRA member **Scott Le Duc**, who has taught for 28 years, has been named the **2027 Regional Teacher of the Year** by Educational Service District (ESD) 113!

Currently Capital High School's Media Arts and Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, Scott has inspired generations of students through innovative courses such as Game Design, Film Cinematography, and IB Film.

Scott was named Olympia School District's Teacher of the Year earlier this year, and he will now advance in the Washington State Teacher of the Year selection process. This includes written applications, virtual interviews, and a keynote presentation. The Washington State Teacher of the Year will be announced later this fall.



TCSRA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS!

Every year WSSRA offers scholarships to senior high school students who plan careers in education, including as teachers, counselors, speech therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, or psychologists. These are competitive awards, offered to a limited number of students. TCSRA gives scholarships to the two runners up who are attending high school in Thurston County. This year's \$1,500 scholarship recipients are **Hailey King** and **Anna Bauersfeld**.

Hailey is a graduate of River Ridge High School in Lacey and is a freshman at Central Washington University, majoring in secondary education and history. Anna graduated from Timberline High School in Lacey and is majoring in elementary education at California State University, Chico.

We wish each of these young women a very successful freshman year!

BITS & PIECES, the newsletter of the Thurston County School Retirees' Association, is published nine times a year, September through May, as a membership service. **Information for the October 2025 issue is due by September 16.**

Editor: Sharon Dennis, 360-438-5351.

Please email copy to sed6501@outlook.com.

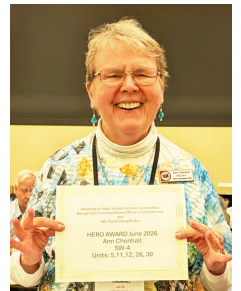
2026 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Eleven TCSRA members were delegates at WSSRA's 79th Annual Convention and Delegate Assembly at the Great Wolf Lodge in nearby Grand Mound, WA, June 8 –10. They listened to inspiring speakers, attended workshops in their areas of interest, celebrated award recipients, and participated in the traditional gift basket drawings. Some also enjoyed the indoor water park, pictured at right.



At left, TCSRA member **Jennifer Bethman** welcomed delegates to the convention. Jennifer recently retired from her position as Superintendent of the Rochester School District. She was a member while working and has rejoined as a retiree.

Ann Chenhall, at right, received a "Hero" award for her work on the WSSRA Executive Board, representing the five units in SW4. She takes concerns from those units to the board and works with them on scholarships and rejuvenations. She's also on the WSSRA Scholarship Committee and is the chair of the TCSRA Legislative Committee.



Dennis Crisp and **Gail Feagins** were among several TCSRA members who were winners during the drawings. For each \$5 donation to the WSSR Foundation, the donor had a chance to win one of the gift baskets or prizes, which were donated by units or individuals. This event was a fundraiser for the WSSR Foundation, and, along with a silent auction and donations, it raised \$8,775 for scholarships. Dennis is co-chair of the TCSRA Mini-grant Committee, and Gail is our new co-president. She is also co-chair of the TCSRA Member & Health services Committee.



Pat McLachlan, wearing pink and black and waving, is chair of WSSRA's Health Services Committee and co-chair of TCSRA's Member & Health Services Committee. Here she's working at the committee's table of educational materials on health issues and healthy snacks to share. They brought in representatives from the Alzheimer's Association who gave three presentations on dementia and brain health as well as printed materials.



Karen Keller, at far left, was installed as the new president-elect of the WSSR Foundation. She is pictured with the other newly installed WSSRA officers. Karen also is the historian for both WSSRA and TCSRA and is a member of the TCSRA Mini-grant Committee.