



Whatcom Connection

Newsletter for School Retirees of Whatcom County

October 2018

WCSRA

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WSSRA Messages

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Legislative Hotline

1-800-562-6000

Join Us For Lunch October 18 at Bellingham Golf and Country Club.

Our program will feature the intrepid outdoor couple, George and Maryan Gleason. In addition to their many years of whitewater rafting and cross continent bicycle trips, they have hiked in the Utah canyon lands for many years. George will share photographs of spectacular



landscapes in the Utah canyon country that most people will never see due to the efforts necessary to visit those remote areas. They have recently returned from their latest Utah hike. George is a retired teacher and athletic director from Bellingham School District. Maryan is a lifelong resident of Bellingham was also a teacher. They can often be seen walking their daily 5 mile walks.

NEXT Event

**October 18
11:30 A.M.
Bellingham Golf and
Country Club**

**Come and
bring a friend!**

Lunch is at 11:30 A.M. There will be a buffet lunch with sandwiches, soup, salad, coffee and small dessert. Cost is \$16.

We would appreciate letting us know if you plan to attend so that the club staff can prepare appropriately. Call Jeanne Chadwick at 360-354-9919 or email jegchadwick@gmail.com

Note: If you have not attended one of our meetings before, and you are newly retired, we will buy you lunch!

What The Candidates Said

Whatcom School Retirees Association sponsored a candidate forum at our Sept. 20 meeting. We invited 9 candidates from the 42 and 40th Legislative Districts.

Six candidates attended. They were: Republican Sen. Doug Eriksen, incumbent from the 42 District and his challenger Democrat Pinky Vargas. Republican Vincent Buys incumbent from the 42nd District and his Challenger Democrat Sharon Shewmake.

From the 40th District Republican Michael Petrish and Democrat Debora Lekanoff attended. They are running for Representative Position 1 formerly held by Kristine Lytton who has decided not to run again.

Each candidate had 10 minutes to speak and then answer questions. Candidates were provided a list of WSSRA Legislative goals and asked to comment on those as well.

Following are some of their comments. These are not exact quotes but brief extracts.

Social Issues

Debora Lekanoff Dem, I am a first American. Value and take care of seniors. The homeless are people who matter.

Michael Petrish R, I came from a family of refugees. (Croatia) I solve problems.

Pinky Vargas Dem. Focus on family values, we need civil conversations.

Vincent Buys R, The criminal system is not a mental health system. Washington State has failed re: mental health.

Doug Eriksen R, The court system should not dictate state budgets.

Pensions

Sharon Shewmake Dem, Promises made should be kept.

Vincent Buys R, I support the COLA for Plan 1 pensions.

Michael Petrish R, Teachers have earned retirement.

Debora Lekanoff Dem. I agree with all of WSSRA's legislative priorities.

Pinky Vargas Dem. Need COLA increases, important that pensions be reliable.

Education

Doug Eriksen R, Two thirds of state budget went to education. We fully funded education. We reduced college tuition 20%. We need more emphasis on technical education.

Pinky Vargas Dem, Teachers shape society. Charter schools are another form of segregation.

Debora Lekanoff Dem, Education should not be a Democratic or a Republican issue. We need some of the old programs back.

Michael Petrish R, I favor other opportunities for education. Need to teach not indoctrinate.

Vincent Buys R, Disagrees with legislature separating educators from PEBB by creating a new board SEBB. (School Employees Benefit Board) Approves voucher system. I was home schooled.

Sharon Shewmake Dem. Preschool is very important. Good teachers create economic growth.

Hurry Teachers, Deadline is Near

Every year Whatcom County School Retirees Association offers mini-grants to teachers in Whatcom County schools who need money for some special project or for some special item for their classrooms. Each grant provides up to \$200 to any Whatcom County classroom teacher. (Note, This is a change from last year.) Use the form below to apply. Applications must be sent by November 10. The grants will be delivered before the December holiday break.

Whatcom County School Retirees' MINI-GRANT APPLICATION

Do you have a **GREAT IDEA** for your class or school? Then it's time to apply for a **WCSRA mini-grant**. Grants are available up to \$200 depending on your project needs. Requests must directly involve or affect the education of children. Please be specific in your request and specify one item or project. Grant recipients will be invited to share photos, share examples of the project or, in other ways, show retirees how their donated monies were put to use.

DEADLINE IS November 5, 2018

Send completed form to: **Mini-Grants, WCSRA. Box 29503, Bellingham, WA 98228.**

Name: _____ School _____

District _____ Grade Level or position _____

Home Phone _____ home email _____

TITLE OF PROJECT _____ Amount Requested _____

Brief description of grant use and its intended impact on class or school: (including costs..)

**WCSRA
P. O. Box 29503
Bellingham WA 98228**

**PRSR STD
U. S. Postage Paid
Bellingham WA
Permit Number 249**

Return Service Requested

Treasurer's Report

Savings Account \$7561.19
Checking Account \$10,356.63

2017-2018 DUES

State dues \$60.00 Local dues \$24.00
Total \$84.00

Please send Check to:
**WCSRA
Box 29503
Bellingham WA 98228**

Or

Why not try automatic dues deduction?
ADD is just \$7.00 monthly from your
retirement allotment.

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