



Whatcom Connection

Newsletter for School Retirees of Whatcom County

September 2018

WCSRA

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WSSRA Messages

1-800-221-1269

Legislative Hotline

1-800-562-6000

Our September Event Will Be a Candidate Forum for Whatcom County Candidates Running for the State Legislature.

Please join us September 20 at Bellingham Golf & Country Club for lunch at 11:30 A.M. We are inviting those candidates listed on the next page. Those that choose to attend will be invited to introduce themselves, discuss their priorities, and comment on our own legislative priorities. This is not a debate, it is a chance to meet the candidates and learn a little about them.

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!

NEXT Event

**September 20
11:30 A.M.
Bellingham Golf and
Country Club**

**Come and
bring a friend!**



Bellingham Golf and Country Club

Candidates for Washington State Legislature Whatcom County Districts 42 and 40



Doug Eriksen
Incumbent
42nd District State Senate
Running for 4th term

Republican

Pinky Vargas
Running for
42nd District State Senate
Member of Bellingham
City Council
Democrat



Luanne Van Werven
Incumbent
42nd District
Representative Position 1

Republican

Justin Boneau
Running for 42nd District
Representative Position 1

Democrat

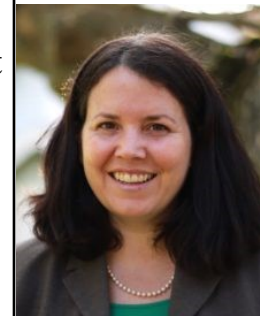


Vincent Buys
Incumbent
42nd District
Representative Position 2

Republican

Sharon Stewmake
Running for 42nd District
Position 2

Democrat



Michael Petrish
Running for 40th
District Representative
Position 1

Republican

Debora Lekanoff
Running for 40th
District Representative
Position 1

Democrat



Jeff Morris

Has no

Challenger

Jeff Morris
Incumbent 40th District
Representative
Position 2

Democrat



For All Classroom Teachers, This is For You!

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..)

2019 Legislative Priorities for WSSRA

TRS 1 & PERS 1 Pension Recovery

Plan 1 retirees have had one Cost of Living Adjustment since 2010. Those retirees have lost up to 33% of purchasing power due to inflation. In 2018 the State Legislature granted a one-time 1.5% COLA; however, inflation is expected to be 3.3% in 2018. Therefore, retirees continue to lose money.

Restore Retiree Healthcare Benefits

The PEBB healthcare benefit went from \$183 to \$150 in 2011. In 2018 we successfully lobbied an increase to \$168 per month. Restoring the PEBB benefit to \$183 will mitigate some of the loss of purchasing power from increasing healthcare premiums.

Expand and Equalize the Full Retirement Age in Plans 2 & 3.

The current full retirement age in Plans 2 & 3 is age 65. Employees can leave at age 62 but are penalized for working part-time in schools or local governments. We are advocating for eliminating those work penalties as well as dropping the retirement age to 60—similar to public safety employees.

Protect Retirees in Transition to New Healthcare Providers.

The State has created a School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB) and putting school employees in new plans under the SEBB. Any changes must maintain or improve current benefits.

WSSRA Is Offering A New Scholarship To Help College Students Doing Student Teaching Internships.

For years the WSSR Foundation has offered scholarships to high school seniors planning a career in education. Those scholarships will continue to be offered.

But now WSSRA has decided to use the Neil D. Prescott scholarship fund to help college students while they are doing their teaching internships. Eight \$1000 scholarships (one for each coordinating council district) can be awarded to winning applicants from those 8 districts. These funds can help teaching interns pay expenses during their months of internship.

Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning. They must have graduated from a Washington State High School. They must indicate a desire to teach in Washington State.

Starting September 1, 2018, application information can be found at www.wssra.org (under “forms & files” tab) The deadline for submitting applications is March 2, 2019/

WSSRA encourages all members to share this opportunity to apply with family, friends, and neighbors.

Health Notes

Submitted by Jo Praetzel

Harvard researchers say healthy habits may add years to your life.

What's the secret to living longer? A Harvard study published online April 30, 2018, by *Circulation* suggests that it may come down to five healthy habits: eating a healthy diet, exercising daily, keeping a healthy body weight, drinking alcohol only in moderation, and not smoking. Researchers combed through information from two large studies that tracked more than 123,000 men and women for about three decades. Scientists estimated that life expectancy for study participants (at age 50) was 79 years for women and 75 years for men, if they didn't maintain healthy habits. But if they adopted all five habits, life expectancy at age 50 jumped to 93 years for women and 87 years for men.

Wit and Wisdom

“Technological progress is like an ax in the hands of a pathological.

Albert Einstein

“Only the educated are free.”

Epictetus

“Angels can fly because they can take themselves lightly.”

G.K. Chesterton

“Admit when you are wrong. The older you get, the more frequently you'll have the opportunity.”

Jennifer Finney Boylan

Thank You Letter

Dear Whatcom County School Retirees,

On behalf of the students, staff and the Northwest Indian College Foundation Board of Directors I am pleased to acknowledge your generous gift of \$1000 for our Emergency Assistance Scholarship.

Your philanthropic spirit helps our students to transform their lives through education, and we are delighted you chose the Northwest Indian College Foundation as the beneficiary of your charitable contribution.

Hy'shsq' -thank you for investing in the future of tomorrow's leaders at Northwest Indian College and your continued interest in Native American higher education.

Respectfully,
Jessica Juarez-Wagner
Northwest Indian College Foundation

Snowbirds!

If you receive our newsletters and you plan to be out of state for several months during winter, please let our newsletter staff know. It costs us money to have our newsletter returned as undeliverable.

Contact David Simonson at 360-398-0462 or email davids98226@aol.com to hold your newsletter.

A better option would be to request to receive your newsletter by email.

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Savings Account \$7411.19
Checking Account \$7256.87

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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