Sno-King School Retirees



September 1999

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The SKSR Bulletin

▶ A message from our president

Welcome to the new year

by Rita Requa, president

he Executive Board of the Sno-King School Retirees met on August 12 to outline the organization's plans for the coming year. Interesting programs for the year have been scheduled–from *Social Security* issues to Debbie Dimitre's presentation on *Nellie Blye* to *Consumer Fraud* to *Swinging at* 70 tap dance revue. We will start our regular meetings at a new time –1:00 PM. Our plans are to have our website operational by January 2000 on a trial basis. The financial condition of our association is sound. This year's budget will be presented at our September meeting.

At least nine executive board members attended the Washington State Retired Teachers Association Leadership Conference in late August in order to co-ordinate our activities with the state program. Both Don Denton and I participated in the presentations.

I look forward to seeing you at our September 16 meeting. You will have the opportunity to hear a short presentation about Caregiving by Kamilia Dunsky of the Senior Information and Assistance Organization. In addition, Kennie Dean Endelman from Congressman Jay Inslee's office will be making a short presentation about current issues around Social Security.

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>> Your new editors greet you

We're glad to be on board

by Jo and Bruce Caldwell, editors

What a surprise we had when Don Denton called us. We had seen the request for anyone interested in editing last March, but decided to wait and see. When the request reappeared in April, we thought maybe we would consider responding.

So we "anonymously" called Don Denton to ask some questions. By the time he called us back, he knew our names. We knew we were hooked!

We both retired from Edmonds, Bruce in 1995 and Jo in 1997. Bruce had taught music and math at Edmonds-Woodway, while Jo had taught English and yearbook at Meadowdale Senior.

In 1995 Bruce became executive manager for the Washington Music Educators Association and Jo became editor of their magazine, *Voice*.

In our teaching and retirement positions, we have both done quite a bit of editing, layout and publications, so we hope we bring enough experience to this position to make up for the lack of history Betty Odle had in knowing the retirees and their needs.

Please feel free to contact us with any news, articles, information or questions. We need material – YOU are the best source of that.

Please take the time to communicate with us. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter, so YOU become a part of it! Send to PO Box 1117, Edmonds 98020, fax to 425-776-1795 or e-mail to WMEAoffice@aol.com or WMEAeditor@aol.com.

See you at the meetings!



MARK YOUR DATEBOOKS

Coming Events for Sno-King School Retirees
Please note new time for general meetings – 1:00

Kamilia Dunsky of the Senior Information and Assistance Organization will speak about *Caregiving*.

Kennie Dean Endelman, former Shoreline School Board member, aide to former King County Council member, former aide to Senator Patty Murray and now a special assistant to Congressman Jay Inslee, will speak on Social Security issues.

October 21	Scholarship Luncheon, 12:00
November 18	General Meeting, 1:00
December 9	General Meeting, 1:00
February 17	General Meeting, 1:00
March 22	Luncheon with Overlake, 12:00
April 20	Scholarship Luncheon, 12:00
May 19	Luncheon with Sno-Isle, 12:00
June 15	General Meeting, 1:00
July 20	Annual Picnic, 12:00

Thank you, Betty Odle



A smiling and relaxed Betty Odle holds her final issue of the newsletter. She will continue working with SKSR.

With this edition of the newsletter, Betty Odle is officially retired as its editor. As your new editors, we are very grateful for Betty's ongoing guidance. She knows EVERYTHING! (She may want to get an unlisted phone number if we don't quit calling her.) She's not completely getting out of the newsletter business, however; she has agreed to head up the mailing detail each month. And she continues her involvement with the Sno-King School Retirees in many other ways, too-thank heaven.

Her work with Sno-King Unit 23 over many years has been all encompassing. In addition to publishing our unit's monthly newsletter from 1986 to 1999, she served as president for two consecutive terms from 1984-86, has

edited the unit's roster annually since 1986 and acted as assistant chair for the 1986 convention held in Everett. Whenever something needs to be done, there you will find her. Need name tags for a meeting? She'll make them. Refreshments for the newsletter work parties? No problem. Decorations for unit luncheons? They're the best! She sees to it that enough food is prepared for the annual picnic, and you'll find all the necessary equipment for putting it together stored at her house.

WSRTA activities include serving as Coordinating Council chair for NW 1 in 1993-94 and serving as chairman of the Retirement Planning Committee from 1989-91. In this capacity, together with an AARP representative, she created and planned the first WSRTA Retirement Planning Instructor-Training Session using AARP "Think of Your Future" in April 1989. She planned and instructed seven additional training sessions throughout the state (four in 1990, one in 1991, and two in 1993). Eighty-nine people completed this training. In 1995 she assisted as co-chair of decorations for the convention held in Everett.

She manages to juggle these things while continuing to be active in church activities and Eastern Star, as well as plan special menus

for her husband who is on a restricted diet

Besides all these things, she volunteers once a week in an elementary school, working with children in one of the classrooms.

Board Minutes

Sno-King School Retirees Board Meeting June 24, 1999

Call to Order: President Rita Requa called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

Minutes: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: There will be money in the treasury to pay for the next year's directory.

In Attendance: Barb Berg, Ellie Bonanno, Gordon Bowers, Gayle Bromley, Jo and Bruce Caldwell, Don Denton, Phyllis Enger, Dave Johnson, Bob Jones, Donna Murrish, Betty Odle, Rita Regua, Jack Rogers, Ruthanne Warren

Absent: Terri Malinowski, Cheryl Bickford, Joanne Dunn

Committee Reports:

Health Service: Gordon passed around articles of health interest to all of us.

Membership: Don has lots of new retiree members to report on thanks to Jack, Rita and

Community Service: Bob reported that the dates for the fall 55-Alive program are set.

News and Directory: The newsletter folding will be Tuesday at 10:00 AM at the AARP office.

No Reports: Member Services, Communication, Grants, Legislative, Retirement Planning, Scholarship, Sunshine.

New Business: The Sno-King new retirees picnic is July 15th at noon. Carpooling is suggested since it is at Kenmore Park. We will set-up at 10:00 AM. We will wear our new teeshirts. ... Bob Jones and I will entertain guests. The board chose not to have coffee available. There will be pop, iced tea (in cans), and lemonade. Assignments for bringing food were made and all decisions regarding what food have been made. ... Ruthanne will have tee-shirts for sale. Betty will not only do the main course but will also have names for new retirees. A few of us are bringing ice chests with ice and also buckets for water.

Dates to Remember: July 29th, Thurs., 10:00 AM at Rita Regua's house: Budget planning. Aug. 12th. Thurs., 9:00 AM to noon at Ruthanne Warren's: Board year planning meeting

Respectfully submitted,

AARP's 55 Alive Mature Driving Class is a refresher course teaching preventive measures that save lives when driving. Pay \$8 materials fee to AARP instructor at class time. Participants register through Edmonds Parks and Recreation, 425-771-0230. Possible discount on auto insurance. Classes meet 9 AM to 1 PM at the Anderson Center, 700 Main Street, Edmonds. For alternate dates and locations call Bob Jones at 425-787-2727.

> September 8 and 9—October 6 and 7 November 3 and 4—December 8 and 9

> > Gayle Bromley, Secretary

>> Update on your health

Flu-shot substitute available

by Gordon Bowers, health services chair

Among the many medical advances announced this summer is that a nasal spray instead of the needle flu-shot may be available within two years, but needs FDA approval. The painless spray, called Flumist was tested on 4,561 adults and appears to be an effective vaccine for all ages, according to Dr. J. Leighton Read, chairman of Aviron, Mountain View, California. The study was reported in the July 14, 1999, *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"NEW" HEART MEDICINE

A rarely used 30-year-old medicine called Aldactone has been found to be highly effective in treating life threatening congestive heart failure. About five million people in the US have congestive heart failure, which results when weakened heart muscles can't pump blood forcefully enough. Dr Bertram Pitt of the University of Michigan said, "It surprises the experts, but they are happy we have something new to help people!" The New England Journal of Medicine issued a special web-site message to doctors urging immediate use of Aldactone, which had fallen from favor as newer medicines were developed.

YOUR NEXT DOCTOR APPOINTMENT

Here's a tip from the *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*, August 1999. List medications you currently take – don't assume the doctor knows everything. List medication doses, such as 40 mg. twice a day. Even take your medicine bottles with you. Don't forget to include over-the-counter medications. If you take an aspirin every day, write it down. List all pain relievers, cold and allergy products, as well as vitamins and mineral supplements. Do you take garlic tablets? Saint John's Wort? Echinacea? Your doctor may need to warn you about possible

herb-drug interactions and unwanted side effects.

UPDATE ON PORTABLE DEFIBRILLATORS

More from the *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*. Previously only hospitals and advanced life support ambulances had defibrillators, which are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest. Now, advances have led to much smaller portable versions called automated external defibrillators (AEDs), which are battery powered and about the size and weight of a six pound book.

In sudden cardiac arrest, the heart suddenly lapses into a chaotic, useless rhythm called ventricular fibrillation and stops pumping blood. The person collapses, stops breathing and has no pulse. In such cases, CPR buys a little time, but CPR alone generally can't restart the heart. Only a defibrillator can restore a coordinated rhythm.

The portable units are now showing up in police cars, taxis, commercial aircraft, factories, stores, etc. Though training is required, the machines are easy to operate, and as soon as it's turned on begins giving audible and written instructions. In any suspected heart failure cases, immediate action is a must. Give CPR and call 911, giving a clear message such as "no pulse!"

QUICK! QUICK! HOW TO SLEEP "LIKE A LOG"

From *Hope Heart Institute* vol. XIX, p. 6. These tips may help you.

1. Lose excess weight, which can cause snoring and breathing problems.

2. Quit smoking and restrict or avoid drinking. 3. Ask your doctor if any over-the-counter or prescriptions medicines you are taking can interfere with sleep. 4. Try to go to bed and get up at the same time every day, including weekends. 5. A 15 to 20 minute nap can increase alertness and productivity, but if you nap for an

hour or more, you will lapse into a deep sleep and wake up feeling worse. 6. In anticipation of a late night, take a short nap beforehand to help prevent sleepiness the next day.

If you need an alarm clock to wake you up in the morning, you are not getting enough sleep!

CAREGIVING

Our September 16 meeting features a program on this chore that faces family members, particularly caring for bedridden or disabled loved ones on a 24-hour basis. The Hope Heart Institute Newsletter, Vol. XIX, p. 6, gives a caregiver check list by Joy Loverde that points up some of the horrendous stress suffered by many caregivers ... Do you resent the person you are caring for? ... Do you feel trapped and burdened? ... Do you feel the rest of your family is not doing their share? ... Do you feel guilty, helpless, hopeless, and very angry? ... Do you have difficulty saying "no" to your aging relative? ... Do you resist delegating responsibilities? ... Are you depleting you own bank account? Is your performance slipping? ... Is your marriage or your relationship with your children suffering? ... Are you overeating? ... Is your appetite gone? ... Are you too busy to exercise/take care of yourself? ... Do you have sleep problems? ... Do you have frequent physical problems like headaches, breathing problems or lingering colds?

We hope you will be able to attend our September 16 meeting and hear Kamila Dunsky's presentation. Please come!



>> Travel news

If this is Tuesday, it must be where?

by Terri Malinowski, travel chair

dmonds retiree Gayle Giffey **Keesler** will join a Smithsonian ✓ Institution tour in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this month. Included in the itinerary will be Mesa Verde and the Grand Canyon as well as four marvelous national parks—Bryce Canyon, Zion and Arches in Utah and Yellowstone in Wyoming/Montana. The tour winds up in Salt Lake City 16 days later. Gayle thinks September may be a little early to encounter fall colors, but the scenery should be spectacular, no matter what the season.

In November, she heads back to the Southwest for another reason—"to watch the UW Huskies beat Arizona in Tucson," Gayle assures. Then she'll embark on a one-week cruise down the Baja California coast and back to Catalina Island before landing in Los Angeles in time to watch the UW/UCLA game the following Saturday.

Gayle will hardly be on land long enough to send off her holiday cards before she departs again, this time for Buenos Aires in December. The schedule calls for a "Millenium" cruise aboard the Royal Princess, traveling down the coast of South America, around Cape Horn and through the Straits of Magellan. She'll be disembarking at Santiago, Chile, in the first Monday of the new century--Jan. 3, 2000.

Our new president, Shoreline retiree Rita Requa, is another retiree with wanderlust. One of her favorite venues is a Rick Steves tour, the popular Edmonds-based travel company that promotes budget travel and immersion in the local culture.

Rita visited Turkey in that fashion last April, glimpsing both the European and Middle Eastern faces of Turkey. She flew on her own from Seattle to Amsterdam for a brief layover while getting acclimated. She joined the Rick Steves tour in Istanbul,

learning a bit of Turkish economics upon her airport arrival. "We had to obtain a visa when we arrived. Americans are charged \$45, but the English pay only about \$16," she said. "And it has to be in cash."

The next lesson was culture viewing the difference between one side of the Golden Horn, which is modern Turkey, and the other side where the Blue Mosque, the old bazaar and the Topkapi Museum convey the antiquity. "Part of Istanbul seems European, but the oldest part feels Middle Eastern," Rita explained.

She was impressed by the story of Ataturk, the first president of the new republic after the sultanate was overthrown in 1923. He instituted many reforms and is considered the Father of Modern Turkey. Women were given the right to vote and to discard their face veils, for example. Ataturk established Children's Day, observed every April 24. Schools are closed, and each community honors its children. Rita's tour was fortunate to be in a small village where the annual event was celebrated by all.

The day before, the tour group had had tea in a local home, where they learned the high-school-aged

daughter would be receiving one of the awards the following day. The tour group was part of the audience the next day in the village square, and "We cheered for her, as we would do at home," Rita said. The girl was very pleased, and her family was honored that Americans would join their event. "That was one the highlights of my trip," Rita said. Another highlight for her was Ephesus, where the ancient ruins of an arena that once held 24,000 people evoked a sense of Biblical times.

Although the tour wound up on the Greek island of Samos, Rita continued on her own to two more islands, taking a ferry to Paros and then Santorini. "When the ferry landed on Santorini, I met a man who showed me a picture of his pensione, only \$17 a night for a private room with a shower and a magnificent balcony view of the sea," Rita recalled. "He simply tied my bags on his donkey, and we walked along the road together, past the exclusive hotel area, to reach his little pensione."

Rita was so delighted with the cultural contrast that she spent four days there before flying to Athens to catch her homeward flight. Besides that memory, she still misses Turkish breakfasts—a hard-boiled egg, fresh bread, quartered tomatoes, soft cheese, wonderful goat-milk or buffalo-milk yogurt, sliced cucumbers and several kinds of olives.

For contributions or questions, call Terri Malinowski, (425) 483-8344 or email her at terrim@accessone.com

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▶ Membership expansion

New member info

by Don Denton, past president

There were 104 new retirees in Sno-King's three districts (Edmonds, Northshore, & Shoreline) this year. Thirty-seven of them were already members and 11 more have joined. The other 56 may not realize that while many of our members do have lifetime WEA memberships, it is our state organization, WSRTA, which is the lead organization in lobbying the state legislature for improvements to the retirement system. WEA's focus is on active teachers.

I would like to give special recognition to my wife, Joanne, for helping me send more than one mailing to each of the new retirees. Although many attended the picnic, not as many joined as we had hoped. If you know any retirees who are not members, please encourage them to join. Contact me and I will send them a form.

Our "active" recruiting this year and next will focus on the Edmonds School District. When I visit faculty meetings to provide information about the retirement system and our organization, it really helps to have a retiree from that building along for recognition and association purposes. If you would like to join me in visiting your old school, please contact me soon.

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SKSR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Address Information

When the next directory is printed, we want it to be as accurate as possible. So if you've had any changes in your mailing address, please let Donna Murrish know as soon as possible (that's ASAP in plain English!) This includes those of you who have had your city and zip changed from Seattle or Bothell to Kenmore. You can contact Donna at 206-363-5753 or dmurrish@aol.com.

Member Services

For all Sno-King School Retirees not on journeys to exotic places, our annual "First Day of School" no host lunch will be held at Scott's Bar and Grill (Aurora Village) on Wednesday, September 8 at 11:30 AM. Please call Barbara Berg (425-483-2671) or Phyllis Enger (425-486-1127) before September 6 to sign up for lunch.

LOCAL UNIT MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Become well acquainted with member services programs and information in general and with specific services that have been announced by the WSRTA MSC.
- 2. Develop ways of informing local Unit member about the services that are available
- 3. Inform members about the availability of:
 - special events programs
 - educational opportunities
 - informational services
 - local services

- memorial associations
- automobile clubs
- AARP services/publications
- general travel information
- consumer resources for protective services
- 4. React to desires of members and make suggestions for new services

If You Pay Your Dues in Cash, They're Now OVERdues

For those of you who pay your dues yearly by check, the new fiscal year began in July. If you haven't paid your dues for the 99-00 year, please send them by October 1 to continue receiving this **Bulletin** and to have your name printed in the new directory. If you're not sure whether you've paid, please check the address label on this newsletter.

If you owe dues as of this mailing there will be a red dot on your label A←(RED) and you should contact Donna Murrish (206-363-5753) or

Don Denton (425-787-7881) for membership forms

Website in the Works

The Sno-King School Retirees Association is in the process of developing a website for the organization. It is intended to be a supplement to other forms of communication already in use. The website will contain schedules of events, legislative updates, news of members, photos of events, links to other important sites and other items of interest to retirees. Anyone with knowledge of how to set one of these up and who is willing to help, should contact President Rita Requa or Jack Rogers.

The website will be on an experimental basis for one year to see if its usefulness is worth the effort. Suggestions for other items of interest that could be included on the website are also welcome. Contact can be made to Jack Rogers by phone at 206•367•7153 or e-mail – <u>irogers735@aol.com</u>

Does Sno-King have your e-mail address? If it does not appear in the back of the 98-99 directory and you would like to receive periodic e-mail updates on upcoming legislation or other important information and events from Sno-King School Retirees, please e-mail Jack Rogers – <u>irogers735@aol.com</u> – with that address.

WSTRA Foundation

The Washington State Retired Teachers *Foundation* was established by resolution of the 1985 Delegate Assembly in Olympia. The *Foundation's* primary purpose is to support education, civic and retiree programs, projects, studies and research in cooperation and coordination with local and state governments for the benefit of retired persons.

A long-range goal of the *Foundation* is to create a self-sustaining endowment fund which would provide annual scholarships and/or research grants. Gifts of donations may be made in the form of memorials, bequests, contributions of cash, real estate, securities, stocks, IRAs, trust funds, or real or personal property.

Donations may be sent to **WSRTA FOUNDATION**, 910-B Lakeridge Way SW, Olympia, WA 98502-6036.



SKSR Scholarship Fund

Sno-King's scholarship fund was established in 1984 with \$200 in contributions and memorials. President Bob Bisnett founded the fund with the hope of giving one \$250 scholarship each year, rotating between the Edmonds, Northshore and Shoreline School Districts.

The first fundraiser was a scholarship luncheon in June 1984, and since that time we have had two scholarship luncheons each year, normally in April and October. In addition, the scholarship fund has had many infusions of cash by raffles and by donations from our members. Many members donate gifts in memory or honor of friends or relatives.

Within a year we had increased the scholarship amount to \$300, and the total available had topped the \$3,000 mark. By November 1987 the fund had grown to \$6,500 and we decided to give a \$300 scholarship to one student in each of our three district. Each scholarship moved to \$500 in 1996.

The past two years we have increased the scholarships to \$1,000 each and now have a certificate of deposit worth over \$27,000. We hope that we can continue to increase the value of this certificate so that we will be able to pay for the scholarships with the interest. The past several years Sno-King School Retirees has given a \$3,000 endowment to the Sno-King School Retirees Scholarship Fund.

In addition to the three \$1,000 scholarships we gave to graduating seniors majoring in education, this past year we gave \$900 in grants to active teachers. Donations to our scholarship fund may be made to **Sno-King School Retirees Scholarship Fund**, PO Box 33962, Seattle, WA 98133-0962. Contributions are tax deductible.

Remembering . . .

Clemewell Mackenzie

Case, Shoreline's first music supervisor, died July 10 at the age of 93.

Former Superintendent Bill Stevenson said, "Clemewell was a musician and music lover who worked endlessly to infuse that love for music in Shoreline's students from kindergarten through high school. Her enthusiastic leadership developed the music program to where it was recognized as one of the best in the state. She was a role model for all."

She retired in 1966, and is a member of the inaugural class of the WMEA Hall of Fame.

Debbie House, Shoreline's Teacher of the Year in 1967, died on August 18.

A brilliant teacher, she was also a finalist for Washington State Teacher of the Year in 1968.

Rita Requa said,
"Debbie taught me how to
really teach reading, and she
inspired many others with
her dedication and loving
ways. Who could forget her
Tiger Tail Club, a positive
reinforcement program, or
her many Halloween
disguises?"

She is survived by her husband Irvin and daughters in the Mt. Vernon area, a son in England and five grandchildren.

Gordy Smith, former Edmonds teacher, coach and principal, died on June 30.

After retiring as principal at Meadowdale Junior High School, Gordy spent many days golfing with his buddies and his wife, Ruby.

A loyal Husky fan, Gordy was past president of the Washington State Seniors Golf, served on the Foundation Board at WWU, was Edmonds Kiwanis president and received the Edmonds Community Living Legend Award.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son and daughter, and five grandchildren. **Roland Stemmer**, a former Everett CC instructor and colorful Mukilteo civic activist, died August 8.

"Stem," as he was known to his friends, was respected for having the courage of his convictions. "He didn't say one thing one day and say another the next," said Mona Howell, former city council member and friend.

He taught industrial arts and math at Renton HS before his 25 year stint at EvCC, where he became director of the vocational education program.

Survivors include his wife Isabelle, three children and six grandchildren.

What a picnic!

by Rita Requa, president

After the unseasonable summer weather this year, the annual SKSR picnic was blessed with sunshine. About 60 people joined the celebration and greeted new retirees at Kenmore Rhododendron Park.

Among our honored guests were not only the new retirees but David Thurman, NW-1 (our area) representative from Bellingham, Joanne Dunn, Joe Pettelle and his wife, and Eleanor Wallis. Colorful balloons, musical entertainment by Gayle and Bob and great food highlighted the day. We owe thanks to Betty Odle for spearheading the food committee. New friendships were established and old friendships renewed. Blue Sno-King T-shirts were sold.

After review, the Executive Board decided to hold next year's picnic at the same site, Kenmore Rhododendron Park, on July 20, 2000.

CASID

Bob Jones accompanies vocalist Gayle Bromley at the annual SKSR Picnic held at Kenmore Rhododendron Park.



Several new SKSR members attended the July picnic. Pictured here are Sharon Carson, Ruth Woodward, Garrell Sperling Lindberg, Cathy Miler, Barb Sievertsen, Cathy Pope, Dena Klingler and Jackie Gary. Not pictured but at the picnic: Al Morasch and Dianna McQuay.

HELP US WITH INFORMATION TO PUT IN THE BULLETIN

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Thursday**, **September 16**. Send to Jo or Bruce Caldwell PO Box 1117, Edmonds WA 98020. WMEAeditor@aol.com, fax 425-776-1795, or phone 425-778-9390. **Please send us news about other members as well as about your activities.**

If you know of illness, please call Sunshine Co-Chairs, **Gayle Bromley** (206-364-1314)

or Frances Peters (206-361-8594) or call President Rita Requa (206-362-5220).

To help with mailing our next **BULLETIN** on <u>Thursday, September 30</u>, call **Betty Odle** at 206-525-8276.

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