

Sno-King School Retirees



January-February 2016

The SKSR Bulletin



A message from our coordinator

Why I joined SKSR, part III

by Cheryl Bauer

I joined SKSR to protect my retirement! With each legislative session having more difficulties when it comes to finances, it is more important than ever that we pay attention to, and stay on top of, what is happening in Olympia. However, if you like

me, sometimes find yourself not as diligent as you might be, we know that we have people at the Washington State School Retirees Association office doing the job for us. From our new director, Mike Boring, to our legislative coordinator, Peter Diedrick, to our contract lobbyist, Scott Nelson, we are well covered. Credit also goes to our very own Rita Requa who has served as our legislative representative for the past several years. I hope you have read, and will continue to read, the articles she writes for the *Bulletin*. She keeps us well informed and up to date.

Please read the rest of the Bulletin carefully. For those who are looking for service opportunities, we are planning to once again help at the Food Lifeline on January 21st. If gaining information is your thing, the February 18th meeting will be "Life Reimagined," a program done by AARP. At this printing, the field trip for the year is yet to be determined. Look for more information at a later date.

It's never too late to get more involved with SKSR. And it's never too early to think about you might want to serve as a board chairman or committee member or as an officer. Please consider helping in some way.

OFFICERS

Cheryl Bauer, Coordinator
Roberta Hawkins, Vice President
Jan Phillips, Secretary
Donna Murrish, Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Barbara Berg, Scrapbook
Linda Fitzgerald/Keith Lindaas, Scholarships
David Johnson, Scholarship Finance
Marlene Johnson, Hospitality
Evelyn Nordeen, Sunshine
Betty Odle, Historian
Virg Rayton, Active Member Grants
Rita Requa, Legislative
Jim Siscel, Membership/Retirement/Website
Erma Snook, Membership Records
Jo/Bruce Caldwell, *Bulletin* Editors

Our next special event

Life Reimagined: Real Possibilities

by Donna Murrish, February meeting chair



Maybe you've seen the ads on TV or perhaps read something about it in the AARP news bulletins. Or maybe you've never heard of *Life Reimagined* at all.

Here's your chance to find out what it's all about. At the Sno-King general meeting on February 18, we will be introducing *Life Reimagined* Checkup, a two-hour experience to help you understand where you are in life and what your next move could be. It's a new way of thinking about what's next in your life—a step-by-step approach to help you discover possibilities, prepare for change and make your ideas real. What would you try if you couldn't fail? What passion are you waiting to explore? What's getting you stuck? What baggage do you need to shed? What do you want to be remembered for?

This is a program led by a trained *Life Reimagined* guide that brings people together to talk about the challenges and choices they're facing and how to make the most of them. Whether it's work, family or health that's on your mind, you'll discover new methods and tools to help you achieve your goals.

Come to a *Life Reimagined* Checkup!

Thursday, February 18, 2016

11:30 am–2:00 pm

Edmonds School District Board Room

20420 68th Ave W.

Lynnwood, WA 98036

This event is limited to 50 people.

If you'd like to take part, please register in advance by contacting:

donnamurrish@comcast.net / 206-363-5753 OR bauer1@frontier.com / 425-743-9755

YOU'LL FIND INSIDE

- Coordinator's Message1
- Next Meeting Information2
- Legislative Information3
- Scholarship Donations3
- In the Spotlight4
- November Wrap Up.....4
- December Meeting.....5
- Retirement Seminars.....5
- Membership Updates6
- Journal Opportunity.....6
- Grants/Scholarships7

SKSR Board Meetings

All board meetings are held at the Edmonds School District ESC at 1:00 PM.

January 14	March 10	May 12
February 11	April 14	July 14



January Service Project

On **Thursday, January 21, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**, we are again planning on volunteering at **Food Lifeline**. Food Lifeline is a local hunger-relief organization where excess food items are taken to the distribution warehouse in Shoreline, repackaged and distributed to the local area. Our job will be to repackage whatever food items they have for the day we participate. To help at this service project, you will need to dress warmly and be able to stand at a work station for about three hours.

Contact Roberta Hawkins at rhawkins@aol.com or 206-546-2556 by **Wednesday, January 13**, to volunteer. If you need driving directions, they can be given at that time.

Doing more for our members

Keeping an Eye on the State

by Rita Requa, SKSR Legislative Chair

The 2016 Washington State Legislative session officially starts on January 11th. The authority in the Legislature will continue to be split: Republicans maintain a 26-23 majority in Senate, and the Democrats hold a majority in the House 50-48. The handwriting is on the wall—only proposals with bipartisan support will be able to pass both houses.

Initiative 1366 will force the Legislature to sponsor a constitutional amendment requiring a 2/3 vote to raise taxes and fees, or it will force a reduction in the state sales tax by one cent. There is a move to get the measure thrown out by the courts. If the law remains, it will make any retiree pension or health benefit enhancements difficult.

WSSRA issues

The WSSRA Legislative agenda will remain focused on retirees’ financial security:

- * Restore Plan 1 Cost of Living Adjustment
- * Restore the full \$183 monthly Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Thank you to the following donors to the Sno-King Scholarship Fund during the past three months.

- **Phil Elvrum** in memory of *Jerry Sorensen*
- **Ed Orsborn and Robin Randles**—in memory of *Dwight Coil, Dale Hanberg, Rachel Lake and Jack Rogers*
- **SKSR**—in memory of *Daryl Baerwald, Dwight Coil, Alice Ehli, Gretchen Lay, Nolda Sharp and Don Warren*
- **Gil and Erma Snook**—in memory of *Rachel Lake*
- **Charles and Roslynn Warren**—in memory of *Ruthanne and Don Warren*
- Also in memory of *Don Warren*—**Barbara Berg, Betty Gilbert-Boogard, Chris and Lowell Bailey, Dave and Marlene Johnson, Jane G. Morck and Kimmel Athletic Supply Co.**
- **Tom and Roberta Hawkins, Cheryl Bauer and Phyllis Fiege**—for donations

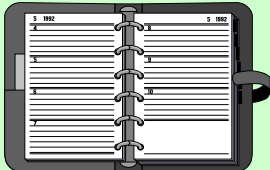
- * Maintain defined-benefit pensions for future educators
- * Make the actuarially recommended payment to state pension funds
- * Allow educators who retire early to work part time in their school districts

The WSSRA Legislative committee will meet and lobby in Olympia January 26 and 27. I will meet with the legislators in the 1st, 21st and 32nd districts.

Your involvement

Please be persistent in communicating with local legislators. Not only does the SKSR website (sksr.org) list the legislators, their phone numbers and email addresses, but it also has some valuable communication tips.

If you would like to get the *WSSRA Legislative Alerts*, use the WSSRA webpage (wssra.org). You may also get legislative information which is posted on the WSSRA Facebook page.



MARK YOUR DATEBOOK

Coming Events for Sno-King School Retirees

February 18.....	11:30
General Membership Meeting	Edmonds SD ESC
March 17	TBD
Field Trip	TBD
April 21	11:30
Spring Scholarship Luncheon.....	Edmonds Unitarian Church
May 18 or 19.....	11:30
Luncheon with Sno-Isle	Le Bistro, Sno-Isle Skills Center
July 20.....	11:30
Picnic.....	Edmonds City Park

Our scholarship event

November Wrap-up

The November Scholarship Luncheon brought two guests speakers to the podium. Following a catered lasagna lunch from Spiro's of Shoreline, UW women's crew coach Bob Ernst gave a history of the UW crew program and showed a short video.

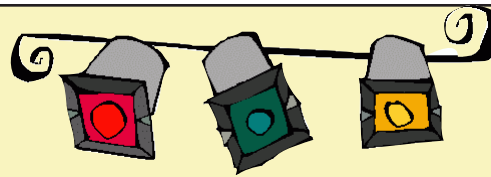


Superintendent Francois speaks about the Northshore School District.

After a short business meeting, Larry Francois updated the membership on changes occurring in the Northshore School District. Recent growth there has swelled the student population, and in 2017 they will open their fourth high school, North Creek. At the same time, they will move the ninth graders into the district's high schools and the sixth graders into middle schools.



SKSR members listen to Bob Ernst as he provides historical information about the UW crew program. Following his presentation, several members expressed interest in touring the UW crew facilities.



In the Spotlight

Roberta Hawkins

by Cheryl Bauer

Continuing in the tradition of spotlighting members of our board, this month's person "to shine" is Roberta Hawkins. When I ask people to tell me something about themselves to share, I am always amazed at the new things I learn. Reading through Roberta's information is no exception. She received her undergraduate and master's degrees (in English) from the University of Washington, and then went on to receive a master's in education (emphasis on technology) from Lesley College.



Her education career was spent in the Shoreline School District teaching English. She started at Shoreline High School and, when that closed in 1986, she moved to Shorewood High School, where she also served as Department Leader. She was there until her retirement in 2007. Somehow, she still found time to teach writing classes as an adjunct UW instructor at the Shorewood Campus for 13 years.

Roberta has been active in Sno-King School Retirees since her retirement and has served as Vice President for the past five years. With her credentials, she was the perfect choice to take on the job of revising and restructuring our By-Laws and Policies and Procedures documents. She also helps with the reading and selection of scholarships at the NW-1 level. She and her husband, Tom, are regular WSSRA conventioners.

When she has time, Roberta can be found gardening, reading and enjoying the theater, especially in Ashland. She is also a UW Husky football fan (it seems as if I write that a lot when I talk about board members). Lastly, I want everyone to know how much I appreciate her willingness to take on responsibilities. What a great addition to the board she has been!

An annual SKSR holiday tradition continues

December Cookie Fest and Sing Along

by Erma Snook, event chair



Attendees at the Cookie Fest sing along to holiday favorites as Bruce Caldwell accompanies them on the keyboard. The cookies and singing have become a staple December event for many SKSR members.

A festive array of over 20 varieties of cookies to sample and enjoy greeted those in attendance at SKSR's sixth Annual Cookie Fest and Sing Along. After sampling, the purchasing of cookies took a short 15 minutes for everyone to secure their own bags full of cookies to take home. It was fast, festive and fun!

There are many people

whose contributions contributed to the success of the event. Thanks to the following: Gil Snook, Lani Biddle, Donna Murrish and Jan Phillips who helped set up, check in and check out the participants; Bruce Caldwell for his beautiful accompaniment on keyboard to the carol singing; Barb Smith and Dave and Marlene Johnson, who arranged for beverages, arrived early, decorated, readied the room for cookie bakers, set out samples and helped clean up (hopefully they sampled along the way!); Jim Siscel

for helping with cookies and photos, and also for an outstanding job with his grandfather's harness bells as he provided accompaniment to "Jingle Bells."

Such great support made this project run like clockwork. Nearly 90 bags of cookies were sold with proceeds going to Clothes for Kids. Thanks to all who attended.



Donna Murrish heads the line of those sampling the many cookies. Funds raised through cookie sales help the Clothes for Kids project.

2016 Retirement Seminars

by Jim Siscel, retirement chair

The following retirement seminars are for employees and spouses of Edmonds, Mukilteo, Northshore and Shoreline school districts. There is no cost, and confirmation to attend is not necessary. The seminars will be

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

- 5:00–5:20 Introduction
- 5:30–6:00 The Emotional Side of Retirement
- 6:10–6:30 Sno-King School Retirees

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

- 5:00–5:30 VEBA
- 5:40–7:00 State Medical and Dental Plans

held at the Edmonds School District Administration Building, 20420 68th Ave. West, Lynnwood WA 98036. As we receive more information, it will be posted on the SKSR website (sksr.org) under Special News.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

- 5:30–8:00 Washington Retirement Systems
Times will vary depending on plan

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016

- 5:00–6:30 Solving the Retirement Income Puzzle

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

- 3:45–5:15 Social Security and Medicare
Note the early start time

Member information updates

Welcome to our New Members

- Davis, Dottie I ***, 7647 NE 155th PL, Kenmore, WA 98028, 425-488-8748, weedog3@yahoo.com
- Christensen, John R**, 17832 146th Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072, 425-481-1619, mnrnippy1@aol.com
- Crowe, Linda K**, PO Box 43, Edmonds, WA 98020, 425-238-5047, yourkidsteacher@comcast.net
- Erickson, Nancy L ***, 7515 Ridge Way, Edmonds, WA 98026, 425-286-3126, nanlerickson@yahoo.com
- Fike, Michael E**, 32412 83rd DR NW, Stanwood, WA 98292, 360-629-5031, mountainairman@outlook.com
- Fulton, Doris L**, 20629 23rd Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-774-0225, fultondl@gmail.com
- Halferty, Melissa A**, 6155 NE 187th ST, Kenmore, WA 98028, 425-481-2313, fjh_mah@peak.org
- Hanson, Jane R**, 7858 SE 28th ST, Mercer Island, WA 98040, 425-686-4795, janeroperhanson@gmail.com
- Hillger, Jennifer B ***, 2003 NW 196th PL, Shoreline, WA 98021, 206-963-6645, jhillger1@mac.com
- Lindquist, Sherin W**, 4629 78th PL SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275v425-353-4990, swedeson@aol.com
- Marab, Layna M ***, 22317 53rd Ave SE, Bothell, WA 98021, 206-930-2740,
- McKeighen, Janet L**, 6700 235th ST SW Unit A, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043, 425-775-0225 mckeighenj@comcast.net
- McKeighen, William N**, 6700 235th St SW Unit A, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043, 425-775-0225, mckeighenw@comcast.net
- Merkley, Mollie, R**, 18236 35th Ave NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155, 206-365-2889, merkley@comcast.net
- Miller, Lynn ***, 16223 48th Ave W #B-3, Edmonds, WA 98026, 425-742-1055, millerlynn704@comcast.net
- Pankiewicz, Kate L**, 17124 31st DR SE, Bothell, WA 98012, 425-408-1501, kpankiewicz@gmail.com
- Reynolds, Loren H**, 1722 NW 199th ST, Shoreline, WA 98177, 206-542-8318, l8renhr@aol.com
- Schultz, Susan E ***, 2525 NE 195th ST #204, Shoreline, WA 98155, 206-445-4691, sseschultz@aol.com
- Tweedt, James R**, 10716 Ne 196th ST, Bothell, WA 98011, 206-940-5397, jtweedt@comcast.net

* = Active Member

E-Mail Changes

- James, Sandra**, sljam52@gmail.com
- Jones, Renee**, reneepj470@gmail.com

WSSRA Journal Opportunity

Do you have an activity or hobby to share?



The Journal will begin featuring mini-articles about members and their activities and hobbies.

We know that many participate in all kinds of activities and hobbies, and would love to share. By sharing your story, you may inspire other members rekindle their interest in the same activity or to try your hobby. This is also a fun way to connect with other members around the state who have similar interests.

You are invited to tell about your activity or hobby in about 100 words (that's only a few sentences) and provide at least one photo.

If you'd like to share more, please feel free to go beyond 100 words and/or provide more than one photo.

Here are a few questions to get you started...

- What do you do?
- Is this an individual or group activity?
- How did you get started? What drew you to this?
- How long have you been involved?
- Why do you enjoy it?
- How could someone get started?
- Where could someone find more information?
- Any additional details and information?

Submit your articles to Kristin Murphy, Journal editor, via email or snail mail: editor@wssra.org or WSSRA, ATTN: Editor, 4726 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Member Informational Changes

- Brancheau, Nancy A**, 843 NW 52nd ST, Seattle, WA 98107
- Callahan, Michael**, 500 Wall ST APT 1610, Seattle, WA 98121
- Martin, Sandra**, 2821 E Bay St, Port Angeles, WA 98362, 360-457-3105

Deceased

- Baerwald, Daryl**, 11/18/2015, Retired from Shoreline, 24-year Member
- Coil, Dwight H**, 10/2015, Shoreline, 24-year member
- Sharp, Nolda**, 11/2015, 8-year member
- Warren, Don E**, 11/26/2015, Retired from Edmonds, 24-year Member

Helping today's students and teachers

Grants awarded to 35 active members

by *Virgil Rayton, grants chair*

Each fall Sno-King School Retirees' active members are invited to apply for grants of up to \$200 to facilitate special projects they envision to enrich the school experience of students with whom they work.

During these tough economic times when money is tight in schools, a few extra dollars come in handy. SKSR enjoys recognizing and rewarding the often unnoticed efforts of our colleagues still

"in the trenches" by providing resources necessary to help them feel more comfortable about the job they're able to do. SKSR invites the grant winners to be honored guests at our annual picnic on Wednesday, July 20th, at the Edmonds Park.

This year 34 grants are being awarded amounting to a total of \$7,000; since 1998 we have distributed a grand total of \$61,220.

Congratulations to the following recipients:



EDMONDS

Birgit Albiker-Osterhaug
Louise Barnes
Tanya King-Bazor
Nancy Erickson
Melissa Falleroni
Peggy Hohnhaus
Ruth Kenney
Judy MacRae
Mary Magill
Jennifer Martin
Courtney McCready
Michelle McShane

Shirley Nicholson
Joan Pederson
Stacey Sateran
Robin Waldron
Jill Walzer
Ellen Winningham
Cathi Wrolstad

NORTHSHORE

Renee Colleran
Paulette Manuel
Pamela Smith
Kari Stokes

SHORELINE

Sarita Benson
Allison Bowhay
Dennis Day
Sandi James
Jonathan Nesson
Kathryn Pihl
Mary Rae
Laura Reed
Amy Serra
Tani Stenfjord
Merrilyn Tucker
Carrie Wandler

Deserving of recognition and thanks are the following SKSR Board members who agreed to serve on the Grants Deliberation Committee: Cheryl Bauer, Roberta Hawkins, Evelyn Nordeen, Jan Phillips, Rita Requa, Erma Snook and Virg

Rayton. Those who are presenting/have presented grant checks to recipients at staff meetings during December and January are Sharron Cain, Keith Lindaas, Jan Phillips, Rita Requa, Jim Siscel, Erma Snook and Virg Rayton.

Help spread the words to our students

2016 Scholarships

SKSR will again award scholarships to graduating seniors from Edmonds, Northshore and Shoreline school districts. One student from each district will receive a scholarship, and one at-large scholarship will be awarded.

Our scholarships are worth \$1,500 each and can be renewed for another \$1,500 for the next three years of the student's college education. The renewed scholarships are financed with the Winnie Smith Scholarship monies and will be

offered as long as the criteria are met.

Graduating seniors interested in pursuing education as a career may apply. The selection is made on the basis of scholarship, career goals in education, school activities and community service; it may or may not include consideration of financial need. Completed applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 18, 2016. Applications may be found in each high school's scholarship center and also on line at www.sksr.org.

Awardees will be honored at our annual scholarship luncheon on April 21st.

Sno-King School Retirees
P. O. Box 33962
Seattle WA 98133-0962



Help us with information to put in the *Bulletin*

The deadline for the next Bulletin is February 20. Send news and other materials to
Jo or Bruce Caldwell, bruce@wmea.org, 425-218-8434.

Please send us news about other members as well as about your activities.

If you know of illness, please call Sunshine Chair Evie Nordeen, 425-775-1127.

To help with mailing our next Bulletin on Monday, February 29, call Marilyn Dauer, 425-774-7445.