

Sno-King School Retirees



March-April 2022

The SKSR Bulletin



A message from your board

What's happening

by Karen McElliott, chair

In the July-August issue, Jim Siscel wrote about the leadership crisis that SKSR is facing: The SKSR Board needs new members to keep our unit running. Jim made an appeal for volunteers to shadow board member for a year in hopes that those volunteers would be willing to take on board responsibilities in

the 2022-23 school year. That has not happened.

As a result, the board is now considering the feasibility of hiring a contractor to be a clerical assistant in order to lessen the board's workload. We compiled a master list of the tasks required of board officers and committee chairs that could be completed by such a person. Looking at this list, it became clear that clerical assistance was most needed for the president, Scholarship chair, Grants chair, Membership chair, retreat planner, convention coordinator, and *Bulletin* logistics, if we are unable to hold bimonthly folding sessions.

In order to better understand the nuts and bolts of hiring a clerical assistant, the board has worked on widening its knowledge base. Bruce Caldwell spoke to the board about his similar experiences with hiring employees for non-profits and outlined that process and parameters. Linda Fitzgerald talked with Pat Cygan, president of Seattle Unit 20, for her advice and insight since her unit has used contract workers. We are consulting with WSSRA Executive Director Allan Burke, who has offered to help us with the paperwork and the hiring process.

If we continue to move this process forward, our hope is that we could have someone in this position by the beginning of September.

OFFICERS

vacant, President

vacant, Vice President

Jan Phillips, Secretary

Tom Hawkins, Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Barbara Berg, Scrapbook

Linda Fitzgerald/Keith Lindaas, Scholarships

Robin Randles, Health

Virg Rayton, Community Service

Marlene Johnson, Hospitality

Barb Bumgardner, Sunshine

Karen McElliott, Active Member Grants

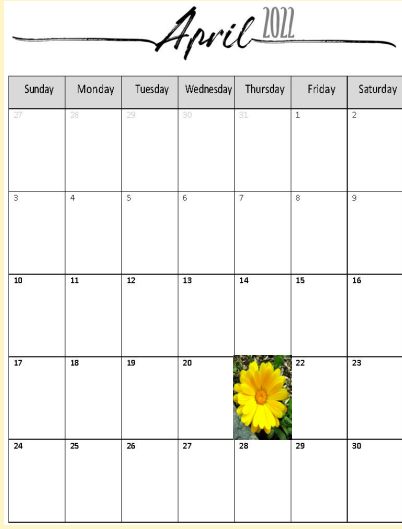
vacant, Legislative

Jim Siscel, Membership/Retirement/Website

Erma Snook, Membership Records

Jo Caldwell, Bulletin Editor

Our next event
by Jan Phillips



Save the date: April 21, 2022, for our annual Spring Scholarship Luncheon

Each year we have the privilege of handing out four \$2,000 scholarships to selected seniors from our three school districts who plan on entering the educational field.

While we have scheduled the event for April 21, at this time it has not been decided whether the event will be virtual, in-person or delayed until the picnic. As you all are aware, COVID protocols dictate much of this.

We will be able to notify those of you who have shared your email address of our plans; however, for the rest of you, we can't do that. If you do not see an update by mid-April, contact me at soccerjan@hotmail.com.

Here is hoping we can meet in person.

Member Information Updates

New Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Anita Fletcher-Harris | Judith Lindgren |
| Kathleen Hodges* | Jan Liscom Abrahamson* |
| Allison Hoover* | David Sudmeier |
| Emma LeBlanc* | Christina Torres* |
- *=active

Deceased

- Ray Aust** – 2/1/2022, Retired from Edmonds, Member since 1997
- William Borgert** – 12/27/2021, Retired from Edmonds, Member since 2004
- Norma Fuhrman**– 1/14/2022, Member since 2012
- Terri Harrington** – 12/2021, Retired from Edmonds, Member since 1995
- Sharon Hetzel** – 2/1/2022, Member since 2009
- Patricia Lang** – 12/2021, Retired from Shoreline, Member since 1991
- Joy Perry** – 12/2021, Retired from Northshore, Member since 1997
- Mary Stark** – 2/1/2022
- Georgianna Young** – 12/2021, Retired from Shoreline, Member since 1992

Our previous event
by Roberta Hawkins



Virtual audience enjoys presentation

On Thursday, February 17, at 1 PM via Zoom, SKSR and members of our local community enjoyed Steve Edmiston’s presentation about *Whiskey and Wiretaps: The Northwest’s Rumrunning King*. With an attendance of 63 people listening, Edmiston regaled his audience using pictures, news article, stories and facts about the reign of Roy Olmstead in the Puget Sound region. His rise and subsequent fall and redemption made for a fascinating program.

Once again our speaker selection from Humanities Washington was a hit with our virtual audience. The comments and questions following the presentation included “excellent presentation” and “I laughed so hard at some points” and “where can we find more information about bootlegging in this area?” reflect the impact of his presentation. He definitely gave us a new perspective on political, legal and cultural matters in the Seattle region during the period of time from to early 1900s to 1925.

If you missed it, look for Humanities Washington programs and see if it becomes available again later. It is well worth the time to see and hear.

Legislative update

Updates as of February 18

from a compilation of information provided by Jim Siscel, Tim Knopf and Peter Diedrick

February 18 was Day 40 of the 60-day legislative session. Following the deadline of February 15 for considering bills in their house of origin, two of our bills are still moving forward.

Our most important goal is a cost-of-living increase for TRS/PRS Plan 1 members. The Washington State Senate passed **SB 5676**, the 2022 Plan 1 COLA Bill, by a vote of 47-0. This bill would provide a one-time 3% cost-of-living adjustment on the first \$44,000 of Plan 1 retirees' pension income. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on February 22. A panel from the WSSRA Legislative Committee will be testifying. Legislators must be reminded that the proposed one-time 3% Plan 1 COLA is not nearly enough for people who have already lost so much of their retirements' value to inflation.

House Bill 1699, OSPI Retiree Employment Bill, to increase retiree work hours, passed the House 93-3, and will go directly to a vote in the



Senate Ways and Means Committee on February 22. The bill would allow retired school employees to substitute for up to 1,040 hours per year in the schools through 2025. WSSRA is working closely with OSPI and the school administrators' association on this bill.

HB 1911, equalizing retiree health benefits for members of Plans 2 & 3, is currently dead. The bill will be sent to the Select Committee on Pension Policy in April for consideration in the 2023 legislative session.

The **Medicare Eligible Health Benefit**, the \$183 discount on PEBB Medicare supplemental insurance, is completed through the state proposed budget. The benefit was funded in the 2021-2023 budget, funded in Governor Inslee's budget proposal. It will be decided in the legislative budget at the end of the session.

Sno-King School Retirees Membership Directory Distribution

The following is a message for three different groups of Sno-King members.

1. For those of you who have received your copy of the member directory via email on February 2, 2022:

The newly updated version of the 2022 SKSR Membership Directory has been distributed to our members who receive their *Bulletins* via email. It was emailed on February 2, 2022. Our hope is that you have checked out your data for accuracy, reported any needed corrections, and have stored it for your future reference.

2. To those e-mail members who want to have a stapled, hard copy of the 2022 SKSR Member Directory in addition to the email copy:

Those of you who received your member directory via email but would like to have an additional stapled, hard copy, may order a copy by the March 18th deadline at a cost of \$5 (printing and postage).

Please call Erma to reserve your copy and to arrange for payment. Of course, you may always print your own copy for your personal use.

3. For those of you who receive your *Bulletins* via US mail and who may now opt in to order a stapled copy of the member directory to be mailed to you:

We are aware that not everyone wants a member directory, yet we want all who wish to have a copy to receive one. To manage the printing and postage costs prudently, US Mail members need to opt in in order to receive a stapled, hard copy of the member directory.

You need to call to reserve/order a copy. Please contact Erma Snook, 425-776-2067.

We will only be printing enough copies of the member directory to cover our order requests.

You will need to call by March 18th. Feel free to leave a message if you so choose. We will print copies right after the deadline. Then we will mail the copies to you, probably by the end of March. After receiving your member directory, please check your data for accuracy and inform us of any needed changes. Again, contact Erma Snook.

Enjoy keeping in touch with your friends and colleagues.

Report updates to your contact data to Erma Snook, 425-776-2067 or egsnook@comcast.net.

SKSR grants update

Teachers report use of grants in classrooms

by Karen McElliott

Grants checks were mailed to districts in late November. Several grant recipients, mostly those who are using their grant money to purchase books, reported that they placed their orders soon after their money came available but are still waiting for the books to arrive, due to supply-chain issues. However, other recipients have been more fortunate; they have already received their materials. Pictured are some of their purchases and their comments about their grants.

Monica Holdridge (Title/LAP at Ridgecrest Elementary)

“Our books have arrived!

My teaching partner and I were delighted that we were chosen as SKSR grant recipients this year. We used our grant money to buy engaging decodable texts that even our older students would enjoy reading. My students have been excited to read the books and then play the games at the end.

“Thank you for giving our Title/LAP students access to colorful books with diverse characters so that all students get to see people who look like them in our books.

“We appreciate your support!”



Shari Wennik (fourth grade at Echo Lake)

“The money was used to purchase books for a book vending machine we are getting for our school.

“It will take a bit of time to receive the vending machine. I can’t wait to see the looks on kids’ faces when they get to pick a book.

“Thank you and everyone who helped make this possible!”



Sarita Benson (fourth grade at Brookside)

“I just wanted to thank everyone at SKSR for the grant to fund 2 remote experiences with the author Will Taylor. We had our first visit prior to break. The kids were so excited and had so many questions for Will. We can’t wait to ‘see’ him again for our second session.” *(Photo posted on sksr.org.)*

Sarita’s grant includes a second zoom interaction with her students and Will Taylor that will coincide with their narrative writing unit.

SKSR grants update continued



Michelle McShane (kindergarten at Cedar Way)

“I was able to order the [STEM] items I had requested and the kids love them!! Thank you again for the opportunity to offer these tools to my students to increase geometry skills, eye-hand coordination and fine motor practice but most importantly having fun with friends!”



Michelle McShane's students exercise their creativity while building 3-D shapes out of plastic sticks and connectors, and using magnetic sticks and connectors.

Cindy Ebisu (third grade at Briarcrest)

“We finally received all of our headphones purchased with the November grant money. Thank you to SKSR!

“The kids were thrilled to get new headphones.

“We take the standardized tests in May and these new headphones are ‘game-changers’ because they fit around the ears instead of on the ears. They seal out the outside sounds which helps students to focus when taking a test.

“I had to order more expensive pink ones when Amazon suddenly would only let me buy two of the Sony ones at a time. But luckily, a parent bought me the two extras I needed to have a full class set.

“I have 25 students but wanted to get 27 headphones in case of new students or a lost headphone.”

(Photos posed on sksr.org.)

Amy Pitts (second grade at Briarcrest)

“Our class is loving the IXL [online math] program and it is really helping to give them extra practice on the topics we have covered in class.

“It is also super helpful as a remediation and enrichment tool since students can access grades level work above and below second grade.

“Thank you again for selecting me for this grant!”

To see color photos of these and other grants in action go to sksr.org and click on *Grants* and then click on *2021-2022 Grant Recipients*.

There you will find a list of this year’s recipients with brief descriptions of their grants.

Scroll to the bottom of the page to see photos.

The sound of some words confuse me

The fact that Kansas and Arkansas are pronounced differently bothers me way more than it should.

Pronouncing words that end in “ough”:
cough, bough, rough, dough, through, though...

Is the “s” or “c” in scent silent?

Why does fridge have a “d” in it, but refrigerator does not?

Why are Zoey and Zoe pronounced the same, but Joey and Joe are not?

You can drink a drink, but you can’t food a food.

The word “queue” is just a “q” followed by four silent letters.

Why is “w” called “double-U” when it is clearly a “double-V”?

Health news

Make your home safer

by Robin Randles, Health chair

Your home is probably the place where you feel the most secure. A few changes can help you keep it that way by protecting you against potential hazards, such as fire and falls. The following is a short list of things that can be done around the house to make life in our homes safer.

1. Install smoke detectors on each floor and near sleeping areas.
2. Add CO (carbon monoxide) detectors. Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can be potentially deadly. Install one on each floor of the house and in the basement.
3. Have fire extinguishers on each level of your home, especially in the kitchen and in the garage. It is a good idea to have a smaller extinguisher in the car.
4. Wherever you have steps, make sure the railings are sturdy and stable.
5. Wall-mounted grab bars are important in the bathroom. Install them directly into the wall where you enter the shower, bathtub or toilet area.
6. Use non-slip treads or a rubber mat with suction inside your tub or shower stall.
7. A taller toilet is easier to use. The standard ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) height toilets must have, a 17"-19" floor to bowl rim height, including the seat. The height of a standard toilet is about 15 inches from floor to seat.
8. Lighting is important. Well-lit spaces help prevent slips and trips. Use motion-detector lighting indoors in closets, hallways and near stairs. Motion-detector lighting near the front walkway outside is helpful. Put nightlights in bathrooms, hallways and other areas where you walk at night.
9. Remove tripping hazards on the floor, like throw rugs. Make sure area rugs are secured with grip tapes or rug pads. Avoid clutter on the floor that you can slip on or trip on at night.



This is just a starter list. AARP has a free HomeFit publication, a very detailed room-by-room safety checklist. The publication has many ways to make our homes more comfortable and safer. Check it out.

AARP HomeFit guide (www.aarp.org)

SKSR scholarships for future educators

by Linda Fitzgerald



Scholarship application forms are now in the schools for those students graduating from one of the public high schools in Edmonds, Northshore or Shoreline school districts in 2022 and who are planning a future as a teacher or other school-related employee.

We will award four scholarships, each worth \$2,000 to students planning to obtain a degree in one of these fields. Applications may be obtained from the high schools' career centers or the SKSR website (www.SKSR.org). The deadline for submission is **March 18, 2022**.

We hope to honor our recipients and meet their parents at a Scholarship Luncheon in April.

One of our former members, Winnie Smith, made a generous donation in her will for scholarships. We use this money to extend the scholarship of \$2,000 for three more years to these students, providing they are progressing in their academic program with the goal of being educators.

Donations to the General Scholarship Fund or the Winnie Smith Scholarship Fund are always welcome.

Service Project update
SKSR supports Washington Kids in Transition

by Virg Rayton

Sno-King School Retirees have adopted Washington Kids in Transition as their community service project the last three years in recognition of the important way they support homeless/needly students.

Upon learning that they bagged nutritious snacks to be sent home with students after school to provide them with something to eat that evening, our board opted to donate \$500 to their organization. We also became aware of interest among our members in forming a work party to bag these snacks and, in January of 2019, 40 responded to a call for volunteers. That was so popular we did the same thing the next year with the majority of the same volunteers returning to share an experience that was so beneficial to students and socially rewarding as well. A number of members chose to contribute additional monetary donations to the cause.

In establishing our annual calendar, the board designated January as community service month dedicated to the popular Washington Kids in Transition. Once again, the board approved a \$500 donation and placed a notice in the *Bulletin* calling for work-party volunteers. Then Kim Gorney, executive director, told us that their new location

on Scriber Lake Road could only accommodate 20 volunteers at a time.

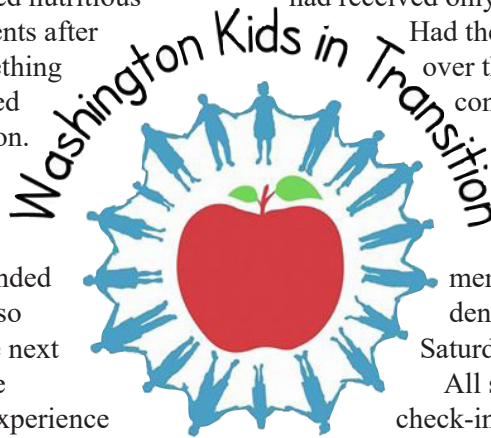
Given the popularity of this activity in the past, we offered a choice of two consecutive Saturdays and requested an RSVP. With two weeks to go, we had received only four volunteers for each date.

Had the earlier notice been forgotten over the holiday whirlwind? Were folks concerned about an Omicron surge?

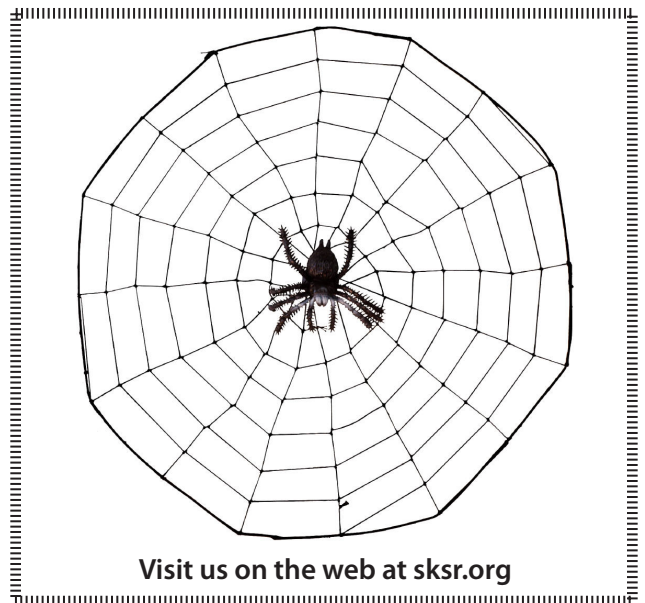
So Erma Snook was asked to send a reminder email to the membership. As a result, there was a flood of responses from members (and spouses), and suddenly we had 15 volunteers for each Saturday.

All set to go? Time for one more check-in with Kim Gorney. This time she reported that new Covid restrictions prevented the handling of the snack items as we had in the past which required us to cancel both work parties.

The good news is that we still delivered the \$500 from the board plus \$985 in individual donations from members and friends for a total of \$1,485. Though most volunteers were disappointed by the cancellation, Kim Gorney was thrilled by our donation because they can always use the money for the important work they do.



Virg Rayton presents Kids in Transition Executive Director Kim Gorney with a check from SKSR. The amount totaled \$1,485, from a board donation of \$500 and individual contributions of \$985.



Visit us on the web at sksr.org



Help us with the *Bulletin*

The deadline items for the next *Bulletin* is **April 13**.

Please send changes in your mailing address, telephone number, or e-mail address to Erma Snook, egsnook@comcast.net, or call 425-776-2067.

If you know of illness, please call Sunshine Chair Barb Bumgardner, 206-364-8413.

With the current conditions, there will be no group foldings and preparations for mailing of the *Bulletin*.

After we are back to "normal" we will resume that process.