

Sno-King School Retirees



March-April

The SKSR Bulletin



A message from your board

What's happening

by Karen McElliott, chair

In the last several issues of the *Bulletin*, the SKSR Board has appealed to members about the need for a new treasurer since Tom Hawkins, who has served in the position for seven years, has announced that he will be stepping away from the position in June. The Board hoped that a member would step

forward to take on this essential role. While the job does not require a great deal of time, it is necessary to have someone monitor our accounts and, with the help of the Finance Committee, our investments. It is also necessary for that person to attend to the day-to-day business of writing checks for our unit's student scholarships, active member grants, community service projects, social gatherings, etc.

Sadly, no one has come forward, so with the end of Tom's term rapidly approaching, Cathy Webb, SKSR's current vice president, has volunteered to serve as treasurer beginning in June.

This means that while SKSR will have a treasurer to ensure that our unit can continue to function financially, there is a greater leadership void than ever. After several years of operating without a president, SKSR will now also be without a vice president. Over those years, board members have divided the president's duties among themselves. If they also have to take on additional duties of the VP, this may become an untenable situation.

It is said that "Many hands make light work." The Board finds itself in the opposite circumstances. If you find value in this organization, please consider taking a more active role in its operation. Many tasks require less than a monthly commitment. For example, *Bulletin* folding is an hour of time six times a year. Serving on the Grants Committee entails several hours in November to read applications.

(chair's message continued on page 3)

OFFICERS

vacant, President
Cathy Webb, 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
vacant, 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
April 20 Luncheon

by *Cathy Webb*

Please join us for our

- **Scholarship Luncheon**
- **Thursday, April 20th, at noon**
- **First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, 18354 8th Ave NW in Shoreline**

Our meet-and-greet time begins at noon with lunch served at 12:30. Following lunch, Linda Fitzgerald and Keith Lindaas will introduce the recipients of our 2023 scholarships.

Newly appointed Edmonds

School District Superintendent and SKSR member, **Rebecca Miner**, will share a presentation of her trip to Camino de Santiago, a network of pilgrims' ways to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain.

Chef Dane will cater our lunch, featuring Chicken Penne Pasta with mixed vegetables in a stone-ground mustard cream sauce, Caesar salad, a bread basket with herb butter, and dessert. The **cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests.**

- **RSVP to Cathy Webb**, 425-877-5753 (text or call) or email: clmwebb0810@gmail.com.
- The sign-up deadline is **Friday, April 14**. Plan to attend, mark your calendar and sign up today!



Our next event
May 18 Luncheon

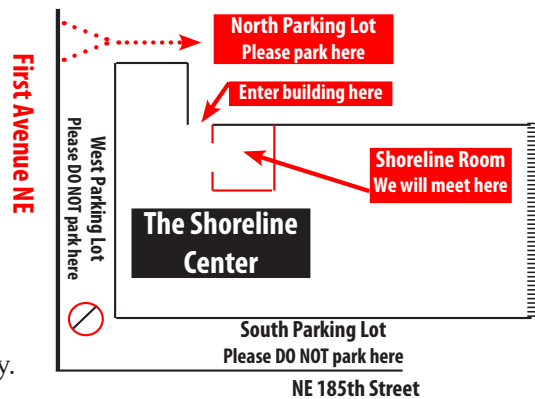
by *Barb Bumgardner*

Don't miss our

- **Spring Luncheon**
- **Thursday, May 18th, at 11:00**
- **At a NEW location: The Shoreline Room at the Shoreline School District Conference Center 18560 1st Ave. NE, in Shoreline**

Doors open at 11:00 AM for a meet-and-greet opportunity. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM.

Chef Dane will cater our lunch, which will consist of Shepherd's Pie (ground beef, peas, carrots topped with mashed potatoes), mixed green salad (roasted grapes, cucumber, sunflower seeds, honey herb dressing), roasted vegetables, Focaccia bread, cookies and coffee. The **cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests**, payable at the door.



Park in the North Parking Lot at the NORTH end of the complex.
Enter the North Entrance to the Shoreline Room at this end of the building.
Do NOT enter the MAIN ENTRANCE on First Ave NE by the West Parking Lot, where you see the "flag" icon on diagram.



- **RSVP to Barb Bumgardner**, barbbumgardner@gmail.com, or call 206-364-8413 (you can leave a message). **RSVP due by May 11th** if you would like to attend.

Following lunch, we will enjoy a presentation by **former NASA Astronaut, Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger**. In 2004, she was selected to join the Astronaut Corps. She served as Mission Specialist 2 on the STS 131 crew, an International Space Station resupply mission. In 2012, Dottie commanded the NASA extreme Environment Mission Operation off the Florida Coast.

Legislative update

by Tim Knopf, WSSRA Legislative Committee



Up-to-date report from the legislature—cutoff deadline

Today, February 24, is day 47 of the legislative session, the day that the fiscal bill cutoff deadline killed any bill still in its house of origin's fiscal committee.

Here are WSSRA's five priorities this session and the bills that address them:

- **Protecting the \$183 Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit**
This will be handled in the end-of-session budget.
- **Equalizing healthcare benefits for Plan 2 and Plan 3 retirees**
Plan 3 members have more rights to defer their PEBB retiree insurance. House Bill 1008 and Senate Bill 5420 address this issue. While HB 1008 moved from the House to the Senate, SB 5420 died today.
- **Achieving full pension funding**
Plan 1 pensions are expected to be fully funded by 2025. Two bills address pension funding but cut the \$800 million previously promised to pay down the TRS 1 unfunded liability. HB 1201 takes everything, but SB 5294 leaves \$250 million.
- **Equalizing post-retirement work rules**
Some public-employment job classes are prohibited from working in retirement. WSSRA supports legislation to allow at least 867 hours of post-retirement employment for all retirees. HB 1056 and SB 5349 address this and are both moving.

***WSSRA has made it very easy to communicate with your legislators. If you need help in crafting your email or phone message, go to wssra.org, click the "Legislative" drop-down menu, then "Contact a Legislator" where you will find information about legislative districts, suggested talking points, etc. The system even selects and sends your message directly to your legislators.**

(chair's message continued from page 1)

For those who are willing to take on a larger role, but are not ready to be SKSR's President or Vice President, the Board also needs chairs for its Hospitality and Legislative committees.

Another area where the Board could use your help is in communicating with your state representatives and senators about issues concerning your pension plan and healthcare benefits. WSSRA's legislative director and lobbyists work hard on our legislative priorities, but elected officials are more moved to action if we, their constituents, communicate our concerns and share our economic reali-

• Passing Plan 1 COLA legislation

The Select Committee on Pension Policy recommended a one-time 3% COLA for Plan 1 retirees for 2023. Two bills carry that SCPP recommendation. HB 1057 is in the House Rules Committee and SB 5350 is on the Senate Floor.

We lobbied unsuccessfully for an annual COLA as in HB 1459, but that died today, and we tried to make the one-time COLA equal the Social Security COLA.

While we appreciate the one-time COLA, it's not enough. Today, WSSRA's Legislative Committee agreed to ***push for amendments to HB 1057 and SB 5350 to include a second, one-time 3% COLA in 2024. Plan 1 members should tell their legislators how much they need this two-year COLA because we need a legislator to amend one bill to include it.****

PERS 1 and TRS 1 are the *only two* of 13 state retirement plans without an annual COLA. That's why many Plan 1 retirees have lost up to 40% of their retirement's value to inflation, even with the three one-time COLAs that we've squeezed out of the legislature since 2011.

These retirees know that they won't get back the value that they've already lost, but it is frightening to not know how much more they will lose in the future. When will their bleeding stop? Let's end it this year!

Such testimony played an important part in the granting of past 3% COLAs.

As you read through the *Bulletin*, please take note of all that this organization does. If you see the value in that, if you would like SKSR to continue to have a strong presence, the Board needs you to lend a hand in keeping this unit running smoothly, in adding to the work we do for our active and retired members, our students, our schools, and our communities. Remember: "Many hands make light work."

Please help.

Grants for active educators

Active-member grants presented in 15 schools

by Karen McElliott

This year's \$10,374 in grants was distributed to the districts before winter break. Four years ago, we switched from handing out individual checks at staff meetings, which sometimes didn't take place until April, to mailing checks to district business offices. This change was highly recommended by WSSRA and has greatly sped up the dissemination process, allowing grantees

to access their funds earlier and take advantage of district buying power.

After two years, during which we were limited to recognizing our grant recipients via Zoom meetings, we have been invited into all 15 schools receiving grants to make presentations. It is exciting to be in the same room once again! By the time you read this, all 16 schools will have been

visited.

I would like to thank this year's presenters for volunteering their time: Sharron Cain, Debra Comfort, Linda Fitzgerald, Lynda Hughes, Sylvia Haven, Julia Ochsner, Ruth Kenney, Priscilla Strand, Cathy Webb and especially Jim Siscel, who made six of the presentations. *(See photos of some of those presentations. on this and following pages.)*

Congratulations to our 2022-23 Recipients!

(picture to the right) Jim Siscel presents Sheryl Yost of Cascade K-8 with a grant certificate.



(above) Jim Siscel presents grant certificates to Ashley Schaefer and Annie Hall of Canyon Creek Elementary.

On the left in the picture, presenter Julia Ochsner holds Merybeth Scherf's certificate with the other Syre Elementary grant recipients: Julie Anneberg, Heidi Alexander, Jenny Hodgen, Chrisy Francescutti, and Michelle Carrol (kneeling),



Scholarship update Applications due March 17

by Linda Fitzgerald, Scholarship co-chair

Do you know someone graduating from one of our three districts' public high schools (Edmonds, Northshore, Shoreline) ?

If so, let them know that our SKSR scholarship applications are now in their high school scholarship centers and can also be found online on our website at www.sksr.org.

We have raised the amount another \$500 so the beginning

scholarships are valued at \$2,500 with a renewal opportunity for another year at \$2,500 and the final two years at \$3,000. Students must be planning a career as a teacher or another school-related career. The renewal scholarships have been made possible by a generous donation from our late member, Winnie Smith, thus allowing four full years of scholarship dollars.



Donations for scholarships are always welcome.

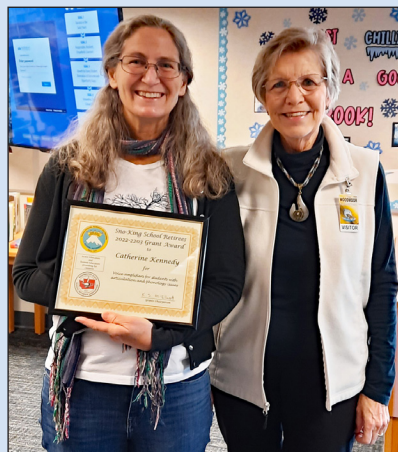
Scholarships must be submitted by March 17.

Our awardees and their parents will be celebrated at our April Scholarship Luncheon on April 20. It's always fun to meet these outstanding high school seniors.

Lynndale Elementary principal Sarah Schumacher and Sharron Cain present Julie Ledford with her grant certificate.



Catherine Kennedy of Woodmoor Elementary holds the grant certificate presented to her by Ruth Kenney.



Debra Comfort, on the right, presents Susan Sellers' grant certificate to Lynnwood Elementary principal Jacklyn Henly.



Jim Siscel presents grant certificates to recipients at Briarcrest Elementary: Cindy Ebisu, Michelle Holguin, Amy Pitts, and Carrie Wandler.

Service Outreach update

Supporting students and their families

by Cathy Webb

This year SKSR continues its service outreach to programs that assist students and families in our school districts. The SKSR Board donated \$1,000 to support initiatives in Northshore and Shoreline. Cathy Webb presented the two \$500 checks in January. Our donations prompted heartfelt appreciation from the leaders of these programs.

Carmen Dalziel, Executive Director, Northshore Schools Foundation, receives the SKSR donation from Cathy Webb. (Photo courtesy of Carol Ryan, Philanthropy Director)



The Northshore Schools Foundation serves students and families in the Northshore communities of Bothell, Kenmore, and Woodinville. One of its initiatives is Homeless Students Services, which is the recipient of SKSR's donation.



Shoreline's The Works team, Andrea Petrusky, Alison Buss and Bonnie Stieber receive the SKSR donation from Cathy Webb.

Shoreline PTA Council's The Works provides high quality, clean, gently used clothing for children and teens of Shoreline School District families. Shoreline families experiencing economic hardship can take their children to "shop" at The Works. SKSR's donation will be used to purchase new clothing.

If you would like to supplement SKSR's donations to Northshore and Shoreline with one of your own, send your check(s) directly to the organization(s) of your choice. Below is pertinent check information:

All donations would be welcomed.

Pay to the order of:

For line:

Mail your donation to:

Northshore Schools Foundation
Homeless Students Services
Northshore Schools Foundation
13110 NE 177th Place B101-103
Woodinville, WA 98072

Shoreline PTA Council
The Works
Shoreline PTA Council
PO Box 55832
Shoreline, WA 98155

The tax ID is 51-0151739.



SKSR Vice President Cathy Webb presents grant certificates to Kristi Phil and Meghan Galvan of Cedar Way Elementary.



Echo Lake Elementary School has its very own book-vending machine

*from the Shoreline Area News,
Thursday, December 15, 2002*

And it is exactly what it sounds like: a typical vending machine for snacks, but one that has been specially repurposed for books.

This is tied into the school's Eagle of the Week program where students earn a special, gold, book-worm coin for being safe, respectful, responsible, and kind.

Students redeem the coin for a book of their choice. The machine is stocked with books in both English and Spanish that highlight equity, inclusion, and social justice so that students can see themselves and learn about others in the books that they read.

Special thanks to Nvidia's matching donation program that helped purchase the machine, and to the Echo Lake PTA and **Sno-King School Retirees** for grants to help purchase books.



Fourth-grade teacher Shari Wennik stands next to the school's new book-vending machine. She said, "We're super excited to give students the opportunity to earn books while also promoting kindness. We want this to be one of their special memories from Echo Lake Elementary, where students discovered or continued their love of reading."



Member Information Updates

New Members

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Armstrong, Heather* | Hollow, Kitty |
| Barnes, David (Scott)* | Kettel, Sara |
| Breekha, Eric | Koehl, Edward |
| Brookman, Michael* | LaBuguen-Pascua, Frances* |
| Brugman, Swaantje* | Lane, Abbyc |
| Caldart, Catlyn* | LaSalle, Christine |
| Campbell, Natalie* | Marchand, Megan |
| Carter, Kathryn* | Matt, Eileen |
| Chwirka, Karl | Norton, Robin* |
| Couilliard, Barbara | O'Shaughnessy, Lynda (Lil) |
| Coulthard, Andrew* | Priest, Margaret* |
| Daniel, Cindy | Schaefer, Ashley |
| Ellison-Oslin, Kristin | Stay, Amy |
| Erickson, Catherine | Tucker-Giesy, Alisan |
| Evans, Molly* | Van Boven, Lana* |
| Fields, Shelly | Venegas, LiAnn* |
| Fike, Mitzi | Wachtel, Franklin |
| Foster, Janet | Walker, Julia |
| Hadreas, Susan* | Wellman, David* |
| Hanson, Jason* | White, Abbie* |
| Heinzen, Valerie* | Wilson, Alicia* |
| Hoisington, Stacy* | |

*=active member

Deceased

- Ronald Church**, 1/2023.
Retired from Northshore, member since 1998.
- Beverly Fennimore**, 1/2023.
Retired from Northshore, member since 2007.
- Lea Murphy**, 1/2023.
Retired from Edmonds, member since 2007.
- Linda Nelson**, 1/2023.
Retired from Edmonds, member since 2007.
- Carol Randall**, 2/2023.
Retired from Shoreline, member since 2007.
- Raymond Smith**, 1/2023.
Retired from Edmonds, member since 1998.

Our previous event

What we learn from the blast

by Roberta Hawkins

On a cool, grey February 16, SKSR members and community members gathered in the Edmonds School District Center. The group enjoyed convivial “meet-and-greet” time with coffee and cookies and then settled in to hear the day’s program. First, Rebecca Miner, newly selected Edmonds Superintendent, presented a succinct view of the current issues and concerns of the district, including the “internet/computer” problems over the last few weeks which were resolved this week.

Following that, SKSR program chair, Roberta Hawkins, reviewed upcoming events and volunteer opportunities—an opportunity to help with *Bulletin* folding; a field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum on March 24th; a chance to help with the SKSR information table at March retirement seminars; an opportunity to help with the SKSR scholarship luncheon April 20th; and a volunteer opportunity at the SKSR Service Project April 29th. Folders for signups were available for all.



Speaker Eric Wagner, from Humanities Washington, shares the story of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens and its aftermath. Following the presentation, he answered questions from audience members.

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Then she introduced the main speaker, Eric Wagner—writer, author, and biologist. He took the audience on a journey as he talked about the eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980, and the events and developments in the years since then. He talked about everything from plants like “fireweed,” that began to emerge within a month of the eruption, to “huckleberry plants” sprouting in the roots of over turned trees. Even “pocket gophers,” a survival element, and “prairie lupine,” a colonizer element, were noted features of the recovery. Two species of particular focus, and more modern, are the “trout” and “elk.”

With stories and graphics, he wove a picture of the resurgence of life around the mountain and in the lake. In addition, he provided a picture of the interplay between the natural succession of life, and human concern and involvement in the process. Presenting such an integrated and graphically supported program, he definitely elevated everyone’s understanding of what has taken place in the years since the mountain’s major eruption in 1980.

Many questions followed, asking how long it will take for the trees in the lake to decompose and about the impact of the “ash” on plant growth across the state. Post evaluations reflected the audience’s feelings, calling it an excellent presentation. “Very engaging speaker! Loved the topic and he filled in a lot of ‘blanks’ in my knowledge of Mt. St. Helens—40 years after 1980.”

Eric Wagner gave a lively presentation enjoyed by all! It encourages us to pay a visit to the present day visitors’ site near the mountain to see it for ourselves.

SKSR Presenter Jim Siscel with grant winners Allison Hoover, Kelly Dillon, Karen Nicholson, and Jean Bolivar at Echo Lake Elementary. Kelly and Karen are executing the grant for which Kelly applied



Carrie Misener's third-grade class, at Brookside Elementary in Shoreline, shows the graphic novels that she purchased with her SKSR grant.



Priscilla Strand presents Kristin Mesler and Renee Iverson of Parkwood Elementary with their grant certificates.



Authors among us

by Jim Siscel

Did you know that two of our members, Lynda Humphrey and Linda Hope Lee, are authors of differing genres?

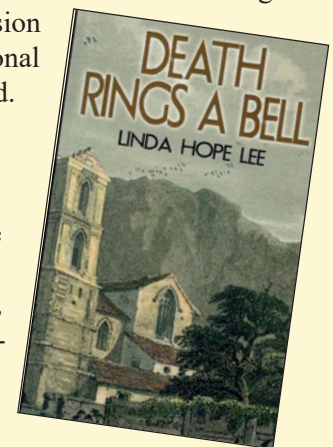


Lynda Humphrey, a Bothell High School graduate and Northshore retiree, was a principal and Director of Strategic Planning, Grants and Staff Development in the Northshore School District. Working with two other BHS graduates, she wrote a children's book about a cat. It took Lynda six years thinking about the cat's story before she put pen to paper. *Miss Bebe Comes to America* is a story of the cat's life in Mexico, where she is rescued in Puerto Vallarta and brought to the USA. The story includes Bebe's trip on the plane to the USA, her arrival in Seattle, going through customs and immigration, and beginning her life in America. The book is illustrated with watercolors and is written in both English and Spanish.

Are any other of our members authors? If so, please let Jim Siscel know, so we can feature you and your book(s) in the future.

Linda Hope Lee, a Shoreline retiree, taught at Richmond Beach Elementary, and was a librarian at Horizon View and Briarcrest elementaries, and Shorewood and Shorecrest high schools. Reading as a child and loving mystery stories encouraged Linda to become an author. She started writing short stories for confession magazines and educational media before she retired.

In the early 1980s, she wrote her first romance novel with a mystery subplot. Since then, she has written 31 books in contemporary romance, romantic suspense mystery, and cozy mystery genres. Her latest cozy mystery is *Death Rings a Bell*, the fourth in a series about a public-librarian sleuth living in a small, fictional town on Puget Sound. A cozy mystery has an amateur sleuth, is usually set in a small town, and has no onstage violence. Titles for her books can be viewed on her website www.lindahopelee.com.





Help us with the *Bulletin*

The deadline 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.

We have resumed our regular schedule of preparing the *Bulletin* for mailing.

To help with preparing the next *Bulletin* for mailing on **May 1, 2023**, call Robin Randles, 206-542-6428.