



RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BULLETIN

WSRTA's COLA bill appears dead, at least for the next biennium. The Joint Committee on Public Policy (JCPP) bills (SB 5417 and HB 1322) have passed the House 97-0 and are ready for vote in the Senate at this writing.

If these bills are passed, I would receive the first cost of living increase on my pension in 1989. This assumes that my purchasing power will have eroded by 40%. However, there is a contradiction here in that, at the current rate of inflation (based on the last ten years from a low of -0.2% in 1983 to a high of 16% in 1980, averaging 6.1%), I will reach the 40% erosion point in less than seven years.

The double-edged sword we are all about to fall on is inflation. If the cost of living index continues at its current rate, I might receive the increase earlier. However, the American economy might not be able to withstand such intense pressures and a recession of grave magnitude may occur.

What upsets me the most is not that the Legislature has failed to understand our needs but that we have all been so passive in working the political system.

By increasing our membership and mounting a vigorous campaign to contact and inform legislators (both state and federal), we can take back some control over our own futures.

We need to develop and support a strong legislative program in WSRTA and in our unit. The Legislative Committee must be given our number one priority.

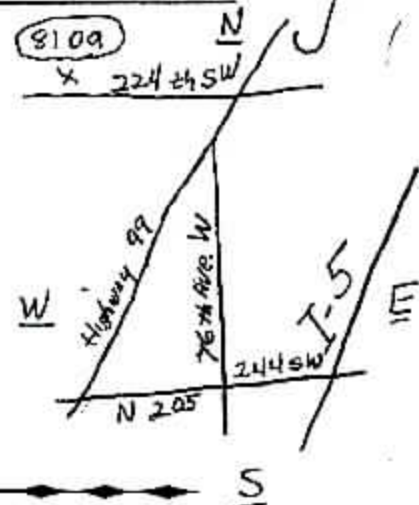
Jim Becker, President

BROOK STANFORD (KOMO) AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS TO BE AT SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

You won't want to miss this very special meeting on April 20 when we meet at noon for a delicious salad luncheon at the Edmonds Unitarian Church, 8109-224th SW, Edmonds. We hope that our three scholarship winners will be able to be with us that day to share the thoughts of our speaker, Brook Stanford, People Helper Reporter for KOMO News 4.

We do need to know an approximate number attending in order to insure having plenty to eat; so if you did not sign up at the last meeting, please call Cheryl Bickford, 363-2731 by Monday, April 17.

Please plan to attend the luncheon and bring your friends. You will have a wonderful lunch, enjoy the thoughts of our speaker, Brook Stanford, get to meet our scholarship winners and benefit our Scholarship Fund with your \$4 donation.



COMING EVENTS

- April 12 1:30 p.m. Board Meeting at Marion Bellows, 9700 24th Ave. NW
- April 13 Coordinating Council Meeting
- April 20 Noon Scholarship Luncheon - Edmonds Unitarian Church.
- May 10 1:30 p.m. Board Meeting - Ken Angell's, 9419-224th SW, B-204, Edmonds
- May 18 Noon Joint Luncheon Meeting with Sno-Isle at Mill Creek Country Club
Speaker - Eloise Stendal, WSRTA President (See reservation form below. Directions for getting to the luncheon will be included in the May Bulletin.





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Bowers, Legislative Chairman

The only COLA bill still alive is SHB 1322, which is in the Senate. The Sno-King RTA phone HOT LINE was activated March 20 with the message to senators "to please MOVE this bill along". Now letters should be sent to your legislative district senator with info such as the following:

Senator Rich Bender
Washington Legislature
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Senator Bender:

Again, thank you for continued support of an automatic COLA for PERS and TRS plan I retirees. SHB1322, as passed by the House would benefit some "worst cases", but for those who retired early, the pension might already have eroded to 50% or less of the original purchasing power before the retiree reached age 65. Then there would be a long wait until the purchasing power eroded another 40%. Only then would the retiree become eligible for a 3% COLA - some could begin/become eligible several years into the 21st century!

It would seem more reasonable to amend this bill, to insert "from date of retirement" instead of waiting to age 65 as the base for calculating eligibility.

Anything you can do on this matter would be appreciated!

Sincerely,

PLEASE READ - POLL FINDS SUPORT FOR NEW LAW, NRTA NEWS BULLETIN, March Pg. 1, 3, 11. AARP has polled 1750 persons ages 45 to 64 (657 were 65 or older), and has concluded that the CATASTROPHIC CARE BILL has been met with great satisfaction. Please read this article VERY CAREFULLY. It is strange that AARP chose persons for the survey who were too young to be affected, but the survey does conclude that 63% of those over 65 believe that the cost is far too high. AARP's Legislative Director, John Rother, states that AARP WILL NOT make any move to delay or repeal the bill's unpopular SURTAX!! PLEASE WRITE TO HIM! Address is 1909 K Street NW, Washington D.C., 20049. Write your congressmen too! Sen. Brock Adams, 513 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Sen. Slade Gorton, 324 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Wash.D.C. 20510.

COMMITTEE WILL WORK TO COMPILE SNO-KING RTA SCHOLARSHIP COOKBOOK

Members have agreed that it would be a good idea to gather some of the wonderful salad, hot dish and cookies recipes that our members have used at our scholarship luncheons and meetings. Please give, or send to Betty Odle your favorite recipes - especially any that you have used for any of our luncheons and meetings. We will try to have the book ready for sale to benefit our scholarship fund at the fall luncheon. Betty's address is 2137 N 86, Seattle, WA 98103.



NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Just heard that Al Christensen slipped on a wet floor on his way to a physical therapy session and cracked several ribs. That's not much fun! Hope you are feeling better soon, Al.

Edmonds School District will be having a Living Legend affair again this year. It will be on April 28 at the Landmark Inn. One of the honorees is Maureen Ramstead, one of our members.

Be sure if you hear of any illness notify one of our Sunshine ladies: Gretchen Lay, 775-4190, or Esther Sellers, 776-1509.

Names and addresses of new members and changes of addresses will be included in May bulletin.

Deadline for the May Bulletin
is April 20, 1989.
Send to Betty Odle, 2137 N. 86th, Seattle, WA 98103.
525-8276

