



RETIREED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1989

BULLETIN

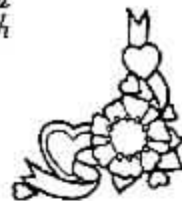
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1989 promises a new beginning and a hope for success in the unit's goals. With the holidays over and schedules back on track, we can resume our efforts to accomplish our tasks: pressing the legislature to pass the COLA bill, membership expansion using contracted recruiters, offering seminars for active teachers in pre-retirement planning, assisting Northwest Coordinating Council units with the 1989 WSRTA Convention in Bellingham in June, increasing attendance at our monthly meetings--to list only a few of our goals.

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting. Information about the unit's activities can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.

Please join me in inviting members who have not attended meetings or participated in our activities recently. Let us keep in touch with each other more often.

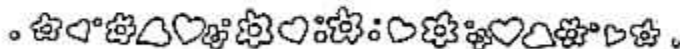
Jim Becken, President



FEBRUARY 16 MEETING FEATURES FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

John Hunter, President-Elect and Program Chairman informs us that Dale Larson, a financial consultant, will be our featured speaker at the February 16 meeting at 1:30 in the Board Room of the Edmonds School District Office, 3800-196th St. SW, Lynnwood. Mr. Larson will speak on "Financial Opportunities for Retired Persons". We hope that he will be able to give us some ideas to reduce the Catastrophic Care Surcharge that many of us will be faced with this year. Come with your questions.

John also wishes to let you know that the March 16 speaker will be Libby Gates who will present a program about the 1990 Goodwill Games to be held in the Seattle area.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Joan L. Brown	424 3rd S #405	Edmonds	98020		
Mary L. Burke	7021 Sand Point Way NE #B314	Seattle	98115	525-7543	
Gloria Krausher	1233 N. 191st	Seattle	98133		
<u>CHANGE OF ADDRESS</u>					
Gretchen Lay	4020 192nd P1 SW	Lynnwood	98036	775-4190	

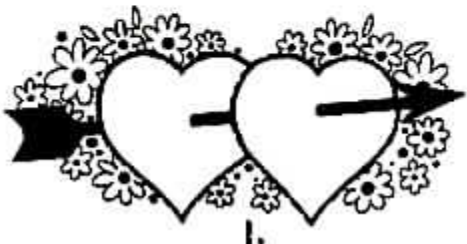
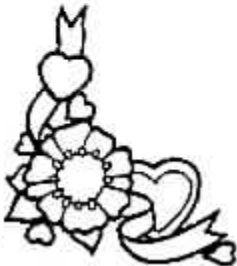


COMING EVENTS

- February 9, 1989 1:30 p.m. Board meeting at Pat Svendsen's. Pre-retirement work party 11 AM
- February 16 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting in Edmonds School District Board Room
Speaker - Dale Larson - "Financial Opportunities for Retired Persons"
- February 21 7:00 p.m. Pre-retirement Workshop in Edmonds High Cafetorium -
Financial Planning
- February 28 7:00 P.M. Pre-retirement Workshop - WSRS - Retirement Estimates
- March 7 7:00 p.m. Pre-Retirement Workshop - Social Security and Medical and
Dental Conversions
- March 14 7:00 p.m. Pre-Retirement Workshop - Custodial Care - New Policies
- March 21 7:00 p.m. Pre-Retirement Workshop - Legal aspects of Retirement and
Laughter and Health

COOKIES AND HELP NEEDED AT PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

If you are available to assist at any of the dates listed above please let Pat Svendsen know (743-3482). We will also need lots of cookies for each session, especially the February 21st meeting. Pat will have a sign-up sheet at the Board Meeting and at the February 16 meeting.





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Bowers, Legislative Chairman

WSRTA COLA bills in the 1989 session are the same as 1988 - automatic 3% COLA based on the Seattle CPI. There would be a five year waiting period - those who retired in 1984 or earlier would be eligible.

The Public Employees Retirement Coalition and the Washington State Coalition of Retired Education Employees have a bill that calls for a 5% COLA AND MEDICAL BENEFITS.

The Legislative JOINT COMMITTEE ON PENSION POLICY has not made a realistic recommendation to the Legislature on any COLA proposals by retired groups.

Rep. Maria Cantwell [44th Dist.] met with SNO-KING RTA Legislative Committee members Phyllis Fiege and Gordon Bowers and suggested strategies that have been effective with "COMPARABLE WORTH", the FAMILY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM, and others. Those suggestions were

1. "BOW WAVE BUDGETING" - strategy of pushing eventual cost of any bill far into the future.
2. Roll back waiting period 7 to 9 years because of the large increase in teachers' salaries 1979-1983.
3. Forget the appeal to equity and fairness - falls on deaf ears.

An appeal was made to Rep. Cantwell, asking her to talk with other FEMALE LEGISLATORS (one third of the legislature) and try for a "gentler, kinder attitude in the legislature." THANKS TO REP. CANTWELL - SHE IS A SPONSOR OF OUR COLA BILL.

Our neighbor to the North, SNO-ISLE RTA had a special January meeting just for legislative matters. There is a strong feeling that WSRTA should hire a lobbyist and pursue legal re^{se}arch on possible redress in the courts. Their interest was rekindled by the two PERS class action suits in progress suing the State. The latest suit is on the question of "Average Final Compensation", and the effect on pensions - handled by the Seattle law firm of Reed, McLure, Mocerri, Thonn & Moriarty. SNO-ISLE members (SNO-KING should do likewise) were urged to continue letter writing and phoning legislators for this session, bring resolutions to the WSRTA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY in June. They were also urged to write Washington members of Congress and Horace Deets, Executive Director of AARP, 1809 K St. NW, Wash. D.C. 20049 PROTESTING THE CATASTROPHIC CARE SURCHARGE THAT TARGETS ONLY MIDDLE INCOME RETIREES.

SNO-KING MEMBERS HAVE SOME CHANGES, NEW FACES REPRESENTING THEM IN OLYMPIA.

<u>LEG. DIST.</u>	<u>SENATORS</u> [**-New Legislators]	<u>REPRESENTATIVES</u>
1st	Patty Murray**	Grace Cole Nancy Rust
21st	Gary Nelson	Jeannette Wood** John Beck
32nd	Al Williams	Dick Nelson Joanne Brekke
39th	Cliff Bailey	Art Sprenkle Karla Wilson
44th	Rick Bender	Maria Cantwell Paul King
45th	Alan Bluechel	John Betrozoff Louise Miller
46th	Nita Rinehart	Ken Jacobsen Marlin Applewick

Letters are very effective at this time, simply asking the legislators for support of an automatic COLA for retired teachers. Refer to the yellow insert "A CASE FOR COLAS - ESSENTIAL POINTS" that was in the Nov. WSRTA JOURNAL. Fairness and equity are still good points, anyway. Address mail to Senator or Representative _____, State Legislature, Olympia, WA 98504.

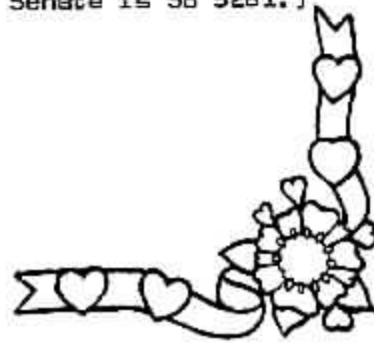
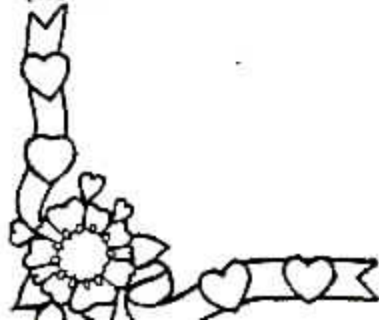
The SNO-KING Telephone Tree - Ruth Westerhuis & Co. will call all members when an alert comes from our WSRTA Olympia office. Members will be urged to call toll free with the message for their legislators - 1-800-562-600 (8AM to 8PM, M-F, Sat 9 to 1) or call 1-800-562-6118 (9AM to 4PM, M-F). Be ready with NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE #, LEGIS. DISTRICT #, NAME OF LEGISLATOR, MESSAGE STATED AS BRIEFLY AS CAN BE.

Also, when public hearings are held on WSRTA bills, SNO-KING SHOULD SEND AS MANY AS POSSIBLE TO OLYMPIA. MILEAGE WILL BE PAID BY WSRTA @ 21¢ PER MILE, 4 people to a car.

WSRTA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE BUSY ALL OVER THE STATE - meetings were held in December at SEATAC, IN January in Olympia, all for the purpose of better coordination and communication. All committee members are volunteers - the only paid are those running the office in Olympia. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED - WRITE OR PHONE! CONGRESS MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU ON CATASTROPHIC CARE SURCHARGE. WRITE Sen. Brock Adams, 513 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Wash. D.C., 20510; Sen. Gorton same address, except 324 Hart. Rep. John Miller, 1st Dist. address - 1224 Longworth House Office Bldg., Wash. D.C. 20510; Al Swift, 2nd Dist. same except 1502 Longworth.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT EXCITING EPISODES!

(WSRTA COLA Bill in the House of Representatives is HB 1265 and in the Senate is SB 5261.)

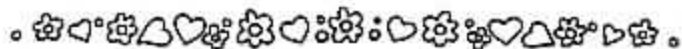






COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE - Betty Puckett, Chairman

The spring 55 ALIVE/MATURE DRIVING course will be held March 8th and 9th or March 22nd and 23rd. Remember that you have to take the course every two years in order to get your insurance deduction. The application for the course is below.

A thank you to the Blood Drive volunteers for their assistance on January 30, 1989. Our members - Millie Carlson, Phyllis Enger, Gretchen Lay and John Carlson assisted the Edmonds School District on January 30, 1989 at the Board Room.





NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Marion Bellows was the lucky winner of the Scholarship Fund Raffle. She is enjoying her beautiful afghan and the Scholarship Fund is enjoying the funds raised by the raffle.

We received word that one of our Scholarship winners from Shorewood, Milinda Hoffman received a 4 point grade average fall quarter!

We received word at the December meeting that Al Christensen had suffered a stroke. We are happy to report that he is at home now - taking therapy three times a week. Our best wishes to him and we hope and expect that he will make a complete recovery and be back with us soon. He may have to join some of the Greenlake walkers rather than the runners for a while.

Amanda and Leonard Goehner are planning to leave for California and Arizona after the first of February, in their RV. June and Gordon Roberts also expect to head south in their trailer after they return from a trip to Puerto Vallarta.

Our President, Jim Becker and wife Martha have just returned from a Theater Tour of England.

Betty Odle will be attending a conference in Baltimore sponsored by NRTA. Seven states have been selected to send their State Pre-Retirement Chairmen, State Membership Chairman, State President and State Exec. Dir. to this conference and Washington was chosen to be one of those states.



*See you at the
February 16th meeting!*

