



RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 1988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BULLETIN

Greetings. This first message to you is a "thank-you" and an invitation.

Under Marion Bellow's leadership and with her friendly persuasions, the Executive Board and the members have moved Sno-King RTA Unit #23 to the front ranks of WSRTA locals.

Sno-King is recognized across the state as a "perky, fiesty" group that talks things over, works together and gets things done. Without exception, you have responded positively to requests to furnish cookies, work on a committee, do some telephoning, write letters, etc. Thank you.

It is my earnest hope that we can sustain our activity and interest levels in the organization, its purposes and its goals. I will need to call on you for help next year as I try to follow the example set by Marion.

Unit membership has reached an all-time high. With the addition of new retirees from Edmonds, Northshore and Shoreline school districts, we can expect to pass the April '88 number of 281 before our first meeting in September.

Whether we do will depend on YOU. Please renew your membership in Sno-King (\$6) and WSRTA (\$24). If you have not already done so, consider ADD (Automatic Dues Deduction) - a form is enclosed in this Bulletin. Ruthanne Warren, Membership (367-0742) and Gordon Roberts, Treasurer, (546-4284) can answer your questions about membership or dues payment. Please call them.

I invite each of you to join us whenever you can at our monthly meetings. Details about programs for 1988-89 will be published in the Fall. But, start off by marking the third Thursdays, 1:30 p.m., of each month (except August and January) on your calendars.

I hope to see many of you at the July 21 picnic at Pat and Al Svendsen's on Martha Lake. Details can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Have a great summer.

Jim Becker

Although I said good-bye as your president at the June 16 meeting, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the entire membership for the tremendous support you have given me these last two years. Seeing your smiling faces at our meetings meant a great deal to me. I hope that you will continue to support Jim Becker by your attendance at our meetings and offering your service on committees. Remember, many hands make light work. This year we reached a new high in membership--256--let's make every effort to surpass that number in the coming year. A reminder, too, that for those of you who itemize on your income tax your donations to our Scholarship Fund are tax exempt. I am amazed at how that fund has grown in four short years. Let's continue its growth so that we will be able to help more young people. Again, thank you for a wonderful two years.

See you at the picnic

Marion Bellows, past president

COMING EVENTS

July 13 - 1:30 p.m. Board Meeting at Winnie Smith and Betty Morton's home
519 Fourth S, #B, Edmonds 778-3979

July 21 - 4 p.m. Picnic at Al and Pat Svendsen's. Come earlier to visit. \$4.50
15515 Larch Way North, Alderwood Manor, 743-3482



LEGISLATIVE REPORT - GORDON BOWERS

LEGISLATIVE ALERT CATASTROPHIC CARE BILL "ROBBINGHOOD SURCHARGE", date from Associated Press, Seattle Times/PI, 6/12/88

The expanded Medicare coverage is very limited, and a supplementary medical insurance is still needed. The cost to those covered under Medicare's "CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS BENEFIT" will begin 1/1/89. YOU WILL PAY IN TWO WAYS: First, \$4 additional will be deducted from your Social Security check each month - a total Medicare charge of \$28.80 (up from \$17.90 in 1987). Increases scheduled will bring basic cost from \$28.80 to \$42 per month in 1993.

Second, a surcharge will be added on your adjusted gross income tax return. Next April, if your income is \$10,000 or more, you will pay a 15% surcharge capped at \$800 in 1989. For example, if your income for a married couple is \$21,000, including Social Security, you'll pay \$236 extra. In 1993, you will pay \$441 extra. If your income is \$31,500, the surcharge for 1989 will be \$472, and in 1993 will be \$882. If your income is \$54,000, the surcharge in 1989 will be \$1247, and in 1993 will be \$2100.

Congressional estimates are that only 40% of seniors will pay the surtax, the other being "poverty exempt", and that only 3 to 7% of all seniors and disabled younger persons will benefit from this bill. Thus a huge financial tax burden is placed on the few middle income elderly to fund this program for a very small percentage of seniors, and disabled of all ages.

Though AARP supported this bill, AARP members should request a review of this funding policy. All tax payers should share the cost of this program, rather than just a minority of elderly retirees. By 1993 some middle income retirees will pay the basic annual fee of \$511.20 (12 x \$42.60), plus a Medicare surcharge of \$2100, plus the cost of supplemental coverage of at least \$1200, for a total medical cost of \$3,811.20, not counting out of pocket hospital, doctor and prescription drugs not covered under any of the above.

AARP should put pressure on the 1989 Congress to rethink this catastrophic plague imposed on the elderly.

FROM: Horace Deets, AARP Executive Secretary

DATE: June 14, 1988

SUBJECT: A Moratorium on Employers Terminating Pension Plans in order to Recapture Pension Plan Assets

Since 1980, over 1500 pension plans have been terminated by employers who have taken back over \$16 billion from these plans. Well over 1.5 million pension participants -- both workers and retirees -- have been affected.

AARP NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE TO HELP PASS LEGISLATION THAT WILL STOP THE TREND OF EMPLOYERS TERMINATING PENSION PLANS IN ORDER TO GAIN ACCESS TO PENSION ASSETS.

WE NEED YOU TO WRITE OR CALL YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMAN TO URGE THEM TO COSPONSOR "THE EMPLOYER REVERSION SUSPENSION ACT OF 1988."

TELL THEM THAT ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION WILL:

- o prevent companies from raiding their employee pension plans;
- o assure workers, particularly older workers, that they will receive their promised pension benefits;
- o allow retirees the opportunity to get benefit adjustments to their pensions, which may otherwise be frozen; and
- o encourage the long-term stability and integrity of the private pension system.

TO WRITE, ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO:

The Honorable Dan Evans
The Honorable Brock Adams
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Miller (1st District)
The Honorable Al Swift (2nd District)
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

PICNIC RESERVATION FORM

SNO-KING R.T.A. PICNIC, 4 p.m., July 21, at Svendsens'
Reservations close July 15, 1988

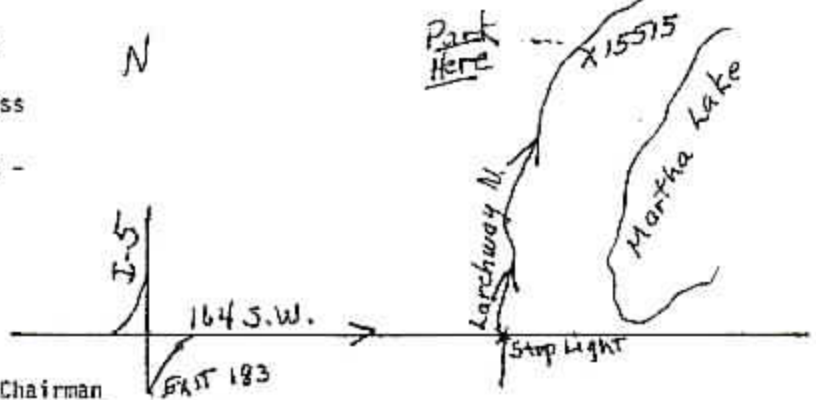
Please reserve () places at the picnic at \$4.50 each.

My check for \$ is enclosed.

Signed _____

(Mail reservations to: Sno-King RTA., P.O. Box 5253, Lynnwood, WA 98046-5253

ANNUAL PICNIC Thursday, July 21, 4 p.m. (Eating time)
Come earlier and enjoy the fellowship at Pat and Al Svendsens' home on beautiful Martha Lake. The address is 15515 Larchway North on the west side of Martha Lake. Take Exit 183 from I-5, or 164th SW on Aurora - go east to Larchway North. Phone 743-3482 if you get lost.
Those who signed up at the June meeting need not send in form - just pay Gordon at the picnic.



COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE - Betty Puckett, Chairman

55 - ALIVE New class will be held on October 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Edmonds Park and Recreation Center, 700 Main, Edmonds. A sign-up form will be in the September Bulletin. If you have any questions call Betty Puckett, 522-8921. Remember you need to take the course every two years in order to receive a discount on your insurance.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EEA BLOOD DRIVE

Volunteers are needed to assist the Edmonds Education Association in its blood drive, Friday, August 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Edmonds School District offices.

Hank Pugsley, traffic safety teacher, is coordinating the drive. He will be providing more detailed information in the late summer.

The Sno-King RTA Executive Board, at its meeting on June 9th, endorsed the unit's participation in the EEA Blood Drive.

Our volunteers are to assist by serving coffee and cookies provided by EEA. Also, we can help with registering donors.

If any member is willing to give blood at that time, you will have an opportunity to do so. No advance reservation or notice is required.

Jim Becker or a member of the Health Committee will be calling members in August to remind them of this project and to schedule volunteers into work-shifts.

HELP NEEDED IN SPECIAL NURSING HOME PROJECT

Most nursing homes are presently faced with the problem of having to employ many non-English speaking nursing aides. The Literacy Council of Seattle and Columbia Lutheran Home are initiating a pilot program to provide English as a Second Language Training for the nurse aides who work at the home. Volunteer tutors are needed for this project. If you are interested in this challenging opportunity, please contact Mary Swenson Keyte at 632-7400.

HEALTH CARE TIP FOR JULY - WEAR SUNGLASSES!!!

According to some eyecare experts everybody should wear lenses protective against all ultraviolet light plus most blue rays -not just during the summer or at the beach, but whenever in the sun. Of the million cataracts removed each year in the U.S. it's estimated that up to 100,000 may be sun-related and thus preventable.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SIGNED UP FOR AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION, OR IF YOU PAY WITH CASH AND HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 1988-89 DUES, PLEASE FILL OUT THE SECTION BELOW AND MAIL TO SNO-KING RTA, P.O. BOX 5253, LYNNWOOD, WA 98046 5253

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

We extend our deepest sympathy to our member Nancy Smuck whose husband Wayne died on June 19.

Charlotte Emigh participated in Spokane's annual Bloomsday race. She and her daughter, Patti (Shorecrest '64) walked the 7.46 mile course and had an average pace of 18 minutes per mile.

Fran Peters and Betty Odle walked the Tacoma Sound to Narrows race (12 K - 7.46 miles) and had an average pace of 16-3/4 min. per mile. They were really tired and stiff! Fran and Betty are part of a Sno-King Green Lake walking group (Gretchen Lay and Irma Bendock) that walk at 7:30 a.m. every weekday.

Irene Yon became a great grandmother for the third time. Samantha Marie Tully, born in Burien, is the daughter of Penny and Geoffrey Tully of Seattle and the grand daughter of Jim and Dee McDermott of Olympia.

Paul Hilton's daughter from Alaska was visiting him last month.

Mary Lou Porter is planning a trip to India this fall. It will begin in Singapore and end in Hong Kong with with popular stops in India and Nepal inbetween.

Adell and Sam Swanson are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26.

Helen Beaver has been on a tour of Rome, Italy, and areas of Germany.

Lucille Jones and Julie Bloomer are back home after touring India, etc.

News on two of our scholarship winners; Rob Porter from Bothell High left our April luncheon to attend the Future Business Leaders of America Conference where he won Mr. FBLA for our state. He will go on to the National Convention in Cincinnati late in June. We will let you know how he fared in this difficult competition. Melinda Hoffman of Shorewood High was chosen as a Washington Scholar which could mean four years of paid tuition at a Washington school; however, she still intends to go to Willamette University.

Four Sno-King RTA members to go to State Committee Meetings in Ellensburg. Betty Odle, State Pre-Retirement Chairman; Betty Puckett, Community Service; John Hunter, Member Services; and Gordon Bowers, Legislative will attend these planning meetings on July 7.



For those who were not at the June meeting, you have an opportunity to attend an exclusive evening showing of SON OF HEAVEN from China which will run from July 28 to December 31 at the Flag Pavilion at the Seattle Center. WSRTA's Member Services Committee asks that those who are interested please send as soon as possible a \$10 check (along with your name, address and phone number) to WSRTA, 1501 South Capitol Way, Suite 103, Olympia, WA 98501. Our showing date will be announced when the 100 reservations have been received. If the 100 goal is not reached, your check will be returned. Remember, this showing means that you will not have to stand in line waiting to get in and will not be rushed through the exhibit.

