



MARCH 1986

BULLETIN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the approach of Spring we hope that all our cold weather and snow is behind us and along with the daffodils and tulips we will also begin to see the return of our Snow-birds. My husband, Bob, and I will be on a trip to California and Arizona during March and we will try to "round-up" some of our friends in the sun-belt to see that they are back in our area for the State Convention.

Speaking of the convention, I hope that you all have the dates on your calendar, June 2, 3, and 4. We need the help of all of our members for this big undertaking. In addition to the information that you will receive in our Bulletin you will also be receiving information in the WSRTA Journal. Be sure to send in your reservation when it comes out in the Journal.

The Nominating Committee will be making their report at the March 20 meeting. I hope if they call you to take some position next year, or as a delegate or alternate for the State Convention, that you will accept with pleasure. Pat Svendsen is Chairman of the Committee and John Hunter, Betty Puckett and Gretchen Lay are the other members of the Nominating Committee.

Our Scholarship Committee has received another beautiful sweater knitted by Helen Beaven, and several knitted tams from Cheryl Bickford that will be raffled to benefit the Scholarship Fund. The chances are 50¢ each on 3 for \$1, and the drawing will take place at the picnic in July. Remember the Scholarship Luncheon in April - information about it will be in the April Bulletin, but we would like you to save the date so we will have a good turnout.

President-Elect Marion Bellows will preside in my absence at the March 20 meeting and I know you will be interested in the program that she has arranged for that date.

Happy Spring!
Betty Odle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 12 1:30 Board Meeting at Mary Lou Porter's, 18824 Olympic View Drive, Edmonds, 778-4660.
- March 17 Pre-Retirement Seminar - Lawyer on Legal aspects; Career Changes, Marilyn Grey
- March 20 Sno-King RTA Meeting, 1:30 p.m. Board Room
- March 25 9 AM Coordinating Council Meeting - Sno Isle Vocational Skills Center
- March 27 1 p.m. Convention Planning Committee - Ken Angell's, 1412 Olympic Ave., Edmonds
- April 9 1:30 Board Meeting
- April 17 Noon - Scholarship Luncheon at Edmonds Unitarian Church

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF COLA INCREASES SINCE 1965 ON MONTHLY PENSION BENEFITS:

YEAR	TRS	PERS	LEOFF
1965	Begin	Begin	
1966	0	0	
1967	0	0	
1968	0	0	
1969	0	0	
1970	0	14.5%	Begin
1971	0	4.9%	4.4%
1972	5.9%	0	2.1%
1973	3.6%	10.5%	2.9%
1974	4.1%	3.0%	6.4%
1975	0	3.0%	11.9%
1976	0	3.0%	10.1%
1977	0	3.0%	5.6%
1978	0	3.0%	7.9%
1979	1.8%	3.0%	9.0%
1980	0	3.0%	10.8%
1981	0	0	16.1%
1982	0	0	10.8%
1983	1.5%	1.1%	6.5%
1984	0	0	.3%
1985	0	0	3.3%
1986	?	?	?

Did not enjoy a retirement system.

These tables give the percentage rises in the three retirement systems since 1965. Judicial-Judges and State Patrol are not given, however, each enjoys a yearly cost of living adjustment as does LEOFF. PERS enjoyed the COLA for a time. These tables are not written to indicate PERS or LEOFF receive more than they should, but to lay out the condition of all retired teachers in the total WASHINGTON STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM program, and to graphically illustrate the great discrepancies that have existed and that continue to exist.

LEOFF - Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters.

Harold L. Anderson

HAROLD L. ANDERSON, Chairman
WSRTA Legislative Committee

Simple%	16.9%	52%	107.5%	Simple % applied to previous year's benefit
TOTAL %	18%	65%	179%	Total % increase applied to beginning amount

LEOFF cost of living increase is based on the Seattle Index.

DICK AND JANE IN RETIREMENT - Jane worked in public schools for thirty years as a teacher, principal, and curriculum director. She retired in 1975 and received a monthly retirement check of \$1,250. Her brother Dick was in police work for thirty years retiring as a Chief of Police; he, too, received a monthly retirement check of \$1,250 in 1975.

It is now 1983--what has happened to this brother and sister? Jane's check is now \$1,272, a 1.7% increase after eight years of retirement. Dick, a member of LEOFF, now receives a retirement check of \$2,615, up 109% from 1975!

WHY are teachers discriminated against? WHY are police and firemen more valuable to society than teachers? Contact your legislators about equity, fair treatment, and equal protection. Teachers have earned a Cost of Living Adjustment.



WANTED WANTED WANTED

YOUR FRIENDLY SMILE AND WARM HANDSHAKE!!!

Volunteers are needed to greet and make welcome those persons attending the WSRTA Convention to be held June 2, 3, and 4, 1986, at the Holiday Inn, Everett. Sno-King RTA is the host unit this year.

If you are willing to give two hours of your time (or more) greeting and being of general assistance to those checking in, smiling a lot and keeping the coffee and cookies coming in the Hospitality Room, or hosting a table for meals, please fill out the following form and return to:

Mary Lou Porter
18824 Olympic View Drive
Edmonds, WA 98020

or call:

778-4660 (Courage, I'm home sometimes!)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Feel free to check more than one box (or all)

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Greeter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hospitality Room | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Host for Meals | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Subpoena can be

A MEDIEVAL EXPERIENCE

BY GORDON BOWERS

My introduction to a Superior Court subpoena came one evening about 9 p.m. when a process server rang the doorbell, asked my name, handed me a two-page letter that started out like a military draft notice with — "Greetings: *You are hereby commanded to be and appear* at the offices of (name deleted) attorneys, downtown Seattle on Tuesday, February 19, 1985 at the hour of 9:30 o'clock of said day, then and there to testify as a witness at the request of the defendant corporation in the above entitled cause, and to remain in attendance before a Notary Public until discharged, *and you are futher commanded* to bring with you at said time and place the following instruments, papers and documents to wit: . . . etc. Attached was a check for \$18.20 to compensate for travel and parking costs.

The next day a phone call came from the plaintiff's attorney — would the witness please appear 8:15 a.m. at the plaintiff's office for an hour of discussion before meeting with the defendant's attorney where the witness would give a deposition under questioning?

Travel time from Edmonds to downtown Seattle in the morning crush of traffic and finding a parking place took one hour. Then for the next hour the plaintiff's attorney No. 1 briefed the witness on the nature of the legal battle, explained that civil disputes like this would have been settled with swords in Medieval times, and that the legal profession had substituted words for swords, but with the same stabbing, slashing and vicious tactics of the medieval swordsmen. He warned that plaintiff's counsel would twist words, paraphrase what the witness said, try to make the witness agree to the attorney's twisting of what had been testified, that it would be a vicious con game with all the cards stacked on the attorneys' side of the table. The witness would be accompanied and partly defended by plaintiff attorney No. 2, who would attempt to parry the thrusts of the swords at the witness. He further asked forgiveness for the behavior of attorneys, that they spent several years learning the skills of the word fencing contest, had a reputation for being mean and vicious, but were still loved by their wives, children and favorite charities.

A frantic rush across town to defendant attorney's office was unnecessary because the court recorder did not appear for 45 minutes, but did then swear in the witness, and with three attorneys present the deposition of the witness began with questions from the defendant attorneys No. 1 & 2, punctuated by objections from the plaintiff's attorney No. 2.

It was immediately apparent how the cards were stacked. Defendant's attorneys were surrounded by stacks of documents dating from 1969 to 1985, and the witness was asked specific and technical questions about these documents, which the attorneys had in hand, but which the witness had not seen in as long as 16 years. Also, the witness had been retired for seven years; the incident that brought about the lawsuit had occurred four and one-half years after he retired from his position as a business official.

Just before the lunch break, defendant's attorney No. 1 left the room and returned after a few minutes to announce that he had called the judge on the case to protest that the plaintiff's attorney No. 2 had not produced all documents, was attempting to hide evidence, and that he had asked the judge to order plaintiff's attorneys to produce same at the lunch break. When the judge returned the call, a three-way discussion followed with a barrage of accusations and denials that finally resulted in a draw.

The deposition continued until after 5 p.m. with the defendant's attorney No. 1 repeating questions, rephrasing the questions, paraphrasing the witness' answers, then insisting on "yes or no" answers. The plaintiff's attorney repeatedly protested that the line of questioning was repetitive, that the defendant's attorney was trying to twist the meaning of what the witness had repeatedly testified. All attorneys accused the other side of "leading the witness" by the line of questioning. Finally, it was decided to adjourn, skip one day and reconvene Thursday at 10 a.m.

The witness then asked if the deposition could be completed by noon on Thursday, because of conflicts in his schedule. However, attorneys on both sides called on Wednesday to change the date to Friday. The witness then asked that the defendant's attorney reaffirm the two-hour time to complete the deposition. His secretary checked and reported that everything was the same except the day, according to defendant's attorneys.

Friday's schedule followed the same pattern as the first deposition day — go first to the plaintiff's offices for an hour, then to defendant's office for continued deposition. The witness was shocked when the first order of business was an attempt among the attorneys to agree on a time for lunch break. The witness and the plaintiff's attorney then objected that the agreement was to complete the deposition within two hours. Apparently both defendant's attorneys were planning another full-day session. Finally,

a compromise was reached that the deposition would be completed by adding 30 minutes, and that the witness would not be called again. The court recorder stated this was the longest deposition she had ever attended.

As the witness experiencing this Medieval legal maneuver, I felt victimized and reached some layman's conclusions — that there should be a quantum leap from Medieval sword clashing to expedite the legal procedures necessary in the 20th century, that the witnesses are "commanded to appear" and "herein fail not at your peril" without regard for private lives or financial losses due to a subpoena. This seems to be unfair and unjust. . . all for the profit of the attorneys and their clients, with the witness the victim of the legal system. It is no wonder that court calendars are jammed with two or more years' backlog. . . that attorneys are assured fees for each case extending over years as this case has been. . . that judges should not be refereeing bickering bouts between attorneys months or years before trial.

If you should be served a "Subpoena Duces Tecum," consider it a ticket to a Medieval sword fight, share in the charade, try to forgive the attorneys for the dogs and children still love them. Maybe you won't lose more than a day or two, and you'll get \$18.20 in Medieval pay!

Oh yes — "Subpoena Duces Tecum" is a writ ORDERING a son to appear in court and to bring with him books, writings, or papers in his possession. Good luck!

LAW

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED - Bret M. Carlstad

Volunteer tutors, like Mrs. Barbara Chamberland, continue to impact young people in the Edmonds School District through their involvement with the Evening Academy.

Mrs. Chamberland retired from the District 15 classrooms but is still active with students, tutoring them in both French and Spanish two evenings per week.

The Evening Academy is a free tutoring program available to all 7-12 graders from both within and outside the Edmonds School District. Students receive help from volunteers in all subjects, from basic remedials to the sciences, foreign languages, and math. The tutors designate areas of interest and hours of availability to which students are then matched.

The Academy operates both Monday and Thursday evenings between 5:30 and 8:30 at Edmonds High School. Your help is needed and appreciated. If you are interested in tutoring one or more hours per week, call 771-0698 or 771-0560. Other volunteer opportunities are also available.

Thank you, Mrs. Chamberland, for your active involvement these past two years. Thanks also to Mrs. Porter, Mr. Svendsen, and Mrs. Post who have tutored for us in the past.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gene Olmstead and Gordon Bowers

When the legislative sessions wind down, there is always a flurry of activity - tacking on amendments to revive bills that died earlier, pushing bills that will get votes in the next election., so the last-gasp efforts of legislative activity and the Governor's action will not be known for a few days.

A recap of final action on bills of import to RTA members will be in the next Sno-King RTA Newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP - Cheryl Bickford

Our next Scholarship Luncheon will be Thursday, April 17, at noon at the Edmonds Unitarian Church. At our March meeting you will sign up to attend and also to bring salads if you so choose. Remember, we are raffling off a beautiful sweater made by Helen Beaver and charming tams made by Cheryl Bickford. Bring your dollars to buy chances.

MARCH 20 MEETING

In cooperation with AARP, we will have a speaker from the American Cancer Society to discuss the topic of colorectal cancer. There will be a film, a question and answer period, and handouts for you. Please attend and bring with you acquaintances who might be interested in this topic.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Please make this address change on your roster - Fern Listoe, 74-711 Villon Road, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240 (Sky Valley Park) phone (610) 329-0595.

Gordon and Edith Bowers will spend a few March days in Florida, mostly at Disneyworld and Epcot Center, with sight-seeing stops in Atlanta and Dallas going and coming by air.



MORE NEWS

Ethel Fenton is ill and would appreciate visits from her friends.

Eve Wilder Gilmartin was a recent visitor from Walnut Creek, California. Mrs. Gilmartin was a consultant in speech and hearing and special education in the Shoreline Schools before she went to Walnut Creek to help develop their program.

NEXT BULLETIN

All news and items for the April Bulletin must reach Marion Bellows by March 21. Please send to her at 9700 - 24 Avenue N.W.
Seattle, WA 98117 782-3046

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