

SKSR Board Meeting

Oct. 13, 2022

Attending: Cathy Webb (VP), Tom Hawkins (Treasurer), Evie Nordeen, Erma Snook, Linda Fitzgerald, Virg Rayton, Karen McElliott (acting Secretary)

Adoption of the minutes of the August Retreat: This was tabled until November's meeting.

Free Lunches for New Retirees: It was clarified that this would be one meal per new (2022) SKSR retiree.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that the volatile market continues. There is \$49,025.50 in SKSR checking account. The SKSR Investment Account (Ed Jones) has \$65,709.73, down \$4,775.72. The Hartford Insurance premium has been paid. There were two memorial transfers.

Membership: As of the first of the month, SKSR had 1346 members with 13 pending. There were two deaths. Jim has sent out membership information to 43 new retirees (from Edmonds) as well as a like number of former SKSR members.

Educator Grants: Karen reported that she has received five grant applications. At her request Erma sent out an email to all 301 active members with emails the beginning of October. Karen followed those emails with an email to a previous grant awardee in every school with two or more SKSR members, asking if that person would be willing to talk to the other SKSR member in her/his building about the grants. She sent messages to 30 schools; this included three schools that Jim and Rita also contacted that had a significant number of members but no current past awardees); she got positive responses from 12 (40%). Those 12 members received an email listing the names of other building members, the grant eligibility of each, and the information about becoming a member if others in the building wanted to apply.

Scholarships: Linda reported that application information will be distributed in January as per usual.

Sunshine: Barbara Bumgardner reported that at the end of August she sent sympathy cards to the families of Alice B. Anderson, Jones Rindall, Kathleen S. Kobs, Kathleen H. Sherwood, and Marlyn Stark; their names were listed on the WSSRA deceased report. She also sent retirement cards to Edmonds retirees

Birgit Albiker-Osterhaug, Debra Comfort, Christina Ligneau-Kolstoe, Peggy McCormick, Roberta McNabb, Susan Schultz, and Mary Woodman. She sent a caring card to Karen Guthrie-Mehlert (ALS diagnosis). In September and early October, she sent sympathy cards to the families of Lee Watkins, Joan Wolgemuth, Jim McHeffey, Lois Konecny, and Loren Saxby as well as to Geneva Norton on the death of her brother.

Records: Erma reported that she had sent out eight communications. In addition to the *Bulletin*, this included information about SCPP, WSSRA legislative endorsements, WSSRA Retirement Webinars, Sno-Isle's Brown Bag Lunch, the Plan 1 COLA as well as a reminder to all active members about the SKSR Grant window.

Website: Jim reported that the website is up-to-date.

Convention Report: Cathy reported on the Convention and commented that attending has given her a much better sense of the organization. She mentioned the keynote speaker who had talked on the importance of volunteering and also a presentation she had gone to about effectively communicating with one's unit membership.

NW-1 Report: On October 3, NW-1 held a hybrid meeting in Mount Vernon; it included those present in person and those via zoom. SKSR had a total of 9 attendees. The meeting was a test of the OWL3, a rotating camera with speakers which was voice-activated, allowing those remote to see/hear the speaker and vice versa. WWSRA President Brad Beal spoke via zoom about how we could hopefully use this technology to increase regional and statewide participation. Alan Burke spoke about the PEBB health care options for the coming year. The various committees reported on their work, and unit reports included the common themes of hoping to get back into buildings and the need for more member participation in leadership positions. There was a discussion about actively recruiting non-certified employees and also lowering non-certified membership dues. Attendees were reminded that NW-1 or NW-2 needs to put forward a name for WSSRA President-Elect and a NW-1 name for NW-1 Representative in spring 2023.

Endorsement Message Mailing: Jim reported that the WSSRA endorsement list had been sent to members either by email or by using SKSR's non-profit mailing permit. He added that it was decided to only send this notice only once before the November election.

Adjust budget: It was moved and passed that we increase the budgeted amounts of the line items Conventions and Scholarships by \$2,000 each to reflect the extra Convention (Summer 2023) in this fiscal year and the increase in Scholarship amounts.

October Brunch Update: Cathy reported that she has 40 RSVPs (including 4, possibly 6, retirees). She has done a walkthrough the facility with Priscilla Strand. There will be 6 round and 2 rectangular tables which the church's youth group will set up and take down for us. We need to supply the coffee/tea service; Cathy will get necessary supplies from the storage locker. She will also purchase some round table clothes. Priscilla has the door code and will let us in at 8:00 a.m. We will serve buffet style, but not self-serve; servers will have masks and gloves. Tom has the tickets. Priscilla will operate the dishwasher. It is hoped the Jim will take photos of the presentation, etc.

November Lunch: Cathy reported that Jim has arranged for the meeting to take place in the Boardrooms A and B of the Edmonds ESC, 11:00-3:00. Food will be served at 12:30 and consist of Caesar salad, lasagna, grilled vegetables, and assorted focaccia; dessert is not included, so cookies will be purchased at Costco. Linda planned to talk to Rebecca Miner after the meeting to see if she would be available to talk about her Camino del Santiago trip and give an update on what is happening in the Edmonds School District. If she is not available, we discussed having time for people to socialize since this will be our first fall meeting in three years or to have short, speed dating style, segments of time for members to hear/talk about issues of concern such as health care options. Attendees will be urged to carpool due to the limited ESC parking.

Meal Cost Increase: Cathy reported the question of whether meal costs paid by SKSR members at SKSR events should be raised to reflect the increased costs due to inflation. The suggestion was to raise the member cost from \$5 to \$10 and the guest cost from \$10 to \$15. It was decided that this needed to be more thoroughly discussed with a larger representation of the Board. If there is to be a change, that change should be announced in the January 2023 issue of the *Bulletin* and the change would not go into effect until the April Scholarship Lunch. We discussed the possibility of surveying members who attend the November Lunch about this issue. The bottom line is we really want members to attend. At this point, SKSR could continue to subsidize the meals. The feeling was that we needed to have a more detailed understanding of the situation; for example, the actual cost increase (based on the October and

November meals) including any additional fees; the average amount SKSR has contributed in the past to make up the difference, and an estimate of what that amount would be this year if we keep the current prices.

Incentive for Building Entry: We currently have 25 district buildings with no SKSR members and another 10 in which there is only a single member. Cathy explained a proposal to get into schools where there is currently no SKSR membership by offering to give the school's library a specified amount of money to buy books in return for a set amount of time to make a presentation to the staff about our work (i.e., educator grants, student scholarships, legislative priorities, fellowship). Erma reminded us that when we have done this in the past there has been a certain amount of resistance on behalf of some faculty members. Overall, the feeling was that we should give this a try.

New Treasurer/Scholarship Situation: Tom will be resigning as SKSR Treasurer on June 30, 2023. The unit needs to have a treasurer in order to continue writing scholarship checks, etc. There was a discussion about making a targeted appeal to those members who had relevant skills in their district positions (e.g., office manager). This would probably entail combing through the directory and maybe comparing it to old district directories.

Info to Membership about UMP Classic: Jim has written an article for the *Bulletin*.

Bouncing Emails—Erma reported on an increased number of bounced emails; she would like to develop a policy for how this should be handled. Until now, she resends the bounced emails, then calls any available phone number. This, however, gets very little response (1/6-1/4). She suggested some possible options going forward: (1) continue as is, (2) if bounced, convert them to USPS mail, (3) put an article in the *Bulletin* requesting updates, (4) send out a new Directory with a message to update their data. There was a brief discussion of these options as well as some variations. Erma will continue to monitor this issue.

December Board Lunch: Erma has made reservation at the Pancake Haus in Edmonds for December 8, 11:30 for the SKSR Board Brunch.

New Speaker System. Jim reported that the current speaker system (used at the picnic, etc.) is inadequate. This item is tabled until January.

Sno-Isle Concerns—Jim reported that there is a concern by the Sno-Isle President Ken Harvey about the next joint May Luncheon. This item was tabled until January.

May Luncheon—Cathy reported that Barb Bumgardner has arranged for a woman who was on the space station to be the speaker at the May Luncheon.

Bulletin Articles: Attendees were reminded that articles were due. Linda reported that since Jo had family visiting over the weekend, she would probably not get to them until Monday.

Submitted by,

Karen McElliott
Acting Secretary