



# RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

OCTOBER 1988

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stealing from WSRTA President Eloise Stendal's slogan: "Sno-King RTA is on its way!"

I am pleased with the good turn-out for our first meeting of the new year. We learned a great deal about preventing and taking care of heart attacks from Ruth Townsend of the CAPRI program.

The 1988-89 Sno-King unit booklet and directory has been published and distributed to all members of record. Betty Odle has presented a handsome piece of work and is owed a vote of thanks from all of us. The unit's September RTA Bulletin is another example of Betty's special talents and commitment. We are appreciative of the considerable assistance to Betty provided by Marion Bellows and Paul Weaver.

Betty Puckett has put together two "55 ALIVE/Mature Driving" programs for those of you who want to receive a rate deduction in your automobile insurance. Ruthanne Warren is heading up an exciting program for membership expansion. Patricia Svendsen is already at work planning the Spring "Pre-Retirement Seminars" for active teachers.

Encourage your former teacher friends to join us in Sno-King and attend the monthly meetings. If you know of illness or disability of members or former members, get in touch with Gretchen Lay or Esther Sellers or any Board member to let us know. If you have a change of address, please inform Gordon Roberts, our treasurer, because the U.S. Post Office does not forward your RTA Bulletin. Keep in touch. Try to make as many meetings this year as you can.

Best wishes,  
Jim Becker

# NOTES OF SEPTEMBER SNO-KING RTA BOARD MEETING

## Board Shifts Date for Scholarship Luncheon

Faced with having to make adjustments in its meeting schedules and conflicts with other activities of the unit, the Board voted to move the Scholarship Luncheon from its original date in October to Thursday noon, November 10, for this year only. The October meeting will be held at the Edmonds School District Board Room at 1:30 p.m. on October 20 and John Hunter informs us that we will again have the privilege of having the famous Northwest author and artist, Tony Angell as our speaker. His subject will be "Whale Watching". We know you will want to be there for his presentation - this is a good time to invite some of your non-member retired educator friends to join you at the meeting.

Several items of old business occupied the Board at its September 14 meeting. Officers and committee chairmen who attended the WSRTA Leadership Conference in Ellensburg shared information and impressions with other Board members. President Jim Becker was instructed to recommend to the state office that such meetings in the future devote more time to developing program goals for local unit committee chairmen and to sharing successful local activities with other unit leaders.

Under new business, the Board approved a scholarship donation in memory of Herman Peterson, associate member. Also, the Board voted to authorize Ruthanne Warren, Membership Chairman, to initiate an inquiry how this unit can contract for a membership expansion program. Ruthanne will be calling together a committee comprised of Gordon Roberts, unit treasurer, and representatives of retirees from Edmonds, Northshore and Shoreline districts, when appointed by the president. The membership expansion proposal developed by this committee will be reviewed by the Board at its November meeting.

The Board cancelled its October meeting, subject to rescheduling by the president if urgent business comes up. The next meeting of the Board is November 9 at 1:30 p.m.

## REGISTRATION FOR 55-ALIVE CLOSES OCTOBER 10

Dates: October 12 & 13 - 9:00-2:30 (Brown Bag Lunch Break)  
October 26 & 27 - 9:00-2:30 (Brown Bag Lunch Break)  
(For more information call Betty Puckett, 522-8921)

### COMING EVENTS

- October 20 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting in Edmonds School District Board Room,  
Speaker: Tony Angell on "Whale Watching".
- November 9 1:30 p.m. Board Meeting, Paul Weaver's home, 1560-9th N., Edmonds,  
778-3933
- November 10 NOON Scholarship Luncheon - Edmonds Unitarian Church - an officer  
from the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department will explain  
how they use their Canine Corps.





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - GORDON BOWERS

The WSRTA Legislative Committee met September 7 & 8 in Ellensburg, proposed an ambitious program including the following request of legislative candidates as follows: I AGREE TO SPONSOR AND WORK TOWARD THE PASSAGE OF THE WASHINGTON STATE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION'S PROPOSED COLA BILL WHICH PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING: "Any person who established membership in the Washington State Teacher's Retirement system on or before October 1, 1977, and who has been retired for at least five (5) years, shall receive an annual adjustment to the retirement allowance beginning with the July, 1989 payment. IN NO EVENT, however, shall the annual adjustment: (a) Produce a retirement allowance which is lower than the minimum retirement allowance as of July 1, 1988, or the retirement allowance received at retirement (whichever is greater): (b) Exceed three (3) percent in the initial annual adjustment, or (c) Differ from the previous year's annual adjustment by more than three percent". The index for determining the percentage amount for any calendar year will be the Seattle current C.P.I.

Other proposals - a \$65,000 budget of lobbying activities - by WSRTA members only, no paid lobbyists. Funds are \$45,000 on hand, and \$20,000 hopefully from a TRIP IV drive, soliciting retired teachers - 11,000 who are not members of WSRTA, but who benefit from WSRTA efforts. Contributions from members will be accepted, but not solicited, The COLA book will be updated, charts, videos, informational flyers, etc. will be prepared and available for legislators and WSRTA units throughout the state. Each local unit will also be reimbursed for mileage-trips to Olympia, four persons to a car, mini-grants for special legislative projects, etc.

Though WSRTA has committed all efforts to the single goal of a COLA, there were many questions and discussion on the impact of the Medicare "Catastrophic Care Surcharge". Added to the many voices protesting the surcharge targeting only middle income retirees was Robert B. Maxwell, Pres. Elect of AARP, who stated at the AARP New Orleans Convention (THIRD AGE publication, Sept. 1988, P.4), "We're beginning to hear a swell of people saying 'Hey, I didn't realize how much this was going to cost us'. 'We are getting a greater number of people telling us that they think this surcharge is way too much.' Maxwell also said, "It's shocking to me, personally that I might have to pay over \$120 a month in surcharge on my income tax for catastrophic care that I don't even need...for something that isn't going to do me a bit of good. I think it is a mish-mashing, a patchwork quilt of benefits without looking at the big picture."

GOLDEN PARACHUTE - GOOD NEWS ON PENSIONS (data from Seattle Times editorial 9/9/88)

Former US REP. BEN REIFEL, S. DAKOTA, who retired in 1971 has just collected over a million dollars in pension checks, as will most congress members, because their pensions are based on current congressional congressional salaries of \$89,500, or a monthly pension of \$6,966.

RETIRED TEACHERS COULD TAKE SOME LESSONS ON HOW TO DO IT FROM THESE COLLEAGUES!

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Marion Bellows had a wonderful time at the 50th reunion of her high school class in Walla Walla on September 9-10. What fun seeing the old gang - some for the first time in 50 years.

Gilman Ronald fell, injuring his wrist, receiving cuts and bruises. He was recovering nicely when his wife Bethene fell and broke her hip.

Gretchen Lay has a new grandson, Andrew Carl Norman, born Aug. 5, 1988. That makes 6 of her own, and 6 from her husband's previous marriage - an even dozen! Her son from California and his family, including two little granddaughters were here for 3 weeks in August.

June and Gordon Roberts should be returning soon from a trip to Turkey and Greece.



Deadline for the November Bulletin is October 20, 1988. Send to MARION BELLOWES, 9700 - 24th NW, Seattle, 98117, Phone: 782-3046



Be sure to join us on October 20 to hear Tony Angell on "Whale Watching"