



RETIREED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

September
1983

BULLETIN

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Bob Bisnett

It is exactly 5:40 P. M. on the 26th of August when all press notices are due to be placed in John Carlson's hand. He is filling in for, and has assisted, Dick Sacksteder, who is in Europe at the moment. I just rolled in from Wapato Point, where my wife Elinore and I spent the week with our son Roger's girl, Helen Marie. Do you know what it is like to spend a week in a 2½-year-old's world?

Back at the RTA now: I hope you are enjoying a larger check this month; and perhaps some of you got some tax relief on your home as well as some free firewood at Washington State parks.

I'm impressed with the leadership that has come forward. New faces and names give me the confidence this organization is passing into strong hands.

Heavier traffic on my phone line tells me Cynthia Jackson visited Margaret Newell. The Freitags are back from Europe...those packs do get heavy, don't they, Bernie. Walt Dawson should get another shot at president, now that he is sporting 20/20 vision. Margaret Wellman, state president, likes to write in long hand. She encourages us to report our successes such as our hope to identify teachers in rest homes and visit them.

You are encouraged to sign up for a committee...especially the new people... before I assign you, that is.

Thanks to the Svendsens and the weather man and a lot of interest, we had an enjoyable picnic on Martha Lake in July.

I just talked to Dixon Dahl, president of the Sno-Isle chapter; he reports a big turnout at their July picnic and will see us in Ellensburg and at the Holiday Inn training sessions.

Although last year was a winner legislative-wise, our state president, Wellman, has challenged us to increase our membership rolls, support our officers, reach out with active concern, and address matters that require change with written resolutions. A lady from Pierce County who taught 30 years in public schools across the nation, receives 1/3 of a pension...I ask you, is that just?

PROGRAMS FOR 1983-84

By Betty Odle

September 15 Our first meeting of the Fall will give us a chance to find the answers to all the questions we have always wanted to ask about Social Security. A representative from the local Social Security office will be with us to explain about Medicare and also to give information about the benefits to those who have not yet reached that "magic" S. S. age.

October 20 Elthea Lewis, AARP-NRTA State Coordinator, will join us for luncheon, at noon, at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., by the waterfront in Edmonds. (See reservation coupon elsewhere in the newsletter.) Elthea will share with us the part we can play in AARP and the benefits we reap from being part of that organization.

November 17 UW Prof. Bill Holm will join us to present an overview of two outstanding Northwest Indian shows being held in Seattle this fall: at the Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park, a show titled "The Box of Daylight: Northwest Coast Indian Art;" and at the Pacific Science Center, a show of the work of Kwakiutl Chief Willie Seaweed, titled "Smoky-top: The Art and Times of Willie Seaweed."

December 15 Christmas Music Program.

February 16 Film and talk by member of Evergreen Stroke Association.

March 15 Dick Sacksteder's "European Adventure."

April 16 Musical program.

May 19 Joint meeting with Sno-Isle in Everett.

June 21 Crime Prevention

SNO-KING RTA

President: Bob Bisnett, 542-8015, 542-2685, 546-4124
First Vice President and Program Chairman: Betty Odle, 525-8276
Secretary: Mary Lou Porter, 778-4660
Treasurer: Paul Weaver, 778-3933

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Walt Dawson, Ch., 774-3956, 776-6220
Helen McKean, 778-5792 Walt Barnum, 362-8032

COORDINATING COUNCIL: Ken Angell, Ch., 778-2244
Bob Bisnett, 542-8015, 542-2685 Paul Weaver, 778-3933
Betty Odle, 525-8276 Walt Dawson, 774-3956,
Mary Lou Porter, 778-4660 776-6220
Alternates: Gordon Bowers, 778-9202; Gene Olmstead, 774-5988

INFORMATIVE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES: John Hunter, Ch., 486-6684
Ken Angell, 778-2244 David Pesznecker, 668-5548,
Betty Odle, 525-8276 55 Alive.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Gordon Bowers, Ch., 778-9202
Gene Olmstead, Asst. Ch., 774-5988
C. P. Johnson, 486-7965 Ken Angell, 778-2244
Joe Leopold, 362-6012

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Helen Beaver, Ch., 523-8148
Ken Angell, 778-2244 C. P. Johnson, 486-7965
Nancy Post, 774-4503

NAME TAG COMMITTEE: Betty Morton, Ch., 778-3979
Winnifred Smith, 778-3979

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Paul Weaver, Ch., 778-3933
Ken Angell, 778-2244 Pat Svendsen, 743-3482
Paul Hilton, 483-5542 Walt Barnum, 362-8032

PRE-RETIREMENT COMMITTEE: Pat Svendsen, Ch., 743-3482
Paul Weaver, 778-3933 Betty Odle, 525-8276
Hilton Fuhr, 546-6740 Betty Puckett, 522-8921

PUBLICITY (WSRTA Journal, Sno-King RTA Newsletter):
Dick Sacksteder, Ch., 363-0975 Bill Anderson, 778-7822
John Carlson, Asst. Ch., 776-3253 Walt Dawson, 776-6220, 774-3956
Pat Svendsen, Emerg. Mail. Asst., B. J. Pepin, 745-0060
743-3482 June Hello, Typist, 778-5478

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE: Marvel De Sordie, Ch., 542-8322
Kamilla Aarseth, Co-Ch., 542-8322
Lois Madden, 362-0743

STATE WSRTA CONVENTION PLANNING AND EXECUTION: Ken Angell, Ch., 778-2244
Current and future board members

SUNSHINE AND VISITATION COMMITTEE (Shut-ins): Nancy Post, Ch., 774-4503
Margaret Hewell, 362-8218 Bob Bisnett, 542-8015, 542-2685
Mary Lou Porter, 778-4660 Gretchen Lay, 524-4686
Ken Angell, 778-2244 Fran Peters, 367-6083

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE: Ruth Westerhuis, Ch., Winnifred Smith, Co-Ch., 778-3979
Henrietta Dodge, 774-0329 Connie Haydon, 284-7752
Myra Sorensen, 774-7898 Polly Kershner, 778-5109
Alma Buxton, 778-7284 Joyce Koerner, 778-2512
Winnifred Smith, 778-3979 Frank Madden, 362-0743
Walt Dawson, 774-3956, 776-6220 Owen McKee, 776-0078
Bernadette Denby, 778-1905 Margaret Hewell, 362-8218
Kay Hedges, 778-5370 Nettie Preston, 778-4261
Lucille Hauwes, 745-0387 Winnie Smith, 778-3929
Pat Svendsen, 743-3482

The Association President is ex-officio to all committees.

Let Bob Bisnett know if you wish to be on a committee and tell the committee chairman if possible.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
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+ SEPT. 15 Thu Board to Leadership Conference...Holiday Inn South of
+ Everett, 9:30 A. M. (Come to regular meeting after)
+ 15 Thu Regular Meeting...Edmonds Board Room, Alderwood Manor.
+ 1:30 P. M.
+ 22 Thu All Committees Meet...Check with Chairman for time and
+ location
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+ OCT. 12 Wed Board Meeting...Bisnett's, 2:00 P. M.
+ 20 Thu Regular Meeting...1:30 P. M.
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+ September program: SOCIAL SECURITY...Bring your questions and experiences
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The eager beaver editor of our newsletter, Dick Sacksteder, and his wife, Barbara, packed their bags and flew to Europe for most of the summer. They attended a family reunion which included a wedding and a lot of sightseeing. Allez-vous Francais, mes amis? ...Merle and Mrs. Blevins went down under to look at New Zealand, Australia, and areas on the other side of the world ... After one trip to Hong Kong went awry earlier, Lucile and Earl Jones finally made it to that teeming metropolis, and to China and Japan. ...Vesta Lerdrup and husband Jens attended Vesta's high school class reunion in June in Connecticut, and visited other eastern areas. ...Al and Pat Svendsen will hop to China in September, instead of Alaska, for a change. ...There is nothing like touring the U S of A via recreational vehicle, according to the Rommel Freitags, who did just that. ...Margaret Fletcher and husband Frank spent the past four months on their cabin cruiser touring Alaskan waters. ...Helen Beaver plans to take a full tour of the New England States this month.

Other members who would like to add their travels and travel plans to our doing members, tell it to Dick Sacksteder.

Treasurer's Report: Our fiscal year ended June 30. Because of this, your 1983-84 dues are due. For those of you who have not yet paid, there is a reminder in the form of a coupon elsewhere in this newsletter. Please clip it out, attach your check to it, and mail it in. Your treasurer and the Membership Committee would greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Clip the coupon and mail!

Sno-King unit has become "home" to new members Esther Sellers, Barbara Fortier, George Nelson, F. Wayne Nolen, and Tom Rodrique. Alice Bourlier recently moved from Seattle to the Madison House in Edmonds and promptly joined Sno-King. A big welcome to all of the new members. Other new members will be listed later.

In case some of you did not get the word, persons who retired prior to July 1, 1978, had their retirement boosted by 74 cents a month for each year of creditable service. Those individuals with 30 years of service received a hefty boost of \$22.20 a month in their checks! Membership in Sno-King and WSRTA does pay off! Congratulations to our hard working legislative group who toiled so long and hard in Olympia!

Stayner Brighton now has taken over the Olympia assignment from Frances Mayhew and Robert Mullen. In addition to working on several matters of importance to the retirees, a major objective will be to promote state funding of some \$140 million the state has borrowed from teachers' retirement funds.

SHB 51 provided a pension increase of 74¢ per month per year of service for those retired prior to July 1, 1978. The increase became effective on July 1, 1983, and should have shown on pension checks received August 1. Also, each retiree should have received a "STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN PAYMENT AMOUNT" from the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems, dated July 31, 1983. If there is any question concerning the pension increase, years of service, or other problems, write to Dr. Robert L. Hollister Jr., Retirement Office Director, Capitol Plaza Building, 1025 East Union, Olympia 98504.

In the 1984 legislative session, WSRTA will push Senate Bill 4275, which would put the State's contribution procedure for the Teachers' Retirement System on the same basis as PERS and other retiree groups; that is, the former employer (local school districts) would make payments into the teacher retirement fund. This would make the Teachers' Retirement Fund less vulnerable to the deferral payment process that took place in the 1982 session. Contributions to the fund have been subject to the whims of legislators.

~~Long range legislative efforts should be concentrated on an automatic pension adjustment tied either to the Cost of Living Index or salary increases granted to active teachers currently employed.~~

Retirees need to have personal communications with their legislators. In the 21st Legislative District a unique series of meetings with constituents has been scheduled jointly by Senator Mike McManus (Democrat) and Representative Katie Allen (Republican). Frank discussions in face-to-face meetings with these two legislators will continue in the fall, and the public is welcome. Dates and places will be announced in the next issue of this newsletter. The two legislators have a joint office in Edmonds: 144 Railroad Avenue, Regency Bldg. Room 225 (Crazy Lobster Restaurant on one side, Senior Center on the other). You are invited to stop by!