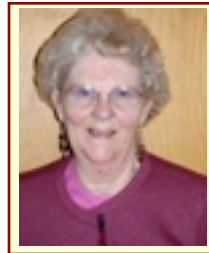


# SKSR Bulletin

A message from Our Coordinating Chair Evelyn Nordeen



[www.sksr.org](http://www.sksr.org)



"Yesterday the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America; and a greater perhaps never was, nor will be, decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, that those United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." John Adams, "Letter to Mrs. Adams". 3 July, 1776.

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore." John Adams, "Letter to Mrs. Adams". 3 July, 1776.

The celebration day turned out to be July 4th, but what an important time this continues to be in 2010! We are celebrating in Sno-King SR #23. One activity after another has been tremendous. The joint meeting with the Sno-Isle touched out hearts. The Mariner's game was a fun time to sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", but we sighed at the score of the game. The WSSR Annual Convention in Yakima was awesome. Our very own member Rita Requa conducted those meetings like clock-work and added such color in her introductions of all speakers. We are spell bound! We were awarded her "President's Award for 2010". It has always been granted to an individual in the past, but Unit 23 won the prize for our assistance to Rita. We were noted for our gain of new members during the year. To top it off, Unit 23 was awarded "The Unit of Distinction". Our hard work was appreciated. Thank you all!

We now plea to you to fill out the E-Mail address form and return it to help save dollars and trees. In addition, it is PICNIC TIME on July 15th at Edmonds City Park. Active members and retirees----please come and have a wonderful time together. It has been an inspiration serving as your chair person for the year. My thanks go to each of you for being a member and to all those who worked so intently on our activities.

Evelyn Nordeen

Evelyn Nordeen, Coordinating Chair  
 Cheryl Bauer, Secretary/Schl Fin  
 Donna Murrish, Treasurer/Mailing/Schl Fin  
 Rita Requa, WSSRA President  
 Betty Odle, Historian/Luncheons/Picnic  
 Rachel Lake, WSSRA PAC Treas  
 Ellie Bonanno, WSSRA Legislative/Schl Fin  
 Bob Nordeen, Membership/Schl Fin  
 Cheryl Bickford, Scholarship/Luncheons  
 Bob Jones, Retirement Planning/Web Page/  
 Outreach  
 Alice Bingaman, Telephone/Scholarship  
 Gordon Bowers, Health  
 Keith Lindaas, Linda Fitzgerald, Scholarship  
 Joan Hertrich, Telephone  
 Marlene Johnson, Marilyn Alaniz, Hospitality  
 Virg Rayton, Grants  
 Erma Snook, Past President/Schl Fin  
 Marilyn Dauer, Membership  
 Dick Stucky, Don Denton, Schl Fin  
 Marion Fyall, Sunshine  
 Barbara Berg, Scrapbook  
 Dave Johnson, *Bulletin* Editor/Schl Fin

**YOU’LL FIND INSIDE**

Coordinating Chair’s Message.....1  
 Calendar of Events.....2  
 SKSR Picnic..... 2  
 Convention Report.....3  
 Sno-Isle/Sno-King Meeting.....4  
 Tribute to Rita.....4  
 Volunteer Opportunities.....4  
 New Retirees.....5  
 Health Services.....6  
 Internet Scams.....7  
 Medicare Scams/August Retreat.....8  
 Scholarship Donations/Deceased.....8  
 Dick Anderson’s Editorial.....9  
 Member Information .....10

**MARK YOUR DATEBOOK**

**JULY 15**  
**SKSR PICNIC**  
 at  
**Edmonds Park**

**AUGUST 11**  
**SKSR Planning Meeting**  
 at  
**Foundation House**

**SNO-KING PICNIC HONORS NEW RETIREES ON JULY 15  
 EDMONDS CITY PARK**

We invite all members to come to the Sno-King School Retirees picnic to honor those who have just retired.

**SKSR Board Meetings**

1:00 PM,  
 Edmonds SD ESC  
 20420 68th Ave W,  
 Lynnwood  
 Everyone welcome!  
 July 8.  
 August 11.

New retirees and their escorts, from Edmonds, Northshore and Shoreline School Districts, will be our special guests at our Annual Picnic. Sno-King members will make a \$5 contribution to help defray the costs. Our Sno-King Board furnishes the wonderful food you will enjoy.

We have our shelter reserved from 10:30 to 5 so we will have lots of time to visit. We will plan to eat at noon. Look for balloons and Sno-King members in their bright jade T-shirts.

Teachers who have received grants from our Unit this year are invited to share the results of their grant.

Active teacher members, this is a great time to relax after a busy school year and to renew friendships with your retired friends.

Sno-King retirees, this is the time to invite some of your retired friends who are not members - when they see what a great group we are they are bound to want to be a part of our organization.

Please RSVP by July 7 to Betty Odle, 206-525-8276 or e-mail [bettyholmodle@msn.com](mailto:bettyholmodle@msn.com), so we will know how much food to prepare.



For all your real estate needs call  
**Marilyn Irwin**  
 Windermere Real Estate/GH  
 LLC 206-300-4438

*Acceptance of this paid advertisement  
 does not imply SKSR endorsement.*

**Directions to the Edmonds Park:** take SR 104 (Edmonds Way) to Edmonds. DO NOT take arterial off-ramp to Edmonds-Kingston Ferry.) Follow 5th AVE S (toward downtown Edmonds) to Pine St. Turn left on Pine to 3rd Ave., turn right. Park entrance is on left. Watch for the balloons and the Sno-King T-shirts.



*WSSRA President Rita Requa*

**DATELINE---June 7-9 WSSRA  
Convention – Yakima**

The 2010 WSSRA Convention is now history! Our delegates were 17 strong: Cheryl Bauer, Alice Bingaman, Ellie Bonanno (State Legislative Committee), Bruce Caldwell, Jo Caldwell (State Journal Editor), Dave Johnson, Marlene Johnson, Robert Jones (State Outreach Committee), Rachel Lake (State PAC Treasurer), Donna



*Sno-King #23 Delegation*

Murrish, Evelyn Nordeen, Robert Nordeen, Betty Odle, Virg Rayton, Jim Siscel, Erma Snook, and Robert VanNess, and WSSRA President Rita Requa. We have great state involvement! We looked good in our shirts, too!

Lead by our own President, Rita Requa, we were off to a running start on Monday p.m. with the PAC and Convention voting issue presentations. Rita welcomed those of us from Sno-King 23 with a reception in her suite after session.

On Tuesday, we began with a color guard presentation from the Yakima VFW. (Jim Siscel got in the act a little!) The Keynote Speaker was Dr. James Hodges as

“George Washington” speaking on leadership. There was a touching Memorial Service remembering the 385 members we lost last year, 23 from our own Sno-King Unit 23. During lunch, the High School Scholarships, awarded by WSSRA and PEMCO, were presented. More new teachers in the making! In the afternoon, we conducted the business of the convention including election of officers and Rita gave her farewell speech in a clever quiz format to educate us about the WSSRA organization. It was very well received. We also had an informative session on Cyber Safety from AARP. At the always anticipated evening Banquet on Tuesday evening, we dined fine and were entertained by a superb all-volunteer chorus, Marvin’s Marvelous Warblers, accompanied by our own Bruce Caldwell on piano. We were represented in the chorus by Virg Rayton, Bob Jones, and Alice Bingaman. Following dinner was the installation of officers. Louie Osmonovich is the 2010-2011 WSSRA President, and President-elect is Don Reifenberry. Thus we said a sad for us, but happy for her, “good bye” to Prez Rita. Evie Nordeen, accompanied by Ellie Bonanno and Bob



*Sno-King Chair Evie Nordeen presents President Rita Requa with gifts from SKSR*

Nordeen presented Rita with gifts from Unit 23. Evie’s “stand-up comedienne” style and delivery had us all in stitches. (There’s a latent career there for sure!!!!) We were ALL pleasantly delighted when Rita bestowed her President’s Award on us, Unit 23, for our support during her year as President. We received a lovely Apple Award! Following dinner some of us danced the night away to music by Gary Mainer.

Wednesday morning found us all in officer training sessions or in the coveted “What To Do With Your Digital Photos?” and/or FaceBook sessions. After lunch, finally the trek home!

It was a very successful 2010 WSSRA Convention. Plan to attend next year in Wenatchee in June.



*Jim Siscel, Bob & Evie Nordeen, Cheryl Bauer enjoy Tuesday Night’s Banquet*

### Sno-Isle Hosts Sno-King -- A Big Success

Our thanks go to Sno-Isle 22 for hosting our annual joint gathering on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Spaghetti Factory in Lynnwood. We were welcomed warmly by Brenda Leider, President. Joan Penewell, Treasurer, presented the program. We were 60 strong in attendance, a great turnout! The food was great and the conversation even better.

The entertainment was awe-inspiring. The Village Community Services is a mission driven organization. They are committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities. They provide residential support and vocational services for disabled adults in Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties. Their music performing group, "Voices of the Village" is widely sought after. Their performance was inspirational and entertaining. This is truly an organization that recognizes capacities and competencies before limitations. Thank you Sno-Isle!

### TO RITA REQUA:

We send special thanks to now WSSRA Past President Rita Requa for her outstanding service in 2009-2010. Her dedication to moving WSSRA forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century electronically actualized her "Staying Connected" theme. Her travels all over the state were many and valued. Her special strengths were problem-solving and listening! Still, she found time to attend and be active in our local SKSR.



She was a master at conducting the business of the WSSRA Convention. Her huge notebook of notes and plans is a testimony to her preparation. One special highlight was her elaborate and interesting introductions. She added a revealing and personal touch for the audience about **every** speaker who stepped to the podium. Quite amazing!

Thank you, Rita, for a very special year and for putting Sno-King Unit 23 on the map in such a grand manner! We are all so proud of you!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SKSR member Jan Link sends a plea to teachers to give time to help students graduate from high school. Jan is a retired teacher and principal who has worked in various school systems. She is concerned that 25-36 % of students are not graduating on time from high schools in Washington State. Washington is 43rd in the nation in getting students graduated from high school. ([www.edweek.org/apps/gmap](http://www.edweek.org/apps/gmap)). A high percentage of college students have to take remedial courses prior to taking college level classes. For these reasons, Jan applied for a grant and received this award! Academic Link Outreach is a way for retired teachers to help these students. As Jan states, "You can bring great joy and a sense of accomplishment into your life and that of a child by giving just 2-3 hours of your time per week. Time can be spent working directly with students or working on various academic related projects for our non-profit organization, Academic Link Outreach".

Jan lists these programs where you could help:

1. Volunteer to mentor / coach a student during the 2010-2011 school year. Establish a relationship and communicate regularly through e-mail, meetings at school or through the KITE tutoring program.
2. Volunteer at an afterschool study table at Alderwood Middle School or at the KITE study table.
3. Volunteer to help write letters and grants for our non-profit Academic Link Outreach to support projects which help students graduate from high school.
4. Get paid to tutor qualifying students (qualify for free or reduced lunch) from select schools, 20-25 tutoring sessions per student, at a place and time agreed upon by parent and tutor.

Contact Jan Link [jan@academiclinkoutreach.org](mailto:jan@academiclinkoutreach.org) or 425-314-6500

[www.sksr.org](http://www.sksr.org)

We welcome the 2010 Retirees to Sno-King School Retirees Organization. Our picnic is July 15th at Edmonds City Park at noon. Please read the "Picnic" article for information! If you know any of these people please invite them to our picnic.

### **Shoreline School District:**

Kris Baumann, Ridgecrest Elementary  
Christy Buren, Highland Terrace Elementary  
Sheila Crickmay, Room Nine Community School  
Laura Degenhardt, Syre Elementary  
Sonya Dunnagan, Meridian Park/Parkwood Elem.  
Toan Pham, Shorecrest HS  
David Harrington, Shorewood HS  
Bev Hastig, Shorewood HS  
Tom Hawkins, Transportation  
Dottie Sala-Wilson, Shorecrest HS  
Gidget Terpstra, Parkwood Elementary  
Adrienne Underwood Shorewood HS

### **Northshore School District:**

Adela Adkins, Lockwood Elementary  
James Atwood, Wellington Elementary  
Diane Baerwald, Director, Instructional Support  
John Bajorek, Transportation  
Carolyn Beal, Homeschool Networks  
Kathleen Boyce, Inglemoor HS  
Mary Ann Brager, Food Services  
Addie Brozovich, Special Education  
Lucy Brumfield, Fernwood Elementary  
Nancy Crandall, Fernwood Elementary  
Jena DeLand, Westhill Elementary  
Linda Forbes, Fernwood Elementary  
Barbara Graber, Inglemoor HS  
Linda Harris, Inglemoor HS  
Lanny Johnson, Transportation  
Toni Keller, Transportation  
Margaret Kirchgessner, Moorlands Elementary  
Dar Lounsbury, Maintenance & Operations  
Erik Lund, Maintenance & Operations  
Jeanette Marquardt, Communications  
Bryan McCarty, Skyview JH  
Carol Meckling, Fernwood Elementary  
Susan Mercer, Kenmore JH  
Denise Merrill, Wellington Elementary  
Dennis Milliken, Instructional Support  
Janet Ottosen, Kenmore Elementary  
David Ozuna, Northshore JH

George Strain, Leota JH  
Christine Terrill, Moorlands Elementary  
Linda Van Lierop, Human Resources  
Dorothy Warmbrodt, Skyview JH  
Margaret Weborg, Wellington Elementary  
Carol White, Arrowhead Elementary  
Barbara Wilkins, Maywood Hills Elementary

### **Edmonds School District:**

Gayle Lagerstrom, Cyberschool Secy  
Michael Clemans, Athletics  
Gregory Willis, Elementary Principal  
Mona Porter, High School Asst. Principal  
Christine Keyes Back, Library Media Specialist  
Susan Byrum, Paraed 1  
Kristine Case, Paraed 1  
Billie Fellers, Paraed 1  
Mary Fox, Paraed 1  
Zulmira Kruchok, Paraed 111  
Nancy Parle, Psychologist  
Ann Arnold, Teacher  
Janet Cullor, Teacher  
Susan Davison, Teacher  
Susan Doughten, Teacher  
Jerry Grey, Teacher  
Gerene Hipke, Teacher  
Valetta Kayda, Teacher  
Carol Larsen, Teacher  
Mary Mathews, Teacher  
Beverly McNair, Teacher  
Marlex Memmel, Teacher  
Sarah Owens, Teacher  
Bonita Phillips, Teacher  
Diana Richmond, Teacher  
Sheila Rucker, Teacher  
Ann Sanholtz, Teacher  
Charlene Schuricht, Teacher  
Christine Shaffer, Teacher  
Gary Smith, Teacher  
Sharyn Stalin, Teacher  
Marigail Stammes, Teacher  
Judith Triggs, Teacher  
Marsha Gray Elementary Office Mgr.  
John Martin, General Mechanic  
Sharon Houglan, Lifeskills Asst.  
Gary Loveless, Middle School Head Custodian  
Judith Nelson, Psych. Svcs Off. Coord.  
Sharon Rytter, Teaching & Learning Admin. Splst.  
Cordelia Brady, Trans 1:1

## HEALTH SERVICES

by Gordon Bowers

**WATCH FOR MORE INFO ON PROSTATE VACCINE:** and other cancer treatments. The *Seattle Times* article on the prostate cancer vaccine developed by Dendreon was an amazing breakthrough. Sandi Doughton, *Seattle Times* science reporter, summed up the complicated treatment – “Dendreon’s Prostate Cancer Treatment, called Provenge, leaps beyond the blunt instruments of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy to mobilize patients’ own immune system against tumors.”

Dendreon’s case to the FDA for approval was based on 500 men with an advanced form of prostate cancer that spreads to other body parts. Those treated with Provenge were still alive after three years – the best treatment so far, and can open doors against a range of cancers and lower costs.

The Seattle Dendreon Company was founded in 1998 by Christopher Henney, co-founder of Immunex and Icos. Dr. Mitchell Gold is CEO with 600 employees, and other plants in New Jersey Georgia and California. Other products in development include vaccines for bladder, breast, ovarian and colon cancer. Traded on the stock market Dendreon had a bumpy ride, from a \$10 IPO in 1998 to low of \$1.26 in 2002, to a high of \$40.00 in April 2010. Hats off to those who pursue their dreams with a singular purpose!!

**PRESIDENT OBAMA RECENTLY HAD A VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY:** Is this best for you? Expert opinions differ on when and how it should be used. The usual colonoscopy is done using a flexible cable equipped with a tiny video camera to check the intestines and colon for abnormalities. The virtual colonoscopy doesn’t do away with all the discomfort. The intestines must be clean and inflated with a puff of carbon dioxide, but the procedure is quicker, and doesn’t need sedation. If a polyp is found, the patient will need to have a regular colonoscopy. The American Cancer Society has endorsed virtual colonoscopy for cancer screening, but the US Preventative Task Force does not recommend it. Medicare doesn’t cover virtual colonoscopy for routine screening. The president’s test showed OK. Ask your doctor!<sup>2</sup>

**LATEST ON THE HISTORY OF HEART DISEASE:** Nearly every publication on the problem of heart disease advises: watch your weight, diet, exercise regularly, etc. Here is new information on

heart disease from the American Heart Association though today’s plaque build up in arteries is thought to be caused by our modern risk factors, life style, obesity and so on. A study by Randall C. Thompson MD, professor at Mid America Heart Institute (Kansas City, MO.) and his team collaborated with Egyptians to use computer x-ray scans of 3,500 year old mummies in the museum in Cairo, Egypt. All 20 cases were of high class Egyptians, dated from 1981 BC to 364 AD. The oldest mummies diagnosed with atherosclerosis died between 1570 and 1530 BC. There were no differences between male and female. It was a common disease 3000 years ago.<sup>3</sup>

**TIMELY ADVICE ON SUNSHINE:** An article in the Everett Herald points out some of the hazards of sun exposure reported by a Washington DC watchdog group, including the Skin Cancer Foundation, American Academy of dermatology, and the Environmental Working Group. Their advice, reminders are: you need an effective sun screen in Western Washington where melanoma skin cancer is more common than other areas of the United States. Sun screen is only one tool to protect our skin from ageing and cancer. Stick to SPF 15 to 50, and use a quarter of a cup for full body coverage, repeated every two hours if swimming, sweating, or drying with a towel. Bald heads should be protected with sun screen even if you have hair; wearing a broad brim hat is best that protects face neck and ears. Wear tightly woven clothes, sunglasses, avoid direct sun between 10 AM and 4 PM. Keep babies younger than six months out of the sun. Examine your skin from head to toe once a month, see your skin doctor once a year, and ask about sun screen that blocks UVB rays but not UVA rays that cause skin cancer and skin ageing. For more information check [www.ewg.org/2010sunscreens](http://www.ewg.org/2010sunscreens)<sup>4</sup>. **GOOD LIFE:** Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest.

<sup>1</sup>Doughton, Sandi *Seattle Times* April 25, 2010 p. A1 & A14.

<sup>2</sup> Mayer, Robert J. MD “By The Way, Doctor” *Harvard Medical School Journal* Vol.35 #8 June, 2010 p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> American Heart Association *Scientific Sessions 2009* Vol. 28 P. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Jackson, Sarah *Everett Herald* June 6, 2010 p. D1 & D2.

wssra website

[www.wssra.org](http://www.wssra.org)

### Beware of the latest internet scam: Help - I'm Stranded

By Diane Hettrick in *Shoreline Area News* June 17, 2010

I have been using email extensively for fifteen years and subscribe to over 150 mailing lists. Long ago, I developed a nose for scams, phishing, and other nefarious doings online. Even if I were tempted to believe the latest snare, I am protected from being gulled because I usually get at least three versions from three different sources right away.

Otherwise, even I might have fallen for a desperate message from a friend traveling in a foreign country whose wallet and ID had been stolen, who needed emergency funds to get to the nearest embassy for help.

Sometimes the friend needs cash for a plane ticket or to pay the hotel bill. Sometimes it's an acquaintance or someone you know from an organization you both belong to.

Don't fall for it. I don't know the technology involved, but the thieves hack into the victim's computer and hijack their email account along with their address book. The thieves then send the bogus plea for help to everyone in the address book. The victim, who cannot access their email account, has no idea this is happening until someone calls them on the phone or sees them in person.

In the meantime, if you have rushed to the rescue and wired money to the address given, you have just enriched a thief and encouraged them to continue their scheme.

The latest version of the "help I'm stranded" scam actually starts out by saying that their email has been hijacked.

Be cautious of what you read in your email, check out stories at [snopes.com](http://snopes.com), and don't send money until you know where you are sending it and who you are sending it to.

## Time In The Garden

Are you ready to make your gardening easier? Do you want a "green" approach? Maybe you desire seasonal/year round color? Have your plants been incorrectly pruned and look it? Every project is unique to the home owner's sense of style and their requirement for use. My philosophy is less is more. It is not how much you put in but what you put in that makes and creates a special outdoor space. All this—so you can better enjoy your time in the garden!

### Landscape services:

- \*Personal Designs
- \*Unique Containers
- \*Revitalize Mature Landscapes
- \* Horticulturally Correct Pruning
- \*Garden Coach for the Do-It-Yourself Gardener
- \*Emphasis on Low Maintenance, Drought Tolerant Plants



Please contact me and let me know how I may be assistance to you and your landscape project.

Krist Sharpe 425-745-8526 [kjsharp@yahoo.com](mailto:kjsharp@yahoo.com)  
Landscape Designer—Retired Shoreline Teacher

*Acceptance of this paid advertisement does not imply SKSR endorsement.*

### For rent: Scottsdale Condo

1 bdrm, furnished near Old Town  
pool, jacuzzi, laundry

Jan.-Mar. \$850.00 month

**425-788-3292 or 206-601-8733**

*Acceptance of this paid advertisement does not imply SKSR endorsement.*

### PAINTING PAIN?—I can help you

Since retirement almost four years ago and for 25 years before that, we have had the privilege of helping members with their painting needs.

References are available from many of them. I would also be happy to help you with your needs.

Help is also available to fix some of those small household repairs that need to be done. We serve the east side and north end of Lake Washington.

For information call

**G.F. Moore Painting (Warren)** 425-466-2729 or  
425-485-4570

*Acceptance of this paid advertisement does not imply SKSR endorsement.*

**Don't Be Scammed:**

**What You Need to Know About the \$250 Prescription Drug Rebate**

If you reach the Part D prescription drug coverage gap – also known as the donut hole – and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help, you will receive a one-time, tax-free check for \$ 250. This rebate is one of the benefits of the recently passed Health Care Reform law. The first checks are being (were) mailed in mid-June and checks will be mailed monthly after people have entered the coverage gap.

To help fight fraud and protect beneficiaries from potential scams, Medicare is reminding seniors there are no forms to fill out to receive this benefit. Medicare will automatically send a check. The envelope will have the US Department of Health and Human Services symbol on it and will say "Medicare Part D." Beneficiaries don't need to provide any personal information. They don't need to provide any personal information like Medicare, Social Security, or bank account numbers to get the rebate check. They are reminded not to give any personal information to anyone who calls about the \$250 rebate check.

People with Medicare should call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to report any suspected fraud or scams or with any questions.

**IN APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

SKSR	in memory of Rodina Cass, Ron Belcher, Judith Liden, Jim Wahlstrom
Lorraine Corrington	in memory of Stan Corrington
Justine Wood	in memory of Roni Cass
Jack Rogers	in memory of Dale Hanberg
Phyllis Fiege	for a donation

**August Retreat**

An august group (pun intended), the Sno-King Board will meet at The Foundation House in Bothell on August 11th at 9:00 a.m. We will be planning our 2010-2011 year ahead. We will meet until noon. The Foundation House will provide our lunch. They are always such gracious and generous hosts. Please mark it on your calendar and RSVP to Rachel Lake [RachelMLake@comcast.net](mailto:RachelMLake@comcast.net) or Erma Snook [egsnook@comcast.net](mailto:egsnook@comcast.net). Directions provided when you RSVP, if needed.

**REMEMBERING**

**Deceased:**

- Pg 14 **Belcher, Ronald W** April, 2010 (NS)
- Pg 18 **Cass, Rodina (Roni)** April 21, 2010 (NS)
- Pg 41 **Liden, Judith C** April, 2010
- Pg 67 **Wahlstrom, James E** May, 2010 (SL)

**Maurine Taylor** (SL) passed away on April 24th. She had developed pneumonia after a month long illness. She was a beloved English teacher,! She shall be missed.

**Burt Stack** (SL) passed away after a 20 month courageous battle with brain cancer, on May 25. He loved life, was an outstanding educator and friend to all.

*Affordable Living for Exceptional People*

**Foundation House at Bothell is a full-service not-for-profit retirement community sponsored by the Seattle Education Foundation.**

**Call today to learn more about our Retired Educator Incentive Program!**

Acceptance of this paid advertisement does not imply SKSR endorsement.

**Phone: 425.402.9606**



*Affordability—Comfort—Beautiful Setting*



**17502 102nd Avenue NE  
Bothell, Washington 98011**





### The Trillion Dollar Gap: Underfunded State Retirement Systems

By Richard M. Anderson

My eyes often glaze over when reading statistics, but sometimes reality can be truly eye popping. “Trillion” is not a number we’ve heard much in the past, but in recent years “trillion” seems to have replaced “billion” when discussing government budgets. And now days “million” seems reduced to mere pocket change. A trillion is \$1,000,000,000,000 or one million, million. A trillion seconds lasts 32,000 years. A trillion dollars represented by stacks of \$100 bills 4 feet high would cover about an acre of ground.

The Pew Center on the States is a non-profit think tank that identifies and advances state policy solutions. It reports that at the end of 2008 there was a \$1 trillion gap nation-wide between what funds states have put aside to pay for employees’ pension benefits and what is necessary to fund them. The Pew Center adds that the \$1 trillion dollar gap reflects states’ own policy choices and lack of discipline. States have failed to make annual payments for pension systems at the levels recommended by their own actuaries. States have expanded benefits and given cost-of-living increases without fully considering their long-term price tag. They have provided retiree health care without adequately funding it. Actually, the Pew Center rates Washington State pretty high compared with other states because, looking at the big picture, Washington’s twelve or so pensions systems are mostly well funded. The exception, of course, is TRS/PERS 1 pension system. But nation-wide 40 states have set aside less than 7.1% of the funds required to fund their pensions. 20 states have *no* assets on hand to cover their obligations.

In 2005 the TRS/PERS 1 pension system in Washington State was \$4 billion in the red. Then Gov. Christine Gregoire pledged, “Washington State is going to be fiscally responsible. We are going to be a model employer. We are going to stand by our obligations with regard to pension benefits. I’m not interested in us turning our backs on the people who are serving the citizens of the state of Washington. Those who are eligible to retire ought to be able to retire in security.” Now, 5 years and lots of excuses later, the unfunded liability for TRS/PERS 1 is \$8 billion.

In a November 2009 interview Rep. Kelli Linville who currently chairs the House Ways and Means Committee said Democrats aren’t to blame. She

pointed out Republican Dino Rossi wrote the budget when the first pension contribution went by the wayside in 2004. Linville said, “I don’t want to throw stones, it’s all of us. It’s not one party or one leadership or one anything because like I said I believe everyone has not done the most they should.” Rep. Linville said that in the future she’ll work to try to keep lawmakers from taking more from the pension fund to pay for other things. “My hope for the next (budget) is that the pensions are left alone, that we don’t look to use the pensions as any leverage to balance the budget. We can’t.”

Washington State Actuary Matt Smith has said that TRS/PERS 1 system will run out of money in 5 or 6 years if the legislature doesn’t take strong measures to fund it. At this time, the legislature is still in special session and there appears to be an impasse between the House and the Senate on how to balance the budget. Gov. Gregoire says that if the legislature doesn’t come to an agreement she will make 20% across-the-board cuts. We will just have to wait and see what happens to the pension system as the legislature struggles to close the budget gap. Preceding is his editorial on the state of our Washington State Pension Plans!)

**(SKSR Note:** Dick Anderson is our NW-1 Board Representative to the WSSRA Executive Board. He is a prolific writer for and active member of the Whatcom County Unit.

The preceding is his editorial on the state of our Washington State Pension Plans! This article was written before the close of the Legislative Session, but very timely!)

#### INVITATION TO SNO KING

The Northwest 2 Coordinating Council invites the Units of Northwest 1 to their summer picnic. It will be on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. at Crystal Lake Lodge near Maltby. It is potluck. Bring a dish of your choice. There will be a silent auction ( not white elephant). You may donate an item. Be sure to bring your checkbook. Proceeds go equally to WSSRA-PAC and The Scholarship Foundation. Contact person is Carolyn Fletcher, 425-392-6674.



**Sno-King School Retirees**  
**P. O. Box 33962**  
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**HELP US WITH INFORMATION TO PUT IN THE BULLETIN**

The deadline for the next newsletter is 8:00 AM, **Friday August 20**

Send news and other materials to

**Dave Johnson** 814 6th Ave. So. Edmonds, WA 98020, [dama3@comcast.net](mailto:dama3@comcast.net), or  
425-776-7298.

Address, phone or e-mail changes should be sent to **Donna Murrish** [donnammurrish@comcast.net](mailto:donnammurrish@comcast.net)  
or 206-363-5753.

If you know of illness, please call Sunshine Chair, **Marion Fyall** [marionkf@comcast.net](mailto:marionkf@comcast.net) or  
425-776-5297

To help with mailing our next Bulletin on Monday, **August 30**

**Alice Bingaman** 425-778-1343, **Betty Odle** 206-525-8276 or **Joan Hertrich** 425-778-9572

**Address Changes:**

Pg 22 Dawson, Grace I, 1723 Maple Rd, Lynnwood  
98037-4030

Pg 29 Gunnerson, Joanne C, 4201-164<sup>th</sup> St SW #A,  
Lynnwood 98087-6915

Pg 31 Harter, Paula D, 1205 S 308<sup>th</sup> St, Federal Way  
98003-4755

Pg 35 Johnson, Carole – change email:  
[carole@625lw.com](mailto:carole@625lw.com)

Pg 38 Kinch, Marian – add email:  
[mariankinch@Q.com](mailto:mariankinch@Q.com)

Pg 41 Lindstrom, Nancy – change email:  
[nanc211@comcast.net](mailto:nanc211@comcast.net)

**Welcome New Members:**

Pg 29 Griffin, Kathleen, 16002 Village Green Dr, Unit  
C, Mill Creek 98012-5878

Pg 31 Hawkins, William T, Jr, 9630-236<sup>th</sup> Pl SW,  
Edmonds 98020-5642

Pg 57 Ross, Maeve K, 202 NW 100<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle  
98177-4910

Pg 71 Zwaschka, David L., 7011-21<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Seattle  
98115-5713