

Attending: Treasurer Jennifer Altena, Deby Comfort (via zoom), Linda Fitzgerald, Lynda Hughes, Linda Lee, Karen McElliott, President Jim Siscel, VP Cathy Webb

Cathy Webb had set the table with decorations that she had intended to use at the December Board Brunch but was unable to attend because of flooding, this included boxes of freshly baked cookies. President Jim Siscel welcomed everyone and led the flag salute.

Adoption of November Minutes

Both the minutes from the November 13, 2025 Board Meeting and the General Meeting that followed were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer gave the following update on the SKSR accounts:

Checking account balance: \$6,710.16

Dues collected to date for this fiscal year: \$14,175.20

Washington Federal Savings: \$16,272.06

Washington Federal 7-month CD: \$10,132.51

Washington Federal 13-month CD: \$10,126.02

Edward Jones Scholarship Account: \$143,318.19

Winnie Smith Account: \$74,816.12

A motion was made to move \$1000 of Erma's \$10,000 legacy into the '26-'27 grants budget for a budget total of \$16925. This was moved by Lynda Hughes and seconded by Linda Fitzgerald.

Legislative

Jim reported that there is no chance of a permanent TRS1/PERS1 COLA passing in this year's short legislative session and probably not a one-time COLA either. The only positive seems to be that the governor's proposed budget, issued in December, does not include any reduction in the monthly PEBB contribution.

Membership

Jim stated that currently SKSR has 1,379 members, down five members from last month due to deaths. (See Sunshine Report.) Currently, there is one pending new member.

Educator Grants

Karen said that the presenter grants packets have been handed out, and Jim has sent an accompanying email reminding everyone of presentation procedure since there was no presenter meeting. She asked for any new staff meeting dates and requested presenters to send her their presentation photos.

Health

Bruce Caldwell has completed his two health articles. People need to keep looking for a replacement.

Scholarships

Linda Fitzgerald will deliver both the SKSR and the WSSRA scholarship materials next week. Keith will deliver materials to Northshore and Shoreline. They have added a statement about the use of AI to the essay directions. Jim has added all scholarship materials to the SKSR website.

Sunshine

Barb Bumgardner reported that she sent out sympathy cards to the families of Belinda Giles, Elaine Belcher, Robert Bisnett, Francis Fujioka, Robert Gaukshelm, and Brian L. Herbison.

Records

Deby reported on the effort to update member phone numbers. Non-working numbers are being taken off the directory. She maintains three specific lists: current members, dropped members, and the SKSR directory. It was agreed that she would send all board members her monthly list and the list she receives monthly from Michele. (Michele's list does not include cash members in arrears while SKSR waits about four months before removal.)

Website

Jim is maintaining the website, adding grant photos and the scholarship information.

Health Person

Jim has an article that he will submit for the March/April issue of the *Bulletin*. He will also make an announcement at the next meeting and the next *Bulletin*.

Humanities Washington Program Update

A notice about the program was in the January/February Bulletin. Linda Lee will contact the speaker about his audio-visual needs and pass the billing information on to Jennifer. Jim will supply cookies, and Cathy coffee, etc. Noon/meet and greet, 12:30/ESD superintendent district update, 1:00/Felix Banel's presentation "All Over the Map".

December Lunch Report

Jim gave a brief report on the Board Brunch and commented on how sorry everyone was that Cathy, who was the event chair, was unable to attend due to the flooding.

Field Trip

An announcement about the March field trip to the Nordic Museum appeared in the January/February *Bulletin*. So far, she has two people signed up (limit of 25). She will ask Linda Smith to send out an email to local retirees toward the end of February if there are still spaces available. If more than 25 sign up, she will keep a stand-by list in case of cancellations. She will check with the museum again at the end of February to see if there are any changes or updates.

Service Project Update

Lynda Hughes has been in contact with Nourishing Network; they proposed two dates: Mar. 13 or 20. The Friday, Mar. 20 was selected. This will probably be similar to last year when SKSR separated items by expiration dates.

Monthly Responsibilities Handout

Jim passed out copies of the revised Monthly Responsibilities Handout. No discussion.

By-laws Approval Needed at February Meeting

Jim reported that WSSRA wants each unit's by-laws by Apr.2. This means that we need to vote on our recent proposed changes at the February meeting; he will also include the AI statement in the scholarship section that has been recently added. The by-laws need to be presented in the format that is used at Convention for proposed changes. He showed examples of the format.

NW-1 Report

Jim reported that it was a standard meeting with reports Peter Diedrick WSSRA Executive Director, NW-1 district representative, by individuals on the different state committees, and unit reports.

Retirement Seminars

Jim announced this year's ESD seminar dates: Mar 5, 12, 19 and 24. He will need people to assist at the Mar 5, 12, and 19 events; the Mar. 24 event is on Zoom. He will have Linda Smith send out an email announcing the dates to active members. There is limited space.

Student Pictures-Website/Bulletin

It has been brought to Jim's attention that student photos/videos for outside agencies (e.g., SKSR) need an organization specific parent permission instead of relying on the district's form. This is something that we need to think about in terms of the grant photos. The scholarship photos already use a specific release form, and are, therefore, not effected. There was a short discussion about blurring faces and shooting from behind students.

Classified Members and Grants

Deby asked about non-certified members receiving grants and if we should be more specific/inclusive in the guidelines on eligibility for applicants and advertising in the fall. This led to a discussion; topics included the expense of dues for classified employees, what a bus driver grant request could look like, how non-certs would know they can apply since they typically don't attend staff meetings. One suggestion was a email/poster targeted to principals and telling them what they could request (if they were SKSR members) for non-cert needs (e.g., fidget spinners, stuffies, treats) if they submitted a grant application.

April and May Programs

Jennifer has been able to connect with Debbie Dimetri and confirmed "Nellie Bly" for May. Jim is still trying to connect with the proposed April speaker.

Project Share Tasks

Jim found Project Share Tasks procedures (Picnic and Fall and Spring meetings) which he thinks were written up by Erma. Lynda H. will update

the one for Fall/Spring, and Jim will ask Jan to look at the one for the picnic.

Bulletin articles are due February 13.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen McElliott, Acting Secretary