

Members and guests gathered at Edmonds City Park and visited until noon at which time, Cathy Webb explained the procedure for lunches and water.

At 12:30, Jim Siscel introduced SKSR's guests from WSSRA: Executive Director Dr. Alan Burke, President Ron Crawford, and President-Elect Kay Bishop.

Ron spoke briefly about WSSRA's success with its legislative initiatives this past session, thanks to the excellent work of the Legislative Committee and WSSRA legislative staff. One of the coming year's goals will be to increase membership by 3%; units have a choice of incentives to encourage new members; Jim Siscel commented that SKSR has chosen to replace the \$10 rebate with a \$15 Starbucks card. Ron pointed to the dramatic increase in scholarship applications (from 39? In 2022 to 196 this year) as a positive sign. He stated that one of the key words for the coming year would be "rejuvenation."

Dr. Alan Burke installed SKSR officers for the coming year: Vice President Cathy Webb, Treasurer Jennifer Altena, and Secretary Jan Philips.

Jim introduced Michele Hunter, WSSRA membership coordinator. He spoke to her efficiency and the amount of information she provides him and Erma Snook about all aspects of our members' status. He summed up her importance by calling her indispensable. Jim presented Michele with a certificate of appreciation of her outstanding support.

Rita Requa spoke about WSSR-PAC. Information strips and a donation envelope had been placed at each table. Rita reported that Plan 1 members would see a 3% increase on their next pension check. She recommended that they compare the new total amount with the previous one, and then donate this one-month difference to the PAC for its work.

Karen McElliott introduced three of this year's grant recipients: Cindy Ebisu, Matt Grover, and Susan Sellers. Each recipient spoke briefly about the grants and the impact on their classrooms.

Cathy Webb announced that there were 41 attendees at the picnic, the most attendees at any 2022-23 SKSR event. She then introduced Tom Hawkins and thanked him for his service as SKSR treasurer for the last 11 years. She stated that during his tenure, Tom converted all the treasurer's records from paper to computer spreadsheets. This has made for a smooth transition for our new treasurer. Tom was presented with a gift certificate to Anthony's for his years of services to SKSR.

Cathy then recognized long-serving board members, highlighting the dedication and committed services performed to keep the organization working smoothly: Barbara Berg, Barb Bumgardner, Jo Caldwell, Linda Fitzgerald, Marlene Johnson, Keith Lindaas, Karen McElliott, Donna Murrish, Evie Nordeen, Jan Phillips, Robin Randles, Virg Rayton, Rita Requa, Jim Siscel.

Cathy challenged each member present to talk to at least one person in the next month and ask the following questions: how are you feeling about your retirement? What kinds of activities are you involved in? What do you see as your biggest needs for the future? The Board will use responses to direct decisions, craft events, adjust activities, and improve access to resources for our members. Cathy cited rising food costs as an example of the importance of hearing from members. Cathy asked those present to talk with a board member about opinions, wishes, and insights. Members were invited to attend the August planning retreat and should contact Cathy Webb for details.

The picnic was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen McElliott, Acting Secretary