

The Voice



A Newsletter for Yakima County School Retirees

December 2023

DECEMBER'S MESSAGE

By Paul Schafer, Unit 34 President of the Month

As most of you know, I collect, buy and sell postcards (pcs) So as your presiding officer for December, I thought I would take this space to tell you a little bit about my non paying, but not terribly expensive and interesting hobby.

COLLECT: 1. I collect my family and my wife's family postcards so our kids & grandkids will know something visual about their ancestry. Will they be interested? I dunno, but I try. 2. I also collect pcs about Yakima City and Valley for, you guessed it - historical value. I hope someday to publish postcards from Yakima and or postcards

to Yakima. It is an interesting historical record. I am currently looking for pcs of Chinese people in NORTH YAKIMA, and also a pc of the Skeleton Hotel (if you don't know what that is - come to the December 4 meeting and ask)

BUY: I do buy but this is not a fast growing business. Also, since I already have about 90,000 pcs for sale, I cannot pay much when I do buy, but I am glad to look at yours and advise. After purchase, I run through the new pcs - but as anyone who knows me, I am easily distracted (example = at Dec. 4th meeting) and I file the pcs either under state of nation or subject matter (example - trains under RR). I, of course keep checking for unusual or rare cards about Yakima & NORTH YAKIMA.

SELL: My pcs for sale are currently in booth 21 at Yesterday's Village, Mall and Antiques, located in the remaining Holtzinger Building at 15 W. Yakima Ave, west of the train depot and tracks. Current rate of sales are about 3,000 on a yearly average. Some months, I make the monthly rental and some months I do not.

But it is an interesting business and you are more than welcome to come in, grab a coffee and spend a little bit of time looking over some very interesting cards - decorative-historical-whimsical-comical, whatever your choice. You do not have to buy. Hopefully you will, but if not I am just as happy to have you look and enjoy and learn. I could not say that if it was a really expensive hobby.

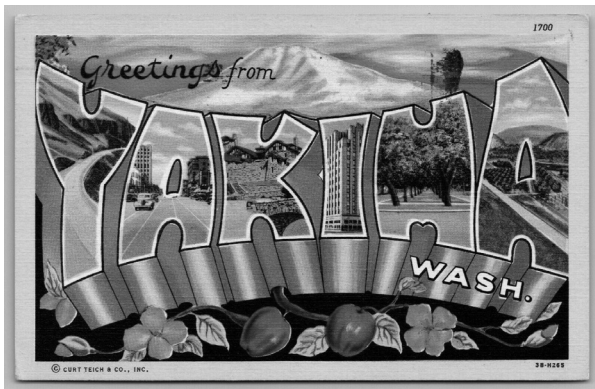
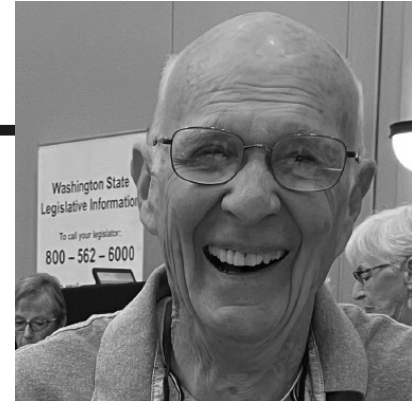
A QUICK UPDATE

FYI from Paul Schafer

November 9, WSSRA hosted a webinar on Estate Planning. It was recorded and is available for viewing on the WSSRA website anytime. Go to: wssra.org

The Open Enrollment period for PEBB Health Plans closes Nov. 30, 2023. The changes will begin January 2024. The next open enrollment period will be in the fall of 2024.

The pre-retirement workshops have been held via Webinars. If you missed the presentations, they are recorded and available for viewing anytime on the state website wssra.org.





THE VOICE

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509 966 9341

GENERAL MEETING

When: Monday, December 4, 2023

Where: Englewood Christian Church, 512 N 44th Avenue

Fellowship: 12:30 pm

Treats are provided. This is an opportunity to visit.

Program: 1:00 pm

We will have a Flute Trio from the Flute Troupe, Sandy Rikerd, Dianne Kinney, & Janni Holsclaw will perform.

The following people have signed up to bring

FOOD

Coreen Fortin 509 966 2669
Willie Sgambelluri 509 453 9473
Jeannie Ferguson 509 901 4570
Jan Saxton 509 658 1527
Kathy Schultz 509 966 9341

DRAWING PRIZES

Al Palm 509 966 0331
Net Palm 509 966 0331
Jeannie Ferguson 509 901 4570
Nick Schultz 509 966 9341
Connie Carpenter 509 388 6252

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“Do more of what makes you happy!”

**Make sure we have
your proper email**

If you have changed your email address in the last year, please send me a corrected one. Thanks!
Sandy Gavin, sandyg1948@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in **The Voice** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the view of the YCSRA Board or the editors. Editorial contributions and articles as well as ideas for articles are welcome. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Send information to Kathy Schultz. Co-editors. Kathy Schultz • 509 966 9341 chevvhvn@charter.net Eric Patrick • 509 985 7768 ecpatrick@charter.net

WE SEND OUT WSSRA GREETINGS!

Let's support our members with get well wishes, condolences, thank yous, congratulations, thinking of you and more. Email or call me with names and I'll get the card(s) sent out for you. Email: cmstenehjem@msn.com or 509-966-3409. Leave a message if no one answers.

~ Millie Stenehjem



SENIOR SAFETY

How to See Better in the Dark AARP The Magazine Oct/Nov 2023

Driving as little as possible after dark is safety tip number one. But sometimes, especially when the days grow shorter, that simply isn't an option. To maximize your vision:

1. Use your brights at night in all cases, except when there are oncoming cars. Drivers often don't see as well at night as they think they do, and high beams give them the best chance of reacting fast enough to an unexpected hazard.
2. Don't economize! When buying a new or used car look for models with top-rated headlights (go to iihs.org/ratings to find a car's safety ratings). When given a choice, opt for the best headlights available.



3. If your car is several years old, consider getting your headlights and casings replaced.

A 2018 study by AAA found that in at least two popular sedan models, degraded headlights and yellowed headlight casings meant that on low beams, the headlights were emitting just 22 percent of the light new ones would provide, making night driving more hazardous.

4. Keep your windshield and headlights cleaned for obvious reasons.
5. Reset the illumination levels of your dashboard lights and any in-car screens to low. Bright light inside makes it harder to see outside.
6. Don't skip the after-dinner coffee. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that in 2017, 91,000 police-reported crashes involved drowsy drivers



Nick driving his Oliver tractor in the Yakima Veteran's Day Parade pulling the silhouette of the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima he made





QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Why do YOU belong to Yakima County School Retirees?

After I retired I began missing teachers. I saw a notice in the newspaper about YCSRA, I attended my first meeting and won a drawing prize made by Nick Schultz—a planter box! A few days later, I got a phone call from Jo Tollefson. She asked me out to lunch! Long story short... I not only joined I became YCSRA vice president.
~ **Norma Haney**

It is the only group that works to improve my retirement benefits.
~ **Larry Scholl**

There is strength and good results from being active in YCSRA-Olympia pays attention.
~ **Becky Scholl**

It is good to see at least a few of my peers.
~ **Paul Schafer**

To stay in touch with retirement issues.
~ **Lynda Bauer**

To keep in up to date on pension issues and to see friends.
~ **Jane Butler Nix**

To support retired teachers.
~ **Robert Swope**

When I look into your eyes, I see support, meaning and purpose for one and all of us.
~ **Willie Sgambelluri**

Because I'm a retired educator and it's a great bunch of people.
~ **Coreen Fortin**

I'm a team player. Retired teachers are caring people.
~ **Anonymous**

I am interested in the future of young people and their education. I enjoy meeting new people.
~ **Steve Delude**

For the great programs and seeing friends.
~ **Jan Saxton**

The many wonderful people who belong to this group.
~ **Linda Trepanier**

Camaraderie and recognition of life's accomplishments.
~ **Connie Carpenter**

I really love the socialization, plus I need to keep up with what's going on with state.
~ **Nancy Lindgren**

To continue to share the journey.
~ **Chuck Weedin**

There are a number of reasons why I belong—seeing former co-workers, meeting new friends & staying on top of the legislative issues.
~ **Linda Sumner**

Because it's fun! Good to see folks who shared a career and get ideas for projects & books.
~ **Millie Stenehjerm**

Why not?
~ **George Pickard**

Why not? This group helps so much.
~ **Anonymous**

A good group of professional and interesting speakers! Thank you.
~ **Carol Mills**

Friends, info and food.
~ **Jane Watson**



We always have interesting speakers, great camaraderie with fellow members & informative updates on legislative action.
~ **Rosie Churchley**

When I was employed I served as a WEA building rep. Our focus was providing a living wage, planning time, professional development, class size, etc. As a retiree, I'm still focused on working on quality of life issues which include a permanent COLA and good health care. To quote Kathy Fletcher "If you don't have a seat at the table, you are on the menu". We need to advocate for our

retirement benefits.
~ **Kathy Schultz**

After Kathy and I moved here in 2000, she noticed an item in the paper about a meeting of school retirees. We went, enjoyed the people we met and felt very welcome. We have attended since. Along the way we have served on many committees and each of us and together served as president. Our retirement is richer because of all the people we have met.
~ **Nick Schultz**

To bring down the average age by a few years!
~ **Anonymous**



NEW WEBSITE COMING

OUR YSCRA WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION yakima-county-sra.org

We are happy to announce that our website is being reconstructed. For the past two years there were issues of neglect that rendered our website non viable. Unfortunately, our former webmaster was ill (unknown to us) and he died in May. It has taken months but we are finally able to get the site updated and working for us again. Our new webmaster is local and very easy to work with. We will continue to make changes as needed. The address now has 2 hyphens!

Introducing: JON KLARICH, Our New Webmaster yakima-county-sra.org

I grew up in Granger and attended school K-12 there. My parents were both teachers. I attended WSU graduating with BAs in History, Anthropology, Social Studies, a minor in English and a teaching degree. I taught and coached for 12+ years. I have a wife and two adult children. My wife teaches and has coached in Granger and my daughter teaches and coaches (middle school and college level) in Vancouver. My 2 siblings and their spouses teach as did my father-in-law and brother-in-law and his spouse. Even my wife's grandfather was a teacher.

When we moved back to Granger in 2004 I became "Mr. Mom" to take care of the house and kids and started my video, technology & website business - KlarichCreation. I currently do video work, sports highlights and scouting of opponents for both high schools and colleges, basic IT work, in-home technology troubleshooting, and have created over 20 websites which I manage.

Contact info: (509) 594-0193, jonklarich@gmail.com, klarichcreation.com



MINI CHEESE CAKES by Kathy Schultz

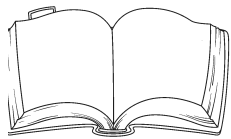
Ingredients:

2 8oz cream cheese
2 eggs beaten slightly
1 tsp vanilla
Cherry Pie Filling

1/2 C sugar
1/2 tsp salt
16-20 vanilla wafers

Directions:

Combine first 5 ingredients in bowl and beat for 5 minutes. Put muffin papers in muffin tins. Place vanilla wafer in each paper. Spoon cream cheese mixture into paper. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Let cool and top with cherry pie filling.



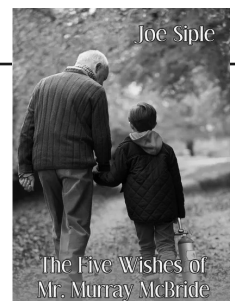
Book Corner

THE FIVE WISHES OF MR. MURRAY McBRIDE by Joe Siple

At 100 years old, Murray McBride has outlived everyone he's ever loved. But when he meets Jason Cashman, a 10-year-old boy with a terminal illness, Murray may learn something about finding meaning in life as he helps his young friend fulfill his last wishes.

With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies.

Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.



The Yakima County School Retirees' wish you ...

HAPPY
Holidays



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