

The Voice



A Newsletter for Yakima County School Retirees

May 2024

MAY'S MESSAGE

By Jan Saxton, Welcome & Registration

This month is the last meeting of YCSRA for the year. Thanks to all the board members who have served as presidents each month. We have had some outstanding programs this year from local author, Rob Phillips, Harmon Center Trips and Tours, Fort Simcoe Job Corps Civilian Conservation and Yakima Valley Pet Rescue to name a few. It is so rewarding to be around retirees who are so active and generous with their time.

I used to tell my mom and dad that I needed to make an appointment to see them once they retired because they were so busy. I keep pretty busy myself. I like to quilt and knit. I also belong to a book club, quilt club and a Bible study and of course YCSRA. In the spring and summer, I enjoy hiking with friends. Last summer I began volunteering at "Petals for Patients" a nonprofit flower farm, I help make bouquets for delivery. We also have a new lab puppy who keeps us very busy, (not my best idea to get a pup in the winter). It is so wonderful to be able to enjoy retirement. See you again in October. Enjoy your summer.



MAY PROGRAM INFORMATION

We will be serving a box lunch at 12:30 pm

The Camerata Club of Yakima at 1:00 pm

This month's program will be The Camerata Club of Yakima. The Camerata Club of Yakima is a non-profit organization of men who love to sing and to support our young valley musicians with scholarship funds. This year's scholarships have been supported by contributions from the Sundquist Fund, the Yakima County School Retirees Association and the Ruth Luhman Outreach Fund at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.



Camerata Club of Yakima

Camerata will present its Free Admission Spring Concert Sunday, April 28, 3 pm at Englewood Christian Church with guest choir 'Voices United Youth Choir'. For details visit: <https://yakimacanticus.com/>



Music Scholarship Winners 2024

1st Place	Xinyi Wang	Flute	West Valley High School	\$1,750.00
2nd Place	Issac Jensen	Marimba	Highland High School	\$1,500.00
3rd Place	Hannah Rees	Trombone	Selah High School	\$1,250.00
4th Place	Lucy Sawyer	Flute	West Valley High School	\$1,000.00
5th Place	Beau Kinley	Double Bass	Selah High School	\$500.00



THE VOICE

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Coreen Fortin
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509 966 9341

GENERAL MEETING

When: Monday, May 6

Where: Englewood Christian Church, 511 N 44th Avenue

Fellowship: 12:30 pm

Coffee/tea and bottled water will be provided with LUNCH served by the YCSRA Board.

Program: 1:00 pm

The Camerata Club (a singing ensemble) will perform for us. Our special guests will be Alan Burke, current WSSRA Executive Director and Shirley Jellum, E5 Rep to the WSSRA State Board.

The following people have signed up to bring:

DRAWING PRIZES

Millie Stenehjem	509-966-3409	Norma Haney	509-966-6441
Steve Delude	509-952-9855	Pat Walsh	509-391-4906
Linda Trepanier	509-966-7430	Kathy Schultz	509-966-9341

TWO OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Host traveling members of Yakima Symphony.
You provide a bed and a meal.
2. Yakima County Arbitration Service needs volunteers!
You receive training before you hear your case.

IF INTERESTED, CALL PAUL SCHAFFER - 509 453 2606

**HOST OR
VOLUNTEER**

**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 chevhyvn@charter.net Eric Patrick • 509 985 7768 ecpatrick@charter.net

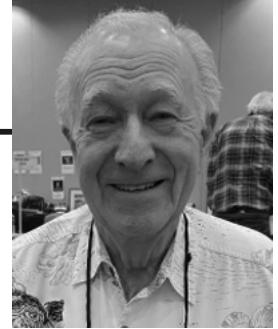
WE SEND OUT WSSRA GREETINGS!

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



LEGISLATIVE REPORT



By Larry Scholl

Legislative Report Washington State School Retirees - Political Action Committee

2024 is an election year for the State of Washington. All of the state’s legislative representatives and half of the state’s senators are up for re-election or replacement. To add to the drama, several of the legislative boundaries in central Washington have been redrawn by a federal judge to give Latino voters a better chance to elect a representative from their majority Latino communities.

Districts 14 and 15 pretty much “flip-flopped”, leaving no incumbents now in District 14 and the incumbents who were in District 14 are now in District 15. Are we confused yet?

I haven’t made an appeal for PAC money for over two years but this is a year when we need to be financially active in the political process. The WSSRA has been actively involved this year, with its separate PAC organization, in getting legislation through the legislature to grant Plan 1 school retirees a one-time 3% COLA. This monthly benefit increase

will amount to about \$50 to \$60 per month for most retirees beginning in July. The legislation has a benefit ceiling of \$110 per month for higher wage/benefit earners. Your WSSRA has successfully received a 3% COLA for its members during 5 out of the last 8 legislative sessions.

We have many legislative races that we need to analyze and support candidates who are sympathetic to the plight of Plan 1 school retirees; the only state retirement group with no built in COLA in its retirement plan.

Again, I have not asked for PAC contributions for two years. In each of the last two years Plan 1 retirees have received a 3% COLA.

This year I am asking that you consider making a PAC contribution of 1 month of your COLA increase for each of the last two years. That will be a total contribution of \$100. I know that is a big “ASK” but PAC money is extremely important in today’s political climate. Campaign money to area legislators gets me in the door of their offices to appeal for increased Plan 1 retiree benefits. To think that they don’t know/care who does and who does not contribute to their campaigns is being naïve. Candidates need to see that WSSRA is a large and powerful voting block. Seniors vote in much higher percentages than do younger voters. We can be an

important influence in the upcoming elections but, unfortunately, it takes money to get our voice heard. Thank you for your support.

Contributions can be brought to the next monthly meeting on May 6th or sent to me. Do not bring or send cash. Checks need to be made out to: WSSR-PAC.

Mailing address:

Larry Scholl
5910 W Lincoln Ave #39
Yakima, WA 98908





QUESTION OF THE MONTH



What are your plans for the summer of 2024?

Performing with the Yakima Valley Band. ~ Bob Ferguson

I'm going to raise tomatoes. ~ Peggy Campbell

Garden, Garden, Garden! ~ Maureen Scott

Hopefully some bike riding, camping, traveling and of course, working around the house and yard.

~ Coreen Fortin

Hopefully, some hiking with friends. ~ Jan Saxton

Summer?!? I'm retired-everyday is summer. ~ Anonymous

Going to Calabria, Italy to visit relatives.

~ Willie Sgambelluri

After all the car show and tours, I'm ready for a road trip.

~ Becky Scholl

To make it through to Fall!~ George Pickard

First week in May-Lighthouse Keeper on the Peninsula for a one week stay. After that a few Mystery Trips through the Harman Center. ~ Norma Haney

My son and I are going to Aurora, Colorado for a few days in May. The summer will be spent getting stronger and to get better balance. ~ Peggy Young

My garden will be featured on the Arboretum Garden Tour.....so prepping, enjoying and then collapsing!

~ Rosemary Saul

Gain weight ~ Anonymous

A trip to Denmark with a native speaker friend

~ Anonymous

Enjoy the beauty of summer in such places as Yakima (and Chelan and Hawaii-Aloha). Also, worry about man's behavior on our planet. ~ Chuck Weedin

Our granddaughter graduates from High School in June. Maybe a couple car trips? Go to Hawaii in May.

~ Millie Stenehjelm

Planting dahlias. Weeding dahlias. Watering dahlias. Dead heading dahlias. ~ "Casey" Ken Stenehjelm

Visiting my daughter Judy in Tucson, Arizona.

~ Barbara Merz

Time at the cabin, hopefully, with grandkids.

~ Paul Schafer

Go to our mountain cabin to relax and watch wildlife.

~ Sandy Towell

Summer School Bible Conference in Charlottesville, VA.

~ Connie Carpenter

Two trips through the Harman Center. Several planned hiking trips, a couple car shows, a little fishing and spending time with grandkids and family. ~ Nick Schultz

We are planning a trip with my three sisters to visit cousins in North Dakota. We had planned this last fall but one of our cousins died so we postponed to this summer.

I am enjoying our 20 year old grandson who is living with us through March 2025 as he attends Perry Tech. He is enrolled in Home Construction. Also, our 11 year old

granddaughter who lives in Seattle will spend 5 days with us in August before school starts. This is our third annual

visit. I cherish these times with our grandkids.

~ Kathy Schultz

Just read and relax enjoying the sunshine. We'll maybe go to the ocean for a few days. ~ Linda Trepanier

We are finishing a year long project remodeling our house.

~ John Osegueda

We are planning a big birthday party for our Aunt who will be 100 in June. My husband and I will attend several

car shows this summer. ~ Linda Sumner





BITS & PIECES



By Peter Diedrick, WSSRA Legislative Coordinator

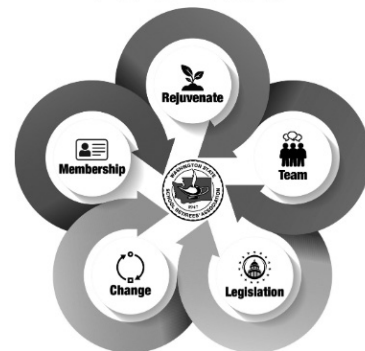
It's always fun sharing good news! The WSSRA legislative team is happy to report that a Plan 1 COLA has passed for 2024, medical benefits are maintained, and the actuarially recommended pension payment is being made to the pension funds. Legislators adjourned the 2024 Legislative Session on March 7. Governor Inslee completed signing and vetoing bills on March 30.

The legislative landscape will be different in the late summer and autumn when retiree meetings pick up again. There are several changes taking place:

- We're having a transition at the WSSRA Office. Dr. Burke is retiring, and I am taking on the Executive Director position. We will have a new legislative staff member to introduce to the Association.
- Major elections are happening this autumn. The Primary Election is August 6 and the General Election is November 5. All statewide elected positions, half the state senate, the entire state house of representatives, and three major initiatives are on the ballot. That's without including the federal and local races.
- The Select Committee on Pension Policy at the Washington State Legislature is studying the potential implementation of a new permanent, automatic COLA for Plan 1 retirees. They are required to submit an annual Plan 1 COLA recommendation to the Legislature at the end of this year. Expect meetings and votes on this between September and November.

2023-2024 Annual Convention June 3-5 Wenatchee Convention Center

WSSRA GOALS 2023 - 2024



THANK YOU for your work in communicating with legislators! Hopefully we'll see you at the WSSRA convention in Wenatchee, WA this June 3-5.



RHUBARB OAT CRUMBLE: FOSTER GRANDPARENTS' KITCHEN

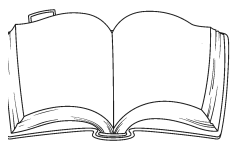
Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 cup rolled oats | 1 cup flour |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| ½ cup butter or margarine | 1 cup granulated sugar |
| 2 TBS. cornstarch | 1 cup water |
| 1 tsp vanilla | A few drops red food coloring |
| 4 cups diced rhubarb | |

Instructions:

Combine oats, brown sugar, flour and cinnamon. Add butter and crumble. Pack ½ of the mixture into a 9" square pan. Spread rhubarb over the top. In a pan combine white sugar and cornstarch. Add water and cook till thickened. Add vanilla and food coloring. Pour over rhubarb. Sprinkle the remaining crumb mixture over top and bake for 50 minutes until richly browned.

Submitted by Jan Saxton



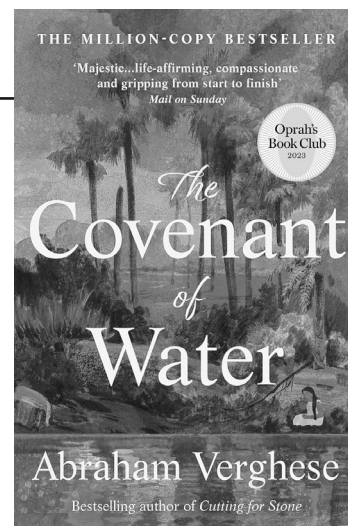
Book Corner

Book Review submitted by Jan Saxton

“The Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, “The Covenant of Water” is set in Kerala, on India’s Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning-and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala’s Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year -old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl-and future matriarch, Big Ammachi - will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants. (review from Goodreads website)

“I enjoyed listening to the audio version of this book.” Jan Saxton



Retiring Soon?

Visit wssra.org website. Click on Webinars; choose March 14 and/or March 19. They are available at your convenience.

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