

# The Voice



A Newsletter for Yakima County School Retirees

May 2026

## YCSRA: Year of Programs in Review MANY THANKS TO OUR "PRESIDENTS OF THE MONTH" !



Nick and Kathy Schultz  
May Presidents

Program arranged by May Presidents of the Month, Nick and Kathy Schultz

October 2025 Program arranged by Millie Stenehjelm - Walking the Camino de Santiago

November 2025 Program - Local Legislators arranged by Larry Scholl.

December 2025 - 'The Rest of the Story' told by Paul Schafer and Sheila Wilson leading us in singing Christmas carols. The Mini-grant Winners were announced by Linda Sumner.

February 2026 - Mat Yoga - Jan Saxton

March 2026 - Stephanie King, Outstanding Educator - arranged by Patrick Walsh

April 2026 - Physical Therapist-Darren Joffs, PT, arranged by Jon Osegueda.

May 4, 2026 - Join us for a fun time: Nick and Kathy Schultz - Lunch provided and "Bingo for Bucks" - Spring Theme drawing prizes.

### Why our meetings are so great!

- Everyone is warmly greeted by Jan Saxton and Coreen Fortin as they arrive. They also acknowledge first time attendees with a token of appreciation and have 4 drawing prizes to restaurants each meeting.
- Thanks to Peggy Young and Linda Sumner for always making our meeting place a welcome space. And to all the attendees who volunteer to bring treats and drawing prizes.
- To all of you who buy tickets to support the WSSR-Foundation. Donations for drawing prizes each meeting that go to scholarships for future teachers. At our April 6, meeting we collected \$149.

### Kudos to:

- Jon Klarich and Sandy Gavin for donating their time to make sure you receive your issue of The Voice in the format you wish.
- Sue Osegueda who will become senior editor of The Voice for the 2026-27 school year.
- Jon Osegueda who has volunteered to serve as E5 Rep to the WSSRA Board for a 3 year term.
- And to all our members who faithfully attend the monthly YCSRA meetings.

## YCSRA CONVENTION

This year we are meeting at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA, June 8, 9, & 10. We have 19 people signed up attend as delegates or guests. YCSRA pays all your expenses. If you would like to be involved without attending, come to our May 4 General meeting and bring a bottle(s) of wine to be donated to the fundraiser for the WSSR-PAC. You could also donate money to the fundraiser for scholarships.





## THE VOICE

### Board of Directors

#### Unit Contact

Nick & Kathy Schultz  
509 966 9341

#### Secretary

Debbie Dougherty  
509 594 5270

#### Treasurer/Community Service

Ulla Whitmont  
509 260 0192

#### Health Services/Memorials

John Osegueda  
509 952 9457

#### Legislative

Larry Scholl  
509 966 0801

#### Membership

Patrick Walsh  
509 391 4906

#### Retirement

Paul Schafer  
509 453 2606

#### Social

Peggy Young  
509 453 7250

#### Historian

Peggy Campbell  
509 453 1680

#### Sunshine

Millie Stenehjem  
509 966 3409

#### Web Coordinator

Sandy Gavin  
509 952 9855

#### Outreach

Jan Saxton  
509 658 1527

#### Welcome/Registration

Jan Saxton  
509 658 1527

#### Coreen Fortin

509 966 2669

#### Mini-grants

Linda Sumner  
509 248 1875

# GENERAL MEETING

**When:** Monday, May 4, 2026

**Where:** Englewood Christian Church, 511 N 44th Avenue

**Fellowship:** 12:30 pm

Lunch will be served, including beverages

**Program:** "Bingo for Bucks"

Nick Schultz will call the Bingo Games

The Following People have signed up to bring:

### LUNCH

1. Millie Stenehjem 509 966 3409
2. Sue & Jon Osegueda 509 952 3295
3. Sandy Gavin 509 952 9855
4. Nick Schultz 509 966 9341
5. Kathy Schultz 509 966 9341

### DRAWING PRIZES (Spring Theme)

1. Millie Stenehjem 509 966 3409
2. Pat Walsh 509 391 4906
3. Sandy Gavin 509 952 9855
4. Kathy Fletcher 509 654 0350
5. Sheila Wilson 509 969 8981

If you want your issue of  
'The Voice' delivered by e-mail,  
**YOU** must be certain that Sandy Gavin  
has your current email address:  
[sandyg1948@gmail.com](mailto:sandyg1948@gmail.com)

The newsletter will come from  
[newsletter@yakima-county-sra.org](mailto:newsletter@yakima-county-sra.org)



**Make sure we  
have your  
proper email**

If you have changed your email address in the last year or you are not receiving your newsletter by your preferred method, please let Sandy Gavin know ASAP. Thanks!  
Sandy Gavin, [sandyg1948@gmail.com](mailto: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 12th of each month.

Send information to Kathy Schultz.

Co-editors. Kathy Schultz • 509 966 9341

[chevyhvn@icloud.com](mailto:chevyhvn@icloud.com)

Sue Ryan-Osegueda • 509 895 4231

[yakavegas@gmail.com](mailto:yakavegas@gmail.com)

Design. Eric Patrick • 509 985 7768

[ecpatrick@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:cmstenehjem@msn.com) or 509-966-3409. Leave a message if no one answers.

~ Millie Stenehjem



# MINI-GRANT WINNERS

By Linda Sumner, Mini-Grant Coordinator

“Shout out to YCSRA for the \$500 which helped fund the Tap Root Theater play “Pet School.” Our whole student body (K-5) learned the 3 R’s of bullying: recognize, report and refuse. Plus, it showed students how to go from being a bystander to being an upstander. Thank you for the opportunity for all McClure students to learn through the performing arts.” – Suki Covell



Linda Sumner with Suki Covell  
Mini-Grant Winner



# HEALTH MATTERS

## STATE HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

By Shirlee Jellum, E5 District Rep

The committee met on March 31 and shared articles members have written for their newsletters and/or *The Journal* (topics included sugar, back pain, health benefits of travel and gardening, dementia).

Myra Muto will publish an article in *The Journal* this summer about the West Coast Health Alliance, and Geri Dennis will publish an article about Bone Density (issues, exercises, strength training) in the fall.

The committee will look at updating the Health Services Committee handbook at their June meeting and will start planning for the 2027 convention early fall.

2026 Convention: The Health Services Committee will hold a raffle. Items include Fingertip Pulse Oximeter Blood Oxygen Saturation Monitor, First Aid kit, Jar Opener kit, and books (*Chair Yoga, Being Mortal, Ganbatta! The Japanese Art of Always Moving Forward*). Raffle drawings will take place after dinner on Monday and Tuesday.

Free items will include *5 Wishes* booklet, *File of Life*, and healthy snacks. Copies of *The Journal* will also be available.

The Western Washington Alzheimer’s Association will attend the Health Committee Meeting at the convention.



# From the Kitchen

## Jello Jams from the Schultz Family Cookbook Rhubarb/Fruit Jams

### INGREDIENTS

- 7 Cups Rhubarb, cut into 1/2" pieces
- 4 Cups Sugar
- 1 Can Pie Filling
- 2 pkgs 3oz Jello (or) 1pk 6oz Jello



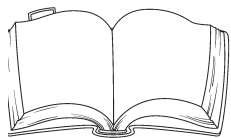
**Favorite Recipes from Our Members**

### DIRECTIONS

1. Place rhubarb, sugar and pie filling in a bowl and let stand for 1 hour.
2. Put mixture in blender and blend slightly.
3. Put on stove and simmer for 15 minutes.
4. Add two 3oz packages of 3oz jello (or) one 6oz jello.
5. Put in jars and process for 20 minutes.

### COMBINATIONS SUGGESTIONS

- Blueberry Pie Filling and blueberry jello.
- Cherry Pie Filling and cherry jello.
- Peach Pie Filling and peach jello or orange jello.
- Strawberry Pie Filling and strawberry jello.
- To make raspberry jam follow the same directions but use one 10oz frozen raspberries and raspberry jello.



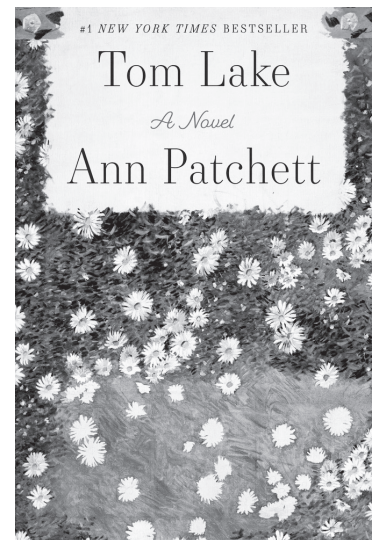
# Book Corner

**Tom Lake** by Ann Patchett. Submitted by **Kathy Schultz**

In this beautiful and moving novel about family, love, and growing up, Ann Patchett once again proves herself one of America's finest writers.

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.



Amazon Book Review



# MAY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## APPEAL FOR PAC

By Larry Scholl

Your WSSRA Legislative team successfully lobbied the Washington State Legislature for a one-time 3% COLA and maintained the \$183 per month for those eligible for the Medicare Health Insurance Benefit. The Governor has signed the COLA increase into law. The 3% benefit increase has a maximum of \$110 per month. For most Plan 1 retirees, the benefit increase will be something around \$60 per month. Plan 1 members can expect to see the COLA increase on their July retirement benefit. Retired Plan 2 and 3 members, who are Medicare eligible, will also continue to see the \$183 per month health insurance benefit.



Last Last year was not an election year for most legislators and we did not ask any of our members to contribute to our WSSR-Political Action Committee (PAC), which is a separate organization from the Washington State School Retirees' Association (WSSRA).

However, this year all seats in the legislature are up for election or re-election. All candidates will be seeking contributions to help fund their campaigns. Your PAC committee carefully looks at every candidate before deciding to endorse or contribute

funds to their campaign. When we ask for support from a legislator on a COLA item, etc., they know if we helped get them elected. Unfortunately, that is the way the political game is played these days.



As a group, we have not done very well in the past to support candidates. The same 15 or 20 retirees, out of our local organization of about 1500 members, contribute. That is less than 2%. If we want to compete with other lobby groups, like firefighters, we must do dramatically better.

### How To Donate to WSSR-PAC

You will soon be receiving a 3% COLA from recent legislative action. For most retirees, that is about \$60 per month.

Please consider sending a check for 1/12 of that yearly benefit increase, or about \$50, to your PAC. Please send more if you are able.

Please make check payable to: WSSR-PAC. Please send checks (no cash) to:

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



# Coordinating Council

## STATE MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES: APRIL 8, 2026

### By Shirlee Jellum District 5 Rep to WSSRA Board

Membership totals 16,880, up 47 from last month but down from last year. We often lose actives who change jobs, take a leave of absence or who lose their payroll deduction. New membership processing time is typically 1-2 months. Final counts end on March 31 after which time incentive payments will be given to units.

Note! Several units will receive a 3%, 5%, or 7% incentive payment (\$100, \$200, or \$300) for increasing membership based on a percentage of their total numbers.

The membership committee voted unanimously to recommend to the board to continue the incentive bonuses next year.

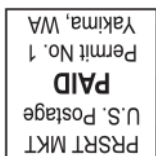
### Several units shared successful strategies for membership recruitment:

- Recognize active staff during Teacher Appreciation Week with snack trays (and WSSRA brochures)

- Invite retirees to year-end celebration, give them gift bags and invite them to join unit
- Give mini-grants to principals to benefit students school wide (i.e., library books)
- Contact district HR for names of staff retiring (or look on web page school board notes); send letters of invites to retirees and provide names to Michele
- Encourage superintendents to join (provide time for them at meeting to give updates on district)
- Use PEBB Medicare supplement (\$183 per month) as an incentive to join (\$43,000 saved over 20 years)

The fall blind mailing resulted in 128 new members. WSSRA is getting ready for the spring mailing. AMBA pays  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cost.

The membership meeting at the convention will include presentations by AMBA and Alan Burke and time for units to share ideas. The new membership recruitment book will be available.



Yakima County  
School Retirees' Association  
4708 Fechter Rd  
Yakima, WA 98908

