



# Bits & Pieces

[www.wssra-units.org/thurstoncounty/](http://www.wssra-units.org/thurstoncounty/) December 2022

Unit 28 of the Washington State School Retirees' Association  
*Serving retired and active school employees and our community.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill*

*"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving." Albert Einstein*

Generosity is a quality that benefits the self and the other. Although giving makes the self feel good, the greatest benefit of altruism is the work it does in the community and the world.

In October TCSRA received the WSSRA Unit of Highest Distinction Award. The award is based on the achievement of up to 21 goals. Generosity is reflected in several of them involving WSSRA/TCSRA organizational activities, as well as those in the community.

TCSRA members are a generous group, who give of themselves with both time and money. At the annual 2022 convention, TCSRA members provided twelve baskets, as well as silent auction items, for WSSR scholarships. Many helped by setting up, greeting attendees, and taking tickets.

In addition to their work for the unit, individuals give generously of their time and talent in many other ways. **Dorn Barr** served nine years on the NTEF board; **Karen Coulson** supports a Seattle Children's Guild; **Sally Jones** is pianist for her church; **Nancy Peebles** and **Jo Edwards** volunteer in elementary schools and tutor kids; **Karen Keller** volunteered for more than a decade at Centennial Station; **Arlene Reynolds** volunteered at the Nisqually National Wildlife Center; **Gery Gerst** volunteers at the Latino Food Bank; the late **Paul Seabert** was known as Mr. Downtown for his work with the Olympia Downtown Association; **Jim Slosson** is "Mr Fixit" for his church; and the list goes on.

*And we do not forget our active members who go way beyond their job descriptions every day!*

TCSRA is always striving for excellence. Thank you for your service and generosity. We look forward to hearing from others about their involvement!

*Sue Shannon, TCSRA President*

## JOIN US FOR HOLIDAY MUSIC

You will not want to miss our December luncheon, featuring entertainment by the 15-member Timberline High School Choir, directed by Terry Shaw.

Terry began teaching choir at Timberline High School in 2001. Beginning with two choirs and 37 students, he increased Timberline Choirs to four full time choirs and two after-school choirs, including the world-famous Timberline High School MANCHOIR. The Timberline HS Choirs have traveled and performed in San Francisco, Chicago, and twice in New York at Carnegie Hall.

Terry also founded the Olympia Choral Society in 1998, a community choir dedicated to giving concerts for the community while donating the proceeds to local charities. The Olympia Choral Society had donated over \$150,000 to local charities by 2018 when Terry decided to take a hiatus.

In addition to teaching choir at Timberline High School, Terry also teaches weight training and coaches football. His spare time is spent with his beautiful wife, Jennifer, and tending their animals on the Shaw Farm. Terry has two adult sons: Trevor, serving in the army and stationed in Germany, and Owen, a student at South Puget Sound Community College.

*Bobbie Andreas, Hospitality/Luncheons*

[Bring a friend, and be sure to make reservations for your entire party. See page 2 for reservation info.]

**Friday, December 16, 2022—12 noon**

**The Ember's Restaurant  
Indian Summer Golf and Country Club**

**Menu:** Roasted Pork with a Mushroom Herb Au Jus, served with oven-roasted potatoes and vegetables

**OR**

Classic Stuffed Peppers (GF, DF, V)  
Sweet red peppers stuffed with roasted vegetables and brown rice, topped with classic marinara sauce.

**Dessert:** Chef's Choice

**(\$20 includes tax and gratuity)**

## LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS



I will be sending out emails to remind you of our upcoming luncheon. Please respond to that email if you plan to attend. We need our reservation count by **noon on Friday, December 9.**

If you **do not receive an email**, or if you **need to cancel or add to your** reservation, email me at [dazicar88@gmail.com](mailto:dazicar88@gmail.com), or call me **no later than noon on Friday** at **253-381-2592**. Please do not call the restaurant with reservation changes. To be added to the email list for notification, please send me your email address.

*ZiNita Carrell, Email Committee Chair*

## LIFELONG LEARNING—CYBER EDUCATION

In education we stress lifelong learning, so I offer the following Cyber Education tips:

- \*Verify that the website, or link that you click, has “**https**,” not just “**http**.” The S is for Security.
  - \*If you get unsolicited links in an email from anyone, even friends, hover your mouse/arrow over the email address and the link; this should let you see what the hidden address or link is. If it doesn't match what the unhidden name says, dump it.
  - \*Avoid ALL QR codes that come in an email or are on a website. Techno thieves plant a fake QR on top of a legit one and then harvest your personal data on the computer or phone.
  - \*Don't share your passwords with anyone, especially over the phone. Legit callers (banks, credit cards) already have access to your account, and tech-help companies will ask you to type your password in without disclosing it.
  - \*If you use account verification questions (like: what was your first car, pet, nickname), create a fake answer. Often you'll put such innocent “fun facts” on social media and creeps take that and try it as passwords in your accounts.
  - \*Don't use the same password for two or more accounts. Thieves harvest these from poorly-secured sites (especially social media or http sites), then try them at banks, etc., in case you use it there, too.
  - \*If given the option, DO use two-factor ID for website accounts!
  - \*Activate the antivirus feature or firewall of your computer, then keep your operating system up to date for recent security fixes!
  - \*When you do group emails, put them in the **BCC**: line, **NOT the TO**: line. If anyone in the list has been hacked, thieves then have ALL of your email addresses to go phishing.
- Gery Gerst, from experience. Questions welcome.

*Gery Gerst, Education Committee Co-chair*

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### An Update on Your Pension Investments

A consistent aspect of Washington's pensions is that investments generate vast returns for pensioners. In a world where investors receive 1% returns from cash, 2–3% from bonds, and 6–7% from a portfolio of stocks and bonds, how does the Washington State Investment Board continuously average over 8% returns?

Not from Bitcoin, that's for sure. Not from stuffing billions of dollars into mattresses and savings accounts either. The large returns are generated from a clever combination of short- and long-term investing. Short-term resources ensure timely payment of pension distributions. However, these funds are backed by nearly \$140 billion in public stock, private equity, venture capital, and commercial real estate. The state's massive amount of capital also ensures bulk purchasing and the lowest management fees for investors (you).

Of the nearly \$170 billion in pension money under management by the Washington State Investment Board, roughly \$2 billion is held in cash. Another \$30 billion is in US Treasury and business bonds (i.e., loans) and \$8 billion in specialty mining and manufacturing equipment. Property management has a sizeable stake. There is approximately \$30 billion in the commercial and residential property in the portfolio—at one time including the Columbia Tower in Seattle. The largest stake is in stocks—about \$50 billion. The final piece is \$42 billion in private equity investments. Private equity managers purchase and resell a variety of companies. For example, our friends at AMBA are currently managed by a private equity firm. All of this accumulates to the substantial 8%+ investment returns on the money you paid into the pension system during your working career.

### Session Is Around the Corner

The 2023 Washington State Legislative Session will start on January 9. Bill pre-filing will begin before the Christmas holiday. The WSSRA legislative team will be working on legislation to provide a Plan 1 COLA, enhance Plans 2 and 3, and protect retiree medical benefits. The January newsletter will provide a complete briefing on the 2023 priorities and will analyze how election outcomes might affect retirees' priorities.

*Wishing you a happy holiday season from the political team — Peter, Alan, Fred, and Michael.*

*Peter Diedrick, WSSRA Legislative Director*

### *In Memoriam*

We note the passing of **Al Restoule, Joyce Barner, Michael Duffy, and Paul Seabert**, and we offer sincere condolences to their families and friends.



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## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Major Janet from the Salvation Army was happy to hear that we will be making "mom bags" again this year. Last year with the contributions from another group, we delivered 45 bags.

A typical bag contains a variety of 6 to 8 items that a mom might like and probably wouldn't buy for herself. Some suggestions: lotions, bath items such as special soap, bubble bath or oil, picture frames, note cards with or without stamps, small journals, holiday ornaments, small inspirational books (not religious), holiday themed or just pretty linens such as potholders, tea towels or hand towels, special candy, Starbucks or other gift cards depending on your budget, scarves, winter gloves and hats. Feel free to include items that you would like. It's fine to be creative, and it would be especially nice to make something yourself if you knit, sew, or make crafts. It is also



perfectly acceptable to re-gift items so long as they are in new condition.

Time is short so please bring items and/or complete bags to the December 16 luncheon, deposit them in the box at the WSSRA office in Lacey, or contact me for pickup.

We will collect our traditional monetary donations for the Salvation Army at the December luncheon. Checks should be made out directly to the Salvation Army.



Sally Jones 360 866-8039 [sljonz@gmail.com](mailto:sljonz@gmail.com)

*Sally Jones, Community Service Chair*

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