



Okanogan County School Retirees' Association  
A Unit of the Washington State School Retirees' Association

# THE NEWSLETTER



**FALL NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER, 2017**

**HAPPY FALL YA'ALL.** I wanted to use the Peanuts Cartoon from the Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> *WENATCHEE WORLD* newspaper to greet you; however, there wasn't time to get approval from Charles Schultz. Anyway, welcome back to the working world for those of you still employed, as well as those of us who are enjoying our retirement.

## **WELCOME TO OCSRA MEMBERS Marcelle LaGrou, OCSRA President**

Our purpose is protection of our retirement benefits through strength of membership in Washington State School Retirees Association (WSSRA) and Okanogan County School Retirees Association (OCSRA). It has been a privilege to hear your stories throughout the summer: family and other reunions, travels near or far, and service to neighbors and community. Many have mentioned use of AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) during these activities. What a special benefit to our members!

A look forward to our first meeting gives energy to the year ahead. Dr. Curtis Horne, 2017-2018 WSSRA President, will be our guest on Friday, September 29, to speak about issues affecting our members and strategies to reach favorable solutions. He is quoted in the latest WSSRA *JOURNAL*, "A lifetime of serving children and youth earns a fair retirement that assures dignity."

Your OCSRA Executive Board and committee chairmen will meet on Monday, September 25, at 9am at Koala Street Grill. Your topics of concern are also welcome for consideration. We look forward to serving you.

## **2017 WSSR FOUNDATION WRAP UP Rita Figlenski**

Happily reporting:

- 84 baskets – total sales: \$6,000 even
- 71 or 72 silent auction items – total receipts: \$2,098
- **Totals: \$8,098**

Last year comparison:

- 68 baskets – total sales: \$5,515
- Silent auction total receipts: \$1,320
- **Totals: \$6,835**

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank OCSRA for its wonderful basket and silent auction items; plus all the on-site support from OCSRA attendees. This Unit is to be congratulated!

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*Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?*

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## 2017-2018 OCSRA Officers and Committee Members

**\*Denotes Committee Chair**

**President:** Marcelle LaGrou

**Vice President:** Jennie Hedington

**Secretary:** Maralee Bowling

**Treasurer:** Penny Garrison

**Communications:** Rita Figlenski-JOURNAL articles; Maralee Bowling-newsletter; Penny Garrison-website/media

**Community Service:** Carol Payne\*, Maren Noyes

**Grants:** Jennie Hedington\*, Rita Figlenski

**Health:** Colleen Pock\*, Helen Lees

**History:** Chuck Pecha\*, Ida Laurie

**Legislative:** Homer Hedington\*, Marcelle LaGrou

**Membership:** Eleanor Markel\*, Marcelle LaGrou

**Retirement:** Carol Payne\*, Penny Garrison

**Scholarship:** Homer Hedington\*, Rita Figlenski

**Scholarship Trustee Board:** Donna Sanford\*, Bill Laws, Dee Blank

**E-5, E-6 Coordinating Council Officers:** Rita Figlenski\*, Penny Garrison

**E-6 Board Representative:** Rita Figlenski – [ritafig2@gmail.com](mailto:ritafig2@gmail.com)

**E-6 State Retirement Rep:** Penny Garrison – [pgarrison07@gmail.com](mailto:pgarrison07@gmail.com)

**WSSRA Nominating and Review Committee:** Marcelle LaGrou\* - [mlagrou@northcascades.net](mailto:mlagrou@northcascades.net)

**WSSRA Awards Committee:** Jennie Hedington

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*The latest survey shows that 3 out of 4 people make up 75% of the population.*

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### OCSRA MEMBERSHIP REPORT 9/1/17

OCSRA Membership total on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> was 330 members, with 5 cash payers, 196 Retired on automatic deductions, and 129 Actives working in area schools. WSSRA Membership is 17,475 with 49 new members pending.

**New Member: Heather Downey**, special education teacher at Okanogan's Virginia Grainger Elementary. Welcome!

**In Memoriam: Dorothy "Dolly" (Steinmetz) LaMarche** died May 21, 2017 at age 89, in Coeur d'alene, Idaho. Dolly taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades at Omak for 32 ½ years.

**In Memoriam: Nancy Carlson**, age 66, died February 5, 2017 at Medical Lake. She taught 35 years at Glover Jr High and Rogers High Schools in Spokane.

**In Memoriam: Bobbie (Bob) Gockley** of Omak died May 3, 2017. He was a substitute teacher in Omak.

### ATTENTION ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Whether you're retiring soon or just beginning your career, you need to know your pension plan's benefits and the steps to take to insure a stable financial future. This information—and more—will be covered at OCSRA's free **Retirement Seminar at 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 25 at Okanogan High School's library**. Presenters are Eric Peterson and Aaron Bessonette of Wenatchee. For information call **Carol Payne, 826-5068 or Penny Garrison, 422-3393**.

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*If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.*

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW EMPLOYEES TO WASHINGTON EDUCATION SYSTEM

You have 90 days to opt into a Plan 2 Retirement Program with 2% defined benefits; otherwise you will be defaulted into Retirement Plan 3, a hybrid plan with 1% defined benefit and your own defined contribution. If you want Plan 2, you must state that choice in written form and present it to your district's payroll officer within 90 days.

### DR. ALAN BURKE, WSSRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TO VISIT E5/E6 OCTOBER 4

WSSRA's Dr. Alan Burke will address the October 4 meeting of the E5/E6 Coordinating Council. The group will meet at the East Wenatchee Golf and Country Club for a 10 a.m. brunch followed by its annual fall meeting.

Units from the Canadian border south to the Oregon border comprise this Council. Included are school retirees from Kittitas, Yakima, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan Counties. OCSRA's Penny Garrison serves as this year's Council Secretary/Treasurer and Rita Figlenski serves as Council Chair.

OCSRA pays for member attendees' lunches; however, attendees must make a reservation with Rita (509-422-3532) by September 26. WSSRA reimburses Units for travel at the rate of 4 people per vehicle.

### OCSRA GRANTS

OCSRA is very pleased to announce that we will be giving more \$100 grants this year. We will give 8 in the fall and 8 in the spring. The fall grant applications will be due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. You will find a copy of the application form in this newsletter or online at [www.okanogancsra.com](http://www.okanogancsra.com). We are happy to be able to help those members of OCSRA who are working with students in Okanogan county schools. Remember, this is NOT just for teachers but for bus drivers, secretaries, administrators, para pros, custodians, food workers, anyone working with students. You must be a member of OCSRA, however.

### OCSRA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

We are happy to announce that Hunter Thomas of Omak was awarded a \$1000 scholarship from Okanogan County School Retirees' Association this past spring. Currently an English major at CWU, Hunter plans to teach High School English.

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*If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.*

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### ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS!

As a 501(c)(3) entity, OCSRA is registered to receive donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation for our scholarship fund. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible products purchased via their alternate website: <https://smile.amazon.com>. The [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) website contains the same products, prices, and shopping features as the regular website. Please help grow our scholarship fund by either signing up to support Okanogan County School Retirees on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) or by using OCSRA's unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1527677>.

### OCSRA Meetings and Program Schedule, 2017-2018

\*Unless noted, all OCSRA meetings will be held at 11 a.m., Koala Street Grill, 914 Koala St., Omak

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|-----------------|--|
| <b>Sept. 29</b> | General meeting. Program: Dr. Curtis Horne, WSSRA President                    |
| <b>Oct. 4</b>   | *E-5, E-6 Coordinating Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., East Wenatchee Country Club |
| <b>Oct. 25</b>  | *Retirement Seminar, 4 p.m., Okanogan High School Library                      |
| <b>Oct 27</b>   | General meeting. Program: Rose Corso and Alex Ettl, Tonasket School Garden     |
| <b>Nov. 17</b>  | Special event: Card-making party with Connie Palmer & Carol Payne, instructors |
| <b>Jan. 26</b>  | General meeting. Program: Top Chef   |
| <b>Feb. 23</b>  | General meeting. Program: Zach Spaet, FBLA Instructor, Okanogan H.S.           |

**Feb. 26** \*E-5, E-6 Coordinating Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Wenatchee Red Lion  
**Mar. 30** General meeting. Program: Methow Valley Arts Association  
**Apr. 11** \*E-5, E-6 Coordinating Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Rodeo City Bar-B-Q, Ellensburg  
**Apr. 27** General meeting. Program: Sergio Duarte, Citizenship Journey  
**May 25** General meeting. Program: Dr. Alan Burke, WSSRA Executive Director  
**June 4-6** \*WSSRA Convention, Wenatchee Convention Center

**We sincerely hope you will come join us.**

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**GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR OCSRA MEMBERS**

**ATTENTION Members of the Okanogan County Retirees' Association (OCSRA) currently employed or volunteering in one of the Association's school districts:**

The Okanogan County School Retirees' Association (OCSRA) offers OCSRA members **16 \$100 GRANTS** to fund projects and materials (excluding field trips) not covered by other financial means. The grants must be used in an OCSRA School District. Eight grants will be awarded in October and eight in February.

**To apply, complete the form below and return it to OCSRA member, Jennie Hedington, PO Box 297, Okanogan, WA 98840, by October 15 or February 15.**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School District Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level and/or Area of Instruction \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students to Benefit from this Grant \_\_\_\_\_

Will this Grant provide resources for more than one school year? \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, How? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how you will use this grant:

