



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

THE NEWSLETTER



AUGUST, 2020
News in Brief

WSSRA divides the state membership into eight districts. Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, and Grant Counties comprise District E6. High school students with a 3.0 gpa and a plan to major in an educational field were invited to apply for three available area scholarships. District E6 winners in 2020 are all from Okanogan County. Recipients of two PEMCO high school scholarships of \$900 each renewable for up to four years are: Stephanie Goble of Omak High School and Abbigail Popelier of Okanogan High School. The recipient of the WSSR Foundation Scholarship of \$2,500 for one year is: Olivia Richards, graduate of Okanogan High School.

Because of illness of a member, OCSRA is seeking a third member of its Scholarship Trustee Board. Acting separately from OCSRA the board meets once yearly with Edward Jones representatives to discuss/move the invested funds of the independent OCSRA Scholarship account. In addition, the Board determines the Unit's annual scholarship amount. Phone or email Rita Figlenski if you are interested or have questions or would like to fill in the last two years of a 3-year term. (509-422-3532 or ritafig2@gmail.com)

This year's winner of the OCSRA Unit 15 Scholarship is Aubrey Miller of Pateros. Aubrey attends Washington State University majoring in Elementary Education. She will spend 10 weeks this fall student teaching. The amount awarded this year is \$1,500. If you know someone who is near to completing college with a major in an educational field who graduated from a Unit 15 area school, please encourage that individual to apply by next spring's May 1 deadline.

Have you checked the OCSRA website recently? You will find the grant application as well as the OCSRA Scholarship application at okanogancsra.com.

Speaking of the grant application for members who are employed or volunteering in area schools, the application is also enclosed with this newsletter. Note that grants will be awarded *once* this school year; the submission deadline is **September 15, 2020**.



OCSRA has again worked to meet the needs of Okanogan County communities. In 2019-2020, \$100 was sent to the Oroville Food Bank. Also, \$200 was donated to Wenatchee Valley College at Omak for gas cards for students' travel to class. Twice members loaded Richard and Mary Johnson's pick up with gently used clothing and household goods for the Okanogan County Support Center. Also, \$200 went to the Bulldog Bites Food Pantry in the Okanogan County Outreach School. Since Unit meetings were canceled, the Cariboo Restaurant was the recipient of \$300 to help offset missed meetings' income. In 2020-2021 money has again been designated for food banks. Anyone who has the cleaning bug while at home, may take gently used clothing and useful household items to the Support Center on Second Avenue in Okanogan near the Salmon Creek Bridge. Just knock on the door (wear a mask) and donations may be dropped off. Indicate participating in the OCSRA program or ask for a receipt.

OCSRA is pleased to announce that former OCSRA member, Ruth Parman was granted Honorary Membership status in WSSRA. She is currently a member of Spokane Area, Unit 25.

At the recent WSSRA Convention, OCSRA gained a Unit of Distinction Award in recognition of achievement of 2019-2020 Goals. The unit also received a certificate of appreciation for reaching an all time high number of members at 342 with membership increased by 10 members and new members enrolled numbering 21.

Executive Director Burke reviewed WSSRA Philanthropy. WSSRA's volunteer efforts during the 2019-2020 year were impressive:

- 133,000 volunteer hours
 - Local Unit Mini Grants of \$135,000
 - Scholarships
 - Local Units - \$187,000
 - WSSR Foundation - \$32,000
 - PEMCO - \$56,000
- Total Scholarships - \$275,000

ATTENTION: CURRENT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR: 4 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 via ZOOM

OCSRA's Retirement Planning Seminar will be held on ZOOM this year. All public school employees of Plans 1, 2, and 3 are invited to learn basic pension benefits and retirement how-to's. To obtain the seminar log-in/password information, reply to the email invitation sent to your school prior to the October 21 meeting. Associates of Financial Alternatives will lead the seminar. For more information: Penny Garrison: pgarrison07@gmail.com
Retirement help is also available at the Department of Retirement Systems website: drs.wa.gov. Click on Education or Nearing Retirement.

OCSRA will not be having regular person-to-person meetings until COVID-19 is under control. Stay safe everyone!
