



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



THE NEWSLETTER

September 2022
News in Brief



SEPTEMBER 30 (FRIDAY) MEETING VENUE CHANGE

El Torito Bar and Grill, 914 Koala Drive Omak, WA 98841 509-557-6116

will be the site of the Unit's face-to-face general meeting Friday, September 30



El Torito is the new name of the former **Koala Grill** in Omak; it has lots of parking. Their doors open at 11 a.m.; we will plan to begin meeting no later than 11:15. To expedite ordering lunch, please go online to see American and Mexican luncheon choices.

Also, please make sure that Rita Figlenski has your email address so that you can be informed of the location of our October and January meetings. Her email: ritafig2@gmail.com



If you are currently employed or volunteering in an OCSRA school district, apply by October 15 or one of the Association's **Grants of \$300**. An application form is enclosed in this newsletter.



OCSRA Membership Total (08/01/2022): 316 members: 14 Cash Payers; 208 Retirees on Automatic Deduction; 1 Honorary Status; 93 Actives employed in schools.

WSSRA Total: 17,440 members

OCSRA Welcomes New Member: Linda Dezellem, Brewster, North Central ESD CT Specialist



Mary “Kay” Sharp (Shrout), 68, of Okanogan died June 10, 2022. Kay was Okanogan School District’s Physical Education teacher for many years. She also coached volleyball, basketball, and track and was the annual advisor.

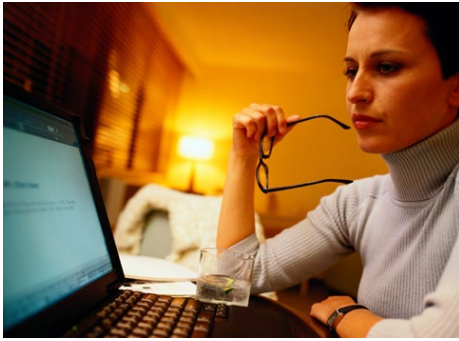
Eleanor Markel, Omak, died July 10, 2022 at age 94. Eleanor taught Physical Education at Omak School District for several years and then worked as a substitute teacher in Omak and neighboring schools.

The E5/E6 Coordinating Council will meet at the Wenatchee Golf and Country Club located at 1600 Country Club Drive in East Wenatchee, Wednesday, October 12. (Social hour at 9:30 a.m. followed by 10 a.m. brunch and meeting.) OCSRA members are encouraged to attend.

Okanogan’s Unit is represented this year by Chair, Rita Figlenski, and by Secretary/Treasurer, Marcelle LaGrou, who will welcome your support and attendance. OCSRA will pay brunch costs; WSSRA reimburses travel costs to and from East Wenatchee.

Legislative Update from Peter Diedrick, WSSRA Legislative Director

The WSSRA legislative team had two tasks to complete over the summer: requesting another Plan 1 COLA via the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) and building support for retirees by working with candidates for the legislature. After several meetings, the SCPP is poised to recommend a Plan 1 COLA to the 2023 legislature. An analysis of Plan 1 COLA options is scheduled for the September 20 SCPP meeting. This is an excellent time to contact SCPP to share why Plan 1 retirees are in need of a cost-of-living adjustment. Send online comments to: state.actuary@leg.wa.gov or letters to: State Actuary, PO Box 40914, Olympia, WA 98504-0914.



Are you considering or thinking about retirement?

Pre-Retirement Webinars Available

Washington State School Retirees' Association is sponsoring free virtual Pre-Retirement Webinars on October 18 and October 27, both beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The October 18 webinar will feature the WA State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) and the PEBB health coverage program from WA State Health Care Authority (HCA).

The October 27 webinar will cover Social Security, Medicare, and VEBA (Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association Plan). More information will be sent to area schools later this month or early October. For those unable to attend, each webinar will be recorded and available to view at wssra.org under the "Webinars" tab on the Homepage.

OCSRA MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS



**Unless noted, all OCSRA general meetings will be held at 11 a.m., Cariboo Restaurant, 233 Queen St., Okanogan*

11:15 a.m., Friday, September 30, 2022

General meeting. **VENUE CHANGE**: El Torito Bar & Grill (the old "Koalas"), 914 Koala Dr, Omak.
Program: Rena Shawver, Executive Director, Okanogan County Community Action Council: "The Needs of Our County" **NOTE**: El Torito opens at 11 a.m.

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 12, 2022

*E5/E6 Coordinating Council meeting, 10:00 a.m., Wenatchee Golf and Country Club, 1600 Country Club Dr., East Wenatchee

11 a.m., Friday, October 28, 2022

Cariboo Restaurant, 233 Queen St., Okanogan

General meeting. Program: Attorney, Bess Derting: "Senior Citizens: Think/Plan Ahead"

11 a.m., Friday, January 27, 2023

Cariboo Restaurant, 233 Queen St., Okanogan

General meeting. Program: Roy Johnson, Okanogan Alternative High School/Outreach
Principal/teacher: "A Discussion on Alternative Learning Programs"

OCSRA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022-2023

**Leading the Club
to Success**

President: Rita Figlenski

Vice President: Jennie Hedington

Secretary: Maralee Bowling

Treasurer: Penny Garrison

Past President: Marcelle LaGrou

Scholarship Trustee Board: Richard Johnson, Donna Sanford, Dee Blank

Communications: Maralee Bowling, Penny Garrison, Rita Figlenski

Community Service: Mary Johnson, Carol Payne, Jennie Hedington

Grants: Carol Payne, Marcelle LaGrou, Sibyl Wehmeyer

Health: Colleen Pock

History: Ida Laurie

Legislative: Penny Garrison

Membership: Marcelle LaGrou

Program: Jennie Hedington, Homer Hedington

Retirement Planning: Penny Garrison, Donna Sanford

Scholarship: Barb Christensen, Sibyl Wehmeyer

E-5, E-6 COORDINATING COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

Chair of E-5, E-6: Rita Figlenski

Secretary/Treasurer of E-5, E-6: Marcelle LaGrou

WSSRA RULES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2023

East District Representative & Chair of Rules & Resolutions: Rita Figlenski

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR OCSRA MEMBERS

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

- OCSRA offers its *members* eight \$300 grants this school year. The grant must be used in a single school year to fund projects and materials (excluding field trips) not covered by other financial means. The grants must be used in an OCSRA School District, and the application must have the signature of the *building principal*. This year four grants will be awarded in the fall with an October 15 deadline and four grants will be awarded in the spring with a February 15 deadline.

To apply, complete the form below and return it to OCSRA Grants Chair, Carol Payne, 13 Kermel Road, Omak, WA 98841 postmarked by October 15, 2022 to apply for the fall grant or postmarked by February 15, 2023 to apply for the spring grant.

Applicant's Name: _____

School District's Mailing Address: _____

Applicant's Email Address: _____

Applicant's Home Address: _____

Grade Level/Area of Instruction: _____

Number of Students to Benefit: _____

Estimated Cost: _____

Will the Grant Provide Resources for More Than One School Year? ____ If Yes, How? _____

How Will the Grant Be Used? Attach Any Helpful Pictures/Supporting Documentation for the Grants Committee. Please Use the Back Side for Further Explanation for the Need.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Dated: _____

Signature of Building Principal: _____ Dated: _____

Office Telephone Number of Building Principal: 509-_____