



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

THE NEWSLETTER



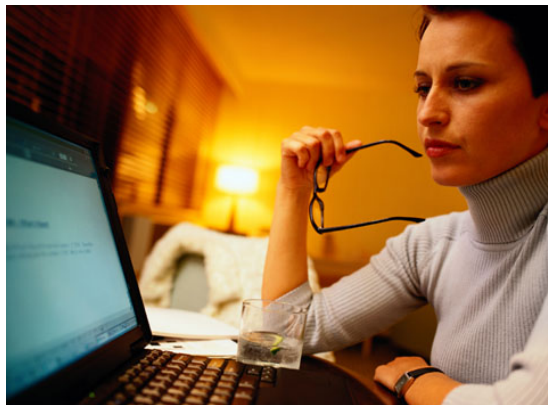
September 2021
News in Brief

Do you need projects or materials monies for your classroom? Then be sure to check the colored page included in this newsletter. It's the OCSRA Grants Application Form that needs to be turned into Grants Chair, Carol Payne by **October 15, 2021!** Four grants of \$300 each will be awarded this fall.

October 26 is the date of a WSSRA ZOOM seminar on the new insurance Medicare rates. Health care choices must be made by November 30 this year.

Dr. Richard Johnson has joined Donna Sanford and Dee Blank as the third member of the OCSRA Scholarship Trustee Board which sets the annual amount of the Unit's scholarship, and which also oversees the Unit's scholarship investments.

Are you considering or thinking about retirement?



Don't miss out on PEBB retiree insurance coverage for school retirees. Keep in mind that your coverage doesn't happen automatically. PEBB Retiree Election Form (form A) and any other required forms must be submitted no later than 60 days after your school district (employer-paid coverage) ends. If you are close to retirement and have questions, call PEBB at 1-800-200-1004. **OCSRA will not be sponsoring a fall Retirement Seminar.** However, our parent

organization, WSSRA is offering a two-part **Retirement Planning Webinar via Zoom on October 28 and November 4**. In addition, a “New Employee Retirement Planning” Webinar for Plans 2 and 3 will be held on November 9. See the WSSRA Webinar chart included in this newsletter for more details. Information to join the webinars will be sent to each school district or contact WSSRA at 360-413-5496 for help.

Other retirement information:

- DRS (Department of Retirement Services) article: “What you will need to apply for retirement?” drs.wa.gov/what-you-will-need-to-apply-for-retirement/
- View DRS Retirement Planning Checklist: drs.wa.gov/retirement-planning/checklist/
- Attend ½ day DRS “Nearing Retirement” webinar: drs.wa.gov/retirement-planning/seminar/
- Watch DRS step-by-step online application guide: vimeo.com/495901504
- Contact Erik Peterson or Aaron Bessonette at Financial Alternatives for free one-to-one retirement help: 509-663-7526 or 800-456-1370.

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OCSRA Officers 2021 – 2022

President: Rita Figlenski

Vice President: Jennie Hedington

Secretary: Maralee Bowling

Treasurer: Penny Garrison

Past President: Marcelle LaGrou

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

2021 – 2022 Committees

Communications: Maralee Bowling, Penny Garrison, Rita Figlenski

Community Service: Jennie Hedington, Carol Payne, Mary Johnson

Grants: Carol Payne, Marcelle LaGrou, Sibyl Wehmeyer

Health: Colleen Pock - Membership: Marcelle LaGrou

Program: Jennie Hedington, Homer Hedington

Retirement Planning: Penny Garrison, Donna Sanford

Scholarship: Barb Christensen, Sibyl Wehmeyer

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OCSRA Membership Total (09/01/2021): 333 MEMBERS: 14 Cash Payers; 213 Retirees on Automatic Deduction; 1 Honorary Status; 105 Actives employed in schools.

WSSRA Total: 17,424 members.

In Memory:

Judith DeVon of Oroville died on June 21, 2021 at age 81. Judith taught 5th-7th grade classes in the Oroville School District for over 30 years.

Harold Jensen of Oroville died August 28, 2021 at age 69. Harold began his teaching/coaching career in Montana, moving to Oroville in 1989 where he taught art, woodshop, PE, and other classes plus coached 5 sports for 29 years. He retired in 2018.

ATTENTION: AMAZON SHOPPERS

Help OCSRA grow our Scholarship Fund by shopping Amazon via the AmazonSmile website using OCSRA's charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1527677>. Thanks to OCSRA participants, our Scholarship Fund is \$106.15 richer.

\$300 GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR OCSRA MEMBERS

Need help to fund a school project? OCSRA is offering eight \$300 grants this year: 4 in the fall and 4 in the spring. Fall applications must be returned to Grants Chair, **Carol Payne**, by October 15. Instructions are included on the enclosed Grant Application or available at the OCSRA website: www.okanogancsra.com

UPDATING OCSRA INFORMATION

OCSRA needs your help updating addresses and phone numbers. Returned newsletters and JOURNALS cost us time and money. (USPS charges WSSRA over \$2.50 per returned JOURNAL.) Please send address changes to **Maralee Bowling**: mjbowling39@gmail.com or **Penny Garrison**: pgarrison07@gmail.com or WSSRA at michele@wssra.org.

ATTENTION: WORKING MEMBERS WHO HAVE SWITCHED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

If you are a working member who pays OCSRA dues via automatic school payroll deductions and have changed school districts, you are no longer a member of OCSRA. You need to fill out a new OCSRA membership form. The forms are available from Membership Chair, **Marcelle LaGrou**: 509-826-1929 or **Penny Garrison**: pgarrison07@gmail.com or WSSRA website: www.wssra.org.

OCSRA Meetings and Program Schedule, 2021-2022

All face-to-face meetings and events are canceled until further notice.

SCHEDULED WSSRA WEBINAR EVENTS VIA ZOOM			
DATE	TIME	TOPIC	PLACE
October 26	9:00 - 10:45 am	HCA/PEBB 2022 Medicare Rates	Zoom
October 28	4:30 - 6:30 pm	RETIREMENT PLANNING PART 1 Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) Health Care Authority (PEBB)	Zoom
November 4	4:30 – 6:15 pm	RETIREMENT PLANNING PART 2 Basic review with focus on Social Security/Medicare and VEBA	Zoom
November 9	4:30 – 5:45 pm	WSSRA/DRS NEW EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR INFORMATION ON PLANS 2 AND 3	Zoom

The chart above has really important dates:

- For *newly employed* Actively working individuals making the decision of whether to **choose Plan 2 or Plan 3 within 90 Days of employment.**
(See Webinar: November 9)
- For Unit *Fully-Retired* Members, choices on Health Care for 2022 must be made by November 30.
(Webinar: October 26)
- For Unit *Actively working* Members, the decision to join Washington State PEBB health care must be made **within 60 days of retirement.**
(Webinar: October 28)

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 *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 by October 15, 2021 to apply for the fall grant or by February 15, 2022 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: _____

Have a great school year!

