

September
October
2023




SAREA HIGHLIGHTS



SAREA AT A GLANCE


We held a Board Meeting on August 22nd, in Marilyn Richard's beautiful backyard. All agreed it was a very productive meeting with plans for the year solidified.

Mark your calendars for the following events, sure to be filled with fun, great company, and good food!

 **September 27th - Picnic at Mirabeau Park under the large shelter, 11:30-2:00.** All members are invited and encouraged to bring a new member. Starbucks gift cards for all members who bring a guest and their guest if they join SAREA. Join us for games with prizes and a drawing for a corn hole game. Lunch will be provided by SAREA.

****Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, September 20th.**

Char - 509-270-6858 - Speak clearly when leaving a message. Please include your name, phone number, number of people in your party and whether or not you are bringing a guest who is interested in becoming a new member.

 **General Meeting - October 11th, 10:00-12:00 at ESD 101 and/or ZOOM.** Guest Speaker - Sue Webber - What's new for our 2023-2024 health care plans?

SAREA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 25 Spokane Area REA

Time: Oct 11, 2023 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81123217442?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81123217442?pwd=ek5zNXdCdFhFdkg3L1RqdCtMM3pGZz09)

[pwd=ek5zNXdCdFhFdkg3L1RqdCtMM3pGZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81123217442?pwd=ek5zNXdCdFhFdkg3L1RqdCtMM3pGZz09)

Dial by your location

• +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 811 2321 7442

Passcode: 439902

Holiday Luncheon - December 6th, 11:30 at CenterPlace. More details in the next Newsletter.

We hope to see all of you!

Your SAREA Board

Submitted by: Charlotte Schelling

President's Words

I'm thankful for the support I received this past year as your state president. Our vice-president, Char Schelling provided the local leadership during my state tenure, allowing us to move from post COVID to having in-person luncheons and general meetings. As Immediate Past State President of WSSRA I will continue supporting our state mission, but I will be able direct my focus on our unit's needs. Hopefully you will join us for the picnic at Mirabeau Meadows Park.

The following members of the board attended the convention in Pasco in June. If you have never attended a WSSRA Convention and would be willing to put your name on our list of possible delegates our board members would be pleased to have more participation. I encourage you to send me an email or phone message if you want to participate. This past year we were allowed to send 9 more delegates. This would be great way to become more aware of our member benefits as well as making new friends. Please consider marking your calendar for next year's convention, June 3-5, 2024, at Wenatchee Convention Center. All expenses paid, double occupancy.

SAREA BOARD MEMBERS

that attended the conference in Pasco in June

Kathy Albi
John Albi
Karen Baldwin-Kuntz
Cookie Billups
Kathy Beal
Shirlee Hackman-
Chatterton
Dixie Eggleston
Pauline Eggleston
Jeff Hunter
Bruce Pennell
Charlotte Schelling
Marilyn Richards
John Young

Submitted by Brad Beal



WSSRA CONVENTION

Our State Convention was held June 5th-7th at the Pasco Red Lion Inn. It was a time for making new friends and saying hello to those we hadn't seen in a while.

The program was filled with many interesting classes, including Understanding Medicare, Alzheimer's and an AARP Presentation on Prescription Drugs.

We heard from two inspirational speakers. The first speaker was Teacher of the Year, Dana Miles. Ms. Miles was born deaf and teaches in a school for deaf children. Her dedication and enthusiasm for educating her students and supporting their families was awe inspiring. Through her leadership and positive attitude, she shows the children there is nothing they can't do and with a little hard work and determination they can make their dreams come true! We need more teachers like Dana Miles!

Amina Makhdoom Lynch was our motivational speaker. She shared some wonderful ideas for increasing our membership. One suggestion involved interviewing new members to understand their strengths, interests and desires in joining our organization. What can we do to make everyone feel safe and secure? Define the roles of each position and assign volunteers to shadow the person in charge, so if something happens to that person, there will be an "understudy" ready to take over. Consider "term limits" so everyone has a chance to participate. Remember, we represent EVERYONE in education! We must extend a warm welcome to the custodians, office staff, kitchen staff, teachers, OT, IA, specialists, superintendents and principals. We must create a sense of belonging, being valued, respected and connected. All voices must be heard. These were just a few of her suggestions.

I would like to take this time to thank all of our Delegates. Without hesitation, you stepped up to help with whatever was needed and I am truly grateful. Because of your support, our Convention was a huge success.

A special shoutout to Cookie Billups for her heartfelt reading during The Celebration of Life and to Karen Baldwin-Kuntz for her beautiful piano playing. You both made the Memorial Service very special.

I hope more of you will be able to join us at the next convention.



Legislative Report

The Washington State legislature is not in session now so this is a good opportunity to advocate for a permanent COLA for Plan 1 members. The annual recommendation from the State Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) carries tremendous weight. The legislators that we have talked to all said that they voted for that recommendation every year. The SCPP will be meeting next on September 19. We recently learned that House Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbon has been elected SCPP Chair for the remainder of the year. Senator Drew MacEwan has been elected Vice Chair. Both legislators have a history of vocally supporting WSSRA and the Plan 1 COLA. WSSRA views this as a happy development.

You can contact the SCPP by email: state.actuary@leg.wa.gov

You can contact them by mail: Select Committee on Pension Policy

P.O. Box 40914 Olympia, WA 98504-0914

All correspondence received during the interim one week before a SCPP meeting date will be linked in the Executive Committee meeting materials packet. The next meeting dates and the due dates for correspondence are:

MEETING DATES

September 19

October 17

November 14

December 12

CORRESPONDENCE DUE DATES

September 12

October 10 Plan 1 COLA discussion at this meeting

November 7 Plan 1 COLA vote at this meeting

December 5

We urge each of you to take time to contact the SCPP before these meetings. Ask the committee members to recommend a permanent COLA based on the cost of living index for Plan I retirees in the TRS and PERS retirement systems. As you can see from the timeline, we cannot wait until the legislature is in session to begin our efforts. The time to act is now.

Submitted by Kathy Albi & Patricia Anderson

THE SPRING LUNCHEON WAS A SUCCESS!



It was held at the Hive, in the Spokane Valley. The Grant Elementary Drummers and Dancers entertained the Scholarship Recipients and SAREA board members. The recipients shared their goals for a future in education. One of the scholarship students, Anna Franzell, just recently graduated Gonzaga University with a Masters degree in Counselor Education, and graciously agreed share her experiences.





Spokane Area Retired Educator Association
P.O. Box 823
Spokane, Washington 99210

SAREA Contacts

SAREA Box 823
Spokane, WA 99210

Brad Beal, President
509-466-3561

SAREA Website:
spokanearearetirededucators.org

WSSRA Headquarters
360-413-5496

