

May 2018



SARREA HIGHLANDS

# Spring Scholarship Luncheon

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Tuesday, May 22, 2018

11:30AM Social

Noon Luncheon \$15.00

Mukogawa Ft. Wright Commons

**Reservations due by May 15**

RSVP to Marilyn Richards 509-467-0128  
Or Char Schelling 509-624-7609

*Featuring*

*Alecia McAdams-Sing,*

*English teacher at Lakeside High School*

*in the Nine Mile Falls School District and*

*Northeast Washington Teacher of the Year in 2016,*

*And our 2018 Scholarship Recipients*

## E-7 Scholarship Recipients 2018

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Each year the Washington State School Retirees' Associations' local units award scholarships. East side-7 region selected three scholarship winners and an alternate. This *competition is great*, with 72 high schools within E-7, representing Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane and Whitman counties. These awards are presented to students who dream of working in a school setting as an educator, speech therapist, counselor, etc.

This year's Scholarship Committee included **David Meyers**, Unit 18 Pend Oreille County; **Don Kackman**, Unit 33 Whitman County; and **Karen and Howard Mahan, Carol McGurk, Marilyn Richards, Cookie Billups, Dixie Eggleston, Bill Marvin, Les and Pam Francis**, Unit 25. Many outstanding seniors applied, and we wish to congratulate the honorees.

**PEMCO/Robert J. Handy Scholarship:** (\$900.00 per year, up to four years)

*Emily Driskel*  
*Kari Goodrich*

*Mead High School*  
*Newport High School.*

**WSSRA-Foundation Scholarship:** (\$2,500, 1 year)

*Nicole Stochofsky*

*University High School*

**Spokane Area Retired Educators Association:** \$1,000.00 (1yr)

*Lucy Ross*

*Sprague High School, Lincoln Co.*

## From Our Acting President, Brad Beal

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I want to invite you to our spring luncheon in May, when we will be privileged to hear from the outstanding high school seniors who have been selected to receive our state organization's future teacher **scholarships**. This year our guest speaker is Alecia McAdams-Sing, an English teacher at Lakeside High School in the Nine Mile Falls School District. She has been recognized as an outstanding representative of the field of education by receiving Northeast Washington **Teacher of the Year** in 2016. When I approached her regarding my vision to have an active teacher share her enthusiasm for the profession, she responded by saying, "Having a role in encouraging the next generation of educators is a blessing." My response was, "Retired educators who dedicated their lives to education of our youth need to hear your voice as well."

In addition, we are hoping that our members will bring donations for the **baskets** our unit will take to

WSSRA Convention raffle and silent auction. The proceeds will provide money for the scholarships given out in the spring for future teachers. Our historian, Marilyn Richards, will be sharing the latest **memory book**, during the luncheon. She does a phenomenal job as our secretary as well! Jeff Hunter will be collecting new and **gently used** books that will be distributed to schools in need within our region. Sunset Elementary in Airway Heights was very appreciative of the books he delivered this year! I invited several friends to previous luncheons, and they are now **members**. I hope you will think of retired educators or friends of education who might join us in our worthy endeavors.

I look forward to seeing you at our Spring Scholarship Luncheon on Tuesday, May 22 at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute Commons, 4000 W Randolph Rd, Spokane, WA 99224.

*Brad Beal, Acting SAREA President*

### *Donations Needed for WSSRA Convention Baskets*

Our Unit will contribute four baskets to the drawing held at the state WSSRA Convention in June. Your contributions of money or items to fill the baskets can be brought to the Spring Scholarship Luncheon.

Themes for this year's baskets include "Wine," "Chocolates," "Gardening," and "Leisure" (coffee, books, etc.).

*Proceeds support our student scholarship awards.*



## What is the SARE Foundation?

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The Spokane Area Retired Educators Foundation is a non-profit organization, whose primary purpose is to support educational, civic and community projects. The long-range goal is to create a self sustaining endowment fund. Over the years, the association has given to the Foundation \$15.00 to honor each deceased SAREA member. Interest from our investments is allocated organizations dedicated to improving the lives of children in our community.

In May, a list of civic concerns will be presented to the Foundation trustees: John Young, President; Marilyn Richards, Secretary; Carol McGurk, Treasurer; and Jeff Hunter, Civic Concerns, who will award this year's funds.

Many thanks to Carol McGurk and Marilyn Richards for getting the Foundation back on track!

*Submitted by John Young, Foundation President*

# Legislative Update

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The 2018 Legislative Session was the best legislative session school retirees have had since 2010. All school retirees will see an increase in their pensions this July. Additionally, all Medicare Eligible will receive increased assistance on their PEBB supplemental insurance, from \$150 per month to \$168 per month.

## **Changes for Plan 1 Retirees**

Upon a unanimous final vote, legislators passed a 1.5 % increase for TRS1 and PERS 1 retirees. The increase stops accumulating at \$50,000 in annual pension income, meaning that any retiree earning a pension of over \$50,000 will receive a maximum increase of \$750 per year. This benefit takes effect July 1.

Plan 1 minimum benefits will increase by 3% on July 1. The Basic Minimum Benefit levels for all Plan 1 retirees will go from \$57.50 per month per year of service credit to \$59.89 per month per year of service credit. The Alternative Minimum Benefit for retirees who have been retired at least 20 years (with twenty five years of service) will increase to \$1,902 per month.

## **Changes for Plan 2 and 3 Retirees.**

Retirees in Plan 2 and 3 will receive an inflation-based COLA on July 1.

Legislation to allow coaches and classified retirees the ability to work in retirement before age 65 dies. HB 1827 was a large education policy that incorporated the post-retirement provisions as part of the package. The bill passed the House but died in the Senate. The Senate Bill 5310 dealt exclusively with post-retirement school employment. The bill passed the Senate but died in the House. We will sponsor this legislation next session.

HB 1560 would have made the defined benefit pension in Plan 2 the default pension option for new school employees who do not pick a retirement plan. The bill passed the House but died in the Senate. The Senate Ways and Means Committee chair requested it to be sent back to the Select Committee on Pension Policies for additional work in the 2018 legislation interim.

## **Improvements for All TRS & PERS Retirees**

The increase in the Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit to \$168 will help all school retirees over the age of 65 who participate in PEBB Medical Insurance. This benefit increase takes effect January 1, 2019 and will help cushion against any rate increases in PEBB next year.

The Legislature made the full actuarially recommended pension payment to the pension funds. This is important for getting the unfunded liability in TRS 1 and PERS 1 paid off. Skipped payments in the 1990's and 2000's caused much of the shortfall in the first place.

## **Intangibles & Next Steps**

School retirees made progress this year in ways that are hard to quantify. It is clear that your messaging is getting through to legislators. All 147 of them talked about the barrage of retirees who have contacted them about pension and healthcare benefits. Also, we had big advocacy efforts from legislators in both political parties. You deserve bipartisan support on your issues, and this year you got it.

After dissecting the budget and all the bills that were passed, we will begin preparing for the 2019 Legislative Session. Important interim lobbying will take place at the Select Committee on Pension Policy, Governor Inslee's office, and on the campaign trail. All will lay the groundwork for the 2019 Session to ensure your concerns are represented in the 2019-2021 operating budget.

What the Legislature provided retirees this year is an improvement, but not what retirees requested or what you deserved to receive. We'll keep up the fight until retirees get the medical and pension benefits they need to live a comfortable, dignified retirement.

*Submitted by Kathy Albi and Pat Anderson*

**Spokane Area Retired Educators Association**  
**P.O. Box 823**  
**Spokane, WA 99210**

## **SAREA Contacts**

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SAREA Website:  
<http://spokanearearetirededucators.org>

*Congrats to SAREA's  
nominees for  
2018 WSSRA Awards*

*Stan McNaughton  
Outreach Award  
Jaki Lake*

*Patrick Hoban  
Meritorious Award  
Carol McGurk*

## **Other Contacts**

WSSRA Office  
1-800-544-5219

WSSRA Messages  
1-800-221-1269

Legislative Hotline  
1-800-562-6000

WA State HCA Hotline  
1-800-200-1004

*In Memoriam*

*Mark Miller  
Don Simonson  
Thomas Wetherholt*