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Plan to attend the annual meeting on May 19!



Chapter members will receive in their mail, or may already have received an official notice essentially containing the following information about the chapter's annual meeting, to be held on **May 19, 2017**, at the **Silver Reef Casino and Spa in Ferndale, WA** (4876 Haxton Way). The meeting will begin at **11:30 a.m.**, and lunch will be provided. The meeting will adjourn by 1:30 p.m.

At the meeting, members will nominate and elect officers to two-year terms (2017-19) and consider a proposed Bylaws amendment. There will also be an "information session," followed by "Good of the Order."

Chapter members are welcome to attend the program of the AFT Washington Convention that evening. The cost of the program and the dinner that goes with it will be \$40.00 per person. If you would like to stay overnight at the convention site, the double-occupancy rate will be \$109.

To attend the chapter meeting, contact **Merrilee Miron** by phone (206-432-8083) or email (mmiron@aftwa.org) not later than May 4, 2017. To reserve a room or stay for the dinner and program, contact Convention Organizer **Elizabeth Ferrell** by phone (206-432-8088) not later than May 4.

Mary Hale, President
Susan Levy, Vice President & Liaison to Other Retiree Organizations
Rosemary Thurston, Secretary
Glenda Hanson, Treasurer & Chapter Rep. to AFTWA COPE
John Guevarra, Director
Ann McCartney, Director
Ross Rieder, Director & Chapter Rep. to AFTWA Exec. Board

Roger Carlstrom, Editor

Merrilee Miron, AFTWA Staff Liaison

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Please join PSARA in our fight for Social Security & Medicare! **By Susan Levy, Vice President**



Photo by Garet Munger

Ed. note: The following article is adapted from one that appeared under the title "Moving Forward" in the March 2017 issue of The Retiree Advocate, a publication of the PSARA Education Fund. Susan Levy is Co-Outreach Vice President for PSARA.

Do you know the term "SCRAP THE CAP"? If the cap were scrapped, the social security trust fund would be able to increase benefits and be stable until the 2070s.

Have you heard about the Social Security Expansion Act of 2017? Senate Bill 427 (introduced by Senator **Bernie Sanders**) and House Resolution 114 (Introduced by **Peter DeFazio**) would combine a partial scrapping of the cap with benefit improvements.

The organization, Puget Sound Advocates for Retiree Action (PSARA), sees these bills as a positive step towards our goal of providing a secure retirement for current and future retirees.

PSARA wants to focus the political discussion on strengthening and improving Social Security and Medicare for all. No cuts are needed; improvements are possible and worth fighting for.

We've held several successful forums entitled "Protecting, Strengthening and Expanding Social Security and Medicare for all Generations." We had over 90 people in Port Townsend, 50 people at the Central Area Senior Center, about 80 in Kent. These forums are co-sponsored by community groups and feature an

inspiring PSARA presentation about preventing cuts and suggesting easy "fixes" for expansion. They also provide an opportunity to meet and talk with many of our co-sponsors. We have worked with health care organizations, churches, and neighborhood groups on these forums.

But this is not enough. We want to talk with more of you and your organizations about future programs. Currently, we are looking at presenting forums in Gig Harbor, on Whidbey Island, in Yakima, and more. Our goal is to make sure all our community friends know the importance of these two government programs and have a chance to fight with us. We need improvements, not cuts.

Do you know of an organization (or a group of organizations) that might like to hear our presentation? Or, would you be willing to help us advertise a forum in your area? If so, please talk to them and talk to me, by phone (206-524-4326) or email (sjlevy.01@gmail.com).

Finally, please let your U.S. Senators (**Patty Murray** and **Maria Cantwell**) and your U.S. Representative know that you support the Social Security Expansion Act of 2017.





It's spring, so what about the Mariners?



The Newsletter's editor knows it's spring when he heads over to **Bill Faller's** house here in Yakima to find out what lies ahead for the Mariners in the upcoming season. Bill, you may remember, is a coaching legend in community college baseball circles.

This spring, we met on March 31, the Friday before the season was to start on Monday for the Mariners. Bill had some health issues in March, and so he had not had as much opportunity as usual to watch spring training games, but an



important point that he made was that judging what will happen during the season is difficult to do on the basis of spring training. For one, pitchers are working on their own weaknesses rather than on getting batters out. Batters for their part are working on *their* weaknesses as well. Moreover, hitting in Arizona is a whole lot different from hitting at Safeco Field. When the season starts, it's a whole new ballgame, you could say.

Overall, Bill likes the moves that General Manager **Jerry Dipoto** made in the offseason, and he thinks Dipoto and manager **Scott Servais** have an excellent working relationship. The club's offense with its obvious speed should be greatly improved, depending on how that speed is used. When players get on base, will they run or just wait, as they did last year for the most part, until somebody hits the long ball?

It's hard to have confidence in the starting rotation. **Felix Hernandez** isn't what he used to be, and while **Hisashi Iwakuma** had some good games last year, he also had some bad ones, and Bill thinks the Dodgers let Iwakuma go last year for a reason. **James Paxton** has a history of minor injuries that hold him back, but Bill wonders if many of them have been real. **Dillon Overton**, who could use a haircut, as could utility player **Taylor Motter**, appears promising.

Bill has no opinion about the bullpen, though he notes that the Mariners view the bullpen as a real strength. **Edwin Diaz**, the closer, looks solid.

The Mariners should be a better club than they were last year, but they're playing in a very tough division. Houston is definitely strong, as is Texas. Bill doesn't think that either Oakland or Los Angeles will have another down year.

As was the case last year, Bill doesn't think he'll have to buy World Series tickets to see the Mariners this year.

¡Hola!

Angela Gonzalez, in an article appearing in the March 11, 2017, print edition of The Seattle Times, reported that the United States is "the fifth-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world," behind only Mexico, Colombia, Spain, and Argentina ("Spanish version coming to Amazon.com," A5).





Did you know?

Washington State law allows you to create before you die a **Pet Trust** by which you can provide for the care of your pet after you die. In a pamphlet entitled, "Trusts: What you need to know about trusts," the

Washington State Bar Association states that "There are many things to consider when creating a trust for your pet" and

counsels that "you should consult a professional with expertise in this area" before entering into such a trust. For more information, in the search box of your search engine, enter "Washington State Bar Association pamphlet on Trusts" and that will take you to a PDF version of the pamphlet.



Senator Schumer looks back at 2016 and forward to 2018

On March 2, 2017, **Steve Inskip** of NPR's Morning Edition interviewed New York Senator and Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer**. Here is part of what the Senator said:

INSKEEP: Here's a memory I have of 2006 when Democrats captured control – Democrats were perceived as tacking a little more right, talking a little bit less about gun control. Is that something you want the party to do now?

SCHUMER: Well, I – here's what we're going to talk about – and I do look at the 2016 elections. We should have won. We got to look in the mirror and say, what'd we do wrong? Here's what we did wrong. We did not have a strong, bold, if

you will, somewhat populist economic message. So when you asked average voters who didn't like Trump and were not particularly fond of Hillary, what is the Democratic Party mean [sic] – stand for that will help you, they couldn't name anything. 2018 – they're going to name a whole bunch of things because we are going to have a strong plan.

We'll see, eh?

The way it goes

In an article in the February 27, 2017, print edition of *The New Yorker* about "Why reason and evidence won't change our minds," **Elizabeth Kolbert** quotes professors and cognitive scientists **Steven Sloman** and **Philip Fernbach**: "As a rule, strong feelings about issues do not emerge from deep understanding." This "problem," she says, is reinforced by our dependence on the minds of others.

If your position on, say, the Affordable Care Act is baseless and I rely on it, then my opinion is also baseless. When I talk to Tom and he decides he agrees with me, his opinion is also baseless, but now that the three of us concur we feel that much more smug about our views. If we all now dismiss as unconvincing any information that contradicts our opinion, you get, well, the Trump Administration. From "That's What You Think," 70.





My problems? Here's how I'm dealing with them!

By Michael T. Harves



I'm fighting a bad case of ED ("existential despair," perhaps not what you thought?), with a side dish of GT (guilt

trip). Yes, the President in charge of hyperbole has given me a case of ED, but he may or may not be responsible for my GT. The latter is a result of the amazing stock market run after the election. The Wall Street Wizards can't decide if it's a Trump Bump or sound fundamentals. Whatever the reason, my retirement accounts have done very well, and I'm sure that most of you are seeing the same results.

I was proud to have supported **Obama** and his path to economic recovery. That recovery enabled me to retire when I did and do all the traveling I have done since then. This latest boost makes me feel privileged without a reason I can support, as I know there are many who have not received such benefits.

That many of those not benefiting from Wall Street manipulations voted for Trump does not help relieve my guilty feelings. That I have Medicare coverage (for now, but that's another article) and Social Security (for now, but that's another part of that other article) makes it even worse.

"Come on, Mike, quit your whining. You know damn well that immigrants, the environment, the poor, students, women, science, the arts, and public broadcasting are all under attack, and you can cure both your ED and GT with your voice, actions, and money. Lay out a path, and get to it!" Thank goodness, I still have a conscience.

Here's my plan; feel free to join in wherever you can.

I care deeply about all the groups I just mentioned, but I no longer have the energy to be that much of an activist, so I will need to choose those that I think I can best help with my time and money. I have to go with my strengths, which include science, education, and the environment. I will involve myself primarily on a local level but will contribute to national NGOs (non-governmental organizations). Writing my government officials on these issues will also be an action item. Fortunately, with **Murray** and **Cantwell** as senators, I will have receptive ears. Unfortunately, **Cathy McMorris Rodgers**, my congresswoman, will not be receptive.

So I will use my actions, voice, and GT gains to relieve my ED – green bills, not blue pills!

Mike Harves taught biology at Yakima Valley College and

In hopes of staying in our own homes as we age

By Inga Wiehl



Eastern Washington is weighing in with a new *Village*: *The Yakima and Selah Neighbors Network*. YSNN is the third in Eastern Washington and one of sixteen *Villages* in the state: six established and ten in development. Nationwide

there are two hundred, with one hundred and fifty in the process, all with the same goal: to allow seniors to stay in our houses as we age, helped by a group of *Village* members and volunteers who care about a better experience of aging in our community. *Villages* are not places but carefully planned networks of friends with the same orientation.

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A Union of Professionals

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In October 2015, four of us from the Yakima area participated in a *National Village Gathering* in Seattle about *Villages* and the *National Village-to-Village Network*. We came away seriously committed to building a Yakima and Selah Village.

By now, we have enlarged our self-appointed Board from the original four members to a total of ten hard working individuals, all with different skills and all learning together. To identify service gaps, we have interviewed local agencies, such as People for People and Aging & Long Term Care; we have articulated our mission, registered our name with the Secretary of State's Office, taken steps to submit our application for non-profit status and to open a bank account, and we have located a *pro bono* attorney.

The generosity of our community made our first major function possible on February 13, 2017, going public with our plans for YSNN and seeking suggestions for eliciting financial support, for finding office space with office equipment, and for finding and vetting volunteers who could help carry out our goal of providing support for seniors by connection through our network. The responses were positive, helpful, and gratifying.

We are deeply committed to our work, convinced that it is worth our efforts to stay active and creative, to engage with members of our community, to keep going together and assuaging our basic human aloneness by building community. The choice of staying home with support and connection will be even more important as the 65+ population grows from 48 to 79 million by 2035, and one of three American households is headed by someone 65 or older.

We challenge other seniors around the state to get involved in a *Village* near them or start their own.

For more information, go to <http://vtvnetwork.org/>.

Inga Wiehl began teaching English at Yakima Valley College in the fall of 1966, after having first taught at several universities and colleges outside the state of Washington. She retired from YVC in 2000. She is also the author of three books, with a fourth due to be published in November, 2017.

The start of programs for early-childhood care at Seattle College By Rachael Levine



Photo by Phillip Levine

As a follow up to the Retiree Newsletter's special treatment of Seattle Central College's 50th anniversary in the January/February issue, I thought I

should speak to the development of Early Childhood Care and Education Laboratory programs, which first began at Seattle Central in 1967 and then later at NSCC.

Our faculty came with backgrounds in psychology, social work, music, nutrition, home economics and early grade school teaching. Division Chairperson, **Frances Prindle** at SCCC, came from the University of Chicago Merrill Palmer Institute. **Margaret Johnson** at NSCC brought new UW research in "behavior modification" to our faculty-development classes. They insisted that the word "training" *not* be part of our program title. (Quote: "You *train* rats. You *educate* human beings.")

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There were those, including legislators, who were skeptical about teaching something that “comes naturally.” However, research was finding that early life is critical in the development of the “whole child,” and parents, as first teachers, wanted to know more.

Awareness of diversity was writ large for curricula development in each of our three student groups: adult ECCE students, children 3 months to 5 years, and parents. As faculty, we worked alongside our students to create an environment that reflected this diversity, celebrated with song, story, and food. At the same time, we had to demonstrate “best practices” in meeting licensing requirements, health, safety, and USDA standards of food service.

Our faculty and students took their education and experience to family day-care providers, refugees in ESL classes, and public housing locations. Written materials were developed, covering everything from “risk assessment” to the building of play equipment. The very nature of our ECCE programs practiced what **Michael Kischner** called “bridging disciplines and experience” in coordinated studies.

With falling enrollment over three years, the lab school program at SCCC ended in 1992. One senior administrator at SCCC opined that ECCE “didn’t have to be a Cadillac.” Another advised us to send our students to programming classes, where they could be “trained to actually make a living.” He was right, of course. Beginning wages for child care providers were most often below minimum wage. Wage disparity still exists.

Knowledge of early childhood is widely known now. Day care is expensive. Parents fiercely compete for quality. **Ivanka Trump**, “taking on child care as her personal cause,” (Seattle Times, March 12), will likely find that providing quality

child care is as complicated, personal and political as health care.

*Ed. note: Rachael wrote this article in consultation with **Maralyn Thomas Schier**, who continued doing field work with day-care providers and parent-education groups until 2010.*



Photo by April Eng

The faculty back then

My tale of an extraordinary man By Ross Rieder, Director



Back in the mid-1960s, I was a junior high school music teacher. I became active in AFT Local 772. I became president. The local had a small office on the second floor of the Everett Labor Temple.

On a rainy Sunday afternoon, I was in the office producing a newsletter to Everett faculty for distribution the next morning.

Little did I know that, in that afternoon, I would be taught a fundamental key to successful organizing. The rule? It is a leader’s job to ask people to do finite tasks.

Here’s what I did. I called up a younger, new teacher I had met at our TGIF the previous Friday. I asked him if he had time to come down to the EFT office and help me run off a flier for the next day’s delivery to district-teacher mailboxes.

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The task was to help stuff about 30 envelopes with the flier and then ride around the district, sliding those envelopes of union information addressed to union reps for delivery to teacher mail boxes.

Then, we had dinner. We became good friends. When I left the classroom to work for the Washington State Federation of Teachers as a full-time president, **Mike Sells** succeeded me as president of the local.

Mike and I worked out a “merger” with the education association at least a decade before such actions became the thing to do. He served as president of the Everett Education Association from 1981 to 1998. He was Secretary Treasurer of the Snohomish County Labor Council for about two decades.

He has represented the 38th Legislative District (Everett, Marysville and Tulalip) for at least ten years in the Washington State House of Representatives. As Chair of the House Labor and Workforce Development, he has worked to bring more access to programs that will help people succeed in their jobs and businesses. He is a sound supporter of union members and their organizations. A friend of our working class.

Of the Oregon Trail do I speak By Roger Carlstrom, Editor



For my birthday last December, **Connie’s** and my son **Terry** gave me a book about which I had my doubts: **Rinker Buck’s** *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey* (2015). What could be so great about a covered wagon on

asphalt? I wondered.

As I learned from the book, comparatively speaking, very little of the Oregon Trail today is asphalt until it reaches Oregon, where the trail has

become Interstate 84.

Buck recounts the May-to-September 2011 journey that he and his younger brother **Nick** made from Missouri to Oregon in a genuine **Peter Schuttler** wagon (“the minivan of the plains”), with a “Trail Pup” for hauling extra cargo hitched behind, the two wagons drawn by three mules, “Crazy Beck, Steady Jake, and Prom Queen Bute.” Nick, a first class mule skinner afraid of nothing, stands in marked contrast to Rinker, the author, a less-than-first-class mule skinner, afraid very often on the journey of practically everything. The brothers fight and make up. Rinker is beset from time to time by the ghost of his father. We learn how mules are to be talked to, and how not. Their personalities are taken into account.

Across Nebraska, Wyoming, and Idaho, the brothers encountered wonderful hospitality from farmers and ranchers, who invited them into their pastures, barns, corrals, and homes; who fed them; who entertained them. They encountered breakdowns and rollovers and storms and parts of the trail they had no business following because of potential and substantial danger to wagons, mules, and themselves. They followed those parts, nonetheless. They learned the great difference between encountering such difficulties as two mule skimmers, on the one hand, and as part of a wagon train of yesteryear, on the other, where extra hands were available to help when trouble arose.

With many vignettes of Oregon-Trail travelers in the 1800s, accounts of skirmishes back then between settlers and Indians and the elements, and much more, this book enhanced my understanding of the West and its development.

I think you’d like the book. I certainly did.

Contact us:
retireenews@aftwa.org

labor donated