

May

2022

SAREA HIGHLIGHTS

NEW COVID TEST TO TREAT INITIATIVE

I am fully vaccinated and a few weeks ago I got COVID, had the normal cold symptoms and body ache but the next day my eyelids drooped, had difficulty talking and nerve pain in legs. I learned on the CDC site those with a compromised immune system (which I have) can be given antiviral medicine to help you stay out of the hospital and help symptoms go away. On day 3 of a 5 day dose of medicine the neurological symptoms were gone. If you have a compromised immune system or know someone that does please tell them about the Test to Treat initiative.

Submitted by Kathy Braid



DON'T DELAY: TEST SOON AND TREAT EARLY

| COVID-19 |

If you are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19, and test positive, treatment may be available.



Get tested as soon as possible after your symptoms start.

Contact your healthcare provider right away if your result is positive.



Don't delay. Treatment must be started early to work.



cdc.gov/coronavirus



From our President, Brad Beal

Honorary Membership Congratulations Marilyn Shaw

The WSSRA Executive Board approved her honorary membership at the April meeting. Marilyn dedicated many years to our state and local unit leadership. Don Kackman our Coordinating Council Chair expressed his appreciation for the leadership she provided regarding organizing and selecting scholarship winners for many years. Listed below are an example of her participation.

State level -

- Communication Committee Representative
- E-7 Representative
- State Communication Chair
- State Conference Chair – Spokane Conference

Unit level –

- President 2 terms
- Vice President 2 terms
- Chair of a variety committees (scholarship etc.)





Legislative Update

The Legislature is currently not in session and legislators are in election-year mode. WSSRA will soon be selecting candidates for endorsements and contributions. The opportunity for members to offer any input must be done between the Primary results on August 2 and the 5:00 p.m. deadline for comments on August 5th. The 2022 WSSRA-PAC Timeline is as follows:

May 16-20 Candidate filing

June 1-15 PAC questionnaire mailed to candidates

June-July Unit candidate research

August 2 Primary Election

August 5, 5:00 p.m. Unit deadline for candidate recommendations

August 8 WSSRA-PAC meeting

TBD Legislative Committee review

August 17 Executive Board finalizes contributions

August 30 Deadline for distribution of funds. Legislators have now entered election-year restrictions. This means that beginning on May 16 they will not be able to send out their regular email updates until after the November general election results are certified. You can still contact their offices with any questions or concerns about the state government. They try to be available as guest speakers at local events as much as possible. Submitted by



Submitted by Kathy Albi and Patricia Anderson

General Meeting - March 16 on Zoom

For our General Meeting on Wednesday, March 16th, we were fortunate to have Lynn St Louis, Founder and Managing Partner at the Elder Law Group, PLLC, also known as ELG Estate Planning and Josh Dickinson, Attorney At Law. The presentation, "Reasons to Get Your Estate Plan in Order in 2022", addressed important topics, including Power of Attorney, Living Wills, Financial Safeguards, Avoiding Probate and much more. If you think you have everything in order, you might want to reconsider. Did you know banks have their own set of rules and if your Power of Attorney hasn't been updated in the last five years, they will not honor it and your loved ones will have to hire an attorney to access money from your accounts? You can listen to a presentation much like the one at our meeting at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6W27cKg9f0&t=7s>

Board Meeting - April 20th

The board met at the Spokane Public Schools Tech Center. Students from the Culinary Arts Program, under the direction of Chef Eric Cook, served a fabulous lunch of lamb burgers, homemade chips and dessert. The students learn everything about cooking and serving to individuals or small groups in their restaurant or putting on a large banquet in one of their conference rooms; running a well-organized industrial-sized kitchen, equipped with the state-of-the-art appliances; and the art of washing dishes correctly. Students are bussed in from many different school districts. We saw students from Lakeside, Riverside, East Valley, West Valley, Central Valley, Cheney, Mead and Spokane. The public is welcome but make reservations for their restaurant. Reservations are not needed for the snack shop. Our students are incredibly lucky to have this opportunity for learning. If you can, please support this program.

SAREA Scholarships

On March 14th, the Scholarship Committee met. After we awarded the State Scholarships with Linda Marler, those of us from SAREA met and awarded four more scholarships. We gave one \$2,000 PAW Scholarship and three \$1,500 scholarships to students who didn't receive a state scholarship. Applications were down this year and we discussed ways to improve the application process.

Submitted by Charlotte Schelling

Bits & Pieces – May

Never tell a constituent a bill is dead. That critical advice is drilled into all legislative staffers. It's stalled; yes, that's okay. It's a zombie bill; sure, it gets the point across. On rare occasions the rules are suspended, and a bill gets resurrected.

One of our dead bills, HB 1699, was resurrected in the final moments of this legislative session. HB 1699 temporarily increases retiree return-to-work hours from 867 to 1040. School retirees will be able to substitute in classified and certified positions – excluding central administrative positions – for an additional 21 days or 173 hours. The new law will be in effect through the year 2025.

Legislators passed a record-breaking operating budget – \$64 billion in sum. Much of that is one-time federal money. WSSRA's contract lobbyists think the biennial budget written next year will be closer to \$55 billion after the federal money is spent.

Fortunately, school retirees had some important items in the budget. The final budget included the \$183 monthly Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit. Legislators made the actuarially recommended pension payment to the pension funds. Funding was also included for a Plan 1 COLA.

Legislators passed legislation for a Plan 1 COLA to take effect this summer. Therefore, retirees in Plans 1, 2, and 3 will receive an increase of up to 3% this July.

An end-of-session report will be available on the WSSRA webpage for those would like a complete list of pension, health care, and senior bills this session.

Submitted by Victoria Russell



Christmas Luncheon Request

We are looking for members of SAREA who belong to the Manito Golf and Country Club and would be willing to sponsor our annual Christmas Luncheon. Please let Charlotte Schelling know if you are able to help us.

Thank you,

Charlotte Schelling

Yamma10@me.com

Country Homes ESL

Todd Gossett is reaching out to our membership to support a teaching system of one tutor to one student. He is the Administrative Assistant and English Language School Director at Country Homes Christian Church. They have been helping refugees and immigrants learn English for 42 years.

They are once again growing with different opportunities because of Afghanistan and Ukraine. He is encouraging us to reach out to members and former colleagues in the hope of recruiting individuals interested in being a tutor.

Todd Gossett can be reached by phone: 509-466-3414 or email:

office@chchristian.org

Submitted by Charlotte Schelling



A beautiful thank you
from Mullan Road Elementary
for receiving a Mini Grant from
SAREA.



IN MEMORIAM



JANUARY 1, 2022

Chung Park
Joy Rowbotham
Margaret Walsh
Jean Williams

FEBRUARY 4, 2022

Lois Peck

March 1, 2022

Robert Burkhart
Kyle Pugh

APRIL 5, 2022

Patricia Black
Mavis Broberg
Jean Clark
Barbara M. Grohs
Albert Johnson
Ronald Knudsen
Glendine Leonard
Daryl Preuninger

SAREA Contacts

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Spokane, WA 99210

Brad Beal, President
509-466-3561

SAREA Website:
spokanearearetired
educators.org

Other Contacts

WSSRA Office
1-800-544-5219

WSSRA Messages
1-800-544-5219

Legislative Hotline
1-800-200-1004

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

