

WE...too

Washington Education
Association – Retired

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Preserving those old photos

By Nancy Miller
Editor, WE . . . too
Lake Washington SD, retired

If you're like me, you're attending lots of 50th anniversaries, retirements, and other reflective celebrations. But I do have one sinful admission: sometimes during the speeches, my mind wanders and I find myself intrigued by the photo show of the career of the honoree or the travels of the happy couple. What, I wonder, would a show made of my photos be like? And, more significantly, how did they do that?

Of course, it depends on what you want to do.

I am a genealogy aficionado, and as a result, the family has sent me hundreds of old photos. I've started to scan a few with our home scanner, but realize that I would need a lifetime to scan photos if I take that route. I salute you if you choose to do so, but if not, you have the same choice as the Big Boys. Out-source! Scanmyphotos.com will do batch scanning at a reasonable rate.

If you already have digital

photos, but want to create a photo album to share them, blurb.com has free software to guide you through the book-making process. Then blurb can print up as many as you please (starting about \$12.95 per copy) and you've created your own coffee table books for Christmas presents. Costco.com (costco.com/PhotoCenter) offers this service also, as does Scanmy-photos.com and lulu.com. Once you've got those digital photos, you can also create DVDs to share with your kids, friends, or a helpless audience.

And now you will want to digitize your home movies and old slideshows. Showing your movie and recording the screen with your digital camcorder will digitize them, but there will be a serious degradation of quality (think playing your records, and tape-recording from the speakers). I don't recommend it. After all, you are doing this so that some-

one else will appreciate what you produce and treasure it as a gift, and quality standards these days don't allow for a lot of static and visual snow. Most of these services, including Costco, will convert home videos, movies, and slides into DVDs for you. If you have VHS home movies, Sony will sell you a

device to attach to your VCR, and make the DVD while you are running the tape. Slides and film (remember super-8, 8mm, and 16mm?) can also be converted to DVDs. Moviehomedepot.com, costco.com and mymovietransfer.com can do this. You can also get editing programs for your computer and a converter

which will convert analog film to MPEG-2 format; this allows you to edit your work – but it is a lot of work itself, and time-consuming!

While you are figuring out how to add music and commentary to your creations, you are sure to dig out a few boxes of LPs that you don't play anymore but that are sure memory

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Is there a family photo like this in your album?

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View from Federal Way

'March Madness' from my view

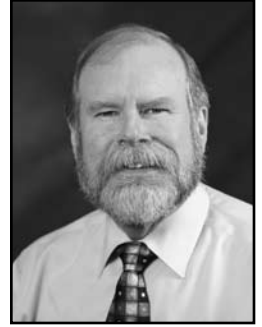
by Mike Ragan
WEA Vice President

Greetings, WEA-Retired! I had planned to discuss the legislative session, but as of today, the Legislature is not done with their work. The special session is in full swing, and we have no idea what will happen with the budget.

I think it is redundant to tell retirees that these are tough times. Interest on savings is nonexistent and the value of investments is substantially lower than just a couple of years ago. Tough times require tough decisions. Anyone can make the easy decisions, which is why there are frustrations with legislators. When running for office they are full of confidence and profess that they are the best person to trust when the going gets tough. Now when we need that toughness, many look for distractions to avoid facing the challenge. Last year they avoided dealing with the budget problems by jumping on a phony education reform bandwagon. This

year it was harder to avoid the budget shortfall, and so they are in a special session because they could not come to an agreement in time.

No one should be surprised by the judge's ruling in the NEWS court case that the state has not lived up to its constitutional duty to fund public education. We all know how easy it is to promise programs and how easy it is to cut taxes. The constitution requires ample funding for public schools and the Legislature has promised lots of programs. Now is the time for them to live up to their campaign slogans and do their duty to fund the programs they like to talk about, and the ones they are legally required to fund. And it's time to stop hiding behind the gainsharing lawsuit and do their duty toward our public employee pensions. Let them know how you feel.



Mike Ragan, WEA
Vice President

Council membership awards announced

WEA-Retired Past President Kathy Wallentine made it a focus of her presidency to increase membership in WEA-Retired. To recognize councils for their efforts, three traveling awards were created. At the October 2009 WEA Board of Directors meeting, WEA-Retired Vice President Sandy Kokko announced the 2009 award winners.

WEA Chinook continues its lock on the award for most members with 610 members. Sammamish remains its closest competitor with 452 members.

The second award is for the most new members. Pilchuck came in first this year with 31 new members. Runner up was WEA-Midstate with 13 new members. Many new members join while attending WEA-Retired pre-retirement seminars.

Pilchuck also received the award for the highest percentage of increased membership with 9.17 percent. North Central came in second with 6.93 percent.

Congratulations to these councils, and now the rest of you have been challenged!

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Send to:

Editor: Nancy Miller –
editor.WE.Too@hotmail.com

Editorial Board:

Lee Ann Prielipp, Carl Taylor,
Jean Savidge, Sandy Kokko
and Stacia Bilisland

Mailing Address:

WEA-Retired, P.O. Box 9100
Federal Way, WA 98063-9100

Association connectivity

Staying connected

by Kit Raney
Snohomish SD, Retired

Ahhh ... the good old days — BR (before retirement), it was easy to stay informed about what was going on in our profession, in the WEA and in our local association. Newsletters and flyers found their way into our school mailboxes, notices were placed on the Association bulletin board and, if we had a question, it was easy to find a Building Rep to get an answer. (And let's not forget the announcements over the intercom!) All in all, it was pretty easy to feel connected and informed.

In retirement, that association connection is more precarious because we're no longer located as a group. Many of us have moved, or at least spent more time away from home. Keeping the connection requires a little proactive attention. Since you are reading this article in the WEA-Retired newsletter, the address that WEA and NEA have for you must be correct. That's a good thing and means that you should be receiving publications from WEA, NEA, WEA-Retired and NEA-Retired in the mail. If you need to update your address, go to www.washingtonea.org, click the Membership dropdown tab to "Change of address/phone."

Are you receiving any e-mails from WEA or WEA-Retired? If you are not, it may be because the e-mail address on file for you is your old school e-mail address and you've been retired for five years ... Maybe it's time to update it! You can update your e-mail address the same way you can update your mailing address — go to www.washingtonea.org, Membership tab, change address/phone.

While you're on the WEA Web site (and after you've updated your address, phone number and e-mail address), spend some time looking at what's there. A recent visit to the WEA Web site found articles on the U.S. Department of Education and Race to the Top, bargaining, healthcare and much more. Many articles allow comments to be posted if you have an opinion to share. While you're there, be sure to read the latest from WEA President Mary Lindquist at *Mary's e-chalk*.

Want to know the latest on what's happening in Olympia? Click on **Take Action Now! Our-**

Voice on the top right side of the WEA Web site. This is where you can find daily updates and have the timely opportunity to take action on issues important to education, students and WEA members. Click on **Take Action Now**, follow the easy instructions, complete the information and you will have quickly sent an e-mail to the appropriate elected officials. Be sure that you leave the box checked next to "Yes, I would like to receive periodic updates and communications from Washington

Educations Association." This will allow you to receive e-mail updates.

Do you have friends who aren't receiving information from WEA-Retired? Please share the steps to update membership information with them. And if they're not yet members of WEA-Retired, send them to www.washingtonea.org, Membership tab, Member group pages, WEA-Retired Home page, WEA-Retired makes sense.... Read more. Finally, click on the link for WEA-Retired Membership to find the enrollment form for WEA-Retired.

Follow these steps and you'll be able to be connected to WEA and WEA-Retired and be informed about important issues ... without any interruptions from the intercom!



Member Activities

What's on your list?

By Mike Hilty

Lake Washington SD, Retired

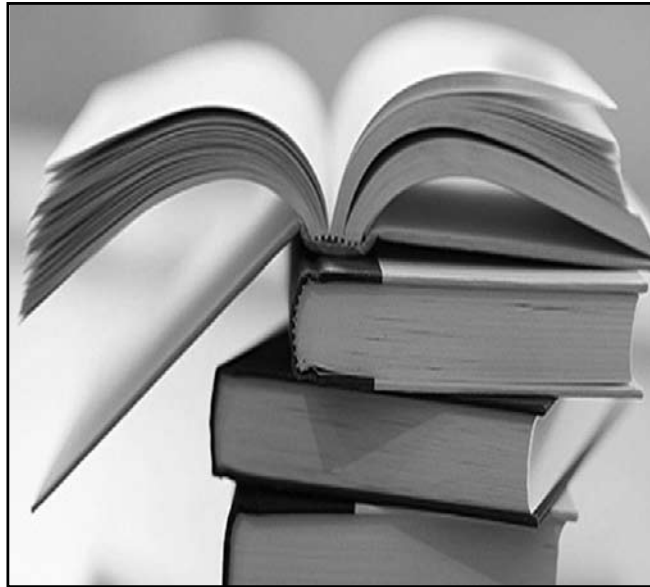
During our working lives, we accumulate lists of what we long to do during our retirement years. In retirement, we have the time to do them. Often our lists differ quite a bit from those written by our colleagues, and talking with retired friends helps me add some pretty neat things I hadn't thought of to my own list. Some of the items on my list are as simple as looking up every word whose meaning is unknown to me. Some are as complex as auditing a course in Anthropology — a subject I had never studied before — at our local university, Western Washington. It is fun to have plenty of time to spend really listening to people, asking them how they are and then taking the time to soak up what they have to say. I have enjoyed taking cooking classes and moving beyond peanut butter sandwiches and soups.

(I discovered the other day that julienne is a verb. Who would have thought?) I continue my practice of volunteering in food banks, and since I enjoy hiking, I have also volunteered to build and maintain trails in the Puget Sound region.

One of the good things about being over 60 in this state is that you can audit courses at

state universities for nothing, if there is room in the class. The professors appreciate having someone in the class who has a bit of gray hair and who remembers how much fun it was to ride in a '62 Chevy. It can be a little uncomfortable in a U.S. History class to realize that the professor is discussing events that you don't need a book to tell you about because you were there. But the perspective and experience you bring, especially as an educator, is understood and valued.

Or one can just read any-



thing that has been on the pile for these many years.

Something that takes up a lot of my time is traveling and preparing for travel. Studying the history and culture of a country you are about to visit adds lots more layers to the experience.

When I was teaching, the preparation for travel often

consisted of doing a load of laundry and tossing the clean clothing into a bag. And reading about the place I was about to visit while sitting on airplanes and in airports. If there was any vacation time left, I might get a chance to read up on my destination after I had returned from it. Not any more.

When booking trips you can take advantage of off-season rates and discounts that were only a dream when you had to travel in the same high-season as everyone else. A roundtrip ticket on Amtrak to

Vancouver is under \$30 at my advanced age. I may not be a rich man but I feel like one. No sleep deprivation keeps me from appreciating fully whatever I see and hear and I suffer no withdrawal because I have no papers to grade.

Next on the list of travel destinations are a Revolutionary War tour and tours to Iceland and Greenland. Right now I know nothing

about any of those places and events. The more I travel the more there is to learn. And as my bucket list grows smaller it will be fun to help out kids who are having a hard time understanding nerdy things in thick textbooks. As we have been telling our kids for years, we all are life-long learners. Enjoy!

Armageddon, dystopias, and lighter topics

by Nancy Miller, Editor, WE ...Too, WEA-Retired

As our New Year's Resolutions have gone the way of all flesh, we can console ourselves by taking an excursion into fiction. If we are clever, we can make a resolution about reading, and so find success in at least one self-improvement endeavor!

Margaret Atwood has produced *The Year of the Flood*, a co-quel (happens at the same time) to her well-received *Oryx and Crake*. Garth Stein has written *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Which book you choose depends on what kind of world you want to visit.

In *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, the narrator is Enzo, a golden retriever, who is sure that his dew claws would have been opposable thumbs. At the book's opening, he is old and barely alive, but planning how to manipulate his owner. As he waits, he reflects over his life. He has learned much of what he knows of the world from the television, which is left on while his owner is at work.

His ambition is to be, like his owner, a race car driver, and their locale, Seattle, means that he learns the art of racing in the rain. Along the path of Enzo's life, his owner passes through marriage, courtship, divorce, threat of personal ruin, snobby in-laws — in short, the ups and downs of life where a supportive canine can offer sympathy, and sometimes very creative help, albeit from his particular four-legged perspective.

Atwood's book *Oryx and Crake* also opens with an injured, weakened character reflecting over his life. As we see the world from the view of Snowman, it is a world after apocalypse, seemingly empty of human beings except for him and a tribe of cloned, childlike hominids under his charge, with nature gone wild and filled with engineered hybrid life-forms that have escaped from the labs of biotech firms. As the story alternates between a pre-disaster time dominated by security com-

pounds and self-indulgence and a time scarred by the results of a nameless disaster, Snowman is revealed as Jimmy, a childhood friend of Crake, who may or may not have released the forces of chaos that have engulfed the world. Is this disaster, or human evolution? Who or what is human, or humane?

The Year of the Flood also starts inside the biotech compounds, but follows the story of Toby, a girl drawn into God's Gardeners, a cult-like group who have rejected the high-tech world and have the skill-set to survive in the post-apocalyptic world. This remarkable book is supplemented by real-world production of music for its poetry, resulting in hauntingly appealing eco-hymns available on the internet.

Feel like keeping a resolution, and travelling far while safe at home? Choose one of these books and step into the world seen from a whole new perspective.

DOs and DON'Ts for retirement

1. DON'T go in and reorganize your wife's quilting room OR your husband's shop.
2. DO go to sleep without setting the alarm.
3. DON'T lose track of your old friends, but stay away from your old workplace.
4. DON'T mistake a financial sales pitch with planning for retirement.
5. DO set boundaries. Don't become an unpaid child caretaker — unless you've always dreamed of it.
6. DO try out those things you've always thought looked like fun — and do stop doing them if they aren't!
7. DO expect to be a fresh face: people don't know you. Look on it as a fresh start!

Organizational Activities

WEA-R Scholarships benefit many

The purpose of WEA-Retired is to support public education and to enhance the quality of life for WEA's active and retired members. Most people connect WEA-Retired with its lobbying efforts to improve the retirement plans for teachers and educational support personnel.

We certainly wear the hat of advocacy, but many are unaware of that WEA-Retired is also a giving organization, and awards up to five (5) one thousand dollar (\$1,000) scholarships annually.

The scholarships are non-renewable and are awarded for the purpose of aiding WEA members in enhancing skills in specific education areas and/or aiding WEA members to attain a teaching certificate.

Recipients are:

- ◆ Teachers working on endorsements in new subject areas; or
- ◆ Teachers fulfilling requirements to maintain certification; or
- ◆ Teachers working toward

national certification; or

- ◆ ESP members seeking to further their skills; or
- ◆ ESP members meeting credentialing requirements; or
- ◆ Student-WEA (SWEA) members studying to become teachers.

WEA-Retired holds two major fund-raisers each year to build up the scholarship fund:

In the spring a raffle is held, with the winner being drawn at the WEA Representative Assembly. Anyone can purchase raffle tickets in the months prior to the Rep Assembly. Two cash prizes, \$500 and \$200, are awarded, and the remainder of proceeds go in the Scholarship fund. Tickets are \$1.00 each.

Imagine how much we could raise if every member of WEA-Retired bought one raffle ticket!

The second major event is the first evening of the WEA-Retired Annual Meeting when delegates and others (all WEA-Retired members are welcome) are invited to attend a Dollars for Scholars banquet and auction where we often get to meet those awarded the scholar-

ships. Members and businesses donate items for both a silent and a live auction.

Smaller fundraisers take place year-round as well. WEA Chinook Retired holds a 50/50 raffle at its monthly meeting. There is a raffle of some kind at every WEA-Retired board meeting. And occasionally, a 50/50 raffle is held during a WEA board meeting.

As an affiliate of Scholarship America, donations to WEA-Retired's scholarship fund are tax deductible. Donations of any size are welcome at any time. Please consider the scholarship fund as a recipient of money rather than flowers and/or gifts on occasions such as 50th anniversary parties, birthdays in the higher numbers, and/or for the person "who has everything." Keep the scholarship in mind as a recipient for donations in the memory of a loved one. Checks should be made out to WEA-Retired Dollars for Scholars and sent to: WEA-Retired Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 9100, Federal Way, WA 98063.

Preserving those old photos

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floggers. Remember when you first heard ... but I digress. Several manufacturers will sell you a turntable that will play your vinyl while recording the tunes on a DVD for you. This device can also be plugged into your computer and the music

can be recorded there. Once it is there, you who are technically advanced can push it on to your iPod or other advanced digital device.

And for those of us who see residential down-sizing on the horizon, storing those photos and films takes lots of space and

they are rarely used. Not much is more painful than seeing boxes of memories being tossed in the trash for want of space to store them.

The pain of sorting and discarding can be eased if those that are valuable have already been sorted, labeled, gifted and appreciated — now, while you have the gift of time.

C2C? Learning the ‘new’ lanugage Care to chat? *Part two*

by David Phelps, WEA
Communications Director

Last issue, we discussed the new wave of social networking and different modes of social media. Along with the trend comes a new language whose mantra is “shorter is better.” So, we continue where we left off with frequently used abbreviations and their translations:

H Hug
H&K Hugs and Kisses
HAND Have a nice day
HRU How are you?
HW Homework
IA8 I already ate
IAC In any case
IAO I am out (of here)
IB I'm back
ICAM I couldn't agree more
ICBW It could be worse
IDC I don't care
IDK I don't know
IDTS I don't think so

IFYP I feel your pain
IM Instant Message
IMAO In my arrogant opinion
IMHO In my humble opinion
IMNSHO In my not so humble opinion
IMSB I am so bored
IMU I miss you
INAL I am not a lawyer
IOMH In over my head
IOW In other words
IRL In real life
IUSS If you say so
IYO In your opinion
IYSS If you say so
JC Just checking
J5M Just five minutes
JIC Just in case
JK Just kidding
JTOL Just thinking out loud
JUADLAM Jumping up and down like a monkey
JW Just wondering
K Okay
KEWL Cool
KISS Keep it simple, stupid
KMP Keep me posted
KPC Keeping parents clueless
KUTGW Keep up the good work
KWIM Know what I mean
LFTI Looking forward to it

LHO Laughing (my) head off
LKITR Little kid in the room
LMAO Laughing my (rear end) off
LOL Laughing out loud
LOLZ Lots of laughs
LONH Lights on, nobody home
LTNS Long time no see
LTTIC Look, the teacher is coming
LUMTP Love you more than pie
M4C Meet for coffee
MB Message board
MBN Must be nice
MEGO My eyes glaze over
Meh Who cares, whatever
MF My friend
MHOTY My hat's off to you
MML Make me laugh
MMYT Mail me your thoughts
MO Move on/over
MOS Mom over shoulder
MOTD Message of the day
MRA Moving right along
MSG Message
MSTM Makes sense to me
MTF More to follow
MUSM Miss you so much
MYL Mind your language
MYOB Mind your own business

We'll have more in the next issue ... stay tuned!

We aren't the first Follow the history of our publication, *WE...Too*



In 1994, with just over a thousand members, WEA-R began its newsletter, *WEA-R News*, a catchy title. It was printed on flimsy newsprint and edited by Vera Edwards. Jean Savidge and Bob Baker followed as editors and the name evolved in 1998 to *WEA-Retired News*.

In 2003, Steve Tellari was editor. We went from flimsy paper to glossy and slick, and the newly named *WE...Too* won NEA-Retired's "Established Newsletter" Award, followed in 2004 by a 2nd place in the same category.

Having grown to more than 5,000 members, Kathy Wallentine took over as editor in 2006. Now we have an electronic presence as well as snail-mail delivery. The current editor, Nancy Miller, came on board in 2008. As the times have changed, so have we! Please feel free to contact us and submit photos and stories for our publication.



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**Where is the
closest
WEA-Retired
chapter to you?
Organize!**

The only retired organization affiliated with WEA and NEA

The Sardonic View

Dear WEA Members,

Mount Vernon school psychologist Phil Koester says it's time to get with the program and run our schools just like they do in the corporate world. Check out his sardonic view on WEA's Web site, www.washingtonea.org, and see if his words resonate with your experience.

Mike Ragan
WEA Vice President

