



## Washington State School Retirees' Association

4726 Pacific Avenue SE • Lacey, WA 98509 • P.O. Box 5127 (360) 413-5496 • [www.wssra.org](http://www.wssra.org)

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July, 2022

New Superintendents—

On behalf of the 17,100 members of the Washington State School Retirees' Association, congratulations on your appointment and good luck in your new role!

WSSRA is the largest retiree advocacy organization in the state and the only one that represents the interests of all educators—including school administrators. We focus exclusively on K-12 pensions and health care benefits. 2021-22 was our 75<sup>th</sup> year in business.

Among our legislative priorities are:

- Improve the Plan 2/Plan 3 COLA. The current COLA is capped at 3% per year which is not keeping up with inflation.
- Maintain and improve the current \$183/month retiree Medicare health care subsidy. This is a \$300 million biennial budget item that is routinely scrutinized by budget writers in challenging economic times.
- Lower the age of non-actuarially-penalized retirement to 60—it is now 62.
- Secure a permanent Plan 1 COLA. Plan 1 TRS and Plan 1 PERS are the only of the 14 systems under the Department of Retirement Systems umbrella without a permanent COLA.

In addition to legislative advocacy, we offer member-only insurance plans through our partner AMBA covering dental and vision, long-term care, term and whole life insurance, cancer, and medical evacuation. We also offer twice-per-year retirement planning webinars with presentations from DRS, the Health Care Authority/PEBB, Social Security/Medicare and VEBA.

We have a staff of five at our Lacey office and a pair of contract lobbyists to assist with advocacy.

Joining WSSRA is easy. Just go on our website ([www.wssra.org](http://www.wssra.org)), hit the membership tab, and complete the online form. Dues are \$7 per month, and can be paid through payroll deduction, PayPal, credit card, or check.

Please contact me with general questions, information about our statewide classroom mini-grant program, or interest in sponsoring a retirement seminar in your district. Again, congratulations on your appointment!

*Alan Burke, Ed.D*

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