



Association of Retired Seattle City Employees
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Happy Holidays!



OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Masterjohn

My wife and I made a trip to Turkey this fall. Our very experienced Turkish tour guide assured us that we would be safe while visiting all the historic sites. Thankfully, he was right!

Here's what we've been working on these past few months: for those who are not familiar with the "pop-up", it is available to post-1997 retirees who choose either Retirement Plan D or Plan E. It is not available to those employees who retired prior to March 24, 1997. Retirees choosing one of these two plans reduce their monthly retirement pay in order to leave their beneficiary a monthly monetary allowance once they are deceased. The Plan D option leaves the beneficiary 50% of the retiree's benefit, while Plan E leaves the survivor 100% of the benefit. On the demise of a beneficiary, pre-March, 1997 retirees – who chose either Plan D or E – would see their monthly retirement benefit pay increase (pop-up) to what it would have been had there never been a beneficiary. We need legislation passed to make this happen for pre-March '97 retirees; however, the first step is to convince the Retirement Board that parity is needed to assure all City of Seattle retirees receive the same benefits.

At the June, 2013 meeting of the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) Board, I asked then Executive Director of the Retirement Office, Ms. Cecelia Carter, if she would look into the cost of granting the pre-March 24, 1997 retirees the same benefits as post-1997 retirees. Ms. Carter requested that the SCERS actuary, Milliman, look into the cost. At the August SCERS Board meeting, Milliman reported their findings: at that time, there were 404 retirees still with us who retired prior to March 24, 1997, (great news) and the cost to The Plan would be 4.2 million dollars. I asked how difficult would it be to determine how many of the 404 pre-1997 retirees have lost their spouses/partners? That number could significantly reduce the \$4.2 million cost.

In answer to my question, The Honorable Tim Burgess, Seattle City Council member and chair of the SCERS Board said, "Enacting the pop-up at a time when just 64% of the Retirement System's financial obligations can be paid off is detrimental to current retirees, current employees, and future hires." He also said if the funding ratio were somewhere from 80% to 90%, considering implementation would be easier. Lou Walter, SCERS Board member, stated that because all retirees worked for the City they should receive the same benefits.

The issue of the pop-up will be on the agendas at ARSCE Board meetings. Thanks to Judy Flemings for her notes and for writing on this issue so I could include it in my column.

I am sorry that I could not attend the ARSCE Fall Luncheon, however, as I previously mentioned my wife and I left for our adventure to Turkey on the same day. You will see a report of our trip in the January/February issue of *ARSCE News*, and this writing will prove that that part of the world didn't blow up while we were there!

Candidates State Their Case for Mayoral Hopes

Report from Kevin Clark & Lee Sattler

Current Mayor Mike McGinn and Senator Ed Murray attended the ARSCE Fall Luncheon for a lively debate on September 18th. Barbara Graham, ARSCE Vice President,



Mayor Mike McGinn



State Senator Ed Murray

introduced the candidates then handed over the microphone to our outstanding moderator Kevin Clark, ARSCE Board member. Each candidate was allowed a five minute opening statement, followed by a pop quiz from Kevin. Be sure to take the quiz on your retirement system details. You'll find it at the end of this article.

Mayor McGinn: "I got involved because I thought government could do better. I felt government could be more open to the public. I was concerned that we weren't focusing on the tough issues of education of our kids, the challenges of global warming, so I ran (for Mayor) – and never held office before. We came into office at a very tough time. We had deep budget cuts that we had to make to balance the budget. There was a lot of concern and strain amongst the employees, and understandably so. That was hard on me too because I really wanted to invest in things. I really wanted to be pursuing new initiatives not just figure out how we were

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Don't forget to sign up for our Christmas Luncheon on December 4th at the West Seattle Golf Course Clubhouse. We always have a jolly good time and the more the merrier!

Also, thanks to Ken Nakatsu, Interim Executive Director of the SCERS Retirement Office, for his article in this newspaper and for scheduling regular meetings with me and other ARSCE Board members throughout this year and all of next year.

Wishing the happiest of holidays to everyone!

Yours,

John Masterjohn

Contact Mr. Masterjohn at president@arsce.org

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going to balance the books.

The City Unions stepped forward. Almost all of them stepped forward and worked with us to renegotiate their contracts to eliminate an automatic 2% cost of living raise (COLA), and there were givebacks from our side. They were a full partner in helping with the budget balancing. I really appreciated that.

So, the last few years our economy has grown. We're doing better. I'm proud of the fact that we balanced the budget while protecting essential human services, while protecting public safety. I'm proud of the fact that as things have grown we've been able to make investments where they're needed. We've doubled the families and education levy, which means we're helping out our kids more. We've expanded the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention initiative. We've expanded planning around transit expansion in the City. We have added dollars to basic infrastructure in the City. We have a lot of challenges ahead, but the fact is we've balanced our budget, we finished each year in the black, we're rebuilding the rainy day fund, we've strong economic growth in the City, and we're able to start investing in the priorities that matter. We're doing that in partnership with the community and we're listening to the wisdom and advice of our own employees."

Senator Murray: "It has been my pleasure to represent a good part of Seattle in the legislature for the last eighteen years – eleven years in the House and seven years in the Senate. In the House I chaired the Capitol Budget Committee when we were a 49-49 tie. Despite that, we were able to make progress by working together and it made a significant increase in the Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing, as well as the largest increase in school construction for the community college system since its inception under the Dan Evans administration.

I then went on to become Chair of Transportation a few weeks after the citizens had turned down a gas tax referendum by 20 points – and then I get to be Chair. And it had been almost two decades since the legislature had invested in transportation in this state. The first thing I did was to bring in the people who had been arguing with each other – the environmentalists, the road advocates, business and labor – actually brought them into my living room. We sat down, we talked about how we could work together to come up with a plan to move transportation forward. And within a few months of having lost by 20 percent, we passed a nickel package. The environmentalists, the business community and labor were united in support for that. Two years later, we passed 9-1/2 cents. Right now I'm Senate Democratic Leader and I got that position because I turned out to be the compromise candidate amongst a very fractured Senate Democratic caucus.

I'm running for mayor because I believe Seattle has some huge challenges ahead of it. Will it be an affordable city? Will it be a city that we can really move around as far as our transportation system? I believe we have a crisis in our education system, in our K-12 system that predates our current mayor, that's gone on for years, and our graduation rates don't move. Finally, I do believe that we have a public safety problem. And I do believe that we need aggressive leadership to solve that, to reform the police department."

Question for Mayor McGinn: During your first term, you increased City Retirement contributions by three-fourths to keep the Retirement Fund actuarially sound. To make up for low investment returns, the City's share is now \$40 million per year higher than when you took office. Meanwhile, the

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YOUR PENSION NEWS

By Lou Walter, Retired Employee, Member of the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System



For personal reasons, Mr. Walter's column was not available for this issue of *ARSCE News*. Look for his insightful column to return in our next publication.

He wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season with the best of health and prosperity.

Essential Telephone Numbers And Web Addresses

ARSCE: 206.992.7311
 (Change of Address/Membership Questions)
 E-mail: financial.secretary@arsce.org
 Website: www.arsce.org

Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens: 206.684.0500
 (Information on available programs/services)
 E-mail: seniors@seattle.gov
 Website: www.seattle.gov/seniors

Personnel Department: 206.615.1340
 (Benefits)
 E-mail: benefits@arsce.org
 Website: www.seattle.gov/Personnel/

Retirement Office: 206.386.1293 or 1.877.865.0079
 (Retirement Checks/Health & Dental Benefits/General Questions/Change of Address/Tax Withholding)
 E-mail: retirecity@seattle.gov
 Website: www.seattle.gov/retirement

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Contact us at www.arsce.org
 Or telephone us at 206.992.7311

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City Council suggested ways to convert the traditional system into partial or full 401k's. What pressures did you have to resist to keep our current retirement system?

Mayor McGinn: "The reality is that – I'm not sure you're framing the question right – we have an agreement with the unions, and I respect and honor those agreements with the unions. In fact, I've been catching a little bit of grief out there because with regard to the Department of Justice investigation and the settlement agreement I negotiated. But one of the principals I stood up for there was we have to respect our collective bargaining rights with our union there in that process too."

Question for Senator Murray: In 2011, you cut a State budget deal to unilaterally take away the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for pre-1977 PERS1 and Teacher retirees. The Thurston County Superior Court has ruled against your action. Will you pledge now not to cut Seattle retirement benefits like you did two years ago to some State pensioners?

Senator Murray: "Let's talk about what we did. It was not the defined benefit plan that was cut. And it was not simply myself and Senator Zarelli, it was also Speaker Chopp, who at a Town Hall meeting stood up and said how important it was that it would probably have to go at least during the duration of the recession because of our need to invest in other places like education. But what's also important about what we did is the retirees who had retired way back in the 70s were practically getting nothing. So what we also did, we did cut it in part, but then we backfilled and raised the floor for those retirees that had been retired so long ago that they simply could not keep up with the rate of inflation. We did not cut the defined benefit. I will not cut the defined benefit."

"We did not cut the defined benefit. I will not cut the defined benefit."

~ Senator Murray

Question for both Candidates: In the last session of the legislature there was a proposal for the State to take over investment of Seattle's Retirement Fund. Should the State have any greater role in Seattle retirement system?

Mayor McGinn: "I don't know if my position is that far from Senator Murray's on this one. The fact of the matter is the State Investment Board does a much better job than the City does in terms of managing the investment portfolio. They've just been getting a much higher rate of return than we have. But for me it's a non-starter to give the State any level of control over the agreed upon plan between employees and the City. And that's the concern, the camel's nose under the tent type of concern. We're running a city, we have a relationship with our own employees, and I would not want State interference in that relationship in any way, shape or form."

Senator Murray: "I've kind of addressed this already. Reuven Carlyle proposed a bill. We looked at it in the Senate and decided not to propose a bill because there were just too many unanswered questions: Would Seattle have a seat at the table? Is it just a matter of managing the investments and not changing the nature of the defined benefit plan? I don't think that we should go there until those questions are answered. And only we should go there if we believe that we're going to get a higher rate of return, which will deal with the issue of trying to get more actuarially where we're supposed to be."

Senator Murray Summary: "Thank you for the service you gave when you were working in the City. We have an opportunity to decide, in the next four years, what kind of city we're going to be. Is it going to be an affordable city as we've talked about? Is it going to be a city that has a transportation system that works?"

So, I believe I bring skills. I believe there is a mayor's school. Gary Locke went to it. He chaired budget committees in the legislature, as I did, and he went on to be County Executive. Booth Gardener did it. He went from the State Senate to Pierce County Executive, at a very difficult time in Pierce County, for those of you who can remember that. I believe I bring those same sets of skills. The skills that build consensus. The

skills to actually bring people around the table who really, really don't like each other. And believe me, if you think liberals are having arguments, you should see what it's like in Olympia.

But in the end, we've been able to accomplish some significant things, whether it was on transportation, whether it was on farm worker housing, or whether after my 17-year work on marriage equality – those are the types of skills that I want to bring to Seattle. At the heart of my public service has been the issue of equity. Not just equity when it comes to people's rights, but equity when it comes to those who are the least of us, and those who are struggling in the middle. I want to be the mayor that gets this right because if we don't get it right we're going to go down the model of San Francisco. We won't have an industrial base anymore. You won't be able to live here because it will be too expensive. Thanks you for your patience, thank you Mr. Mayor for being here with me."

Mayor McGinn Summary: "You know, now that jobs are up and crime is in fact down, and now that the budgets are balanced and we rebuilt the rainy day fund, I'd want the job too, Senator Murray. And it is a good job, it's a great job. I love working with people. I want to say your comments made an impression upon me, thank you. Particularly in relation to the value I hold about how we invest our money.

And I do think if it's a question of leadership, if it's a question of getting things done, I do think there are some contrasts to be made between the candidates. One came out today. The State eliminated a COLA for pensions. We put more money into the pension fund. That State has been struggling to invest in education, we, with a 9-0 vote from the City Council for the Families & Education levy, and we doubled it. We have been struggling with how are we going to pay for our bus system and our streets when Olympia, granted they made progress on transportation a bunch of years ago, but right now there's a 17% cut looming for Metro, and we don't have money to fund our local streets. But we've increased our basic infrastructure spending by 37%.

Now what I've heard from voters is important, and there's more to be done, no question about it. Because we want a city where our kids have opportunity, we'll live as a multi-cultural society, where we continue to be innovative and creative and jobs-producing, and where we have environmental sustainability for the future. In addition to the issues of divestment, I helped put together a coalition of 75 leaders around the State to create a leadership alliance against coal trains, so we don't have those coal trains running through our City, as well. I believe that this City is one that is built upon a tradition of being innovative, creative, and at the forefront, and I'm looking at working with you to do that. Thank you."

"The State eliminated a COLA for pensions. We put more money into the pension fund."

~ Mayor McGinn

Retirement System Pop Quiz:

Seattle City Employees' Retirement System Facts & Figures		Answers
Average Monthly City Pension	\$ _____	\$2,002
Maximum Percentage Pension	____%	69
Years to Earn Maximum Pension	_____	30
City Employees Now Pay	____%	10.03%
City Employees Paid 3 Years Ago	____%	8.03%
City Will Pay in 2014	____%	14.31%
City Paid 3 Years Ago	____%	8.03%
Percent Retirees Pay of Medical/Dental	____%	100%
Funding Ratio January 2013	____%	63.5%
Funding Ratio January 2008	____%	93%
Last Year Funding Ratio Exceeded 100%	_____	2000/113%

Current Issues Facing Our Retirement System

By Ken Nakatsu, Interim Executive Director, Seattle City Employees' Retirement System

Dear ARSCE Members,

The Board of Administration appointed me as Interim Executive Director for the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS), effective on July 1, 2013. I hope to be able to serve you and other retirees, the Board, and City employees well while in my position. Given the work program approved by the Board, which includes recruiting and hiring a permanent Director, I expect to be assisting the Board until sometime next year.



Ken Nakatsu

As a fellow retiree, I know many of you and recall fondly working with you during my career.

John Masterjohn asked me to give an overview of some of the current issues facing SCERS and its members.

Most significantly, the system was only 63.5% funded on January 1, 2013. While the system has assets of about \$2.0 billion, it has estimated liabilities of about \$3.1 billion to retirees and current and former employees. This underfunding is due largely to the global financial crisis in 2008. Although it presents very great challenges, Seattle's situation is not like those of Detroit, Chicago and some California cities.

In particular, Seattle and its employees are covering what is known as the "normal cost" of future pension obligations to employees and are, also, amortizing the "unfunded liability" to employees and retirees over 30 years. These total contributions, known as the Actuarial Required Contribution (ARC) are based on an actuarially assumed 7.75% annual rate of return on the pension's investment assets. The total ARC for 2014 is 24.34% of payroll. This is a higher level of funding than most other public pensions have been able to secure, and is testament of Seattle's resolve to meet its pension obligations.

The 7.75% assumed annual rate of return presents challenges in today's investment environment. Although the equity markets have largely bounced back from the 2008 crash, SCERS' retirement liabilities have grown significantly. Also, markets now have a great deal of volatility and downside risk, and most experts generally expect lower rates of return over the next few years. This situation has prompted the Board of Administration to undertake an Asset Allocation Study to examine whether SCERS' portfolio of investments can be adjusted to an expected annual rate of return close to the previously assumed rate of 7.75%. Average investment returns below 7.75% will increase the "unfunded liability." The Asset Allocation Study is expected to be completed in November.

The results of the Asset Allocation Study (reflecting a new expected annual rate of return on investments) will be incorporated into an actuarial Experience Study. In addition to incorporating updated investment information, the Experience Study will include updated information on retirees, employees and beneficiaries to determine, among other things, the age at which employees are expected to retire, mortality, etc. The Experience Study will begin in January, 2014, and is expected to be completed in May.

The Experience Study results will then be incorporated into an annual Actuary Study. This study, which is expected to be completed in July, 2014, will reassess how well the system is funded and, in turn, determine the new Actuarial Required Contribution (ARC) for incorporation into the City of Seattle's 2015/2016 biennial budget.

SCERS is also addressing other important operational issues, including those that were identified in SCERS' annual financial audit (performed by Clifton Larson) and a recent management audit (performed at the Board of Administration's

request by the City Auditor). These issues are being addressed in several ways:

- The appointment of an experienced, capable City finance manager, Jeff Davis, as Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer
- The hiring of information technology staff and expert consultants to convert an antiquated Rbase pension system to an Oracle platform, improve it, make it more secure, and identify an approach for eventually replacing the system with a modern one
- Redesigning and documenting work processes and developing clear procedures to improve efficiency, accuracy and overall quality

In addition, SCERS is undertaking efforts to improve communications with retirees and current and former City of Seattle employees. A consultant has been hired to interview employees and retirees to identify how and how well SCERS communicates with its customers, and how communications can be improved. The consultant will complete her work and present recommendations to the Board in the fall of 2013.

SCERS and the Personnel Department are also examining how we can coordinate our services and communications better.

Other important elements of the SCERS work plan include:

- Conducting a Request for Proposal (RFP) and selection process for financial advisory service (the current contract was to expire this past summer but was extended by the Board for a year)
- Conducting a RFP and selection process for an "asset overlay service" which will enable SCERS to identify when investments are temporarily in the form as cash (as a result of fund distributions, dividends, etc.), and invest that cash in what are expected to be more productive assets generating higher returns
- Redesigning the organization and functions of the Investment Advisory Committee so the Board can have greater and more effective access to valuable advice from members of the committee
- Completing a strategic plan to better guide the organization in future
- Recruiting and hiring a new Executive Director

I would like to establish a much closer relationship with ARSCE. Doing so should strengthen our collective ability to serve retirees well. As John Masterjohn has requested, SCERS is extending its efforts to distribute the ARSCE newsletter and membership applications, and is promoting ARSCE in workshops and interviews with employees who are considering retirement. Recently, SCERS incorporated a link on its website to ARSCE's. John and I will also be meeting much more frequently than has occurred in the past to share information and discuss issues that are of concern to ARSCE.

I look forward to working with all of you and with Lou Walter and other Board of Administration members to serve retirees and other SCERS members well.

Thank you for allowing me to share information with you about SCERS.

Complete Our Circle



Join ARSCE today as a Retiree, Beneficiary or even if you are currently working.

Application on Page 12.

Fellowship All Over Town



Engineers Luncheon: Retired County and City Engineering people meet for lunch quarterly. Call Barbara Graham @ 206.525.7859; or John Randall @ 206.723.4118; or Ted Ormbrek @ 206.522.7867; or Joe Curulla @ 425.643.0309 for info.

City Light Line Crews & Friends Breakfast: This group meets at Shay's Restaurant, 15744 Aurora Ave. North, near 160th on the East side of Aurora, on the first Thursday of the month at 8:00AM. Call Bud Eickstadt at 206.362.8336 for information.

RCLEA (Retired City Light Employees' Association) Lunches: If you retired from City Light, you should be receiving the Newsletter sent out at regular intervals which lists the dates and locations of the informal luncheons and the more formal fall and spring luncheons. For information contact Frank dos Remedios 206.363.1938 or go to www.rclea.net

Retired Range Service Employees meet at the Blue Star Restaurant, 4512 Stone Way North, Seattle, at 12noon on the second Wednesday of each month.

Seattle Transit Breakfast (North End): This group meets at Denny's at 155th Street and Aurora Avenue North on the first Saturday of each month. Contact Vern Brenden at 206.784.6907.

Transit Retirees (South End): Meet at the Burien Elks Lodge at South 140th St. and 1st Ave. South on the third Saturday of the month at 8:30AM for breakfast. Contact Al Ramey at 206.243.8504 or Dave Carter at 206.910.8311.

City Light South End Crews and Friends: This group will meet for breakfast at 9:00AM the first Tuesday of each month at the Denny's located on First Ave. So. and So. 148th Street. Call Arnie Schroeder at 206.824.1747 for information.

SDot's Traffic Signal Division retirees meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Tommy's Café, 74 Rainier Avenue South in Renton, WA. For information contact Jim Chase at 206.246.5848.

METRO Retirees' Lunch: This group meets at 11:00AM the second Tuesday of Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., and Nov. at the Crazy Moose Casino, 22003 66th Ave. West in Mountlake Terrace. At 11:00AM on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., and Dec. The group meets at Billy Baroo's Restaurant located at 13500 Interurban Ave. So. in Tukwila. For information call Lonnie Sewell at 206.915.1415.

Another Retired Transit Group: This group meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 7:30AM. Contact Dave Carter at 206.910.8311.

Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD. This group meets at 11:00AM the first Monday of the month at the Old Country Buffet, 4022 Factoria Square Mall SE, Bellevue, WA.

Engineering Retirees' Lunch: Engineering Dept. Field Personnel Retirees meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11:00AM at the Denny's Restaurant located at N. 155th St. and Aurora Ave. No. in Shoreline, WA. Contact Roy Galloway at 206.362.3937 for further information.

Parks Dept. Retirees' Luncheons are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the 125th Street Grill located at 12255 Aurora Ave. North. Meet at 11:30AM for lunch. Contact Jesse Howell @ 206.282.5338 for further information.

Health Dept. Environmental Health Workers and Spouses meet weekly every Saturday for breakfast at 7:30AM. All Health Dept. retirees are welcome. For information call John Nordin at 206.524.7837.

ALWAYS BENEFICIAL

By Renee Hubbard Freiboth,
Benefits Manager
City of Seattle Personnel Department



New Retiree Medical Eligibility Option

Historically, retirees have been required to maintain continuous coverage in a City medical plan to keep open the option of future City retiree medical coverage. In November 2009, this requirement was modified to allow retirees retiring on or after December 1, 2009 to drop City coverage and later re-enroll, provided they maintained continuous coverage in another group (employer) medical plan until they lost that coverage under specific conditions.

Now, retirees who retired prior to December 1, 2009 and are currently enrolled in a City plan will have a drop/re-enroll option available to them. Effective November 1, 2013, enrollees may drop their City retiree medical coverage and have the option of re-enrolling in a City plan at a future date as long as they meet certain conditions:

- They must maintain continuous coverage under another group (employer) medical plan for the entire time they are not enrolled in a City plan. Individual medical plans — whether obtained through a broker, insurer, HMO, Medicaid, the State High Risk Pool, future Health Insurance Exchanges or any other entities — DO NOT qualify as continuous group coverage, and DO NOT meet the requirements for re-enrollment.
- They may re-enroll in a City plan only if they lose their eligibility for the other employer group coverage, such as due to their or spouse's job loss or retirement, or aging out of coverage (as documented by the Human Resources staff of the other employer.)
- They must re-enroll within 31 days of losing their other employer coverage.

This action was implemented to provide more flexibility to retirees who are currently enrolled in City coverage. Retirees may make this change at any time, as long as they have immediate access to other employer medical coverage.

This is NOT a re-enrollment opportunity for retirees who dropped City retiree medical coverage prior to November 1, 2013, or for individuals who previously declined or who were not otherwise eligible for retiree medical coverage.

* * * ANNOUNCEMENT * * *

**Retiree Medical Benefits
Annual Enrollment for 2014:
November 1-22, 2013**

For retirees currently enrolled in a retiree medical plan, the Retirement Office mailed benefit packets with 2014 plan summaries and rates to homes at the end of October. The packets also included the annual notices that the City is required by law to distribute.

Please check your mailbox for your enrollment packet. If you want to make changes or if you have questions, please contact the Retirement Office at 206-386-1293. Changes for 2014 must be received or postmarked by November 22, 2013.

(Retirees that are not currently enrolled in a City retiree medical plan will *not* receive a packet.)

The Computer Guru

By Larry Howell



Windows 8: Surprise - It's Not All Bad

The critical components that can cause a computer system to crash include hardware malfunctions, software updates and outdated hardware drivers. Windows 8 provides a comprehensive tool to automatically detect and repair these system problems.

Here's how to engage this computer crash-retarding tool:

- Using the keyboard key combination Windows Button (lower left side of the keyboard) plus the "W" key to access the Windows 8 Search screen, select "Settings" and then type "troubleshoot" in the Search box.

- From the results of the search, select "Troubleshooting". On the left side of the Troubleshooting window, select "View All".

The resulting window displays a list of the most common problem areas. Selecting the appropriate problem area will take the user to a troubleshooting window for the specific problem area selected by the user. Following the directions on this screen will implement an automatic troubleshooting process that can be very useful for automatically detecting and correcting system problems for the issue.

For example, I recently ran into a problem with Windows Automatic Updating on my Win 8 desktop PC. By running the "Windows Update" troubleshooting process (in the "run as administrator" mode), the problem with the Windows Automatic Updating process was quickly identified and corrected.

This procedure at first may seem confusing. However, users willing to venture into this process will be rewarded with an effective means of solving many of their computer problems (without having to ask for help from their 9 year-old granddaughter!). Just kidding a bit about the 9 year-old granddaughter, but have you noticed how computer-competent our grandsons and granddaughters are?



In previous columns, I have vented my frustration with changes implanted in Windows 8. As I have continued to use Windows 8, I will admit that I am starting to be impressed with some (not all) Windows 8 features.

First, the Negatives of Windows 8.

- The Start button on the desktop has been removed
- Windows 8 does not provide a utility to back up your personal files to a local backup hard drive
- Windows 8 does not provide a utility that allows a user to copy data files to a CD/DVD
- Windows 8 does not provide a media player for audio and video media files

Fortunately, each of these functions can easily be restored to Windows 8 by downloading and installing free 3rd party applications from websites such as downloads.CNET.com/windows.

For first time users of Windows 8, the disappearance of the Start button (located on the left side of the taskbar in the Desktop Mode) is the most frequent complaint. Without the Start button, new users find it difficult to find the Shutdown/Restart function and other system tools (Control Panel, Network Setup, Printer Control). All of these functions exist in Windows 8...if you can find them. Fortunately, a solution for users bemoaning the demise of the Start button in Windows 8, is readily available at: www.stardock.com/products/start8. The Start8 restores the desktop Start button for a mere \$4.99.

File Backup

Three highly-rated free file backup utilities available for download on the CNET website are:

- Easeus Todo Backup
- SyncBackFree
- FBackup

Installing this software on your computer will provide the ability for users to continue to back up their user files to external back up media, such as external hard drives.

As an alternative to installing 3rd party file backup software, many backup devices, such as external hard drives, provide file backup

applications on the hard drive which will install automatically when the hard drive is connected to the computer.

Backing Up User Files to the "Cloud" is also an option.

Microsoft's "Sky Drive", for example, allows the user to store copies of their user files to a "vault" on an Internet server provided by Microsoft. The files are encrypted so that the files cannot be read by anyone but the owner of the files (with the exception of the NSA!).



Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages.

- Using local backup
 - Advantage: Using a local backup maintains the user's privacy, as long as the computer is adequately protected from viruses and malware.
 - Disadvantage: The need to physically remove the external backup device and store the backup device in a safe location away from the computer, otherwise disasters such as fire and water damage may destroy both the computer and the backup device.
- Using Internet Cloud-based backup of user files has several advantages:
 - The user files are backed up to a remote storage site. The backed up user files are not subject to local disasters, such as fire and floods.
 - Your files are accessible from any computer with access to the Internet.
 - Backup of the user's files is a continuous process in which changes to the user's files on the local hard drive are synchronized with the files stored in the user's "Cloud" directory.

For users with multiple computing devices (desktop PC, laptop, tablet PC), the ability to work on a document from any computing device and automatically maintain a synchronized copy in the "Cloud" directory, which is available to all of the other computing devices, is a very useful function.

For example, the initial version of this column was created on my desktop PC. The current revisions are being added using my tablet PC as I sip my coffee at my favorite breakfast spot. This evening, I will sit down at my desktop computer and review these revisions without having to manually transfer a copy of the file from my tablet PC to the hard drive on my desktop PC.

One of the negative features about using a Cloud-based file backup, unfortunately, is that you will be conceding some privacy. All files stored on Internet-based storage are currently subject to unannounced review by the U.S. National Security Agency.

On the positive side—If you lose your files and your backup is corrupted, you can always hack into the NSA computers and retrieve a copy of your files. (I hope you're enjoying my persistent jabs of humor.)

Burning Files to Optical Discs

Three highly rated free CD/DVD burner utilities, available for download on the CNET website, are:

- ImgBurn
- CDBurnerXP (Don't be confused by the "XP"; Windows 8 compatible)
- FeyWriter

Media Player

The current media player of choice seems to be VLC Media Player. Quoting the VLC webpage description of the player, "VLC is the most popular open source media player on the internet. It plays broken files, incomplete files and virtually every file format." This media player more than adequately replaces the Windows Media player which disappeared in Windows 8.



I've run out of space for this issue. So the "nice" features included in Windows 8 will be addressed in the next issue of this column.

Please email any questions you have concerning the topics covered in this article or any other computer questions. Questions submitted to this column may be used (without identification of the sender) as content for this column. Mr. Howell works with other tech gurus to solve a myriad of computer issues that confound even the best of us.

Email your questions to Mr. Howell at Larry.Howell@arsce.org

In Memory

Note: Names with asterisk (*) are ARSCE members

Mary Akada, Police*
Retired: 06/04/98
Died: 08/30/13
Age: 82

Lila Amidon, Beneficiary
Died: 07/18/13
Age: 88

Mary Ballou, Engineering*
Retired: 08/01/75
Died: 08/29/13
Age: 99

Rudolph Blass, City Light*
Retired: 06/01/04
Died: 06/04/13
Age: 72

Frances Buckley, Beneficiary
Died: 08/01/13
Age: 97

Vernon Burt, Law*
Retired: 07/01/75
Died: 03/16/13
Age: 99

Pete Colman, Engineering*
Retired: 05/01/82
Died: 04/02/13
Age: 89

Margaret Darby, Beneficiary
Died: 08/10/13
Age: 91

S. L. Demps, Parks
Retired: 08/15/12
Died: 07/27/13
Age: 79

Leroy Eagon, Building*
Retired: 04/01/79
Died: 08/16/13
Age: 92

Paul Eneberg, Transportation
Retired: 05/01/92
Died: 07/10/13
Age: 89

Reba Fleeks, Beneficiary
Died: 07/08/13
Age: 101

Marileen Fowler,
General Services*
Retired: 08/01/73
Died: 07/19/13
Age: 92

Algie Frazier, Water*
Retired: 01/01/94
Died: 05/13/13
Age: 82

Charles Fredrickson,
Administrative Services*
Retired: 02/01/85
Death: 08/30/13
Age: 78

Jean Fuller, Beneficiary
Died: 08/23/13
Age: 91

Janet Garcia,
Health & Human Services
Retired: 11/10/99
Died: 08/04/13
Age: 78

Earl Green, City Light*
Retired: 09/01/84
Died: 12/04/12
Age: 98

Margaret Guenther,
Beneficiary
Died: 08/03/13
Age: 102

David Haigh,
Office of Housing
Retired: 05/02/13
Died: 06/10/13
Age: 60

John Leo Haigh, Fire
Retired: 07/02/96
Died: 07/22/13
Age: 84

Veronica Herold, Library*
Retired: 08/01/05
Died: 09/16/02
Age: 90

Albin Hoveland, Vested*
Retired: 12/01/79
Died: 12/06/12
Age: 95

Vance Johnson, Comptroller*
Retired: 06/01/84
Died: 07/09/13
Age: 86

George Jorgensen, Parks*
Retired: 01/01/81
Died: 07/17/13
Age: 84

Virginia Jorgenson,
Beneficiary
Died: 05/31/13
Age: 91

Shirley Lukhang,
Public Utilities
Retired: 09/29/99
Died: 07/11/13
Age: 79

Daniel Maher, City Light*
Retired: 11/07/12
Died: 07/11/13
Age: 66

Marie Malone, City Light*
Retired: 09/01/80
Died: 07/31/13
Age: 98

Robert Matthews,
Transportation*
Retired: 11/13/96
Died: 07/13/13
Age: 89

Eva McKay, Muni Courts*
Retired: 09/01/80
Died: 09/02/12
Age: 89

Faune Slingerland Mitchell,
Beneficiary
Died: 08/06/13
Age: 101

Leona Morrison, Beneficiary*
Died: 08/19/13
Age: 90

Chester Nance, Jr.,
Transportation
Retired: 05/01/93
Died: 08/19/13
Age: 77

Donald Overaa, City Light*
Retired: 12/01/85
Died: 08/19/13
Age: 90

Leo Overton, Engineering*
Retired: 07/01/94
Died: 05/23/13
Age: 84

Thomas Patten, City Light
Retired: 03/04/08
Died: 06/16/13
Age: 70

Lloyd Roberts, Transit*
Retired: 05/01/87
Died: 08/25/13
Age: 89

Helen Rodway, Beneficiary
Died: 08/22/13
Age: 94

James Snoozy, Transit*
Retired: 02/01/90
Died: 03/23/13
Age: 100

James Todd, Transportation
Retired: 01/01/97
Died: 05/16/13
Age: 78

Penelope Todd, Beneficiary
Died: 06/16/13
Age: 70

Elnora Wayne, Beneficiary
Died: 08/01/13
Age: 90

Pearl Yanagimachi, Parks
Retired: 01/01/90
Died: 08/21/13
Age: 89



**Veteran's
Day**

Honoring All Who Served

November 11th, 2013

Send ARSCE Your News, Short Stories & Poems



You can send your information to:

ARSCE News
P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385

Or email your news and information to
arscenews@arsce.org

NEXT NEWS DEADLINE: November 19th, 2013

(All submittals become the property of ARSCE.)

Ken Observes

By Ken Hunich

A fine is a tax for getting it wrong. A tax is a fine for doing it well.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.

You know, a thought came into my head the other day and I'm not sure of the answer: where do you go to buy a bed mattress that is *not* on sale?

TV News ~ When you watch the news on TV, there are always some things you can depend on seeing: the weather forecast, the commercials, and part of the news. Each has a reason for being included, though not for what first comes to mind. Everybody wants to know in the next days what the weather will be – the weather reporter, too. But the report is not only in our area, but for others, and not necessarily of interest to us. Further, the forecaster gives the temperature at various points on his map, sometimes saying, “and here it will be a high of sixty-eight degrees...no, it will be seventy.” Here, the forecaster is being open with us and tells us about himself. Either the forecaster is guessing and doesn't know about tomorrow so changing his guess is no big thing; or God is talking to him in that earpiece. Apparently, when God tells him he is wrong he pays attention.

I know of another fellow who says he can hear God frequently during the day and, in fact, usually has at least one of the people nearby him in the home. But if he is hearing God, I would expect one of these people to write down what God said. But they don't seem to have tablets or pens; actually they seem more intent on getting things off the bedpans in front of them rather than getting things on paper.

The commercials are for viewers to watch and to fund the program. I pass on this opportunity and find going fast-forward on recorded programs is one way to remove the advertisements. Listeners are given some news, then some commercials, a little more news...etc. Too many or too long commercials may cause listeners to change what they watch. Weather reports are given more than once in a broadcast to provide a space for more commercials. Why else would we be told about the weather, then, after a batch of commercials tell us the same thing again?

Selling Vehicles ~ Stations must all read from the same book on making TV commercials. This is evident when listeners see similarities between stations. For example, all vehicle commercials are shot on empty streets, except when a manufacturer wants you to see the other models they have other than the featured one. What point would there be to show how well this new car moves in slow, stop-and-go traffic?

Do they photograph the car at 4AM before normal traffic begins? Or, perhaps, they can retouch out unwanted cars. Maybe the film experts have abilities to alter scenes in ways not known to most of us.

Another frequently seen feature is that the road is wet, but only in certain places and not on city streets lined with skyscrapers. My recollection is that this was first done on the floors of empty parking garages. The water apparently reduced the gripping power of the tires, allowing trick drivers to turn



the car into a 180 degree skid and slide sideways right up to another stationary car and not strike the parked car. In my head I've wondered how often this partially controlled skid resulted in bent-in door panels and crumpled fenders.



In any case, they show us maneuvers that came out perfectly with no bent or scraped parts.

But why does this sideways skidding show the buyer why this is the car he should buy to take the family out for a Sunday afternoon drive?

Other skid scenes on a wet road are done on a two-lane highway, bounded by dry soil and sagebrush. Again, what does that side skidding tell us why this proves this is a better car?

Some commercials are made to be louder than normal. KIA is more often the guilty one; I've wondered if extra loudness is requested by KIA, or if the filming company feels an extra loud commercial is more likely to be heard and is better to encourage car sales.

Pricing is a no-man's-land. The message always harps on how much the price has been reduced. From what price? Was there a time when this car actually sold for this price? When? And for how long? And the “Good Deals” on financing, are these based on not-the-lowest-prices? In fact, on TV, the car's selling price is never shown. People are only told “for only \$250 a month you can drive one home today.”

They don't mention how long you will be making payments each month.

Then comes the most absurd offer, that seems to get more sales. In the middle of the announcers' spiel is something like “_____ and with this rock bottom price we will *give* you \$250 cash.” Give *me* cash??? I'm the one paying all the costs, including cash given (loaned to me that I eventually have to repay).

The only rationale I can think of is that dealers feel some car buyers can't manage money well. They likely will spend any money in their pocket and pay for things they cannot afford by putting them on their credit cards for 24% loans. You will have cash you can spend right now, while driving a brand new car you can't afford (– then pay it back later with interest).

There is no free lunch.

Things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.

*Give a man fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.*

Two fellows came to visit their old buddy on his birthday, who now was confined to bed in a nursing home. After telling what a neat guy he always was and congratulating him on a long life, one motioned to the door and in walked a very pretty young lady scantily clothed. The fellow then said, “For your birthday we have brought you some super sex.”

Without any hesitation, the birthday buddy answered, “I'll have the soup.”

You can contact Mr. Hunich at kenhunich@arsce.org



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

November 28th

ARSCE Annual Holiday Celebration

West Seattle Golf Course Banquet Room
Wednesday, December 4th, 2013
Doors open at 11:00am
Come join the party!

Reservation form on page 12.



The View from the Buses

By Paul Pioli

Well here we are, another holiday season upon us. As of this writing, which was in September, no date had been given for the holiday party usually held at the Burien Elks. I'm sure when they know, we will also know. I'm sure many of our "Snow Birds" will already be in the south.

An update on **Chuck Zigler (Ziggy)**. On August 14th he started his second dose of Chemo. It was given over a 3-day period. He is still getting radiation. His throat was sore, but he's still able to eat by mouth. His doctors are amazed that he is responding to the treatments as fast as he is. Ziggy will have had his next MRI on the 7th of October.

Report from Lonnie Sewell about **Jesse Cross**. Jesse was in the hospital for another reason and it was discovered he has liver and colon cancer. He will be going to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

Gary Pilcher had medical problems of his own. He's been in Stevens Hospital for surgery.

RIP: The wife of **Steve Grizzom, Kathryn**, passed away on the 22nd of September. A memorial service was held at their home on October 1st. She is survived by Steve, and daughters Nicole and Danielle. The son of **Jim Rossiter, Shawn**, passed away due to a tumor. He was 42 at the time of his passing.

Contact Mr. Pioli with your news at busview@arsce.org

Parks Department Retiree News

By Alan Hovland

In Memory: S.L. "Buster" Demps passed on July 27, 2013. He was the longest serving employee of the Parks Department, having served over 51 years until he retired last year. He started in 1961 on the Construction (Public Works) crew. He worked his way up to Equipment Operator, all the while enjoying a reputation for his wonderful positive attitude and his ability to always do exceptional work. He had many friends in all the maintenance sections of the Department.

His service, on August 17th at the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, was well attended by the family and co-workers, many who are retired. For many employees he was there when they started and was still working when they retired. Park Superintendent, Christopher Williams, was a featured speaker at the funeral, and was impressed by the standing farewell given to "Demps" by his fellow workers.

Pete Guzzo, former Parks employee in the Special Populations section, and longtime Golf Pro at Jackson Golf, retired on September 3rd. His retirement party was attended by several retired employees including Howard Bogie, Ernie Ferrero, Malcolm Boyles and Gary Rittenmeyer, Alan Hovland and many other employees. Malcolm looks good after recovering from his serious health problem last year, and Gary surprised Pete by attending the event from his pastoral mountain retreat.

I saw Dick Scott at the Wedgwood QFC. He is enjoying his retirement from Grounds Maintenance by caring for his family and fishing. Of course, he only looks a little older than he did when we worked together at Discovery Park and Golden Gardens in 1973.

Terry "Lurch" Phillips, quickly passed through Seattle late this summer. The other member of the Arizona contingent, Bill Mayberry, has become poetic with his increasing age and both men are doing well.

Ken Olson, who enjoyed 28 years of retirement from the Accounting Section, recently passed away. He was a regular at the 125th Street Grill, and he would remember his friends from work, his supervisor, Dwight Perkins, and going on the Christmas Ship all those years ago.

Thomas Turner was retired for 30 years as a Recreation Coordinator and passed away at 97. I have written previously about Mr. Turner in *ARSCE News* and his connection to the Negro Baseball Leagues and his outstanding career as a Recreation Coordinator. He retired to continue helping seniors and other people.

I enjoyed seeing Sandy Brooks, Don Allen, and Michele Daly at the ARSCE Fall Luncheon. Pam Lucarelli was at her best in hosting the mayoral candidates. I couldn't quite hear what Pam said about John Masterjohn and why he couldn't be at the luncheon – either he was a turkey, or he was in Turkey. Who's to know?

All the Best to the Parks Retired. Keep in touch.

Mr. Hovland can be reached at parksnews@arsce.org



Left to right: Howard Bogie, Malcolm Boyles, Pete Guzzo, Gary Rittenmeyer & Ernie Ferrero

In A Light Manner

By Frank dos Remedios, RCLEA President

We've had two outings since the last newsletter. On July 30th, Mike Knutson led a group of 9 people on a hike to Lake 22. They had a beautiful day and everyone had a great



Hike to Lake 22

time. At the end of August, 37 of us visited the Skagit, we had a good lunch at the North Cascades Institute facilities and then a ride on Diablo Lake to Ross Powerhouse. We made a quick tour of the powerhouse and then out on the platform to view the dam face. It was a wonderful trip.

On December 3rd we will have our Holiday Luncheon at the Nile Country Club. Save the date so that we'll see you then.

It is also time for nominations for the Board elections. Please consider serving, as it is a rewarding experience and fun. Contact any of the Board members if you wish to be nominated.

The 2013 Board Officers are:

President:	Frank dos Remedios	(206) 363-1938
Vice-President:	Jack Kelley	(206) 522-0807
Corresponding Secretary:	Joe McGovern	(206) 329-1247
Financial Secretary:	Sharon DeLong	(206) 364-8913
Treasurer:	Dee Smiley	(425) 788-3341

You can reach Mr. dos Remedios at fdosremedios@yahoo.com

BOOK NOTES*By Lorry Garratt, Library***REUNION AT RED PAINT BAY. By George Harrar, 2013**

Red Paint Bay calls itself the friendliest town in Maine, a place where everyone knows one another and nothing too disturbing ever happens. Simon Howe, a big fish in a little pond, has bought the newspaper in the town where he grew up, when he could have had a better job on a bigger newspaper. He is married to a psychotherapist and they have an 11-year old son. Then he begins receiving anonymous postcards mentioning things from his past and he comes to realize he is being stalked. Not clear about whether this is a real danger, he is drawn into a menace that threatens his family before he takes it seriously.

THE DOUBLE GAME. By Dan Festerman, 2012

A few years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, spook-turned novelist Edwin LeMaster reveals to journalist Bill Cage that he'd once considered spying for the enemy. This was 1984. Fast forward to 2010 when Cage receives a hand written note on his own stationery and from there the game begins, using clues from many of the best known authors and plots in spy literature. This is a very sophisticated novel of intrigue with spy fiction a central "character."

AMERICAN GHOST. By Janis Owens, 2012

Jolie Hoyt is a good Southern girl living in a small Florida panhandle town. Her father is a Pentecostal preacher who sells insurance on the side. Jolie's family has a full closet of dark secrets as does the rest of the town, but she throws caution to the winds when Sam Lense, a Jewish anthropology student, comes to town to study the ethnic makeup of the region. He digs too deep, gets too close, and in spite of the passionate love affair with Jolie, he disappears from the town; lucky to be alive. Twelve years later the past is brought to light and some of the ugly history of Jolie's hometown is resolved.

THIS IS HOW IT ENDS. By Kathleen MacMahon, 2012

An odd couple enjoy a short love affair in 2008-2009 as the world reels from recession and the U.S. elects a President. Bruno, 50ish and now unemployed, goes to Ireland to search his family tree. He meets and gets involved with Addie, a remote cousin and freelance architect but presently caring for her ailing father, a prominent surgeon who is facing a lawsuit. Their affair is never sentimental and they avoid contemplating its possible ending which, as it turns out, they couldn't have anticipated.

THE ST. ZITA SOCIETY. By Ruth Rendell, 2012

Rendell is the queen of stories of obsession, instability and malignant coincidence – and here we have the residents and their employees of a posh London street and the deadly ways their lives intertwine. Outwardly Hexam Place looks placid and orderly, drivers that take their employers to work, dogs walked, gardens planted, as well as illicit affairs and godlike instructions coming over cell phones – and murder. Captivating and expertly plotted and typically Rendell.

ALL HE EVER WANTED. By Anita Shreve, 2003

Nicholas Van Tassel, unimpressive professor in a small New England college in 1899, glimpses a woman on the street in the turmoil of a fire in a hotel where he has been dining. It is Etna Bliss, newly arrived to visit her uncle who also teaches at the college and it is the beginning of Nicholas' lifelong obsession with her. It is a time before women had any significant rights and Etna also has secrets she cannot reveal. She and Nicholas marry and produce two children, but their relationship develops beyond Nicholas' passion and Etna's secrets which eventually emerge. Shreve creates characters as though she were an artist with canvas and places them in an elegant story.

THE MOST DANGEROUS THING. By Laura Lippman, 2011

While there are elements of mystery and psychological twists, this is not a typical Lippman tale. Rather it is the story of a Baltimore neighborhood; five children growing up together and then separating as circumstances changed, especially one wild and stormy night. Now Gordon, the youngest and the wildest, has died and old friends come together to see if their secret is safe or will be revealed, even though they are now adults.

THE CUT. By George Pelecanos., 2011

Spero Lucas is an Iraqi vet and now has become an investigator for a particular kind of client: recovering stolen property, no questions asked, for a 40% cut. When a high profile crime boss hires him to find out who is stealing from his operation, it becomes his biggest job yet and the most violent and amoral. This is a tightly plotted novel with crisp dialogue and fast action and characters that become serious mirrors of the world. Pelecanos is an independent film producer and recipient of numerous international awards.

Contact Ms. Garratt at booknotes@arsce.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Don Allen, Parks

Sherry Anderson, Public Utilities

Curtis Barnes, Parks

Susan Biggs, City Light

Martha Burke, Public Utilities

Cynthia Devereaux, Planning & Development

Pam Hering, Public Utilities

Joyce Johnson, Public Utilities

Lizanne Lyons, Strategic Planning

Byron Marr, Parks

Kim Mickelson, Information Technology

Evangeline Razon, City Light

Rivers Robertson, Jr., Parks

Craig Rogge, City Light

Linda Rosenthal, Library

Connie Toda, Police

Gwen Whipple, Human Services

Mary Winslow, City Light

Beverly Yapp, Human Services

Golden Contributions

Paul Berry, City Light

Bud Eickstadt, City Light

Jeri Jones, Police

Eric Lamers, City Light

Ann Miller, Transportation

Kathy Ray, Fire

Memorials

Edie Jorgensen, Personnel
In memory of Robert Snyder

Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD

By Jerry Robertson

The “Old Country Buffet,” 4022 Factoria Square Mall, S.E. Bellevue, WA, continues to be our meeting place, the first Monday of each month, at 11:00AM. This seems to be ideal for most of those attending as far as convenience of the location. There are a few of us that have a long commute but the enjoyment of visiting with old friends and co-workers is worth the trip.

Ahead in 2014, our first luncheon date will be Monday, January 6, followed by February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 3, and lastly, December 1. You now have a schedule for a full year of visiting with a great group of friends!

The attendance at our August luncheon numbered twenty-two. We had a slightly smaller group of seventeen at the September luncheon. For those of you that were not able to attend the August or September luncheons – we missed you!

For our August luncheon, Alan Brittenham brought in a balance scale for a little show and tell session. What was interesting about this scale is that it was built by Hans Homann. Hans spent most of his career as a machinist at the Fire Garage. When a new Fire Garage was built at the Charles Street complex, Hans was transferred to the Charles Street Machine Shop. Hans had a project requiring a balance scale to weigh exact quantities of epoxy. The shop did not have such a scale to accomplish this task, so Hans built the scale that Alan brought to our luncheon for all of us to see. Hans retired many years ago, but this is an example of the expertise that the skilled craftsmen of our department possessed.

August birthdays were celebrated by Alan Brittenham, Dave Cook, and “Toshi” Okamoto. September birthday celebrants



Top: Alan Brittenham; Bottom left to right: “Toshi” Okamoto & Dave Cook



Left to right: Bob Sestak, Miriam Lucas, George McDonald & Sheldon Loo

were Ramey Duchscherer, Sheldon Loo, Miriam Lucas, George McDonald, Bob Sestak, and Jon Wong. A very happy birthday to all of them.

I was informed McKay Moore had a medical problem – we all wish you a speedy recovery so you may join us at the luncheons again.

Remember to mark your 2014 calendars with the luncheon dates for the new year!

You can reach Mr. Robertson at oldtimers@arsce.org

JUST FOR FUN

Solve the Puzzlers

1. Round I start, yet no shape have I.
Allow me to breathe, and my life will die.
The older I grow, the more sought after I become.
You will feel much better when I am done.
What am I?

2. A 30-year old man married a 25-year old woman.
She died at age 50 and her husband was so devastated
that he cried for years. Ten years after he stopped
crying, he died. If he had lived to be 80, how many
years was he a widower?

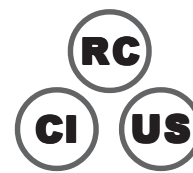
3. What does this mean?



4. What does this mean?



5. What does this mean?



Solutions

1. A bottle of fine wine!
2. He was a widower for 25 years.
3. A hole in one.
4. Blind in one eye.
5. Three ring circus.

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Many ARSCE members currently volunteer. Others would like to volunteer but are not sure what opportunities exist. Space limitations mean we cannot list individual opportunities in the ARSCE News.

Please refer to these two extensive websites for volunteering opportunities in the Seattle area: United Way of King County (www.uwkc.org/volunteer). This is probably the most comprehensive of the local volunteer opportunity websites. A search of their database using the term “parks” returned 76 different volunteer opportunities; “animal” returned 65 opportunities, “home” returned 141, “senior” returned 50 and “children” returned 595. You can register on the site and arrange to have internet “feeds” sent to you about volunteer opportunities in areas that interest you.

Volunteer Match (www.volunteermatch.org) is another very good comprehensive site with some interesting geographical limit capabilities. Enter your home zip code to start.



Don't Forget to Vote!

Your ballot must be postmarked
by November 5th, 2013



ARSCE Annual Holiday Celebration



Wednesday, December 4th, 2013
West Seattle Golf Course Banquet Room
4470 - 35th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126
 (Ample Accessible Parking)

11:00am – Noon: No Host Bar & Visit with Friends
Lunch is served at Noon, featuring
 a complete Turkey Buffet and Ham Carving station.
 Dessert, Coffee & Tea provided.

COST: \$22.00 Per Person

Reservations due by Wednesday, November 20th, 2013
 (Cancellations no later than 48 hours prior to the luncheon.
 Cancellation questions? Call Pam Baer at 206-992-7311.)

The annual gift exchange with Santa & Elves will be featured. Each attendee brings a wrapped gift, noting the gift's content. The donor places his/her name on the gift. You must be present to receive a gift.

Please make your check or money order payable to **ARSCE Holiday Luncheon** and mail it with your completed reservation form below.
 Or, you may register & pay online by simply going to www.arsce.org and click on the "Holiday Luncheon" link which you'll find on the home page.



NAME(S) _____

 ADDRESS _____

 CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ DONATION \$ _____
 No. Attending = _____ x \$22 each = \$ _____
 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

MAIL TO: ARSCE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
P.O. BOX 75385
SEATTLE, WA 98175-0385

Please mail your reservation early, or
 sign up online, and invite a friend or two.
 Let's have a great turnout with all
ARSCE members attending!
Thank You!

2013 MEETING AND PUBLICATION DATES

- Wed. Nov 13 - Executive Board Meeting
 Northgate Community Center
 10510 - 5th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA
 @ 10:00am
- Tues. Nov 19 - News Deadline (Jan/Feb Issue)
- Wed. Dec 4 - Annual Christmas Party
 West Seattle Golf Course
 (See reservation form to the left)
- Fri. Dec 20 - Mail ARSCE News (Jan/Feb Issue)

2014 MEETING AND PUBLICATION DATES

- Wed. Jan 8 - ARSCE Executive Board Meeting
- Tues. Jan 21 - News Deadline (Mar/Apr Issue)

Note: Calendar is subject to change by Board approval.

Application for Membership: The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees

New Member Beneficiary
 Address Change Dues Payment Donation

Name _____ Tel. No. _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Date Retired _____ From Dept. _____ Amt. Encl. _____
 If still employed with the City, indicate the number of years: _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Annual Dues: \$12.00. Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

If you wish to have your dues deducted from the check you receive in July, please fill out the following section for the Retirement Office and include it with the rest of this coupon when you mail it to ARSCE. Or apply online at the email address below.

The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees Dues Deduction Authorization

To: The Board of Administration, City of Seattle Employees' Retirement System:

The undersigned hereby authorizes the City of Seattle Employees' Retirement System to deduct from my retirement, beneficiary and/or disability allowance, such dues as are duly established from time to time by The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees. Until further written notice by me to The Retirement System Office, such deduction shall be made annually from my July allowance and shall be paid to The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees, P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385.

Name (Please Print) _____ Department _____
 Signature _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail to: Association of Retired Seattle City Employees
 P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385 Attn: Pam Baer
 Or Apply online at: <http://arsce.org/membershipapp3.htm>