Westminster Retired School Employees Association

WRSEA Newsletter

Westminster, Colorado **Spring 2025**

Spotlight on Greg Kahler with Support from Janine Kahler

Greg has lived in Westminster for 46 years, having attended District 50 Schools since 2nd grade. He attended Metz, FM Day, Roush and completed his cycle of elementary schools at Gregory Hill. From there he attended Clear Lake Junior High and graduated from Ranum HS in 1973. His partner, Janine attended District 50 schools from kindergarten through high school, graduating in 1974 from Ranum.

The two met on a senior trip to Europe led by Ed Meyers…an influential teacher at Ranum. The couple have 3 boys, all of whom graduated from Ranum. The family was active in Scouting organizations and Greg currently volunteers in both WPS 1:1 reading program as well as a community wildlife group.

Greg worked first in geological drafting before moving to Mortgage Banking for over 35 years prior to retiring in 2021. Janine has been a realtor for 42 years and is currently semi-retired.

They love to travel and have been to many countries. Most recently Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

Greg and Janine give back by volunteering in many places. These include HOA, ACAN, their church, Dr. Cog, and most recently WRSEA. When asked for a guiding principle, Greg follows the proverb "**give more than you take**".

We thank Greg for his lifelong support of the Westminster Community, including WRSEA.

Our President's Corner

Thoughts from the VP-Diana Kasson

Do you love to read? Do you enjoy phrases, metaphorical or symbolic that stay with you long after reading? Two favorites of mine are "…the sea holds every sound that's ever been heard…" and "…it was so quiet you could hear the books whispering". Think about your favorites. What makes them special to you?

Another example of memorable writing is proverbs. Proverbs concisely offer guidance or wisdom. I read Greg Kahler's Spotlight on this page. His self-story ends with the proverb " Give more than you take". A smile crossed my face when I read his words. Greg embodies the principles of generosity in his actions and by giving his time to others and organizations, including WRSEA. At some point in his life he understood and decided to make choices based on the needs of others, not just himself. "Happiness is not made by what we own. It is what we share." (**Jonathan Sacks**) "Aim above morality. Be not simply good; Be good for something".(**H.D. Thoreau**)

Thank you, Greg, for becoming an associate member of WRSEA, volunteering to be an At-Large Board Member, serving Dino's fabulous lunches, taking food to the church, and offering to help "in any way needed." If the sea really does hold every sound that's ever been heard, you have contributed goodness and gratitude "- the greatest of virtues".(**Cicero**)

Condolences

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of:

Maridythe Holcom, former speech paraprofessional and administrative assistant in District 50, passed away on 2/5/2025 at the age of 89. Maridythe also served as the program coordinator of WRSEA for many years.

Betty Cull, 83 years of age, passed away on 2/15/2025. A longtime fan of most sports, Betty was equally passionate and committed to the kids of our district and to WRSEA. Over her career, she coached, taught special education, PE, and completed her career as a science teacher at Shaw Heights MS.

As a tribute, our 4-year scholarship for 2025 will be named **the Betty Cull Tribute Scholarship.**

Many thanks to **Diana Kasson** for taking the photos at the Feb. 21 luncheon

****Early Reminder****

The next (August) newsletter will have the dues application for your 2025-26 dues.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, Mar. 26, 2025, at the History Center, 72nd and Lowell, at 9:00 a.m. Board meetings are held the final Wednesdays of Jan., Mar., Aug., and Oct. **Any member is welcomed to attend!**

CHANGES

Please add or fix these entries in your copy of the Directory to reflect this new information:

WELCOME: NEW MEMBER!

No additions have been received since the last Newsletter. Please provide any updates either to Frances Davison or Jim Flowers.

2024-25 Luncheon Dates

Unless some conflict arises, here are the dates for the 2025-26 luncheons so you can make plans:

April 16, 2025
September 17, 2025
November 19, 2025
February 18, 2026

The price for each April, September, and February lunch is **$12.00 plus tax for each member, associate member, and guest attending. **The cost for the Nov. lunch is $15 plus tax. If the cost is a hardship for you, tell a Board member and we will arrange to pay the difference the previous and current costs. We want you to attend the luncheons!**

In the event that you must cancel, please call Merrillyn (303-427-6357) by the Sunday evening before the luncheon.

CSPERA Update

While many of you are likely aware of (and received) refunds of the WEP/GPO benefits for 2024, those with more complex refund calculations may have to wait longer.

In addition to the lump payment for 2024, Social Security indicated that our April payment should reflect the new monthly payment. YES!!

Scholarship Fund *Honor Roll*

Many thanks to all of the following members who have donated $5 or more extra to the WRSEA Scholarship Fund for the 2024-25 membership year so far:

Bonnie Ashton
Anita Banning
Clara Benigno
Merrilyn Bishop
Judy Brand
Gwen Burnside
Pat Carberry
S. Jane Cheuvront
John Clymer &
Sharon Thompson
Betty Cull
Frances & Ross Davison
Sabrina, Dellebovi
Karen Diaz
Karen Dunn
Diane Eicher
Judith Fisher
Dr. Marilyn Flachman
Jim Flowers
Susan Frauenfeld
Violet George
Anna Giebel
Marie Gillis
Lora Gomez
Lillian Gutierrez
Carol Hansen
Jan Heimer
Karen Henwood
Kendra Johnson
Greg Kahler
Diana Kasson
Mary Kennedy
Chriss Kilburn
Betty Kinderdick
Cathy Leitner
Tom & Joyce Lynch
Kay Masske
Lenore Mekeal
Betty Morgan
Jan Morrow
Cheryl Osborn
Cherylin & W.J. Peniston
Wendy Piburn
Barbara Pierpoint
Val Ranum
Lorraine Rears
Lisa Romeo
Terlyn Shaw
Shirley Simons
Deanna Stenson
Janet Stevens
Martha Sullivan
Sylvia & Harold Van Gorp
Ron Vega
Ginger Zukowski

April 16 Lunch Information

Site: Robert Landgraf Center
3453 W. 72nd Ave., Westminster

Menu: "Easter Pie"-- Choices: ham or sausage or combo ham/sausage or cheese only (vegetarian)

Salad, Veggies,
Rolls & butter
Dessert: Fresh fruit

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: $12.00 per person, plus tax

****Parking is somewhat limited.** A ramp and handicapped parking is on the East side. Overflow parking, if needed, would be in the History Center lot and in Hidden Lake's lot north of the STEM building.
There are entrances on each side of the building.
Our "pay table" will be at the East entrance. If you go in the West entrance, be sure to walk across the room to pay Merrillyn and Don. Thanks!

Program: Elder Abuse-Candise Johnnie from Colorado Dept. of Human Services

****Reminder:**

If you need to cancel, please do so by calling Merrillyn (303-427-6357) no later than the Sunday evening prior to the scheduled luncheon.

See important message on page 5!

Gail Beaton, Portraying "Rosie the Riveter" re-enacting memories of those women working in industry after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Current WRSEA Board

OFFICERS:
Jim Flowers, President. . . . . jrflowers45@gmail.com
Diana Kasson, Vice-President . . . . . dpetaura@aol.com
Frances Davison, Secretary . . . . . fddavison13@gmail.com
Ross Davison, Treasurer/Membership. . . . fddavison13@gmail.com
Judith Fisher, Past President . . . . . .judith.fisher@ymail.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
Bonnie Ashton . . . . . ashton.bonnie@yahoo.com
Ann Wall. . . . . wallnecoid@yahoo.com
Virginia Corbett, ... ginnyc1960@yahoo.com
Greg Kahler. . . . . ..kahlerg@comcast.net
Ginger Zukowski. . . . . .Zukowski1@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:
Merrillyn Bishop, Telephone . . . . . merrillyn7@yahoo.com
Jim Flowers & Diana Kasson, Co-Newsletter . . . . . **available**
Directory/Co-Newsletter/. . . . . **available**
Program coordinator. . . . . **available**
Gayle Anderson, Hospitality. . . . . g.anderson87@live.com
Carol Anthony, Legislative . . . . . .CA1066@aol.com

Feb.19th Luncheon Recap

- **Program**: Jim began the lunch by introducing our guest enactor – Gail Murphy – as Rosie the Riveter. Gail explained that Rosie the Riveter was the name for any woman working in the war effort after Pearl Harbor. Her character was actually a Woman Ordinance Worker and her job was making shell casings. The Denver Ordinance Plant produced 6 million bullets a day by working in shifts 24 hours a day. Gail provided information about V mail and how food rationing worked. It was an interesting presentation. (picture on page 3)
- **Illnesses and deaths**: Jim shared information on the passing of *Maridythe Holcom* and *Betty Cull.* Each served on the WRSEA Board for multiple years…Maridythe as Program Chair, and Betty serving as Membership Chair and Treasurer. Additionally Betty was instrumental in the expansion of WRSEA Scholarships and in beginning the King Sooper's program. *Elizabeth Price* is in hospice care and would love phone calls or to Face Time.
- Guest prayer: Kay Sorvik, Chaplin of Covenant Living, gave a blessing for the food that Dino was serving. He served marinated chicken, pasta salad, green salad, rolls, butter and cannoli.
- The Board is exploring providing an annual updated Directory in a less costly format than the current one.
- Ross Davison graciously agreed to the appointment as treasurer to replace Betty until the next election.
- Ross Davison gave the membership and treasurer's report. There are 97 paid members and 14 paid associates. In Club 90 there are 17 members and there are 4 honorary members. Five members have yet to pay dues.
- The checking account after settling for luncheons, payments of $50 to Rosie the Riveter, and $50 to Judy Brand for door prizes, will leave $618.33 in our checking account. The savings account has a current balance of 2,635.62.
- Frances Davison shared that she sent applications for membership to the five who have not paid. The letter to them stated that memberships like friendships have seasons. If WRSEA membership no longer works for you, let us know and we will drop you off our list.
- Frances also shared that if anyone has toiletry items for the Westminster Christian Church, bring them to any lunch. She, Bonnie or Greg will see it gets there.
- Marissa Martinez Suarez our 2020 scholarship winner asked for donations of things you may have around the house that she can use for rewards in her class. It could be things you get in the mail, kid's meal toys, stickers or small toys of any kind. Frances will see that they get to her at Hodgkins K-8.
- Other business items: WEP government pension offset is discussed on page 3.
- The next lunch is April 16th.

Table of the Day
Virginia Corbett, Greg Kahler, Lynn Veretta (guest of Bonnie), Bonnie Ashton

Door Prize Winners
Steph Baer, Bonnie Ashton, Sharon Medina, Harold Van Gorp, (Cheryl Osborn picked up for Van Ranum))

Special Guest- Invocation Kay Sorvik, Chaplin at Covenant Living of Colorado

Happy Birthday (Apr., May, June & July) to ...

April

****Annabelle Heim - Apr. 1**
Kathy Zook - Apr. 1
Ron Vega - Apr. 6
Chriss Kilburn - Apr. 6
Kathy Brown - Apr. 14
Jane Cheuvront - Apr. 19
Shirley Simons - Apr. 19
****Donna Lea Sims - Apr. 24**

May

Peggy Cargal -- May 6
Luanne Gallegos -- May 7
Dori Walter -- May 9
Dennis Johnson - May 10
Valdene Ranum -- May 11
Chris Dittman - May 20
Bernie Lopez - May 27
Mary Sue Powell -- May 31

June

Merrillyn Bishop -- June 7
Kay Maaske -- June 7
Lorie Gomez - June 8
Ross Davison -- June 13
Wendy Piburn - June 13
Deanna Stenson --June 18
Norm Bertelsen -- June 28
****Bill Barlow -- June 28**
Frances Davison -- June 30

July

Ginger Zukowski -- July 3
Judi Fisher -- July 4
Karen Forman -- July 7
Karen Henwood -- July 12
Emily Peter -- July 13
Betty Kinderdick -- July 14
Judy Padgett -- July 21
Stephanie Baer - July 21
Jean DuFresne -- July 25
Karen Dunn -- July 25
****Dorothy Gallagher - July 27**
****Patricia Miller -- July 30**
Jeneane Beier -- July 31

**** = Member of WRSEA'S "Club 90"** Next Newsletter will have birthdays from August 1 through October 31. ****If you want your birthday listed, please send this information to either Jim or Frances.** I apologize for any errant omissions. Please let us know of any errors!

Our continued thanks to WPS Educational Services for facilitating WRSEA needs: **Dr. Jen Gotto** and the **School Board** for budgeting and paying for our printing , mailing, and meeting sites needs! … **Kristen Hernandez** for arranging for the sites for our luncheons and board meetings … **Lora Davidek** for helping arrange WHS programs … **Steve Saunders** and **Kelly Brenner** for facilitating the printing of our Directory … **Stephanie Baer** and **Itzel Orduna** of the WPS Foundation for seeing that so many of graduating WPS student receive scholarships … the **Purchasing Dept.** for arranging for Newsletter printings by **Pachello's Printing**… and the **Mailing Department** for mailing the Newsletters. We greatly appreciate all of your support and help!

Important message: If you are not home when your caller calls, she will leave a message on your voice mail. Please respond to your caller's voice mail ASAP, or if you do not get a caller's call about an upcoming luncheon by the first Wednesday of the lunch month, call Merrillyn directly (303-427-6357) if you intend to come.

WRSEA Going Forward

Several members have expressed concern over the future of WRSEA. With apologies to Will Rogers for an adaptation of his famous comment: *the rumors of our demise have been greatly exaggerate*d! Rest assured that we expect that we will continue to support one another, scholarship students, and continue with high-quality collegiality in the distant future.

A little humor….

My friend is obsessed with taking selfies in the shower, but they always turn out blurry.
He has selfie steam issues.

The older sister was cleaning the toilet with her little brother. Their mom saw this and called out, "get your brother's head out of there!"
(sounds a little like my family)

Westminster Retired School Employees Association, Westminster Public Schools
PO Box 1891 Wheat Ridge, CO 80034

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****King Soopers Rewards Program****

To be part of this effort (another way to raise money for our Scholarship Fund), all **you** need to do is **enroll on line with King Soopers. I can email you directions again if you've misplaced yours.** Once enrolled, all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and scan your regular "loyalty" card. The amount you spend (minus tax) will then automatically be credited to WRSEA. **Please enroll and help our Scholarship Fund! Thanks to all already participating!!**

To stay informed about what is happening in WPS, you can sign up for the "What's Up WPS" newsletter. Go to the WPS website (http://www.westminsterpublicschools.org), click on "news" and there's a place to sign up. It's free and gets emailed to you!

Get Well Wishes to ...

any WRSEA members dealing with or recovering from surgeries, illnesses, and any other medical challenges!

** **Please let Frances Davison or Jim Flowers know of anyone who should be mentioned in the Get Well or Obit sections. [Remember, unless Frances or I know about folks such as these, we can't recognize them in the newsletter.**

Thanks to Merrillyn Bishop (chairperson) and all of the callers on her committee: Jeneane Beier, Mary Joan Borowski, Gwen Burnside, Jane Cheuvront, Virginia Corbett, Frances Davison, Karen Diaz, Chriss Kilburn, Mary Morris, Rita Pirkl, Valdene Ranum, and Barbara Williams.