Westminster
Retired School
Employees
Association

WRSEA Newsletter

Westminster, Colorado **Summer 2025**

It's time for our 2025-26 **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE SECTION!

**Check your membership card. If it says expires Aug. 31, 2025, it is time to pay your dues for 2025-26! (A few of you have purchased multiple-year membership.)
The application process remains the same as previous years. However, we will no longer be issuing membership cards, unless you specifically request one.

**Please be sure your email address is accurate and clearly/legibly printed. **Please indicate anything that is new.
It is always appreciated if you could **mail** your **check** and **application form** **before** the September luncheon-- which in the past has been hectic with folks trying to pay, many without completing the form.
The mailing address for membership is on the application form.

NOTICE OF PRICE INCREASE

Unfortunately, it has become necessary to raise the price of our luncheons. All prices will now include tax, so we will avoid that hassle. The price will increase from $12.00 to $13.00, including tax, while the November meal will now be $17.00. Thanks for your understanding!

*The "**Spotlight**" article appears on page 3 and features our newest member, Leona Lawless*

Sept. 17 Lunch Information

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

****Parking is somewhat limited.** Carpooling recommended. The building is the old U.S. Bank building, located across the street from the history center and STEM Academy. It has about 55 parking spaces, including 4 handicapped parking. Overflow parking, if needed, would be in Hidden Lake's lot behind (north of) the STEM building.
A ramp is on the East side of the Center. There are entrances on each side; **our "pay table" will be at the East entrance, so if you go in the West entrance, be sure to walk across the room to pay Merrillyn and Don. Thanks!**

Time: 11:00 a.m

Menu: **Dino's Pizza Party!**
Pizza choices: cheese or pepperoni or mild sausage or pepperoni & sausage, or vegetarian (let your caller know your choice); salad; Old Time Craft sodas; ice cream

Cost: **$13.00 includes tax **new price****
PLEASE no money larger than $20 bills!
Exact change is appreciated.

Program: **TBD**

****Reminder:** **Any cancellations need to be done by calling Merrillyn (303-427-6357) by the Sunday evening before the luncheon to avoid payment for the lunch.**

Condolences to ...

the families and friends of ...

Kay Davis, who died April 21, 2025. She taught at Shaw, Sherrelwood and Flynn Elementary for 35 years before retiring in 1999.

Elizabeth Price, who died June 3, 2025. She taught both at Clear Lake MS and Ranum HS for over 40 years and retired in 1991. Elizabeth was instrumental in WRSEA, serving as a board member and the Newsletter Editor for many years.

On the Mend!!

Ross Davison- fractured elbow-requiring surgery and extensive rehabilitation.

W.J. Peniston-back surgery in early June.

Current WRSEA Board

OFFICERS:

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Bonnie Ashton . . . . . .ashton.bonnie@yahoo.com
Virginia Corbett, ...ginnyc1960@yahoo.com
Ann Wall. . . . . wallnecoid@yahoo.com
Greg Kahler. . . . . kahlerg@comcast.net
Ginger Zukowski. . . . . zukowsk1@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Merrillyn Bishop, Telephone . . . . . merrillyn7@yahoo.com
Jim Flowers & Diana Kasson, Co-Newsletter. . . see emails above
Ross Davison, Membership. . . . . fddavision13@gmail.com
Program . . . . . ***Position open***
Gayle Anderson , Hospitality . . . . . .g.anderson87@live.com
Carol Anthony, Legislative . . . . . .CA1066@aol.com

CHANGES

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

Welcome New Member!
Leona Lawless, our Spotlight in this issue
9531 W. 104thCt. Westminster, CO 80021-3887
Leona Lawless@gmail.com 303-884-4295

New Address
None noted

Address Correction
None noted

Membership Drops
Elizabeth Price (passed away)
Betty Cullll (passed away)
Kay Davis (passed away)
**Itzel Orduna-returned to grad school

WPS Foundation change of staff

Itzel Orduna resigned her post with the WPS Foundation in order to attend graduate school at New York University. Her position has been filled by Thomas Hernandez, who previously ran the Mapleton Education Foundation as well as worked with Metro State University in the scholarship and financial aid department.
Itzel promised to provide updates on her progress, and we wish her well!

Our continued thanks to the WPS Educational Services for facilitating WRSEA needs: Supt. **Dr. Jeni 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** for facilitating the printing of our Directory … **Stephanie Baer** and Thomas Hernandez 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!

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is on August 27th, at 9 am at the MAC located 3295 W. 72nd (a block east of the De Spain Bldg). This is a new location that hopefully will be convenient for all.
Board meetings are held the final Wednesdays of Aug., Oct, Jan., and March. **Any member is welcomed to attend!**

Scholarship Fund Donors for 2024-25

Final Honor Roll

(as of 31 May 2025

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

Next newsletter will show start of the 2025-26 Honor Roll

Gayle Anderson
Carol Anthony
Bonnie Ashton
Anita R. Banning
Benita Barone-Shoemake
Carole Bieshaar
Merrillyn Bishop
Gwen Burnside
Jane Cheuvront
Carolyn Crawford
Betty Cull
Julie Culp
Kay Davis
Frances & Ross Davison
Sabrina Dellbovi
Karen Diaz
Kathryn Dowling
Jean DuFresne
Karen Dunn
Diane Eicher
Carla Evans
Judi Fisher
Marilyn Flachman
Jim Flowers
Karen Forman
Nancy Fox
Luanne Gallegos
Violet George
Anna Giebel
Marie Gillis
Henrietta GilreathMiller
Lillian Gutierrez
Carol Hansen
Jan Heimer
Karen Henwood
Melanie Hewson
Dennis Johnson
Kendra Johnson
Diana Kasson
Mary Kennedy
Chriss Kilburn
Betty Kinderdick
Nadine Kline
Cathy Leitner
Linda Lewis
Tom & Joyce Lynch
Kay Maaske
Lenore Mekeal
Betty Morgan
Mary Morris
Jan Morrow
Larry Pace
Dolores Padilla
Don Palermo
Cherylin & W.J. Peniston
Carol Peters
Wendy Piburn
Barbara Pierpoint
Mary Sue Powell
Elizabeth Price
Valdene Ranum
Lisa Romeo
Shirley Simons
Donna Lea Sims
Nancy Skeels
Deanna Stenson
Martha Sullivan
Sylvia & Harold Van Gorp
Ron Vega

Current "Club 90" Members

Elayne Jacobson (as of Feb. 2017)
Doris Southworth (as of Jan.2019)
Dorothy Gallagher (as of July 2021)
Patricia Miller (as of July2021)
Betty Morgan (as of Feb. 2022)
Annabelle Heim (as of April 2022)
Shirley Bales (as of Nov. 2023)
Pat Carberry (as of Feb. 2023
Donna Lea Sims (as of April 2023)
Bill Barlow (as of June 2023)
Margaret Saari (as of August 2023)
Jeneane Beier (as of July 2024)
Clara Benigno (as of August 2024)
Nadine Kline (as of Sept. 2024)
Lenore Mekeal (as of Dec. 21, 2025
Phyllis Sanders (as of March 18, 2025

Spotlight on Leona Lawless

Our newest member

I taught for 36 years and was teaching my second generation of preschoolers before I retired in May. I was hired in 1989 as a Title 1 teacher and have taught Preschool through 2nd Grade. I was the first in my family to earn a college degree in 1988 from MSU, followed by a Master's degree from Regis University in 1997.

I grew up in the district, starting at Skyline Vista Elementary in 1970, attending Scott Carpenter Junior High, and graduating from Ranum High School in 1983. It was my lifelong dream to be a teacher, and I have loved helping children and parents believe in themselves.

I truly loved my job, but I am ready to take on new adventures. I plan to travel and continue learning and growing as a person.

I'm married to Steve Lawless, whom I've been with for nearly 31 years. We are planning a cruise to Italy and Greece at the end of October and will also attend the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.

We have two daughters: Lauren, 25, who graduated from MSU with a video production degree, and Jackie, 22, a senior at Ft Lewis in Durango pursuing a history degree. Our most recent adventure was traveling to Japan, where our daughter, Jackie, was completing a semester of college.

NOTICE

The board is considering modifying the Directory because of the expense, primarily to the School District. Please give us your thoughts. In the interim, we will provide some less extensive (but accurate) copies of ALL current personnel data both on email AND for those without printers, via paper copy at the next Luncheon.

Summary of the April 16, 2025 lunch

Treasurer's Report: Ross reported that our checking account has a balance of $665. Dino has been paid for all lunches. The savings account has a balance of $2,845.00.
Of particular relevance, In September 3 of the 4 luncheons cost will increase from $12 to $13. This will INCLUDE tax. The November lunch will increase to $17 including tax.
We have received additional donations in the amount of $75.00 for the Betty Cull Legacy Scholarship.
Membership Report. Frances Davison indicated a membership of: 101 paid members, 16 paid associates, 20 Free Club 90 members and 4 honorary members. Bernie Lopez dropped her membership and Kay Davis' daughter asked that she also be dropped. Prayers were asked for Kay Davis and Elizabeth Price as they are in poor health. The elimination of the WRSEA membership card was discussed. No one objected to the membership card being eliminated.
Retirement tea on May 19th.Frances provided the information and indicated that she would attend to present our information to retirees.
Scholarship Ceremony. Frances and Ross will also attend the scholarship ceremony and present the scholarships to our three recipients.
Luncheon Presentation. Candise Johnnie, from the Colorado Dept of Human Services, gave a power point presentation on Elder Abuse. Her presentation included types of elder abuse, the warning signs, causes and how to report abuse. Candise had resources for our members to use for more information as well as the procedure for reporting abuse.
Luncheon. Chaplin James Choi of Covenant Living, gave the blessing for our food while Dino provided Easter pie, green salad, fruit and macaroons for dessert.
WPS Video. Stephanie Baer showed the video that was created for the WPS Foundation Breakfast.
Door Prizes. The winners of the beautiful potted tulips were: Rita Pirkl, Sharon Medina, Anna Giebel,Lorraine Rears, Greg Kahler, Gayle Anderson and Lillian Gutierrez.
Next Meeting. The next lunch is scheduled for September 17, 2025.

Please see photos of the meeting on page 6!!

2025-26 Luncheon Dates & Info.

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

September 17, 2025
November 19, 2025
February 18, 2026
April 15, 2026
Sept. 16, 2026, and
November 18, 2026

The price for each Sept., Feb., and April lunch is **$13.00 for each member, associate member, and guest attending. (Nov. = **$17** **Reminder: if you commit to attend but do not attend and do not cancel in advance (see Reminder below), you still need to pay the lunch cost** (mail check to Ross **made out to WRSEA).**
****REMINDER: any cancellations need to be done by calling Merrillyn (303-427-6357) by Sunday evening before the luncheon to not have to pay.**

Thank-you 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.

Can You Help??

Congratulations to these staff who retired but **did not attend the retirement tea**. If you know any of these retirees that you think may have an interest in our "free" first year enrollment, please email Frances Davison so she can send them the WRSEA app.
fddavison13@gmail.com

Cindy Davis
Malgorata Lewandowski
Sandra Nees
Tige Asnicar
Georgiana Bluejay
Pete Rodriguez
Lana Cooper
Rachel Menzies-Perez
Pamela Nelson
Marcia Beluscak
Debra Colunga-Vazquez

2025 Scholarship Recipients

WRSEA Scholarship Recipients for WPS Graduating Class of 2025

At the 2025 WPS Awards Program on May 22, the following graduating seniors were presented with WRSEA-related scholarships:

WRSEA Academic Scholarship, $6,500 ($812 per sem. for 4 yrs)**:**
Heaven Gillyard

WRSEA Educational Scholarship, $3000 ($750 per sem. for 2 yrs)**:**
Jordi Hernandez Medellin

WRSEA Scholarship funded by WRSEA members Frances & Ross Davison, $3000 ($750 per sem. for 2 yrs)**:**
Kaylee Maize

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* * * * * * * * * * *

The Iver C. Ranum Memorial Future Teachers Scholarship ($2,500 each):

The fifth annual Lynch Family Scholarship (to give back to WPS and help WPS grads attend and succeed in college) ($2,000):

Happy Birthday to…..

AUGUST

4 - Gayle Anderson
5 - Nancy Skeels
9 - Jan Heimer
12 - Carolyn Crawford
16 - Jeri Vigil
18 - Jim Flowers
20 - Clara Benigno
25 - Julie Culp

SEPTEMBER

1 - Nadine Kline
4 - Martha Sullivan
9 - Carol Peters
16 - Valerie Grant
21 - Tim Scherr
22 - Kay Davis
23 - Carol Anthony
25 - Tom Klinger
27 - Carole Bieshaar
27 - Don Palermo
28 - Benita Barone-Shoemake

The next Newsletter will have birthdays from Oct. 1 through Jan. 31. **If you want your birthday here when it is time, send me your birth date if you haven't already done so! Thanks! -

Pictures below are from the Scholarship Ceremony with Frances presenting to each of our three recipients. Each asked Frances to tell all WRSEA members a big thank-you for helping them with the scholarships.

Heaven Gillyard with France Davison-recipent of $6500 scholarship 4 yr

Jordi Medellin with Frances Davison Davison $3000 scholarship-2 yr

Kaylee Maize receiving scholarship from Frances Davison -Davison personal scholarship of $3000 2 yr

"The Situation is Hopeless, but not Serious" Paul Watzlawick, Austrian/American Psychologist Provocative book… Perhaps with some relevance today!

April 17 Business Meeting & Luncheon Photos

Table of the Day: Gayle Anderson, Anna Giebel, Linda Lewis, Don Palermo, Cincy Carillo

Door Prize Winners: Lorraine Rears, Anna Giebel, Sharon Medina, Rita Pirkl, Lillian Gutierrez (front) Gayle Anderson, Greg Kahler,

Speaker-Candise Johnnie
Presented info on Elder Abuse (for chart that Candise ran out of) google "Library Freedom Project, Scams",

Yummy Easter Pie.:
Virginia Corbett and Dino

Easter Blessing provided by James Choi, Chaplin, Covenant Living

Interesting education practice: Since 1993, Denmark has **required** all children 6-16 to take a weekly empathy classes. The result? World's lowest bullying rates. World's highest kindness scores. The kids are raised not to be the best in the room, but they are raised to make the room better. This reminds me a little of Johnson and Johnson's Collaborative Learning in the 1980s.

Similarly, research shows social skills unlock more doors than IQ alone. Perhaps teaching kids to connect may help them more than teaching them to compete. In one study, following 2000 high school students over 10 years showed that the most popular kids weren't trying to be liked-they were making others feel liked. They gave attention. Perhaps as a result, they get treated differently…and more positively. This is in line with the 80-20 rule that suggests greater influence when positive versus negative comments are dispersed at a 4:1 ratio. Hmm…..I wonder if this might apply to adults as well!

2025-26 WRSEA Membership Application Form

_____ _____
First Name Last Name

_____ (_____) -_____
Street Address Phone Number

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip Code

Cell phone (_____) -_____ **e-mail** _____

D50 Position(s) **&** School(s)/Admin._____

_____

Year Retired _____ Number of years in D50/WPS _____ ***Please check one: ☐ Member Renewal ☐ New member

If paying for an Associate member, too, please indicate name and relationship to member:

Associate name_____ Relationship_____

****Check one:** I wish to have my Newsletter sent to me by: ____ e-mail only
____ both e-mail and U.S. mail
OPTIONAL: Birth Date _____/_____/_____ ____ U.S. mail only
(month / day / year)

Amount enclosed

Annual Dues[1]: WRSEA Member..... **$10.00** . . . . . **$**_____
WRSEA Associate (spouse/friend) ..... $ 2.00 . . . . . **$**_____
Scholarship fund[2] **(Whatever additional amount you wish to contribute) . . . . . $**_____
Cost to mail you the 2022-26 Directory .... **$2.50 . . . . . **$**_____
= **IF you do not already have one-

****Make check payable to WRSEA.**** **Total amount enclosed:** ☐

**Fill out this form and mail to: Ross Davison, Treasurer, WRSEA -- 1495 Russell St. Golden, CO 80401

[1]Membership dues are in effect from September 1st to August 31st.
[2]Any amount in your check beyond the Member (and Associate member) dues will be automatically put into the Scholarship Fund.

Please fill in your information, and include this application form with your check. Thanks!

- -

Additional Directions for completing application form

(***Also: See article on page 1 for instructions and requests from your treasurer.)

***Please use the above form, not one from a previous newsletter!**

Please fill out completely, including your preference for receiving the Newsletters.

****Indicate anything you do not want published in the next directory.****

Please be sure your email address is clearly/legibly printed.

Please include the above completed form with your check made out to WRSEA.

*** If possible, payment by mail allows me to organize records promptly. However, if it is easier for you to pay in person PLEASE bring your completed application form and your check already made out. If you want to pay with cash instead of by check, please have the exact amount.

Direct questions/concerns to Ross or Francis Davison, by email (on officers page) or 720-662-0007 or 720-296-1866

Westminster Retired School Employees Association, Westminster Public Schools
J. Flowers & D. Kasson, Newsletter Editor
PO Box 1891 Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-3800

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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!!**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of August 1, 2025 we ended up with a 2024-25 total membership of;

101 PAID members,
16 paid Associates,
20 Free members (16"Club 90" and 4 honorary members)

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!