Westminster Retired School Employees Association

WRSEA Newsletter

Westminster, Colorado **Fall 2025**

Spotlight on … Ginger Zukowski

I grew up in Berwyn, Illinois. High school was Morton West, the location of Morton salt. I attended the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois U, and ultimately finished degrees in Colorado at both UNC and a Masters degree at Regis. My husband, Gary and I have always felt privileged to live in our beautiful state of Colorado and we raised our two children in Boulder.

My teaching experience ranged from teaching at dance studios, pre school, and elementary school. I spent 23 years with WPS including several years teaching third grade at Skyline Vista, serving as an instructional coach, a year as Title I Coordinator, followed by 5 years in Title I at Hodgkins.

Additionally, I published a book titled "On the Move" for teachers of young children who want to incorporate creative movement in their curricula. I feel very fortunate to have had so many talented colleagues and eager and curious students during my years at D50/WPS.

Since retiring in 2016, I've delved into landscape photography. I continue to have pieces in local exhibits. This art form allows time to find new perspectives in outdoor settings as well as learning about editing, printing and framing in the studio.

November 19th Lunch Information

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

****Parking:** 55 parking spaces, (4 handicapped), ramp is on the East side. Overflow parking at the History Center or Hidden Lake. **"pay table" East entrance.**

Menu: "Pre-Thanksgiving Feast"

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Gravy, Rolls, Butter, Cranberry Jello, and Pumpkin pie with whipped cream YUM!

Time: 11:00 a.m.

****Cost: $17.00** (tax included)**

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS DRIVE:
Suggested items: Tuna/meat in zip open containers, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, spaghetti and sauce .Soap pods can be dispensed in baggies, paper products including hygiene products of all kinds….and anything that you deem useful*! Thank you Craig for checking with the "bank" for needed items.*

Pastor Matt Stiveson will provide an update on the Westminster Christian Church food/necessities bank, our chosen recipient for this year.

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Reminder: This is the last year of a 2 year term for President and Vice President. Please consider serving or nominating someone for these positions. Additionally Merrillyn Bishop is retiring as the phone chair at the end of the this school year…after 15 years of service! In order to continue with the current organizational format, these positions are necessary. We Need You!

Condolences

To Nadine Kline and family with the passing of Vic Kline, Nadine's husband. Recitation of the Rosary will take place at 11:00-11:30 on November 11th, at 12801 W. 44th Ave (Mt. Olivet Mortuary Chapel). Many of you may know that our associate member, Debbie DiDomenico, was Nadine and Vic's niece, and traveled across Denver to bring Nadine to our Luncheons for several years.

Get Well Wishes to ...

Deana Stenson-recovering from a fall resulting in numerous broken bones.
Judy Brand-ongoing treatment for cancer
Julie Culp-knee replacement surgery

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 28, 2026,
at the MAC, 3295 W. 72nd, at 9:00 a.m.
Held last Wednesdays of Aug., Oct., Jan., and Mar. All members welcome!

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 . . . . . .fddavison13@gmail.com
Judith Fisher, Past President . . . . . .judith.fisher@ymail.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
Bonnie Ashton . . . . . .ashton.bonnie@yahoo.com
Ann Wall. . . . . wall.necoid@gmail.com
Virginia Corbett . . . . . ginnyc1960@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 . . . . . fddavison13@gmail.com
Program . . . . . .Vacancy
Gayle Anderson, Hospitality. . . . . g.anderson87@live.com
Carol Anthony, Legislative . . . . . .CA1066@aol.com

Changes-new address, phone, etc.

Nadine Kline-10280 North Sheridan , room 206-A Westminster, 80020. *Switchboard 303-410-0500* ***Cards/letters welcomed!!***

Lenore Mekeal-2195 E. Egbert #250, Brighton, CO, 80601 Phone 970-261-0473 (son Leighton)
Lenore would welcome correspondence at her new residence.

Sharon Gorman-new email- skgorman42@icloud.com
Val Grant-720-667-2566
Jan Stephens 303-246-3828
Mary Joan Borowski-303-881-4070
Marilyn Flachman-email mflachman7@gmail.com
Only phone is 303-905-0872
Kenra Johnson-8774 Yates Dr. #308 Westy, CO 80031
Barbara Pierpoint-only phone-303-810-8139
Marcia Briggs primary phone 303-429-2161
Kay Maaske-303-887-5530
Jeri Vigil-303-956-7165

NEW MEMBERS (Welcome!):
Thomas Hernandez-Associate Member-8690 Lamar Dr. Arvada, Co, 80003 (replaces Itzel on WPS Foundation Staff).
Malcolm Davis 3883 Osceola St. Denver, CO 80212 phone 719-232-0231 madavis86@hotmail.com
Mellissa Duran-Associate. 8120 Sheridan Blvd Suite A-100 Arvada, CO 80003 cell 303-585-7599 Currently WEA President *weapresident@coloradoea.org*

Note: as an alternative to making these changes on your (old) 22-26 Directory, we will provide the basic updated information via a spread sheet emailed upon request.

At the recent board meeting, it was decided that we would provide a minimum of 2 scholarships for next fall; one 4 year scholarship in the amount of $4000 and one 2 year scholarship in the amount of $3,000. If further contributions are forthcoming, we wil either add the monies to these two or add another scholarship.
WAY TO GO WRSEA!

Notes of Appreciation and Good News

Naomi Hermosillo-*2 yr FRCC Scholarship*
I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your generous support through the WRSEA scholarship. Your investment in my education means more to me than words can fully express. Thanks to your kindness I am able to make my dreams a reality without the heavy burden of financial stress. Your support not only lightens the load but motivates me to push myself farther and make the most of this opportunity you've given me. Thank you for believing in me. I hope to give back in the same way you have helped me.

Ana K Mendoza-*2 yr FRCC Scholarship*
I would like to say thank you for allowing me to pursue my dream. It still astounds me that I am able to view college as an option and show my family it is possible. Please forgive the vagueness..I am a big feeler and I didn't want to cry on your thank you card.
Sincerely, Thank you. Ana

Ashylyn Rivera-*4 yr-CU*
Thank you so much for the amazing opportunity! This scholarship truly makes the difference in allowing me to pursue my education at the higher level knowing there is someone who believes in me builds my motivation in continuing academic success. I will use the scholarship to the best of my abilities. I will face any challenges with resilience and strength. Your support makes all the difference. With Love, Ashylyn Rivera-4 yr-CU

And in renewing her membership, former **WRSEA President Anita (Roberts) Banning** wanted to say hi to all of her friends and coworkers in Denver. She is celebrating the holidays with a group of local friends in Washington state.

They "talk Turkey and I think Hay"

WPS Foundation update on the WPS Fall Home-Coming

More than alumni from Westminster, Ranum, and Hidden Lake High Schools came together to celebrate memories, reconnect with old friends, and show their school spirit. In addition to this event, alumni were invited to take tours of the new Ranum Reimagined Campus and Westminster High School. Since it was Homecoming weekend, many alumni also attended the Homecoming game on Oct. 3rd, where Westminster beat Northglenn by the score of 28-7!

The WPS Foundation event aims to keep the alumni community connected, maintain school spirit, and remind us that we are part of something bigger. The WPS Foundation encourages alumni to get involved to help today's students thrive. Together, we carry forward the pride and tradition of our schools while making a difference for the next generation.

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

For those who prefer luncheon notifications by text or *email messages please inform* M*errillyn.* If you choose this contact method, it is **imperative** that you respond back in a timely fashion in order to provide Dino with an accurate lunch count.

September 17 Luncheon's Highlights & Photos

-New Members: Frances Davison introduced Melissa Duran,current WEA President, and Leona Lawless, retired as Hodgkins Preschool teacher after serving in many district positons over 36 years.
-**Stephanie Baer** introduced Thomas Hernandez who is the new Program Director of WPS Foundation. Thomas replaces Itzel Orduna who moved to New York City to further her education.
-**Treasurer's Report:** Ross reported savings = $5,166.m ab ubcrease if $2175 since April meeting. $63 of this was from King Soopers (quarterly). Half of the dues and all donations go into the savings account awaiting transfer to Scholarships.
Checking:=$1,232. Since the last lunch $208 was deposited. There are no outstanding bills.
Membership: Frances reported that there are 68 members: 39 paid members, 4 paid associates, 20 Club 90 members and 4 honorary members.
Corrections: : Janet Stevens' name was inadvertently left off the scholarship donor list. Violet George's name was omitted from Club 90..
Membership Cards: Will be provided upon request at luncheons. (see Frances/Ross)
The newsletter will be shortened to be only 4 pages long to save the district money. Board meetings have been moved to the MAC at 3295 W. 72nd Ave..
Obituary Notices of Members :Such emails will be clearly marked in the subject line. If "good news" items are provided to us, we will share when space is available.
R**ecovering:** Positive thoughts were asked for Judy Brand and Deanna Stenson, who are recovering from recent illnesses.
WRSEA Applications: Melissa Duran and Stephanie Baer took the WRSEA applications for those retirees who didn't attend the retirement tea. We had no contact information for those people.
Ranum Innovative Campus update: Dr. Ryan McCoy, Chief of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships, shared that Ranum now offers CTE pathways in: 1) Automation and Robotics Technology, 2) Aviation Engineering , 3) Biotechnology, 4) Cyber Technology, and 5) CNA/Medical Assistan. Tours of the campus may be arranged for WRSEA members. The campus also offers adult training, making it WPS's first multigenerational campus.
Inspirational Poem: Bonnie Ashton shared an original piece.
Lunch by Dino: pizza, potato salad, chips, sodas, spumoni ice cream.
Door prize winner:s Don Palermo, William Gutierrez, Harold Van Gorp, Karen Dunn, Betty Kinderdick and Tom Klinger. Thanks to Merrillyn Bishop for providing the prizes.

The next lunch is November 19,

Table of the Day
Front left-Wendy Piburn, Lorie Gomez, Melissa Duran, Leona Lawless, Melanie Hewson, (back left-Merrillyn Bishop's brother visiting from Thailand, Merrilly Bishop)

Door Prize Winners
Front row-Lillian Guiterrez, Betty Kinderdick, Don Palermo
Back Row-Karen Dunn, Hal Van Gorp, Tom Klinger
Thanks to Merrillyn Bishop for providing the Goodies!

Dr. Ryan McCoy-guest speaker with Merrillyn, his former teacher!

Shirley Simons and Karen Dunn kicking back and enjoying the luncheon

Happy Birthday to ...

OCTOBER:
2 - Cathy Leitner
3 - Diana Kasson, & Joyce Heffernan
4 - Carla Evans
5 - Gene Nielsen
6 - Mike Wall
8 - Evelyn Rapier (Club 90) & Virginia Corbett
11 - Henrietta Gilreath-Miller
17 - Donna Hacker
19 - Judy Brand
25 - Ann Wall
31 - Gwen Burnside

NOVEMBER:
4 - Diane Eicher
8 - Pat McIntire (Club 90)
10 - Barb Williams
13 - Shirley Bales (Club 90)
17 - Lisa Romeo
22 - Mary Kennedy
25 - Violet George (Club 90)
28 - Lillian Gutierrez

DECEMBER:
3 - Marie Gillis
8 - Jan Morrow
9 - Carol Hansen
18 Barbara Pierpoint, & Cindy Carrillo
21 - Lenore Mekeal
30 - Linda Lewis

JANUARY 2024:
6 --Sharon Gorman & Terrie Shaw
13 -- John Clymer
14 -- Mary Joan Borowski
31 -- Doris Southworth (Club 90)

****These are the birthdays from Oct. 1 to January 31. Next Newsletter will have birthdays from Feb. 1 through Mar. 31. **If you want your birthday here when it is time, send either Frances or Jim your birth date if you haven't already done so! Thanks!**

Announcements and Information of General Interest to

Dave's Locker is a community medical equipment service which **loans** crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, knee scooters, shower stools, grab bars, canes, bathroom aids, and much more to anyone in need.
Hours: 10am - 2pm Monday through Friday
Please Call Ahead 720-624-6486 7903 Allison Way Arvada, CO 80005
A good resource for the temporary need.

Friends Fall Fund Raiser
Fri, Nov 7th 9-5
Sat, Nov 8th 1-5
Sun, Nov 9th 1-5

Used Books, DVDs, Cds for all ages!
CASH ONLY
College Hill Library -Room L107
3705 W. 112th Ave
Westminster
*Info provided by Judith Fisher-a longtime member of the **Friends of the Westminster Public Library***

WPS Foundation is on Colorado Gives Platform. For those who prefer donating directly to WPS for scholarships, December 9th is the designated date…however, you can donate ANY day. Credit Cards are accepted.

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

WRSEA NewsLetter Contents

Spotlight-Ginger Zukowski 1

November Luncheon Info. 1

Changes, Condolences, New Members, Board, etc. 2

Notes of Appreciation-Good News! . 3

Sept. Lunch Recap & Photos 4

Birthdays, Club 90 Members 5

Announcements-General Interest . . . 5

King Soopers Rewards Info, "in the know with WPS", ...6

Thanks to WPS for all the support 6

Colorado Schools & Employees Retirement Association

Approximately 40 of our members belong to CSPERA. If you are unfamiliar, this group serves to lobby and protect our pension. They also lobbied and supported the passing of the *Social Security Fairness Act*, resulting in many of us receiving monies previously denied. If you, like me, received this increase, please consider joining this professional organization. Of the $49.00 dues, $10.00 is returned to the local affiliate…namely WRSEA.

Our continued thanks to the WPS Educational Services for facilitating WRSEA needs: new 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 directory printing… **Stephanie Baer** and Thomas Hernandez of the WPS Foundation for their support in the WPS scholarship processs … 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!

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

Support our Scholarship Fund by enrolling on line. Use your loyalty card when shopping. Participation does not affect your regular credit card rewards.

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 a free site emailed directly to you!