Westminster Retired School Employees Association

WRSEA Newsletter

Westminster, Colorado **Spring 2026**

Scholarship Fund *Honor Roll*

Contributions for the 2026-27 membership year **so far**:

Anthony, Carol
Ashton, Bonnie
Banning, Anita
Benigno, Clara
Bishop, Merrillyn
Brand, Judy
Brown, Kathy
Burnside, Gwen
Carberry, Pat
Cargal, Peggy
Carillo, Cynthia
Cheuvront, Jane
Clymer, John
Crawford, Carolyn
Cull, Betty, The Estate of
Culp. Julie
Davis, Malcolm
Davison, Frances and Ross
Dellebovi, Sabrina
Diaz, Karen
Dunn, Karen
Eicher, Diane
Flachman, Dr. Marilyn
Flowers, James
Frauenfeld, Susan
Gallegos, Luanne
George, Violet
Giebel, Anna
Gillis, Marie
Gomez, Lora
Gutierrez, Lillian
Hacker, Donna
Hansen, Carol
Henwood, Karen
Hewson, Melanie
Johnson, Dennis
Johnson, Kendra
Kahler, Greg
Kasson, Diana
Kennedy, Mary
Kilburn, Chris
Kinderdick, Betty
Lewis, Linda
Leitner, Cathy
Lynch, Tom and Joyce
Maaske, Kay
Medina, Sharon
Morgan, Betty
Morrow, Jan
Padilla, Dolores
Palermo, Don
Peniston, Cherylin and W.J.
Peters, Dr. Carol
Piburn, Wendy
Pierpont, Barbara
Ranum, Valdene
Rauchenecker, Lyla
Romeo, Lisa
Sims, Donna
Simons, Shirley
Stevens, Janet
Sullivan, Martha
VanGorp, Sylvia and Harold
Vigil, Jeri

The Westminster Christian Church Food Bank continues to need the same range of supplies as last meeting. Feel free to drop off at our meeting! Thanks for your generosity.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 26th, at the MAC, 3295 W. 72nd, at 9:00 a.m. Members welcome

April 15th Lunch Information

Site: Robert Landgraf Center
3453 W. 72nd Ave., Westminster
****Parking:** 55 parking spaces (4 handicapped), ramp on the east side. Overflow parking at the History Center or Hidden Lake-across the street.
Pay table-East Entrance

Menu: "Easter Pie"-Choices: ham or sausage or combo ham/sausage or cheese only (vegetarian) Salad, veggies, roll & butter. Dessert: fresh fruit

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: $13.00 per person, tax included

Program: Guest speaker, Ryan Mccoy or James Duffy, providing an update on the on-going changes to our district. Following our meeting, all are invited to a guided tour of the **Ranum Innovation Campus** at 1:30.

2026-2027 Luncheon Dates

Unless a conflict arises, here are the dates for the 2026-27 luncheons so that you can plan ahead.

September 16, 2026
November 18, 2026
February 17, 2027
April 21, 2027

Condolences

Condolences to the family and friends of :

Nadine Kline, *a club 90 member who passed on February 4th at the age of 91.*
Lenore Mekeal, *aged 90, passed away on March 4th.*
Husband *of member Shirley Simons, in December.*
Jan Blatchford, music teacher who *passed at age 71 from complications of Parkinsons. While currently not a member, Jan will be remembered by many in our group.*

Get Well Wishes

Kathy Zook is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
Ginger Zukowski is recovering from a knee surgery complicated by a subsequent broken leg.
Betty Morgan, for a pending partial knee replacement.
Judy Brand, continuing to recover from a medical issue.

CHANGES

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

Directory Changes:

Nadine Kline passed away.
Lenore Mekeal passed away.

Lynette Anderson, withdrew her membership.
Kathi Dowling, withdrew her membership.
Jean DuFresne, withdrew her membership.
Nancy Skeels, withdrew her membership at the request of her husband

Judith Fisher, only phone number is 720-256-7049
Ann Wall, only phone number is 303-775-0502
Lisa Romero, only phone number is 303-263-6185

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 . . . . . email above
Program . . . . . Vacancy
Gayle Anderson, Hospitality. . . . . g.anderson87@live.com
Carol Anthony, Legislative . . . . . .CA1066@aol.com

BIRTHDAY WISHES

April, May, June and July

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
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 -- June30

July

Ginger Zukowski July 3
July 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

Next issue: birthdays from 8/01 to 9/30. Missing from this list? Let us know!

***=Club 90 Member*

ACAN Spring Senior Resource Fair-FREE

When: Tuesday April 28th from 12:00 to 3:00 pm.
Where: Northglenn Rec Cntr. South Entrance.
What: Many exhibits, resources and products, new programs. Please register to assure tote bags/refreshments are plentiful. Provide name, address, phone, email to ACAN, PO Box 350523, Westminster, CO 80231 or call Deb at 570-357-2564 for additional info. **Forms will be available at our luncheon**.

Our continued thanks to WPS Educational Services for facilitating WRSEA needs: **Dr. Jen Gotti** 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 …. **Ryan McCoy** for serving as our liaison for all things WRSEA…. **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!

2025 – 2026 WRSEA Scholarship Update

9 anticipated scholars, 7 have activated in 25/26
A total of $10,937.50 sent to various colleges to support those scholars.
A large "thank you" to Thomas Hernandez and Stephanie for arranging for this update of several of our scholarship winners.

Giada Rosch (2023) WRSEA 4-Year Metropolitan State University of Denver- Sociology

Hi, I'm in my last semester at Metro, graduating with a Bachelor's in sociology with a minor in political science. I continue to work for LovePop Catering both in the kitchen and designing signs. I volunteer at Finding Nectar Farms and helping local families with pet care. Thanks for all the support.

- Giada Rosch

Naomi Hermosillo (2025) WRSEA 2-Year Front Range Community College- Biochemistry

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share an update on how my college experience has been going and to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support.
My transition into my second semester at Front Range Community College has been absolutely wonderful. The classes I am currently taking are both engaging and rewarding, and I feel very supported by my instructors and peers. The classroom environment is interactive and encouraging, which has made learning exciting and meaningful.
Last semester played a huge role in helping me grow, both academically and personally. Through my coursework, I've been able to build new friendships, develop new skill sets, and learn more about myself and my goals for the future. Attending college has opened doors I never imagined possible, and it has given me confidence in the path I am pursuing.
I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to receive a higher education, and I truly would not be where I am today without your generosity and belief in students like me. Thank you for investing in my education and for supporting the dreams and opportunities of my generation.
Please know how thankful I am for your encouragement and continued interest in my journey.
With warm regards and best wishes,
Naomi
Hermosillo

Volunteer for this year's National Education Association Meeting in Denver-July3-7, 2026
In addition to the fun, you may volunteer for as many days as you prefer…AND earn a stipend of $92. Each volunteer must submit a W-9 to receive the stipend. The volunteer form is available at the link provided below. **However**, If the link is too daunting, contact the WEA office at 303-427-1734 for information.
https://app.smartsheet.com.b/form/0199cf6bddf7715aba0bbcaa3a2c8c359.

Jordi Hernandez (2024) WRSEA 2-Year Front Range Community College- Business

Dear Members of the Westminster Retired Employee Association,
I would like to take the opportunity to thank you once again for the scholarship I received from your association, and to share an update on my academic progress and experiences in college.
I originally started with the Idea that I would like to be a mechanic and began my journey with taking a gap year waiting for my chance to register for the Automotive program at Front Range Community College (FRCC). During this time, I was also getting hands on experience and had started a full-time position at Goodyear Auto Service. After realizing the trades weren't for me, I decided to switch to studying Business, pursing a bachelor's in data science, and later adding a concentration in Neuroscience. Since my time in college started, I have been able to receive everything I wanted, having that in person college experience and receiving the help and support I need. Attending FRCC has made me realize I enjoy studying and unlocking knew knowledge towards a career.
Thank you once again for your generosity and continued support. I am truly grateful for the opportunities your scholarship has provided and for the trust you have placed in me. I am excited to continue my academic journey with purpose and dedication and hope to make you proud through my efforts and accomplishments.
Jordi Hernandez

WRSEA- A Brief History

The Westminster Retired School Employees Association began in 1971 with a group of 17 retired teachers. The Superintendent at the time, Iver C Ranum, stated that the district would support the group by providing a meeting place, secretarial assistance and help with mailing communications to its members.

In 1979 the group was opened to all retired employees. Membership at the that time was over 200. Today the active membership is around 120.

The earliest recorded scholarship donation was $1500 to the Iver C. Ranum Scholarship Fund in 1998. Fast forward to 2026, when in excess of $9000 was given year to the Foundation for post-secondary scholarship opportunities. Our members have experienced and understand the value of education and have generously provided this opportunity to the next generation.

Thank you to all who donate to continue to provide scholarship opportunities to the graduating seniors of Westminster Public Schools.

Information gleaned from WRSEA archives with additional commentary by Frances. Thomas Hernandez is currently placing this information as a subheading of WPS, on the Colorado Gives Website. Once this process is completed, we will have further information. We can thank Stephanie/Thomas for this addition. Nice work!

Note from the Secretary (Frances): If you attended a lunch and have not paid your dues, look for a white card attached to your name tag that reminds you to "please ketchup on your dues" with an artistically drawn ketchup bottle! That is your friendly reminder to see Ross at the Treasurer's table.

At our September lunch there will be an extra door prize donated by Ross and me. It will be two passes to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Both passes include entry into the museum as well as one up-charged event-either an IMAX (Infinity), a planetarium show or entry into a purchased temporary exhibit. The tickets will come with a map and exploration of how to use your tickets as well as showing at the DMNS currently. Each ticket is worth about $28. Good luck!

Feb 18, 2026 Luncheon Meeting Recap

Door Prize Winners: Frances Davison, Lyn Varetta (Bonnie's guest), Rita Pirkl, Pat Carberry, Betty Kinderdick,(seated)Diana Kasson-not pictured.

Legendary Ladies-Presentation

The Legendary Ladies gave a presentation on some women from history. They
portrayed Maud Nelson (baseball owner, 1881-1944), Elaine Eastman (sister to the Sioux, 1863-1953), and Hedy Lamarr (movie star and inventor, 1914-2000). It was a very interesting and informative presentation.

Sage advice from Will Rogers
-Never squat while wearing your spurs
-Never slap a man chewing tobacco
-If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging
-Always drink upstream from the herd
-Never miss a good chance to shut up

Introduction- Lyn Varetta, guest of Bonnie Ashton.
Treasurer's Report- A checking balance of $1197. Since the last lunch $994 deposited with Dino being paid $589.00 for Holiday Lunch. $225 budgeted and paid for the Legendary Ladies.
Door prizes- Donation of candles by Mary Joan Borowski.
Savings account- has a balance of $1523, including $518 deposited since previous luncheon, including $53 from King Soopers.
Scholarship Contributions- Please check the scholarship donor list in latest Newsletter and assure that we have given you credit.. Recent contribuors include Jane Cheuvront, Lisa Romeo, Leanne Gallegos and Pat Carberry. Thanks to you all!
Request for Cash App Dues payment- This was requested by one member. No action taken.
Me**mbership Report** -Frances reported 78 paid members, 2 free members, 9 paid associates, 16 Club 90 members and 5 Honorary members. 14 members currently are delinquent regarding dues.
Honorary Member- Norm Bertelson has been added to this list as a result of health issues and in recognition of his many contributions to WRSEA.
Member Resignations- Jean DuFresne and Lynette Anderson citing luncheon conflicts.
Club 90- With the death of Elayne Jacobson Club 90 is down to 16 members. Slated to join Club 90 in 2026 - Gwen Burnside and Tim Scheer. In 2027 we will add 9 Club 90 Members!
Announcements- The Westminster Christian Church requests that we have another ingathering of supplies in April. They are running out of all items – food, hygiene items and paper products. Please bring whatever you can to the April lunch. Thank you!
Continue- to collect items that Marissa Martinez Suarez can use to motivate her middle school CLD students. Book marks, small toys, pencils, erasers and stress balls are ideas.
In our thoughts- Judy Brand, Kathy Zook and Ginger Zukowski as they recover from their medical procedures. Keep Betty Morgan in your thoughts as she prepares for a partial knee replacement.
Death of family member- Shirley Simons' husband passed away before Christmas. Our condolences go out to her and her family.
The Ranum tour- immediately following the lunch on April 15 th.. We will end our luncheon promptly in order to allow people to attend the 1:30 Ranum event. Plan on meeting inside the front door. While car- pooling is encouraged it is **imperative** that you remove all cars from the Landgraf center as the gates will be locked at 2:30! Temporary parking available across the street (Westminster Historical Society).
Melissa Duran-Provided a brief overview of all the closures and changes coming to the district. We appreciate her sharing with us.
Matt Stiveson, pastor of the Westminster Christian Church, gave the blessing for the food and requested donations of food, hygiene items or paper products to help the 40 families who use their weekly food/product bank.
Lunch-Dino provided his usual command performance; a delicious lunch of marinated chicken, noodles in garlic sauce, salad, rolls, butter and cheesecake. Great job, Dino!
Vacancies pending- Jim, Diana and Merrillyn a**re** cycling off as President, Vice President and lunch caller respectively. They are however, willing to mentor replacements as requested.
Next lunch-April 15 th at 11:00AM at the Landgraf Center. The guest speaker will be either Ryan McCoy or James Du**ffy** speaking to the many changes occurring within our district.

Westminster Retired School Employees Association,
PO Box 1891 Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-3800

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

Support our Scholarship Fund by enrolling in this program on line. Use your loyalty card when shopping (phone #) Participation does not affect your regular credit card rewards. This provides some $200 annually for scholarships.

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

Willing to reduce phone calls? Inform Merrillyn and we will text message or email luncheon contacts for added convenience.

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 emailed to you!

Ranum Tour Arranged!

Ryan McCoy and Lottie Wilson are setting up a special Ranum tour for us on April 15th at 1:30. This is immediately after our April Luncheon.
Ranum is accessible via elevator if stairs are too daunting. Please consider joining us to see the new programs. Additionally at our April meeting Ryan or James Duffy will be reviewing the **Forward Together Facilities Initiative (FTFI).**