Sno-Isle Grants

The Sno-Isle Unit of the Washington State School Retirees Association offers 20 $100 grants to school employees who are members of our association. These grants can be used for student enhancement and all certified, classified and administrative school employees are eligible. The applications for these grants are **due by Jan. 15, 2013.**

Our organization focuses mainly on legislative action taken in Olympia about the funding and management of pensions. We do this through our legislative coordinator, our paid lobbyists, a volunteer legislative committee and the support of all our members both actively employed and retired.

With membership you receive a Journal, our local newsletter and legislative action information. Together with that we do work with a company that offers us many insurance options plus discounts for various products, lodging and trips.

We now have about 18,000 members in the state of Washington and over 900 members in our local unit both active and retired. Membership is important to us to maintain our clout in Olympia because as retirees we lose members every year. We think that membership is important to the actively employed because one day you're going to one of us and with retirement that could be as many years as you worked, you will want your pension to be there when that happens. Membership is just $5 a month through payroll deduction.

We have had some influence in the past such as changing early retirement age with full benefits and what was considered as cost of living adjustments that have recently been rescinded. We are working now to retrieve these benefits. We also lost some of our PEBB benefits that we would like to gain back. We don't believe that $5 is too much to pay for this emphasis on pensions for future security.

We would like to visit schools and explain how to apply for a grant and information about membership with just a five minute talk. To make an appointment, please contact MaryAnn Karber at 425-252-7814 or email dave.maryann@yahoo.com.