

Thurston County School Retirees Association (TCSRA) Collection

Date Range: 1967-2007

Size of Collection: 2 boxes, 2 linear feet

Accession Numbers: 2016-005, 2018-015

Records created by: Thurston County School Retirees Association (formerly the Thurston County Retired Teachers Association)

Scope and Content

The records of the Thurston County School Retirees Association (1954-Present) covers the period after the group's reorganization in 1964 until the early 2000s. The collection contains minutes, membership directories (yearbooks), club history (notes and documents), the club's newsletter *Bits & Pieces*, and meeting programs. Some of the minutes notebooks are organized scrapbook-style with photographs and clippings throughout. Original minutes from the early meetings are not present, although there are typed copies of the minutes from 1959-1967. There is also a set of tabletop decorations that identify TCSRA members with a biographical sketch and a photo.

This is a growing collection and the TCSRA expects to make an annual contribution.

Historical Note

On September 18, 1954, a small group of women met at Olympia High School to organize an Olympia and Thurston County Chapter of the Retired Teachers' Association. The first president was Mabel Fox. The goals of the organization were:

- to promote the social and educational welfare of retired teachers,
- to keep alive their interest in education,
- to take an active part in civic affairs, and
- to make an organized effort to secure and maintain suitable homes for retired teachers.

The early meetings of the group were held on the third Saturday of each month, usually excluding the holidays and summer months, except for the occasional summer picnic. Their meeting locations varied and included Olympia High School, the Olympia Community Center, the Coach House of the State Capitol Museum, the Courthouse, restaurants and even members' homes when a public location could not be found.

The group grew and by 1956, there were 26 members reported. Early issues of concern included insurance, pension, legislation, health care and community service. These issues continue to be important today.

By the early 1960s, membership attendance had dwindled; only six to eight people were showing up for meetings and sometimes there were not even enough members to hold a meeting. Historian Ruby Dingee attributed the decline to the loss of early leaders Mabel Foxwell (died in 1962) and Fannie Johnson (moved away in 1959) with no replacement leadership to follow them. The group considered joining forces with another unit in Tacoma or Centralia. The breaking point for the organization came in April 1964 when the nominating committee had no candidate for president for the next year.

Later that year, in October, a meeting to reorganize which included the Washington State Retired School Teachers' Association president, Mrs. Elsie Schartow, was held with 22 members present. The organization was reborn under a new name (*Olympia* was dropped), a new president (June Ramaker), a new constitution, and the institution of membership yearbooks. Meetings were held mostly at local restaurants on the 3rd Friday of the month.

Ruth Ball, a resident of Panorama City, introduced the idea of meeting at Panorama by hosting in her home in January 1965. By the end of that year, the minutes reflected 50 or more members attending each meeting. Men also began to join and take active part in the group. By 1967, there were 13 men out of 88 members (15%). Another turning point happened at the January 1966 meeting where it was announced that due to the group's population explosion, one luncheon would be served to all instead of individual meals. That meeting was also the first time the group met at the Panorama restaurant.

The first male president to run the organization was Herman Miller who served from 1967-1970. Under his leadership, Panorama's restaurant became the designated meeting place and it remains so as of this writing in 2018.

The first bulletin was printed during the 1977-1978 year under the leadership of president Bert Oliver. Myrtle Quick gave it the name *Bits & Pieces* in 1980-1981.

When the budget was made for the 1983-1984 fiscal year, the TCRTA board realized that their income would have to be supplemented. In addition to raising dues by \$2 per

person for the next year, many tactics for raising funds were implemented such as assessments, raffles, bargain table sales, automatic pension deductions and recruitment of new members.

On July 28, 1997 the TCRTA Endowment Fund was established through the Community Foundation to provide small grants to teachers in Thurston County to enhance learning in their classrooms.

After several failed attempts at the state level to change the "Teachers" in the organization's name to "Educator" to be more inclusive, the decision was finally made in June 2000 to change "Retired Teachers" to "School Retirees." TCRTA followed suit and changed their name to Thurston County School Retirees Association (TCSRA) on April 19, 2002.

By 2005, there were 623 members and it was one of the largest units in the state association. Over the years five members have become state presidents. Only the Seattle unit has provided more presidents from their organization.

As of 2018, the ranks of TCSRA have swollen to nearly 800 members and they serve all retired and active school employees. According to their website, they provide the following services:

- Protecting retirement security and benefits through lobbying for legislation
- Providing pre-retirement workshops
- Keeping members informed on health and consumer issues
- Awarding mini-grants to Thurston County elementary and secondary school employees
- Granting scholarships to graduating high school seniors (in cooperation with WSSRA and PEMCO Insurance Company)
- Helping with community efforts that benefit children, the elderly, and those in need
- Encouraging fellowship through monthly luncheon meetings at Panorama's restaurant in Lacey
- Publishing an annual directory and *Bits & Pieces*, a monthly newsletter, for our members

Acknowledgements

Many thanks must be given to the TCSRA historians for retaining and compiling so much of the organization's history throughout the years.

Organization of Collection

Series 1: TCSRA Publications

Dates: 1967-2007

Size: 6 folders, 118 items

Sub-series:

- A. Membership Directory Yearbooks
- B. *Bits & Pieces* newsletters

Series 2: Minutes & History

Dates: 1975-2007

Size: 5 notebooks and 4 folders

Sub-series:

- A. Minutes & History Notebooks
- B. History Notes and Documents
- C. Loose Minutes and Reports

Series 3: Meeting Ephemera

Size: 5 folders

Dates: 1986-2006

Sub-series:

- A. Programs
- B. Table Tents

Series 4: Photographs

Date: 2000

Size: 53 photographs

Series 5: Outside Publications

Dates: 1983-2017

Size: 4 items

Provenance and Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by the Thurston County School Retirees Association through then-President Karen Keller. The first donation came on July 7, 2016 (accession number 2016-005) and included the Minutes & History notebooks, some membership directories, documents on the organization's history and a book on school names history.

The second donation was delivered again through past president Karen Keller on July, 24, 2018 (accession number 2018-015). It included more membership directories, newsletters, more history documents and notes, meeting programs and tabletop tents with member biographies. Two books created by schools to thank TCSRA for grant money were also included.

Processing Information

The material was found in a fairly organized manner and lent itself to easily divided series. The notebooks were kept exactly as they were given. It was decided to divide the series by items that were created by the organization and items that were created outside the organization. The notebooks do not fit comfortably inside a record carton with the lid on, so another container will need to be used so that they can be fully enclosed. Duplicates were discarded in most cases unless there was a compelling reason to keep both. Paperclips and rubber bands were discarded.

Series Description and Container List

Series 1: TCRTA Publications

Dates: 1967-2007

Size: 6 folders, 118 items

This series contains publications regularly created by members or officers of the TCRTA or TCSRA.

Sub-series 1A: Membership Directories/Yearbooks

Dates: 1967-2006

Size: 4 folders, 25 booklets

Booklets are arranged by year. Most booklets cover a school year (Sept-June), size and format varies. Some years are missing. Information within includes a list

of officers, committee chairs, dues rates and membership information for the local and state organizations, a list of each monthly program date and speakers, and a member roster with address and phone numbers. Some yearbooks also include the purpose and officers of the state and national organizations, quotations about education, state convention sites, a list of past presidents, contact information for useful offices, endowment fund donation information, the information for executive board meetings, or handwritten notes of the original owner.

Box 1 Folder 1	2016-005-0001.1-.14	1967-1984
Box 1 Folder 2	2018-015-0001.1-.5	1975-76, 1985-1994
Box 1 Folder 3	2018-015-0001.6-.9	1994-2000
Box 1 Folder 4	2018-015-0001.10-.11	2004-2006

Sub-Series 1B: *Bits & Pieces* Newsletters

Dates: 1996-2007

Size: 2 folders, 93 newsletters

Newsletter of the TCRTA, published nine times per year, September through May as a benefit of membership in the organization. Includes a message from the President, Committee reports (treasury, legislative and more), relevant stories, historical information, upcoming program topics and menus.

*Missing: January 1996, February 1996, October 1997, October-December 2005, February 2006, May 2006, October 2006, December 2006, January-February 2007, September-December 2007.

Note: Copies of Bits & Pieces are sometimes found within the minutes and history notebooks.

Box 1 Folder 5	2018-015-0002.1	1996-1999
Box 1 Folder 6	2018-015-0002.2	2000-2007

Series 2: TCSRA Minutes & History

Dates: 1975-2007

Size: 1 linear foot

This series contains scrapbook-like notebooks that are a combination of minutes, related documents and publications, photographs, history and news clippings. There are also loose minutes and officer’s reports, plus history notes and documents.

Sub-series 2A: Minutes & History Notebooks

Dates: 1975-2005

Size: 5 spiral bound notebooks, .75 linear feet

*Note: See History & Notes series 2b for transcriptions of minutes 1959-1967.

2016-005-0002 Box 2

Red Notebook: "1975-1989 Minutes and History,"

Dates: 1975-1999. Bulk: 1975, 1983-1986, 1996-1998

TCRTA meeting minutes, committee, financial and officer reports, annual program lists, constitution, bylaws and amendments (1995, 1998), newsletters from the WSRTA and NRTA/AARP (1975-1976), minutes from NRTA legislative committee, correspondence, press release from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, information on the Community Enrichment program at NTSD, and lists of officers, committee members and general membership.

2016-005-0003 Box 2

Blue Cloth Notebook: "Thurston County Retired Teachers Executive Board & General Meeting Minutes 1981-1986" (front cover) or "Minutes & History 1981-1982"

Dates: 1981-1982.

TCRTA meeting agendas and minutes (1981-1982), Area IV Coordinating Council meeting minutes (1982), WSRTA annual convention report (1981-1982), Senior Citizens' Lobby report (1982), State Insurance forms, TCRTA newsletters Bits & Pieces (1981-1982), NRTA Brochure "NRTA's Thirty-five Years 1947-1982", and correspondence.

2016-005-0004 Box 2

Maroon Notebook: "1983-1986 Minutes & History"

Dates: 1982-1987; Bulk: 1983-1986 (in reverse date order)

TCRTA meeting agendas and minutes (1983-1986), TCRTA newsletter Bits and Pieces (1986-1987), lists of board and committee members, and Washington state legislative district map (1986).

2016-005-0005 Box 2

Black Notebook: "April 1994 through February 1995 Thurston County Retired Teachers Unit #28, Winnifred L. Olsen, Reporter"

Dates: 1994-1995

Reports of activities, newspaper clippings, officer lists, conference information, photographs, correspondence, TCRTA meeting minutes (1994-1995); *Bits and Pieces* (1994-1995); luncheon programs (1994-1995) WSRTA Journal Award entry information and application form; WSRTA advocacy information; information on Education Reform in Washington and NTSD information; Thurston County birthday party program; list of unit presidents 1954-1994.

2016-005-0006 Box 2

Blue Notebook: "TCSRA August 2004-2005"

Dates: 2004-2005

Photographs of 50th anniversary picnic (2004), Meeting agendas, minutes and programs (2005), committee reports, photographs, news clippings (1955 and 2005), obituaries, program information, PSA and press releases, TCSRA newsletter *Bits & Pieces* (2005), handbook of duties, SW-4 Coordinating Council agendas, TCSRA by-laws, state proclamation for School Retirees Appreciation Week (March 21-27) signed by Governor Gregoire, award nomination forms, The Washington State School Retirees Association Journals (2005) and correspondence. Secretary of State Kim Wyman, who was County Auditor at the time, appears in several articles, announcements and photographs.

Sub-Series 2B: History Notes & Documents

Dates: 1966-1999 (approximate, as many items are undated)

Size: 2 folders

Box 1 Folder 7 2018-015-0003

Contains groupings of notes paper clipped together about various aspects of TCRSTA history; "Brief history of Thurston County Retired Teachers Association" and other short typed histories; typed minutes 1959-1967.

Box 1 Folder 8 2016-005-0007

Includes 3 documents: *Brief history of Thurston County Retired Teachers Association*, which includes typed minutes 1959-1967; TCRTA historian's publication, 1977; *TCRTA Roster of Officers and Committee Chairpersons Since 1954*, September 7, 1999.

Sub-Series 2C: Loose Minutes & Reports

Dates: 1984, 2007

Size: 2 folders, 4 items

Box 1 Folder 9 2016-005-0008 Auditor's Report, probably 1984

Box 1 Folder 10 2018-015-0004 Minutes & Treasurer's Report 2007

Series 3: Meeting Ephemera

Dates: 1986-2006

Size: 5 folders

Description: This series contains programs and tabletop decorations for the monthly luncheons.

Sub-series 3A: Monthly Luncheon Programs

Dates: 1986-2006

Size: 3 folders, 77 items

Some duplicates. Note that some luncheon programs are found within the minutes and history notebooks.

Box 1 Folder 11 2018-015-0005.1 1980s

Box 1 Folder 12 2018-015-0005.2 1990s

Box 1 Folder 13 2018-015-0005.3 2000s

Sub-series 3B: Program Ephemera

Dates: No dates

Size: 2 folders

Box 1 Folders 14-15 2018-015-0006 Tabletop tent decorations

Series 4: Photographs

Dates: April – August 2000

Size: 52 photographs

Description: Photographs of the Washington State School Retirees Association building at 4726 Pacific Avenue before, during and after construction. Includes two (undated) photographs of a dilapidated building adjacent to the property.

Box 1 Folder 16 2018-015-0007

Series 5: Publications, non-TCSRA

Dates: 1983-2017

Size: 4 items

Description: Includes two history books related to Washington schools and two publications created by TCSRA grant recipients to thank them for their donation.

Box 1:

2016-005-0009	Book, <u>Name on the Schoolhouse</u> , 1991
2016-005-0010	Booklet, <u>Territorial/State Superintendents: 1861 to Present</u> , 1983
2018-015-0008	<u>The Amazing States</u> , Grand Mound Elem. School 2015-16
2018-015-0009	<u>We Are Bucket Fillers</u> , Rochester Primary School 2016-17

Future Collecting Plan

This collection would be more complete with the addition of the following items:

- The original "little black book" with minutes from 1954-1967.
- Minutes for the following years: 1976-1981, 1982-1983, 1987-1994, 1995-1996, 1995-2004.
- Membership Directories: 1964-1967, 1969-1971, 1984-1985, 1986-1991, 1998-1999, 2000-2004, 2006-2007 and later.
- Bulletins/*Bits & Pieces* newsletters with full years missing: 1977-1986, 1987-1995, 2008 and later
- Specific *Bits & Pieces*. January 1996, February 1996, October 1997, October-December 2005, February 2006, May 2006, October 2006, December 2006, January-February 2007, September-December 2007
- Meeting programs with full years missing: 1977-1985, 1988-1989, 1991, 2003, 2007 and later
- Specific meeting programs (did not meet June-Aug): April-October 1986; December 1986, September-October 1987; December 1987; January 1990; March

–May 1990; October-December 1990; February-October 1992; December 1992-January 1993; November-December 1993; February-December 1994; January-February 1995; April 1995; September 1995; February 1996; September 1998; December 1998; September 2000-February 2001; September 2001-November 2001; January 2002; April 2002; September-November 2002; January-September 2004; January-March 2005; October-November 2005; January-February 2006; April 2006; and September-October 2006.

- The following meeting programs are located within notebooks
 - February 2005

Future targets for collecting should include meeting minutes, committee output, photographs (printed or born digital), publications (newsletters, bulletins, programs, etc.), and organizational ephemera.

Bibliography

Meeting notices appear in the *Morning Olympian* and the *Olympian* 1954-Present.

Manuscripts

Dingee, R. "Brief History of Thurston County Retired Teachers Association," TCSRA Collection, Lacey Museum

Newspaper Articles

"Park Garage Plan Provides Lively Debate," May 11, 1955, p.1-2

"Retired Teachers to be Feted Here," The Morning Olympian, October 16, 1960, p 19

"Delta Kappa Gamma Chapters Set Joint Meet Next Saturday," The Morning Olympian, October 29, 1961, p. 18.

"Alpha Pi Chapter Entertains Retired Teachers at Tea," *Morning Olympian*, October 25, 1964, p. 24

"Olympian Elected As Observer for Retirement System, *Morning Olympian*, June 13, 1965, p. 22

"Nicholas, Alexandra to be Reviewed," *Morning Olympian*, February 11, 1968, p. 17 includes photograph.

"Teachers Recall Pioneer Christmas," *Morning Olympian*, December 14, 1975, p. 24.

"Retired Teachers to Share Picnic," *Morning Olympian*, August 17, 1982, p. 13

"Teachers Retired Before '64 Get Pittance," *Morning Olympian*, Sunday July 14, 1985, p. 11-12.

"Roley Gets National AARP Award; Reed Scholarships Given," *Morning Olympian*, June 11, 1986, p. 62.

"Esther Knox honored," in Virginia Painter's column, *Morning Olympian*, April 17, 1988, p. 19.

"Ten finalists in running for top citizen," *Morning Olympian*, March 19, 1990, p. 16. Includes Mary Farrington, president of the TCRTA.

"Your View: Children Were Remembered," [letter to the editor], *Morning Olympian*, January 11, 1992, p. 11.

"Volunteer of the Week [Lucille Messer], *Morning Olympian*, December 23, 1992, p. 28. Includes photo.

"Teacher bill could aid schools," *Morning Olympian*, February 5, 1993, p. 17.

"Sartains [Dick and Phyllis] celebrate 50th," *Morning Olympian*, February 21, 1993, p. 30, includes then/now photos.

"I-601 Backers Decry Foes' 'Deceptive Tactics'," *The Bellingham Herald*, October 20, 1993, p. 13.

Obituaries:

- "Mable [sic] May Foxwell, *Morning Olympian*, December 30, 1962, p. 2.
- "Lynn, Florence M." *Seattle Daily Times*, February 9, 1974, p. 8.
- "Ethel May Markham," *Morning Olympian*, March 13, 1977, p. 6.

- "Alma Marie Olson," *Morning Olympian*, February 28, 1983, p. 7.
- "Beulah B. Jenkins," *Morning Olympian*, April 1, 1984, p. 14.
- "Martha B. Jones," *Morning Olympian*, January 4, 1986, p. 6.
- "Thelma B. Pearce," *Morning Olympian*, September 22, 1986, p. 8.
- "Dorothy Dean," *Morning Olympian*, November 10, 1987, p. 12.
- "Jean B. Gartner," *Morning Olympian*, Sunday, December 11, 1988, p. 14.
- "Benedict T. Haligrimson," *Morning Olympian*, March 11, 1989, p. 8.
- "Charlotte O. Bellamy," *Morning Olympian*, April 28, 1989, p. 14.
- "Rhea H. Lee," *Morning Olympian*, October 18, 1989, p. 22.
- "Mary C. Wark," *Morning Olympian*, October 24, 1989, p. 16 and October 26, 1989, p. 24.
- "Alice W. Larivee," *Morning Olympian*, January 29, 1990, p. 17.
- "Myrtle C. Quick," *Morning Olympian*, July 14, 1990, p. 18.
- "Laura M. Brown," *Morning Olympian*, June 28, 1991, p. 20.
- "Helen R. Vandenberg," *Morning Olympian*, September 17 1992, p. 18.
- "Violet Davies," *Morning Olympian*, May 7, 1993, p. 23.
- "Nita I. Murphy," *Morning Olympian*, December 8, 1993, p. 19.
- "Olga M. LaPore," *Morning Olympian*, August 23, 1994, p. 16.

Websites:

Website of the Thurston County School Retirees' Association:
<https://wssra.org/thurstoncounty/> Accessed November 14, 2018.