

# Benton/Franklin School Retirees Association

## President's Message

"Hello again BFSRA members. We have had, in my opinion, a great year for the Association. First, we have had great programs for our luncheon meetings, don't you agree? I felt the Abe Lincoln presentation by Keith Deaton was particularly effective. We need him to do that again next year! Next, I think you will also agree that the food at our lunches has been top notch, thanks to the staff at Red Lion. We will do our best to keep the cost of the meal at current levels. And, I was exceptionally proud of our Association as we stepped up to assist the family of Jessica Garcia, one of our spring, 2008, scholarship recipients. Finally, the WSSRA state convention is scheduled for June 8-10 in Vancouver. We are allowed 12 delegates and we have 11 scheduled to attend. We are holding the 12th slot open for our new Vice President/President Elect. We have been having difficulty filling that important board position. I am in hopes that by the time this letter is printed in the Newsletter, we will have gotten that done. Thanks to everyone, members and board, for a year as your President that has been interesting, a learning experience, and fun! I got lots of help when I needed it most, for which I am sincerely appreciative. A great summer to all!

Don Parks, Pres. BFSRA

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## More Legislative Information

### SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS!

Governor Gregoire signed our Access to Mailing bill on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of you who e-mailed, called or wrote to our Legislators requesting them to vote "Yes" on this bill. It worked because all six of our Legislators voted YES. This bill allows any organization that exclusively provides representation or services to retired members of the WA state retirement systems, AND has membership dues

deducted through the DRS to request that DRS assist in doing blind mailings to members of the retirement systems twice each year. This is critical for WSSRA and other WA retiree associations to maintain and recruit members.

Here is some interesting info from the National Institute on Retirement Securities. It is stated in their Feb 2009 newsletter, in the WA state section, that 2006 expenditures made by WA state and local government **retirees** provide a steady economic stimulus to WA communities and the state economy. Expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported:

...21,035 jobs that paid \$1.3 billion in wages and salaries

...\$3.2Billion in total economic output

...462.9 million in federal, state, and local tax revenue

This means that each dollar paid out in pension BENEFITS supported \$1.37 in total economic activity in WA. Each dollar "invested" by WA taxpayers in these retirement funds support \$9.69 in total economic activity in the state. Every dollar we spend has a direct, an indirect, and an induced impact in our community. It should be noted, that nearly all retirees spend their entire pension each month just to make ends meet.

WOW!! WA state taxpayers get a huge Bang for their Buck from retirees. Let's spread the word regarding Retirees contributions to our Legislators, our Community and our friends.

At the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, your Legislative committee will put on each table more information on WA Pensionomics from NIRS.

Elaine Banks