



# The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills  
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

December 2022

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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## HOLIDAY POTLUCK

*Christmas Potluck December 16th*



*The Heritage Chapter's annual Christmas potluck will take place at our monthly meeting on December 16th at the VFW in Renton, WA. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. for social time before we start eating about 11:00 a.m. If you have not been able to attend a meeting for a while this will be a perfect opportunity for you to join in and reconnect with your fellow Bluebills. If you have been a regular attendee at the meetings during the year it is still a good time to relax and enjoy the fellowship. In this busy time of the season we can all use a little relief from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. Since this a potluck it is also a great opportunity for you to show off your special cooking and/or entertaining skills. Please bring enough food to share with others*

**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**and Happy New Year!**



## **November Meeting Summary**

*By Mary Ulibarri*

Don opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were two November birthday attendees – Janice Hawes and Mike Keller. Others on my list are Gerry Bertagni, Pat Crockett, Marian Herrin, Judy Leyden and Oscar Olague.

Don reminded everyone there will be a December potluck at the next meeting on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see a big turn-out. Feel free to bring all those leftover Christmas cookies. J

And those of you volunteering are encouraged to submit your time to Mary at [marybarri20@gmail.com](mailto:marybarri20@gmail.com) or Dick Beham at [bbbeditor@live.com](mailto:bbbeditor@live.com).

Dick provided a brief, but informative, presentation of the new spectacular addition to the aquarium getting closer to being finished on the Seattle waterfront. And Howard Syder added some general information as a result of his time spent as a volunteer at the aquarium. Below is a weblink you can access to see the latest.

[Seattle Aquarium Ocean Pavilion | Seattle Aquarium](#)



Don then held the door prize drawings and adjourned the meeting.

### ***Tongue Twister:***

*A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk*



## **SPEEA Aerospace Career Enhancement (ACE) continues to soar!**

The state of Washington's \$5 million grant to SPEEA allowed our union to develop and administer the SPEEA Aerospace Career Enhancement (ACE) program. With the mission to promote, expand and enhance workforce training and education in support of the aerospace industry and supply chain in Washington, SPEEA ACE is off the ground and soaring!

### **SPEEA ACE is meeting its mission by:**

1. Providing tuition and child care assistance to students pursuing engineering and other high demand degrees at Washington public colleges and universities.
2. Offering free technical and professional training to help advance the professional and technical aerospace workforce.

Exploring apprenticeships within engineering and technical professional occupations.

### **Major accomplishments in the past two years include:**

1. Partnering with 15 Washington state colleges and universities as well as 8 technical and professional organizations to award more than 100 scholarships to students in need.
2. Hosting more than 50 learning events online, in-person and a hybrid.
3. Pairing more than 30 aerospace students with a professional aerospace mentor.

Connecting with local aerospace companies as potential partners for the apprenticeship program.

### **You can help SPEEA ACE - become a mentor**

Involvement from retired SPEEA members is critical to the success of SPEEA ACE. Helping the next generation of aerospace students become aerospace professionals is also a very rewarding experience.

One easy way to help is through the SPEEA ACE mentor/mentee program. The program is growing and looking for more professionals to work with students. In just a few hours each month, you can help a student get a head start in aerospace!

As an aerospace professional, you already have the experience to help and guide students on their career path. Mentor coaching is available. Email us at [ace@speea.org](mailto:ace@speea.org) with any questions.

Help improve the SPEEA ACE program by taking this quick [10-question survey](#).

Learn more about SPEEA ACE by visiting the website, at [www.aerocareer.org](http://www.aerocareer.org).



## **VFW Post 1263 CLOTHING and TOY DRIVE**



The VFW Post 1263, where we meet is having a “slightly used” (or new) clothing drive for homeless Veterans. At the same time, it is having a toy drive for Joint Base Lewis McChord and probably Toys for Tots through the Marine Corps.

If you have any items for the clothing drive or toys for the toy drive, please bring them to our December meeting they will appreciate your donation.

## **JOURNEY TO DEMENTIA – A Time to let go – Part 5**

*By: Doug Hoople*

The last time I wrote about our journey we had just placed Cheryl in the caring home on March 18<sup>th</sup>, joining four other clients. We were able to keep her active with daily visits, her by-weekly massages and lunch, the occasional movie and Grandson’s soccer game.

The Lewy Body Dementia diagnosis meant that Cheryl would have two to eleven years of life, however the diagnosis of Corticobasal Degeneration and the recommendation to bring in Hospice care indicated she did not have that long.

The Hospice nurse was now visiting her twice a week to help with her prescriptions to for her pain and anxiety, both were difficult to reduce.

On Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> she went into a coma. Our daughter and I spent the next days with her to provide any comfort we could. On Tuesday, the Hospice Nurse and Chaplain suggested we take a break, go home to get some rest (and a shower). They said sometimes a dying person doesn’t want to leave if family is present. Two hours later Cheryl passed.

She was then moved to Harborview Hospital so the UW Neurological labs could get some brain tissue samples for research. Corticobasal Degeneration is a rare disease where more research is needed, she wanted to help with that. We should receive a report in approximately

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eighteen months with results of what they found.

From there she went to Sunset Hills Funeral home for cremation. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, we had a small ceremony for her at Tahoma National Cemetery where I (and our youngest daughter) will join her when our time comes. Our oldest daughter wanted her to have a vertical gravestone so she could place flowers. This is not normal for cremated individuals, so we had to place the urn with her ashes in a casket for burial.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we hosted a Celebration of Life for Cheryl in her hometown of Lawrence, Kansas. This allowed her family there, who couldn't travel here for a service to have some closure. Close high school, college, and Girl Scouts friends attended and shared memories of the past. Our Daughter and her family also attended as well as my niece and her husband from Buffalo, New York.

The past year has been an awakening experience in sharing love, feelings, and health with loved ones and shows me that we have a way to go to make a perfect and peaceful ending to our life.



*Submitted by: Micki Brown*

### ***We Want to Provide Timely, High Quality, and Accurate Service to Your Clients***

Dear Colleague,

Social Security Administration (SSA) employees demonstrate an unwavering commitment to serving people who turn to us for help each year, including over half a million visitors to our field offices each week. However, we cannot keep up with the demand for service, and our annual fixed cost increases like salaries, rent, and guard services, without additional funding.

The Administration asked Congress for a continuing resolution funding anomaly of \$800 million more than our fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget, which would have allowed us to maintain level service by hiring employees, funding our fixed cost increases, funding information technology (IT) projects, and allocating overtime to help handle workloads, provided there is not an unexpected and significant increase in demand for our services and programs.

We thank Congress for providing nearly \$100 million in additional funding during the current continuing resolution through December 16, 2022, which provides enough funding to cover our fixed cost increases only through December, overtime at FY 2022 levels, and continued hiring at the start of FY 2023. However, it is not enough to cover our annual fixed cost increases or improve service. The FY 2023 President's budget request for SSA – a \$1.4 billion increase over our FY 2022 enacted level of funding – is the funding we need to improve customer service for

*(Continued on page 6)*

your clients.

We have faced years of underfunding. We are currently operating with approximately 4,000 fewer employees since prior to the pandemic – a 7 percent drop. We are also experiencing historically high levels of attrition. Your clients experience service delays due to the staffing shortage. For example, they are waiting an average of over six months for decisions on their initial disability claims and over 30 minutes to speak to a representative on our National 800 Number.

Without additional funding in FY 2023, we will freeze hiring, cut overtime, and cut funding for critical IT investments.

We must receive the resources to restore staffing losses and continue our important IT investments to prevent deteriorating services that your clients will not and should not accept.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Buckner  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications

## EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER



*Connections for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*

## East Side Stories

### Bellevue Dairy Farms

*BY Barb Williams, Eastside Heritage Center Volunteer*

Less than 100 years ago NE 8th Street in Bellevue was a dusty dirt cow path bordered by bracken ferns and meadow grasses where children lead the family cow home for milking. Presently (2022) the former cow path is a hard-surfaced road bustling with activity and lined with high-rise buildings.



*L80.057.001 - Children and cow on path, Bellevue 1928*

In the early days, many families had a cow, or several, and children were accustomed to seeing the cream rise to the top of the milk sitting in pans on the pantry shelf. Making butter from the cream was a way women could earn money. Today, many children think dairy milk comes in containers from the grocery store. Thanks to the City of Bellevue, the historic Twin Valley Dairy Farm at Kelsey Creek Farm Park remains a farm where the public can learn about dairy farming and its importance to life on the Eastside. Through hands-on activities and seeing the

farm animals, they experience a touch of farm life. The farm began in 1921 when W.H. Duey cleared the land, built a barn and started a dairy. Home-churned butter and milk were delivered to various destinations in a truck driven by Mrs. Duey. The family operated the dairy until 1942.

In a 1913 promotional labeled, “Bellevue on Lake Washington”, a sentence read, “This district is particularly adapted to dairying, the climate, soil and other conditions being ideal for this industry.” And so it was! Dairies sprang up around the region including the successful research Carnation dairy, Highland Dairy Farm, Phantom Lake Dairy, Benhurst Dairy, Twin Valley Dairy Farm, Marymoor Farm and many others. In June of 1929, The Northwest Dairyman and Farmer publication claimed that Bellevue was home to one of the most efficiently run dairies in King County. That dairy was the Benhurst Dairy run by Ben Silliman. His herd of high grade pure bred Holsteins took first place that January for producing 1111.8 pounds of milk and 37.6 pounds of butterfat. The queen of the herd was Pearle Pietertje producing 2,495 pounds of milk and 77.3 pounds of butterfat between January and June. Not only were the cows of high quality, but also the equipment. Good hand milkers were often difficult to find which slowed the production. Ben Silliman had transitioned to effective milking machines which added to his success.

98.018.016 - Ida Swanson milking Hanson's cow

John and Bertha Siepmann moved from Indiana where he had worked in the coal mines. In 1904, they purchased 60 acres in the Highland area near the corner of 148th Avenue NE and NE 24th. They built a house and began to farm. Later their son, George, started the Highland Dairy Farm. Once a week they travelled by horse and wagon to sell butter and eggs in Seattle. Their daughter, Christina, married Chris Nelson who owned and started the Phantom Lake



Dairy Farm in 1922. The Dairy was located at 159th SE and SE 16th and operated for over 25 years. Several people drove for the dairy delivering milk. William Ottinger was one of them. He was employed for thirty-six years as a driver for several dairies. His first job was in 1918 when he drove a horse and wagon for Downey's Highland Dairy on Clyde Hill. At times his route covered twenty-two miles. During his employment, horses and wagons were replaced by trucks, metal gallon milk cans by glass bottles and the bottles by paper milk containers. Mrs. Ottinger remembers as a girl it was her job to clean the milk/cream separator parts; a complex machine. She said, “I didn't mind washing dishes, but the separator was the bane of my life.”

Pat Sandbo remembers, “Our cow was named Dolly, a nice Jersey who provided us with more rich milk than we could use. My mother used to skim off the thick cream and we would put it on the strawberries for breakfast. We didn't know about cholesterol then. Dolly used to get out of her pasture, but my father always knew where to find her. She headed for the school yard and we used to joke about our educated cow.” Pat grew up in Bellevue where she later taught ele-

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mentary school. Perhaps her cow, along with others from local dairies, provided rich cream for the whipped cream that topped the scrumptious strawberry shortcakes; the centerpiece for the first Bellevue Strawberry Festival (1925). Japanese farmers provided the strawberries. Women from the Women's Club baked the shortcakes. And to top it off, in the 1940s Mina McDowell Schafer was making her delectable Chocolate Truffles with heavy cream, lots of butter and tested by Diana Schafer Ford, later to become Miss Washington! We owe much to the dairy farmers and their cows.



*L90.024.002 - Highland Dairy Farm truck*

*Phantom Lake Dairy lid, courtesy of Dale Martin*



## **Bits & Pieces**

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### **Drinking & Driving**

*Submitted by: Mary Ulibarri*

I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving. This might save you the cost and embarrassment of being arrested for DUI.

As you know, people have been known to have unexpected brushes with the authorities from time to time, often on the way home after a "social session" with family or friends.

Well, this year, it happened to me. I was out for the evening to a party and had more than several margaritas coupled with a bottle of rather nice red wine.

It was held at a great Mexican restaurant. Although relaxed, I still had the common sense to know I was slightly over the limit.

That's when I did something I've never done before...I took a taxi home.

On the way home there was a police roadblock, but since it was a taxi they waved it past and I arrived home safely without incident. These roadblocks can be anywhere and I realized how lucky I was to have chosen to take a taxi.

The real surprise to me was I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know where I got it, and



now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it.

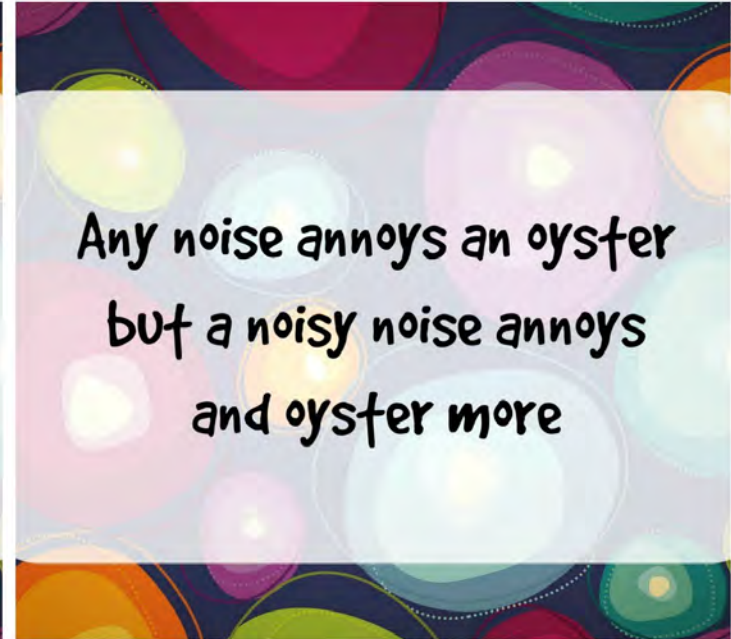
If you want to borrow it, give me a call.

## Tongue twisters

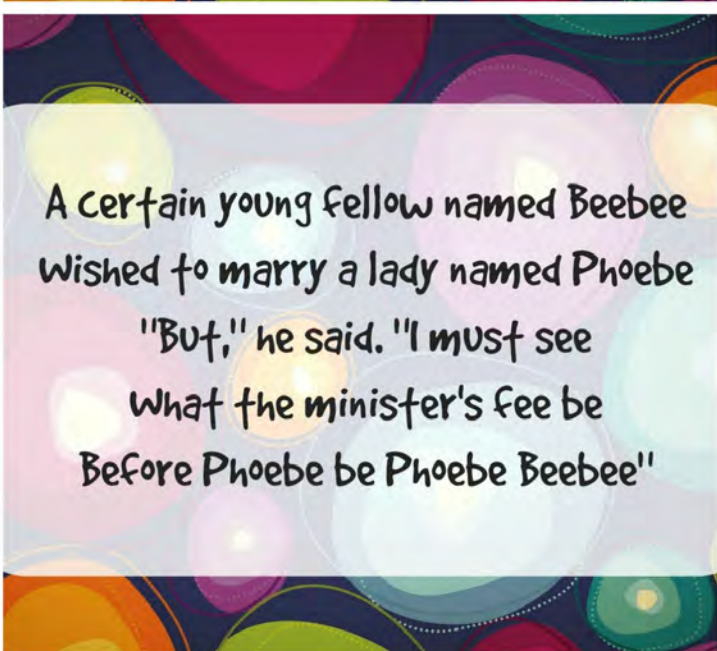
Tongue twisters are a great way to practice and improve pronunciation and fluency. They can also help to improve accents by using alliteration, which is the repetition of one sound. They're not just for kids, but are also used by actors, politicians, and public speakers who want to sound clear when speaking. Here's a few for you and a link to more: [50 Tongue Twisters to improve pronunciation in English · engVid](#)




Bitty Batter bought some butter  
"But," said she, "this butter's bitter.  
If I put it in my batter,  
It will make my batter bitter."  
So she bought some better butter,  
And she put the better butter in the bitter  
batter,  
And made the bitter batter better.



Any noise annoys an oyster  
but a noisy noise annoys  
and oyster more



A certain young fellow named Beebee  
Wished to marry a lady named Phoebe  
"But," he said, "I must see  
What the minister's fee be  
Before Phoebe be Phoebe Beebee"



A flea and a fly in a flue  
Said the fly "oh what should we do"  
Said the flea "Let us fly  
Said the fly "Let us flee"  
So they flew through a flaw in the flue

## Calendar of Events 2022

### In Person Meetings

<i>Jan 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Mar 25</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Apr 29</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>May 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jun 24</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jul 29</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Aug 26</i>	<i>Chapter In-Door Picnic</i>
<i>Sept 30</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Oct 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Nov 18</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Dec 16</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>

## Food Bank Schedule For 2022

Cash donations collected at each monthly meeting to be given to a different food bank each month.

<i>January</i>	<i>Highline</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Bellevue</i>	<i>Doug Hoople</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Federal Way</i>	<i>Lonnie Stevenson</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Maple Valley</i>	<i>Vaughn's</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Melinda Stubbs</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Auburn</i>	<i>Martha Battles</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>West Seattle</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Tacoma</i>	<i>(open)</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Renton</i>	<i>Eleanor Skinner</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>White Center</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Des Moines</i>	<i>Lonnie Stevenson</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Issaquah</i>	<i>Eleanor Skinner</i>

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**Don't Forget to  
Report Your Hours!**

# Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



## *Chapter Christmas Potluck*

*December 16th, 2022*

*Social 10:30AM, Potluck 11:00AM*

*(Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.)*

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

### Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year) (agency name)

\_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year) (agency name)

\_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year) (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 1K-B02, Seattle, WA 98124  
Email to [bluebills@boeing.com](mailto:bluebills@boeing.com) or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting