



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

August 2012

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 8

Chairman's Corner

This month I thought I would write about "What is a Happy Retirement?".



When I retired in 1995 I had no idea what retirement had in store for me. I did, however, hope it would be a happy time for my wife and myself. Well, I think so far we have achieved that. We have been in pretty good health both physically and mentally so we have been able to do the things we like to do.

Almost immediately after retiring I joined the Bluebills and for me it has been a source of great fun and a sense of contributing to the community.

The Bluebills put me in touch with the Seattle Aquarium where I was trained as a docent. I have now been there for over 16 years and enjoy explaining to visitors from all parts of the world and also the regular locals all about marine life in Puget Sound and other parts of the world. This is something that gives me a sense of accomplishment as I have learned a tremendous amount from the aquarium experts and the other volunteers.

Also, I took up the sport of lawn bowls, a great way for seniors to exercise. Here again, I learned a tremendous amount and enjoy the sport playing against all ages and skill levels up to international level. Currently, I serve as the Northwest Division President of the United States Bowling Association. I was very honored last year to be the Tournament Director for the United States Championships.

We also like to travel and have visited many parts of the world over the past several years. We are fortunate to have good physical and mental health to enable us to do this. What this all means is I think I have retained a sense of relevance. Many people after retiring feel they do not have this. Maintaining a healthy mental outlook is very important and volunteering in a field that you have an interest in is a big factor.

Don't forget volunteering is a two way street. You contribute your time and skills but you can also learn a tremendous amount.

Remember, we may be older but we can still have a great time doing the things we like to do and enjoy a happy retirement.

Howard

July 27th Meeting Recap

Howard Syder, Chairman for the Heritage Chapter of Bluebills, welcomed everyone and introduced those celebrating birthdays. There was a wide spread of years of the celebrants – from 70 all the way to 84! One couple also announced their 55th wedding anniversary! The following announcements were made:

A reminder from and for our generous hosts, Downtown Harley-Davidson of Renton:
On our meeting days, please do not enter the Harley-Davidson building prior to 10 AM.

Howard reminded us that the August 24th meeting will be the Heritage Chapter's annual picnic to be held at the Riverview Park in Renton. Howard had a pair of \$15 discount tickets compliments of BECU to the Wild Waves Theme Park in Federal Way ... the offer didn't last long as they were quickly snapped up!

Volunteers are needed August 12th at the first-ever *Spirit of Bellevue 12K & 5K Walk/Run*, to raise money for a college scholarship fund. The shift is from 6:30 AM to 10:30 AM helping at the water stations and traffic. Contact staffteam@bellevuechamber.org to volunteer. Maybelle Brickley sent out an email to work sorting school supplies, backpacks, etc., at multiple locations of Hopelink, all on the east-side (Kirkland, Redmond, etc.). You may contact her at maybelleib@msn.com for details on dates, hours and location.

Lonnie Stevenson needs volunteers for the Bluebill's table at the Puyallup Fair for Sunday, September 9th and Tuesday, September 11th from 6 PM to 10 PM. The duties are to invite attendees to become a Bluebill! We share booth space with volunteers from The Museum of Flight. To volunteer, you may contact her at icebear01@comcast.net.

Eileen Bear announced this year's Shop With A

Child supported by the Salvation Army. One generous woman funds the event for the children. It is scheduled for August 22 at 7 AM for one hour and is held at the South Center Sears store. Signup sheets were made available, but you may also contact Eileen at pussy-cat12@comcast.net.

Helen Lowe brought awareness to yet another telephone scam, one where she became the victim. It was from someone purportedly calling from Microsoft telling her that her computer was in jeopardy. (BECU Security Department contacted her due to the credit activity and advised her to contact Microsoft; they in turn determined that this indeed was fraud.) This little escapade cost her time (unrecoverable) and money (recoverable).

Following the announcements, Jim Beasley introduced our speaker Lloyd Hara, King County Assessor.

Mr. Hara has a distinguished public service career of more than 40 years. He is an advocate for taxpayers and champion of open, transparent, and accountable government, who was elected last November as King County Assessor. Mr. Hara has completed one term as an elected Seattle Port Commissioner, and was elected to four terms as Seattle City Treasurer, was named the Nation’s best Treasurer in City and State Magazine (now Governing), and awarded numerous other honors. He has served as King County’s youngest County



Auditor and received accolades for his pioneering work. Mr. Hara has served in key appointed positions as FEMA Regional Director, Chief of Budget Design and Development (WA

State); Clerk of WA State House Ways and Means Committee and Adjunct Professor, Seattle University, and headed the Municipal Institutes for Clerks and Treasurers.

In business, he and his wife own a print broker business and do independent consulting. He is also en-

gaged with numerous Boards and community based organizations and a graduate of the University of Washington with a BA in economics and a Master’s degree in Public Administration.

Mr. Hara’s presentation began with an overview of the recent demise of our investments and that of the markets which definitely impacted the values of our homes and businesses. In King County, the assessor’s office has over 700,000 parcels in real estate, both residential and commercial, with 52,000 business accounts, or personal property, for example Boeing which has tool and dye equipment so that is personal property which are valued by his office. One-sixth of the 700,000 parcels is physically walked each year. There are 163 tax districts (this is similar to what we know as school districts), and 594 separate tax levy codes. A property located in one tax code has a number of separate taxing districts, i.e., fire, library, schools, etc.

As property values decrease, there is a natural assumption that property taxes will also decrease – that might not be the case for thousands of King County property owners.

Valuations are set on January 1st of each year, and are mailed by the Treasurer’s Office in mid-February. King County is the only county that has a Tax Advisor Office to assist you with queries relative to values or taxes. It also has a Board of Equalization, which handles appeals of your property *values* (you cannot appeal your tax). You have 60 days after the *post-marked* date of your Valuation Notice postcard to appeal.

Washington State operates under a “revenue-based” property tax system in which taxing districts (i.e., fire, library, schools, etc.) submit their annual adopted budgets to the County Assessor who has the responsibility **to adjust the levy rate** that is necessary to meet the adopted budgets *regardless of assessed values*. Washington is one of two states (Ohio is the other) that operate under this system. A quick recap of where the monies go: 53% - supports K-12 program, 2% - Port of Seattle, 18% - King County government and the remaining 27% support the rest of local government.

There are exemption programs available, one of which is for seniors 62 and over who live primarily in their primary resident. This comes with a dollar limitation

(Continued on page 3)

(maximum \$35,000 gross income or less) and will 1) freeze your property value at the date of eligibility, and 2) exempt you from any special levies.

Mr. Hara provided handouts and many details during the presentation and fielded questions afterwards. More information on your property values and taxes is available by accessing **eReal Property** on the Assessor's Homepage: www.kingcounty.gov/assessor, or by contacting:

Assessor's Office 206-296-7300
 Tax Advisor 206-205-6330
 Treasury Office 206-296-7326
 Board of Equalization 206-296-3496

Howard closed the meeting with the drawing for door prizes (thanks to all who have donated!) – If you have some nifty items to contribute, please contact Howard. We had 60 people in attendance today socializing with other members and enjoying hot beverages and yummy baked goods! Remember next month's meeting, Friday, August 24, 2012, is the annual Heritage Picnic – check the enclosed flyer for details!

Busy B's Busy B's Busy B's

Hey hi there everyone. We gals are working hard as usual and finally filled the "want list" for "**CHILD HAVEN**". It feels good to have them all taken care of now.

Now we will be making quilts for the Vets hospital as well as Cancer Alliance, , actually we all enjoy being as creative as we wish to be.

Going to the meeting Friday, we were stopped and handed a portable sewing machine. It was a surprise to me and I have not tried it out yet. So now we have a 'spare' never know when one will have 'down time'. It feels good knowing we have a back up, *THANKS TO MARY ENGLAND!* Also received a bag of sewing thread which I believe also came from Mary.

Carmel handed me a brand new box of four handkerchiefs (*pretty Ladies ones*) and Jean will be making them up into some adorable Barbie dresses !! *THANKS CARMEL..* that's a real treat, you are the *FIRST* to donate some since we put out the call. We would love to get some more.

See you all at the picnic next month, hope everyone shows up for it.

So until next month, keep busy, happy and healthy everyone. Love from The Busy B's

Bambi

RAPCO

By Eileen Bear

Sign in for Shopping-Spree For The Children

Once again the Salvation Army is planning a back-to-school shopping-spree for the children. The Salvation Army's Bill Talbot is always excited to see us Boeing Blue Bills at this event.

This year we are again taking the children to Sears. We will be meeting at the south-west corner of the South Center Sears, on August 22nd at 7:00 AM. As always, Sears will provide a small breakfast for the children; and then it is time to shop!

We need to get a list of volunteers ASAP! Please sign up at the July monthly meetings so we can provide the list to Bill. You can also call or email Eileen at 206-932-5428, or pussycat12@comcast.net.

As always, this is an exciting function for the little children, as well as fun for us shoppers that help them.

Gifts for Kids

Zip Zuther had a busy time over the last several months. He collected and delivered:

- 18 Large hand-made wooden toys for Children's Hospital and 22 more toys for the SCCA Hutch School in May.

5 beautiful hand made by the Bluebills Busy Bees quilts and 20 more wooden toys in were delivered to Children's Hospital in July.

All donations are very much appreciated!

Prayer list for the Month of May

(Continued on page 4)

On the Get Well List for this month are:

Bill Poggel	Karen Fields
Tom Gangwish	Pat Itzen
Barbara Miller	

Thought for the month

May God give you..
 For every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

By Maybelle Brickley

Vision House in Renton is looking for volunteers to help with their “Bargain Bash” garage sale. Vision House is a non-profit transitional housing program for homeless children, women and men. The full description of their program can be looked up on the internet.

The “Bargain Bash” will have thousands of items that have been donated and the proceeds will be used by Vision House for their programs. Vision House is located in the Renton Highlands at the intersection of NE 4th St. and Bremerton Ave NE. The dates volunteers are needed are Aug. 16 for setting up and Aug. 17 & 18 for helping with the days of the sale. The time help is needed is:

Aug. 16 – Thursday – 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
 Aug. 17 – Friday – 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
 Aug 18 – Saturday – 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

You do not have to stay the complete time for these shifts. It will be whatever time you have available and would like to volunteer. Vision House will provide food and drink for breaks, lunch and dinner. This sounds like a fun and interesting time.

Please call Judy Sime on her cell phone at 425-444-5987 and let her know the time you would like to assist her.

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**Volunteers are needed to help with the upcoming Spirit of Bellevue 12K run/5K run-walk on August 5 12th.** The proceeds for the event will be for scholarships going to deserving Bellevue School Districts graduates. Also, there will be a drawing for all volunteers for one roundtrip ticket to anywhere Southwest Airlines flies with a requirement to travel by November 1, 2012. The time commitment will be from 6:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. and will be helping at water stations or assisting along the courses with traffic. Contact Kim Fredericks Bellevue Business Resource Manager. Her e-mail address is: [kfredericks@bellevuechamber.org](mailto:kfredericks@bellevuechamber.org). Her telephone number is 425-213-1211

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**Bluebills Team with Washington Square Dancers to fight Kidney Disease**

Over recent years, we have collected aluminum tabs for kidney dialysis research. We strongly believe that research is the answer to help those with kidney disease to be able to live normal lives. We originally collected the tabs to turn them into Northwest Kidney Centers. Having learned that they do not receive the tabs themselves Dick Beham requested we began the process of collecting the tabs, and combine them with those collected by the Washington Square Dancers who are hauling them to the recycle center (that pays the most per pound) and saving the dollars. To these dollars are added other contributions. We thank you all from those that give us small and large bags to those that have asked others to help collect and give! Every tab counts. ***Dick will collect your aluminum tabs at the monthly Chapter meetings for donation along with the Washington Square Dancers.***



The Square Dancers collection recently resulted in a donation of \$1,500.00. This donation (check) was presented at the NW Kidney Centers Board of Directors meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> of this year, to the Chairman of the Board. They expressed their appreciation for all those involved in making this donation possible.

*Wonderful news! As a result of many years of research, UW Health Sciences/UW Medicine and NW Kidney Centers recently announced that a wearable artificial kidney, designed as a new treatment for kidney failure, will be tested in Seattle! This is a battery-powered wearable artificial kidney and in its current form weighs about 10 pounds and is worn in a belt around the waist. The goal is to free end-stage kidney disease patients from being tethered for several hours for three or more days a week to a dialysis machine. The goal is to, if necessary, operate around the clock, seven days a week like normal kidneys.*

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**Heritage Chapter Picnic 10:00 AM**  
**August 24, 2012, Riverview Park, Renton**

**2901 Maple Valley Highway**



**Directions:**

**From I-405 North:**

Take Exit #4 (Maple Valley Hwy/Bronson Way) towards Maple Valley Highway. At the bottom of the exit, turn right onto Maple Valley Highway. Drive 1.1 miles-the park is on the right.

**From I-405 South:**

Take Exit #4 (Renton/Enumclaw). Follow the signs towards Enumclaw. At the second light, turn left under I-405 onto Maple Valley Highway. Drive 1.1 mile -the park is on the right.



The park can be accessed from the parking lot along Maple Valley Highway by crossing the scenic bridge over the Cedar River

**Park Amenities:**

- Handicap accessible
- Restrooms
- Electricity
- Barbeques

***This is a Potluck Picnic so bring your favorite Hot Dish, Salad, or Desert to share. There will be a Chili Contest and Games. Bring your lawn chairs as bench space is limited.***

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**Hospitals:**

Before they admitted me to a private hospital, the doctor interviewed me to find out what illness I could afford to have.

**Mistakes:**

A man who can smile when things go wrong has probably just thought of someone he can blame it on.

**Money:**

Money isn't everything. Sometimes it's not even enough.

**Bluebills - Heritage Chapter**

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**Food Bank Schedule For 2012**

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

|               |               |                              |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| <b>August</b> | <b>Tacoma</b> | <b>Ted &amp; Judy Leyden</b> |
| September     | Renton        | Bob Lambert                  |
| October       | White Center  | Eileen Bear                  |
| November      | Issaquah      | Eleanor Skinner              |
| December      | Des Moines    | Dave & Mary Frantz           |

**Calendar of Events 2012**

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Aug 16</b>  | <b>Heritage Leadership Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Aug 24</b>  | <b>Picnic—Riverview Park, Renton</b> |
| <b>Sep 13</b>  | <b>Heritage Leadership Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Sep 28</b>  | <b>Chapter Monthly Meeting</b>       |
| <b>Oct 11</b>  | <b>Heritage Leadership Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Oct 26</b>  | <b>Chapter Monthly Meeting</b>       |
| <b>Nov ?</b>   | <b>Annual Dinner</b>                 |
| <b>Nov 15</b>  | <b>Heritage Leadership Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Dec 13</b>  | <b>Heritage Leadership Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Dec 21</b>  | <b>Christmas Potluck</b>             |
| <b>Dec TBD</b> | <b>Christmas Potluck</b>             |

# Bluebills Heritage Chapter Monthly Meeting

Downtown Harley-Davidson  
3715 East Valley Road  
Renton, WA

## September 28, 2012

Social: 10:00 to 10:30 AM Meeting starts at 10:30 AM

**Speaker:** TBA

**Topic:**

“TBA”

Please Note:

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the Downtown Harley-Davidson building at 3715 East Valley Road, Renton, WA. The door on the North side of the building is opened at **10:00 AM** sharp. Please enter the building only on the north side. We meet on the 2nd floor — there is an elevator on the right as you enter. The Social hour begins at that time. **PLEASE DO NOT ENTER BUILDING PRIOR TO 10:00 AM.**

## 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 2T-04, Seattle, WA 98124  
Email to [bluebills@boeing.com](mailto:bluebills@boeing.com) or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting



From the **north** take Highway 167 south to the SW 43rd St exit, turn right on SW 43rd St to the E Valley Rd and turn Right, go north to Downtown Harley-Davidson. From the **south** go north on Highway 167 take the SW 43rd St exit and turn left back over the freeway to the E Valley Rd and turn Right, Go north to Downtown Harley-Davidson. The meeting is in the Downtown Harley-Davidson building, 2nd floor. Signs are posted directing you to the meeting room.

