



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

December 2023

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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Chairman's Comments



By Richard Vaughn

WOW...what a let down to have such a small attendance at the November meeting when Jim Beasley had arranged for excellent speakers. It was not easy to explain the situation to our guest speakers. No one showed up early to help setup for the meeting, which left just Oscar, Norma and I to make it work out the best we could.

The two speakers gave an excellent presentation and included a short video that showed the interior of a Medic One "Red Truck" while describing the interior accommodations and all the supplies the need for the calls. They provided information that people should know and what they should do in the case of an emergency, such as how to make a 911 call and what needs to be done when giving CPR plus other necessary information.

Nancy Lee Davidson thought we were having a Thanksgiving potluck Friday and she brought a beautiful apple smoked ham, covered with pineapple rings in her slow cooker. It looked delicious. At the close of the meeting she donated the ham to Medic One and our speakers delivered it. Thank you Nancy Lee for giving such a great gift to them.

Make sure you check your Newsletter for information about the **December annual Christmas Meeting and Potluck**. It is scheduled for **Friday December 15th**, one week early due to the Christmas Holiday. This Newsletter also gives more information about other changes to the potluck.

I hope more of you will attend the last meeting of "2023".
Let's see if we can do better in "2024".

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Richard





November Meeting Summary

By: Mary Ulibarri

Richard Vaughn opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There were three attendees with a birthday this month - Janice Hawes, Mike Keller and Oscar Olague. Others on my list are Gerry Bertagni, Pat Crockett and Marian Herin.

Members are reminded to turn in volunteer hours to marybarri20@gmail.com or Dick Beham at bbbeditor@live.com.

Jim then introduced our speakers – Sara Oshikawa-Clay and Craig Boughnsmith with the Medic One Foundation. After showing a short film, which provided a thorough review of all the medical equipment onboard, Sara and Craig took turns informing the audience of the overall goals, efforts, and value of Medic One.

The goal of the Medic One Foundation is to ensure that the best possible care is provided to the patient, as established by Leonard A. Cobb, MD, Co-Founder Seattle Medic One more than 50 years ago. Dr. Cobb had a vision that would alter the way our region, and much of the world, approached emergency medical care. This idea was Medic One, one of the country's first efforts to deliver advanced care to patients before they arrived at the hospital. Over the years, countless lives have been saved, thanks to his incredible leadership, foresight, and relentless work ethic.



The Medic One Foundation, established in 1974, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives by improving pre-hospital emergency care. Through fundraising, advocacy, and collaboration, they support critical programs and initiatives that have a significant impact on the number of lives saved by the region's Medic One emergency medical system.

Mission

To save lives by improving pre-hospital emergency care.

Vision

No one dies from a treatable medical emergency.

Strengths

More than forty years of demonstrated success in supporting research in new methods of out-of-hospital patient care.

Free of government and political influence to ensure that pre-hospital emergency care is physician-directed.

Guided by medical advisors who are internationally recognized as experts in their field.

Careful stewardship of the community's philanthropic dollars.

Collaborative relationships with key stakeholders, including fire departments, community hospitals, the University of Washington, and Harborview Medical Center.

The Medic One Foundation is a vital link in the region's Medic One system, helping to ensure and advance a level of pre-hospital emergency care that is second to none. Funded solely through charitable contributions, their programs are a major reason why Seattle and King County firefighters and paramedics consistently achieve patient survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest that are nearly double the national average.

Gifts to the Medic One Foundation support:

World-class paramedic training and continuing medical education that far exceeds national standards

Research and development of tomorrow's lifesaving ideas to improve patient outcomes and prevent sudden cardiac arrest

Medical equipment for firefighters and paramedics to improve the quality of care and help save more lives

EMT Scholarships to help remove financial barriers for individuals interested in pursuing a career in emergency medicine

CPR/AED and First Aid training to equip our communities with the knowledge and skills necessary for responding to medical emergencies

If you or a loved one is fighting to stay alive, you might feel helpless, unable to save yourself or someone you love. Fortunately, you live in the Puget Sound area and Medic One – among the most successful and highly trained intensive care paramedics in the country – will respond to your call. Because of the community's support of the Medic One Foundation, each Medic

One team has the skills, experience, and education necessary to give you or someone you love the best chance for survival.



Sara and Craig then answered a number of questions from the audience and even remained to chat with members after Jim awarded the speakers one of the Boeing historical books.

The meeting then disbanded with a few of the members discussing the December potluck. It was agreed to try a little different approach this year. Participants are encouraged to bring hors d'oeuvres, salads, desserts.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!!

Busy Bee's

By: Janice Hawes, Lisa Nyreen, Melinda Stubbs, Sibyl Fletcher

A BIG thank you to **Cory Ertel!** He was Da Man, the driving force, the Big Kahuna who obtained funds to supply the Busy Bees with enough quilt batting for DOZENS more quilts. Plus, there was cash left over to purchase several rotary blades – those handy tools that look like miniature pizza cutters but are used to slice through fabric as easily as a hot knife through butter.

We also thank two generous Bluebills who donated cash: **Donna Grueger** and **Sharon Hagen**. A shiny new iron now smooths the seams in our creations. Each of us had a gripe with the old iron, for various reasons.

Recently, the ladies who have been buzz-ily sewing donated 60 quilts to several local organizations: The Washington State Soldiers Home (Orting), Mary's Place (Seattle), Pediatric Interim Care (Kent) and New Beginnings (Puyallup).

We love what we do, and we love imagining a veteran, a newborn or a displaced mom with kids snuggled up in a warm handmade quilt. Thank you for your support!



Wellspring

**Holiday Family Gift Drive
Nov 1 – Dec 11th, 2023**

Giving Together Family Drive is only weeks away from launching. You can help bring a smile to children and teens this holiday season by supporting the drive through a donation of toys and gift items or by hosting your own gift drive. We will be announcing the official launch shortly, in the meantime for more information contact the Development Team at drives@wellspringfs.org.



(Continued on page 5)



Securing today
and tomorrow

Submitted by: Micki Brown

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2024

More than 71 million Americans will see a 3.2% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2024. On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by more than \$50 per month starting in January.

Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are higher. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can access this information in early December, prior to receiving the mailed notice. Benefit amounts will not be available before December. Since you will receive the COLA notice online or in the mail, you don't need to contact us to get your new benefit amount.

If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to opt out by changing your preferences in the Message Center. You can update your preferences to opt out of the mailed COLA notice, and any other notices that are available online. Did you know you can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when we have something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have an account yet, you must create one by November 14, 2023, to receive the 2024 COLA notice online.

“Social Security and SSI benefits will increase in 2024, and this will help millions of people keep up with expenses,” said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

January 2024 marks when other changes will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2024 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2024. Learn more at www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2024.pdf.

Be among the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal *my Social Security* account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Choose email or text under “Message Center Preferences” to receive courtesy notifications.

You can find more information about the 2024 COLA at www.ssa.gov/cola.

**Friday
December
15th**



Holiday Potluck



**10:00 AM
until
Noon**



We are having a Special Holiday Potluck this year so be sure and join with your Bluebill friends in the spirit of the season by wearing your favorite holiday attire and bringing a favorite Holiday Hours d'oeuvre, Salad or Desert to share.



"There will be special door prizes and awards"



NEWS THEN HISTORY NOW

Assassin Not Found

On November 19, 1856, Nisqually Chief Quiemuth was resting inside the Olympia home of Territorial Governor [Isaac Stevens](#). Tired of [war](#), Quiemuth had peacefully surrendered himself into custody soon after the capture of his half-brother, [Chief Leschi](#), and was awaiting transfer to [Fort Steilacoom](#). Shortly before dawn he was [shot and stabbed](#) by an unknown assailant, and the murder remains unsolved.

Olympia Bound

On November 18, 1889, one week after Washington's [admission to the union](#), [Elisha Ferry](#) was inaugurated as the [state's first governor](#). Years earlier, Ferry had served two terms as a [territorial governor](#), where he was instrumental in getting the Northern Pacific Railroad to build an extension to Olympia after the company [chose Tacoma](#) as its terminus, rather than the capital.

Death on the Sound

On November 18, 1906, the [Mosquito Fleet](#) steamer [SS Dix](#) – en route from Seattle to Port Blakely – collided with the schooner [SS Jeanie](#) two miles north of [Alki Point](#), killing 39 passengers and crew. It is the greatest maritime disaster ever recorded on Puget Sound.

Renton is Drowned

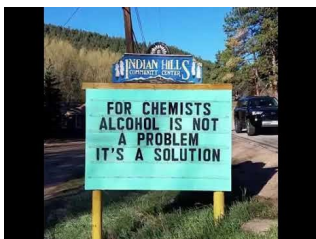
After the [Cedar River](#) was tapped as Seattle's [water supply](#) in 1899, the river's flow was also harnessed to generate [electricity](#). Things were going swimmingly until [November 19, 1911](#), when floodwaters damaged a timber crib dam on Cedar Lake and [deluged the city of Renton](#) 28 miles downstream. The raging river also demolished a bridge and destroyed the two water-supply pipelines it carried over the river near the [Landsburg headworks](#).

Bits & Pieces

[More Things You Learn if You Live Long Enough!](#)

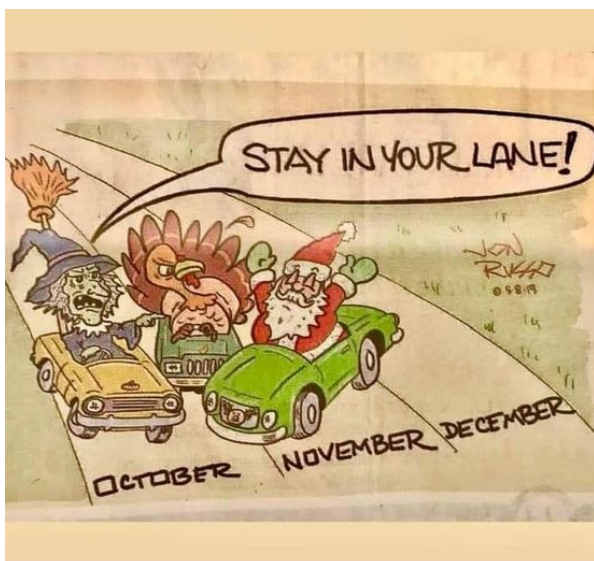
- ♦ I asked a supermarket employee where they kept the canned peaches. He said, "I'll see," and walked away. I asked another & he also said, "I'll see," & walked away. In the end, I gave up & found them myself, in Aisle C.
- ♦ I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two (2) places. He told me to stop going to those places.
- ♦ Never trust an electrician with no eyebrows.

[Some Fun Stuff](#)



[Indian Hills Community Center sign](#)

Some classics from this ever-popular eye-catching phrase factory of Indian Hills. Click on the image to see more fun phrases.



Calendar of Events 2023

In Person Meetings

<i>Jan 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Feb 24</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Mar 31</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Apr 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jun 30</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jul 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Aug 25</i>	<i>Chapter In-Door Potluck</i>
<i>Sept 29</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Oct 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Nov 17</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Chapter Holiday Potluck</i>

Food Bank Schedule For 2023

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

<i>January</i>		<i>Open</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Bellevue</i>	<i>Doug Hoople</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Issaquah</i>	<i>Dick Beham</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>Renton</i>	<i>Meri England</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Black Diamond</i>	<i>Vaughn's</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Federal Way</i>	<i>Don Hilt</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>White Center</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>November</i>		<i>Open</i>
<i>December</i>		<i>Open</i>

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

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting

December 15, 2023

Setup: 10:00AM, Meeting 10 :30

Potluck: 11:00AM



Holiday Potluck

***Bring a favorite Holiday Hors
d'oeuvres, Salad or Desert to share***

"Wear your favorite Holiday attire....Special Door Prizes"

(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 or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting