



# The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills  
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

March 2012

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 3



## *Chairman's Corner*

This month I would like to highlight those Bluebills in Heritage Chapter who have given long and dedicated service to being Committee Chairs for various committees.

Karen Baker has been our historian forever and is always looking for items to add to the numerous volumes she has already.

Lonnie Stevenson is our Public Relations chair and organized the Puyallup Fair booth last year.

Our Office computers are the realm of Ron Hanson who is always after Boeing because of some computing problem we are having in the office.

Maybelle Brickley is our hard working Volunteer Coordinator and publishes new volunteer opportunities and works to get volunteers for them.

Fran Parker has been diligently working for the past 3 years to set up and operate our School Resource Program and would appreciate your new ideas and volunteer assistance.

Our Retiree Assistance Program is in the good hands of Eileen Bear. She works hard to provide the nursing homes and children in Fred Hutch and other facilities with goodies for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Bambi Lee and her Busy Bees are at the office every week making quilts and other items for distribution within the community.

You are all familiar with Jim Beasley who does a fantastic job providing interesting speakers for our monthly meetings.

Jim Lee is our Special Projects Chair and a past and long serving Newsletter Editor. → → →

Micki Brown and Dick Beham are our current Newsletter Editors and are always looking for interesting reports or other items to publish in the newsletter. Dick is also our webmaster.

Last but not least I have to mention 2 people, Ken Porter was our long serving Education Chair but has now retired from this position because of health concerns. We desperately need someone to step forward as our Education Chair.

Our current chair for Agency Relations, Roland Machado, could also do with assistance to keep tabs on non profit agencies we have on our books.

I would like to thank all of them for committing time and energy to these positions.

Most of them are well known to all of you and perhaps this will give you a snapshot of what they do.

*Howard*

## **February Monthly Meeting Recap**

The February 2012 meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and was followed by Howard Syder, welcoming everyone and introducing our visitors. We had a wonderful turnout and had many folks celebrating birthdays and milestone anniversaries.

Fran Parker had been to visit her and gave an update on Maybelle Brickley's recent knee replacement surgery. A card was circulated among those present to send her some cheery greetings.

Bert Goldstein announced that for the past two years, we have enjoyed a complimentary half-table at the *Active Seniors Fair* sponsored by Overlake Hospital. At this fair there have been 1500 to 2000 visitors to our table where we are able to spread news about The Bluebills, what we do, who we are and ... we hand out those famous pencils (*chuckle* ...). We are look-

ing for volunteers to help. The 2012 Active Senior Fair will be held **Saturday, March 10 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Westminster Chapel of Bellevue**, 13646 NE 24th Street, Bellevue. The fair has a lot of free screenings, some of which are Balance, Blood pressure, Bone density, Cholesterol, Glucose (no fasting required), Foot, Hearing, Stroke risk assessment and Vision. Additionally there are more than **60 exhibitors** showcasing products and services geared toward the active senior. There is also Entertainment including a Fashion show by Coldwater Creek, Steve the Pretty Good, comedy and magic that is always fresh, original, clean and hilarious, Spring 2012 by Wrinkles of Washington, a song and dance musical revue, and Drama in the Garden: New Plants and New Ideas by Marianne Binetti, Pacific Northwest horticulture expert. If you have time to support The Bluebills and enjoy the benefits listed above, please **contact Bert Goldstein at 425-235-3847 (albuzz@comcast.net)**.

Howard announced the opportunity to Chair the Education Committee is available Also, Roland Machado, Agency Relations, needs some assistance in managing all the different agencies that The Bluebills have. You can contact either Howard ([handdjsyder@comcast.net](mailto:handdjsyder@comcast.net)) or Norma Vaughn ([abbyrose00@msn.com](mailto:abbyrose00@msn.com)) to volunteer for this opportunity.

Heinz Gehlhaar announced the *Soaring Society* is putting an exposition at The Museum of Flight on Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18. There will be sailplanes that you can see, touch and – if you can talk an owner into this – sit in one! There will be discussions in the Museum’s Theatre as well. You will need to pay for entry unless you’re a member.

**Following the announcements, Jim Beasley introduced our speaker, Kurt Larson**, speaking on a subject near and dear to all of us, one that has been bandied around by all politicians using “political speak” which leaves us questioning just what was said. Kurt is a Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) in Western Washington and is located in Seattle. He has been with the SSA for 19 years in both technical and managerial roles. He has had numerous articles published and has appeared on television and radio to discuss various SS issues and has been recognized for his outstanding public service. He is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University.

**Speaker Kirk Larson** (*Editor’s Note: It is unfortunate that we could not record Mr. Larson’s presentation, as he had a wealth of information to share. He is definitely is a talented speaker and in the ensuing Q&A session, answered a lot of questions (some we didn’t know we had!) and was a “myth buster” too!*)



Below are excerpts from articles he e-mailed to us that he felt would be of interest to our membership.

**“DOING BUSINESS WITH SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE AT SOCIALSECURITY.GOV”**

As Americans become increasingly comfortable with the security and convenience of doing things on the Internet, online business is becoming more and more popular. In addition to preplanning your retirement, there are a number of other conveniences. For example:

Use the disability and survivors planners to find out how much you or your family might qualify for if the need arises.  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/planners](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners)

Benefit Verification! Social Security makes it easy for you to get the written verification you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). This site can help verify your Medicare coverage, retirement or disability status, and age.

Whether you’re interested in retirement benefits, disability, survivor’s benefits, learning about Social Security’s history or finding out about how the system works, the online website is the most convenient one to visit.

**In Your Time of Need Social Security Can Help – Survivors Benefits Explained**

The loss of a loved one can be painful. The death of a wage-earner upon whom a family depends also can be financially devastating.

If you’re like most young or middle-aged workers, you probably think of Social Security only as a retirement program. However, some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward providing survivors insur-

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ance for workers and their families. Think of it as a life insurance policy you never knew you had — paid for by the same taxes that cover you for retirement or disability.

When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivor's benefits. These include widows, widowers, children, and even dependent parents. In many cases, there also is a one-time lump-sum payment of \$255 that can be made to a surviving spouse or minor children who meet certain requirements.

You may not think it will happen to you, but the stunning truth is that one in eight of today's 20-year-olds will die before reaching their full retirement age of 67. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. More than 6.4 million survivors receive benefits. The average Survivors' benefit is \$1,140 a month.

It is also important to remember that we pay divorced widows and widowers. If you are unmarried or remarried after age 60 and had a marriage that lasted over 10 years then ended in divorce, you could qualify for benefits. Many divorced spouse don't even know their former spouse has passed on and could be giving up hundreds of dollars each month.

If you are a survivor, you should apply for survivors' benefit right away. You can apply by telephone or at any Social Security office. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY: **1-800-325-0778**). To help prepare you, here is the information we will need:

- Proof of death — either from a funeral home or a death certificate;
- Your Social Security number, as well as the deceased worker's;
- Your birth certificate;
- Your marriage certificate, if you are a widow or widower;

Your divorce papers, if you are applying as a divorced widow or widower;

To learn more about survivors' benefits, please read the online publication at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10084.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10084.html).

Visit the Survivors' page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/survivors.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/survivors.htm).

**Question and Answer Section**

**Question:**

If both my spouse and I are entitled to Social Security benefits, is there any reduction in our payments because we are married?

**Answer:**

No. We independently calculate each spouse's Social Security benefit amount. Each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. Couples are not penalized simply because they are married. If one member of the couple earned low wages or did not earn enough Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse.

**Question:**

Do I have to pay income tax on my Social Security benefits?

**Answer:**

It depends. Fewer than one-third of our current beneficiaries pay income taxes on their benefits. You will have to pay Federal income taxes on your benefits if you file an individual Federal income tax return and your total income is more than \$25,000. If you file a joint return, you will have to pay income taxes if you and your spouse have total income of more than \$32,000.

For more information, call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 and ask for IRS Publication 915, *Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*, [www.irs.gov/publications/p915/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/publications/p915/index.html). People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the IRS toll-free number, 1-800-829-4059.

Howard closed the meeting with the drawing for door prizes (thanks to all who have donated!) and encouraging attendance for next month's meeting, March 30, 2012.

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**RAPCO**

We are entering the Easter Season! Easter is on April 8<sup>th</sup> this year

The Little Bunnies will be hopping around, all excited awaiting their Goodies

***WE WILL BE MAKING UP EASTER BASKETS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> or 5<sup>TH</sup> of April*** so we can make our deliveries to the Nursing homes, Children's Hospital, Fred

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Hutchinson, and Child Haven in time for the delivery from the Bunny!

**Any and all help will be appreciated!**

**Prayer list for the Month of February**

Get well list for this month are:

- Karen Fields      Tom Gangwish
- Pat Itzen          Ken Porter      Merv Shetler

We have a person from Sno-King in need of our prayers, Charlotte Skinner, wife of Dave Skinner.

And we are so glad to have Roland and Joyce back with us as well as Dick, Barbara, and Marge.

Hopefully all you Bluebills have your electricity back on and your home is once again nice and warm.

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**BUSY B's**

First off I want to thank Becky once again, she came through big time as usual, got our cabinets starting to be filled with stuffies, and also a nice sized box of quilting fabrics,

Oh Becky, what beautiful patterns and fabrics, we are loving looking at something new to work with..

The Busy B's are all over the place, we have some working on lap robes for Vets, others working on craft aprons and also activity mat covers, for Child Haven. It's a busy place to walk into. sewing machines set up and humming away, tables always with fabric laying on being worked on one way or another. Never a quiet moment on Tuesdays.

There is however one need that is always there, I know you have heard this before, but here I go again... DOLLS, we still have need of dolls all the time, that is BARBIES and BABY dolls.

Janice works on making clothes for them at home all year long, so we must keep her busy, so she will never forget how to make them (just kidding) but she likes to have many on hand, and there are not that many BABY DOLLS that come in, and the call for them seems to be out there.. So if you clean out toys grandchildren outgrew, or see someone cleaning out, or yard sales, etc. Please keep in mind there is always a need for them.

And while I am on the subject of giving, BOYS need toys also, so keep in mind gently used toys for

boys is always on the top of our wish list.

THANKS from the bottom of our hearts to the tip top for all the support you have given us since day one. we truly do appreciate it, and can't do it without help from others.. XOXO to all.

*Bambi and the 'girls'*

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**1. Bluebills Education Coordinator Position:**

- Encourage Bluebills to approach your local public and private schools and contact the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Ask to examine the current science and math curriculum and explain how you and other Bluebills can contribute in any field.
- Volunteer your own sharing of Boeing career experiences with Grade school students.
- Explain that the Society of Automotive Engineers will provide free Science kits and instruction manuals to Teacher applicants and offer to assist with implementation of the kits.

2. One of our retirees who has just become a member of the Bluebills. He has been a GED volunteer instructor for about six years and enjoys his time spent with this program. If anyone would like to volunteer for the program, it is located at The Multiservice Center in Federal Way on 348<sup>th</sup> St. The classes are held there and at their Kent facility 515 E Harrison St. The greatest need is for GED but they also could use help with the ESL and tutoring for reading programs.

If anyone is interested in this wonderful program please call Ed DeVange at 253-839-4979 and he will put you in touch with the right people.

3. Washington Technology Student Association is looking for judges at the State Conference on March 22-24, 2012 at the Bellevue Hilton.

Washington Technology Student Association is a non-profit nationally recognized student leadership organization for Technology Education and Pre-Engineering programs at the middle and high school level in Washington State. With an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, they combine competitions that allow middle and high school students to demonstrate their technical and leadership skills with

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leadership and employability training. The goal is to allow nearly 4,000 student members to connect their academic skills with real world experiences through hands on training, while at the same time allowing them to explore the career opportunities available to them.

Judges are needed for over 50 competitive events at the middle and high school level. These contests cover the areas of Engineering, Manufacturing, Architecture, Construction, Video Production, Music Production, Graphics, Design and Desktop Publishing, Electronic Game Design, Photography, Technical Writing, Public Speaking, Job Interview and other general leadership areas which they are looking for judges. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in any of these fields the person asking for help has an e-mail of [rshort@washingtonsa.org](mailto:rshort@washingtonsa.org). You can find a complete list of high school competitive events at <http://www.washingtonsa.org/images/docs/compevents/hsevents.pdf>.

Middle School events: <http://www.washingtonsa.org/images/docs/compevents/msevents.pdf>.

*Maybelle Brickley*

#### 4. Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

My name is Dick Gram and I started my volunteer efforts with the East King County Habitat affiliate in 1999 at their Newcastle site. Since finishing the 12 condominiums there I've had the opportunity to work at the Redmond site (24 condominiums), Snoqualmie Ridge (50 homes), and Issaquah Highlands (10 duplexes including 2 still under construction). The affiliate has also collaborated with Habitat of Seattle to acquire property in Renton where construction on 43 condominiums is underway. The affiliate's vision is "to make it possible for all residents of East King County to live in simple, decent, affordable housing through homeownership." They have an excellent homeowner selection process which looks at families that currently have an income of 50% or less of the median East King County income, a willingness to partner with Habitat EKC, and good credit. Families are required to provide 500 hours of "sweat equity" as part of their qualification process which represents the downpayment on their home.

There are many ways to get involved with Habitat. Volunteer opportunities can be found in the Habitat office, at the recently opened Habitat Restore in Bellevue, and at the jobsite(s). If you choose to work at the jobsite (my choice), prior construction experience is not required. While you may bring your own tools, that's not required as Habitat has plenty of tools onsite. You'll find the opportunity to work alongside future homeowner families rewarding and enlightening. If you're like me you'll acquire new skills for your own home projects. Since Habitat's volunteers are most needed during the week as a retiree you'll be in high demand. If you'd like to take your building "skills" to another country you'll have that opportunity as the Habitat EKC affiliate has at least two global builds a year for which you can volunteer. If you want to get more involved in the planning or fundraising activities of the affiliate, opportunities on the Habitat board or advisory board may be your thing. Habitat also reaches out to other non-profits as evidenced by their recent refurbishment of shelters for victims of domestic violence which may be of interest to you as well.

I've found my 13 year involvement with Habitat to be extremely rewarding. If it appeals to you, give it a try and I'm certain you'll experience the same result.

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#### **March 30th Chapter Monthly Meeting— Speaker: Michelle Lucero—Subject: “Organic Certification in Washington State”**

The WSDA Organic Food Program is responsible to uphold the integrity of the Organic Label through certification and inspection of organic crop and livestock producers, processors, handlers and retailers

Michelle is an Organic Certification Specialist for the Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic Food Program. Her position is as an accredited certifier for handlers, retailers, and international certification.

She will present data on Organic standards in the state, when they were initiated, how they are enforced and what's good or bad about the standards and what are the cost implications. She will also discuss how imported fruits and vegetables from other states are handled.

**Bluebills - Heritage Chapter**

**PO Box 3707 M/C 2T-04**

**Seattle, WA 98124**

**(206) 544-6286**

**e-mail: bluebills@boeing.com**

**Web Site: www.bluebills.org**

Howard Syder	Chairman
	handjsyder@comcast.net
Adrian Lawler	Vice Chairman
	adrianelawler@aol.com
Jim Orchekowsky	Vice Chairman
	mjorchy@comcast.net
Roland Machado	Agency Relations
	ramachado2@comcast.net
Norma Vaughn	Office Manager
	abbyrose00@MSN.com
Eileen Bear	Retiree Assistance
	pussycat12@comcast.net
Maybelle Brickley	Volunteers
	maybelleib@msn.com
<b>Open</b>	<b>Education</b>
Karen Baker	Historian
	bakerkm2@comcast.net
Ron Hanson	Computers
	hansonis@aol.com
Dick Beham	Newsletter—Webmaster
	rsqdnrc@foxinternet.net
Bambi Lee	Busy B's
	bambi.lee@comcast.net
Jim Beasley	Speaker Coordinator
	jimcarlab@hotmail.com
Jim Lee	Special Projects
	jimtleee@comcast.net
Fran Parker	School Supplies for Children
	parker33@q.com
Micki Brown	Newsletter co-editor
	bbbeditor@live.com

**Food Bank Schedule For 2012**

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

January	Highline	Marian Herrin
February	Bellevue	Doug Hoople
<b>March</b>	<b>Federal Way</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Bambi Lee</b>
April	Maple Valley	Vaughn's
May	Kent	Bob Stubbs
June	Auburn	Lonnie Stevenson
July	West Seattle	Mrian Herrin
August	Tacoma	Ted & Judy Leyden
September	Renton	Bob Lambert
October	White Center	Eileen Bear

**Calendar of Events 2012**

<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Heritage Leadership Meeting</b>
<b>Mar 30</b>	<b>Chapter Monthly Meeting</b>
Apr 12	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Apr 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 10	Heritage Leadership Meeting
May 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
June 14	Heritage Leadership Meeting
June 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting
July 12	Heritage Leadership Meeting
July 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Aug 16	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Aug ?	Picnic
Sep 13	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Sep 28	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Oct 11	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Oct 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Nov ?	Annual Dinner
Nov 15	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Nov 16	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Dec 13	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Dec 14	Chapter Christmas Potluck

# Bluebills Heritage Chapter Monthly Meeting

Downtown Harley-Davidson  
3715 East Valley Road  
Renton, WA

## March 30, 2012

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

**Speaker: Michelle Lucero**

**Topic: "Organic Certification in Washington State"**

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

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.

