



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Summer 2010

President's Message—Bill Shenk

I enjoyed the privilege of being a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association member for close to 30 years before the nominating board caught up with me. They knew Vicky and I no longer head south in winter. I have enjoyed serving as President Elect with Bruce Hendrickson as President. He has done yeoman work and leaves the organization well tuned for me.

As in most organizations, there is in the PNWFSA a core group of very dedicated people who don't care about kudos. They just want a well-run, enjoyable experience. We have a number of such officers and board members, and other highly interested members who come to meetings and work. I'd like to instill this attitude as newer retirees join.

Thanks to the many who have made this year hum. There have been many positive actions such as large donations to museums, work by members who volunteer to improve forest conditions, great books written by members, and functions both planned and spur of the moment. As we age, we still find the interest and enthusiasm that has been our mainstay for many decades. We all wonder about the future of the organization and newer retirees who may or may not be as interested in the OldSmokeys as we are. I agree we need to brainstorm and implement a strong recruitment effort, but also believe in the long run current Forest Service retirees will be there to carry on if we set the example and point out the need.

I appreciate the monthly Board of Directors meetings. They seem to be the stepping stones to our continued involvement. There are many opportunities for meaningful retiree involvement with "the working generation," and the future of our organization depends on their interest.

I look forward to meeting with all of you, and to getting to know those of you whom I have not met in the past. By the way, don't forget the Picnic on Friday, August 13. This is one of the most enjoyable and best attended functions at which all may catch up with former work associates. See you there.

Bill Shenk

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Sign Up for the Summer Picnic on August 13! See Page 14!