Join Us for a Book Reading with PSARA Member Tim Wheeler
Saturday, October 12

Please join us on Saturday, October 12, for an afternoon of story and song featuring Tim Wheeler, long-time activist, journalist, and storyteller. Tim is a PSARA leader and a progressive force in Clallam County and the Olympic Peninsula. He will read excerpts from his book *News from Rain Shadow Country.*

The book is a collection of stories that chronicle his life growing up on his family’s dairy farm in Sequim in the 1950s, his growing activism, and his later work as a reporter for the publications the *Worker, Daily World,* and *People’s World.*

Tim spent his early years in Washington, D.C. When his father was blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee, the family moved west in search of employment. Ultimately they landed in Sequim to start a small dairy farm.

Tim’s book includes many colorful stories of life on the farm, involvement in the surrounding community, and his eventual move back to Baltimore to become a journalist. After retirement, Tim and his late wife, Joyce, returned to the family farm in Sequim, where they again became active in the community (Tim has been a leader in creating a PSARA Organizing Committee in Clallam County).

His stories are packed with history of time and place as well as hope and humor. The book also includes select articles Tim wrote for the *Worker/Daily World/People’s World,* highlighting struggles for social justice then and now.

In addition to his writing, Tim is a musician and will bring along his autoharp. He looks forward to leading us in familiar songs following the book reading and discussion.

The event will be held on Saturday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m., at the Washington State Labor Council, 321 16th Avenue S, Seattle, and is a fund-raiser for PSARA. Donations of any amount are welcome.

Please come and bring family and friends.

RSVP to organizer@psara.com or call Mike Andrew at 206-261-8110. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Save the Date!
WTO 20th Anniversary
December 7

Time flies when you’re fighting unfettered capitalism. It’s hard to believe it’s been 20 years since Seattle put a stop to the WTO ministerial, but yes, it is.

Join the celebration of our power to fight back against neoliberalism on December 7. The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with a rally in Occidental Park, followed by workshops at Town Hall, and conclude with an evening keynote with Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz.

Stay tuned for more info and a special article by PSARA member Stan Sorscher in the next issue of the *Retiree Advocate.*
Honoring Janet Stecher

PSARA member Janet Stecher is retiring as director of the Seattle Labor Chorus, after 21 years.

PSARA members are invited to join the Seattle Labor Chorus and guest host Elise Bryant, National President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, as we celebrate Janet’s role as founding member/director of the SLC, and wish her well as she graduates into the next phase of her life.

Janet has been Washington State’s unofficial ambassador of labor culture for decades, work which has dovetailed nicely with her role as SLC director. Whether it’s making sure there is a cultural component to meetings and conferences, bringing the May Works celebrations down from Canada, or hosting visiting musicians, her presence is indelibly imprinted on the labor movement. Although we won’t be seeing her “waving her arms” extracting a joyous sound from the Chorus, we expect to see and hear her for a long time to come. She and her musical mate Susan Lewis will continue entertaining and inspiring us as the duo Rebel Voices. Her infectious energy will no doubt continue to encourage us as she moves into new adventures.

Saturday, October 5, 2019
5-7 p.m.
Seattle Labor Temple Hall 1, 2800 1st Avenue, in Seattle
Light hor d’oeuvres
Please RSVP to Bob Barnes at 206-841-4650 or bob@riseupproductions.org

We Remember
MaryAnn Schroeder

Union activist and PSARA member MaryAnn Schroeder passed on September 10, 2019. Longtime UFCW 21 member, shop steward, and activist, she worked at Safeway for the last 26 years. In addition to PSARA, MaryAnn was part of Washington State Jobs with Justice from the 1990’s, served as their Treasurer, and helped organize numerous union campaigns, boycotts, and actions. She was arrested while protesting during the Flight Attendants strike with Alaska Airlines. MaryAnn always showed up with joy, humor, and compassion. Rest in Power.
September 20, 2019: Millions of people around the world left classes, jobs, and their homes to answer the call from youth to take the day off and join an international climate strike to highlight the climate crisis we are in and call for an immediate shift change to a fossil fuel-free economy.

Although Sweden's Greta Thunberg has been the face of the youth-led movement, there are young folks all over the world assuming the leadership mantle in what is no doubt the most critical struggle humanity has ever faced. Locally these young heroes pulled off one of the largest climate actions Seattle has ever seen.

The events began at Cal Anderson Park. Upwards of 5,000 people joined together for a morning of music, art, workshops and a stage where hundreds of youth shared their views.

At the same time, over 2,000 tech workers were gathering at the Amazon Spheres for a rally with the same overarching theme of saving our planet from further environmental degradation. This message was amplified by a call for tech companies to join the movement by reducing their carbon footprint. Even though the day before, Jeff Bezos had issued sweeping plans to do just that, workers both celebrated this development and called for even more action, including the demand that Amazon stop enabling the fossil fuel industry by allowing their technology to be used in locating new fossil fuel deposits.

A little after noon, both groups hit the streets for a march that merged at Westlake where, by this time, 10,000 people proceeded to City Hall for a spirited rally. The urgency of the moment was highlighted as speakers and other performers exhorted the audience to hold on to the energy of the day and not return to business as usual after leaving the rally.

One of the most significant features of the day was that several thousand workers engaged in collective direct action over an issue not immediately identified with an economic, workplace issue. Although most of the workers are not represented by a union, they conducted themselves in the highest traditions of the labor movement.

Hopefully today’s labor movement will draw inspiration from this group of workers, both for their militancy and their commitment to face the environmental crisis head on. Our house is on fire! We ignore this reality at the peril of our children, grandchildren, and all life on our planet.

Bob Barnes is Co-Chair of PSARA’s Climate and Environmental Justice Committee.
Two Health Care “Storms” Hit the Olympic Peninsula

By Lisa Dekker

The two counties on the north Olympic Peninsula are predominantly rural, with both forests and farmland, and a few towns scattered mostly along its northern coast. Jefferson County has Port Townsend as its hub, and Clallam County has Sequim, Port Angeles, and Forks as its three urban centers. For centuries before white settlers arrived, our region was the home of the S’Klallam, Makah, and Quileute tribes. The tribes are still here and are active participants in the Peninsula’s communities.

Both counties have very high opioid dependency rates. This epidemic has fractured families and impacted both young and old from all walks of life. Clallam County has seen a greater impact per capita from the opioid epidemic than almost any other county in the Pacific Northwest. As current headlines and some successful lawsuits indicate, it was the scandalous practices of Big Pharma that are largely responsible for thousands of overdose deaths and unimaginable suffering across the entire nation.

Which brings us to our region’s most recent storm. In response to the opioid crisis, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, along with the Olympic Medical Center and Peninsula Behavioral Health, began a collaboration to create a MAT (medication assisted treatment) facility on the western end of Sequim. The MAT clinic is rightly termed a Healing Campus, as it will provide proven, effective treatment for the whole person, including counseling, and will serve both Jefferson and Clallam residents.

It is important to note that in addition to being a successful business entity with a casino and a golf course, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has been a leader in local health solutions. For example, when Virginia Mason stopped operating their Sequim clinic in 2002, the Tribe stepped in and currently provides primary, dental, and mental health services to 17,000 people, both tribal and non-tribal.

Despite all the reasons to embrace the planned Healing Campus, a group calling themselves SOS (Save Our Sequim) packed two public meetings this summer and have been spreading fear and blatant misinformation about the facility via yard signs, Facebook, and even a full-page ad in the Peninsula Daily News. Their campaign bears all the marks of a political wedge effort to gain support for the conservative cause by dividing the community. Tragically, despite the Tribe’s transparency and generous track record, there has been a not-so-subtle racist tone to some of the objections to the MAT and its location.

In response to the unfounded claims and fear-mongering from SOS, Tim Wheeler, long-time resident and PSARA member, has organized three successful pro-MAT meetings and formed “People for the MAT Clinic” to counter the hysteria and dispel the myths about the facility. The pro-MAT group aims to show compassion for those suffering from opioid dependency, end the stigma of substance dependency, and demonstrate that the MAT, and its recovering patients, deserve all the good will and support we can give. As of this writing, the People for the MAT Clinic are organizing to help the community learn about opioid treatment, and recognize that the MAT is a huge asset, not a liability, for the entire region.

The second health care storm hit OMC (Olympic Medical Center), the hospital based in Port Angeles, plus many other rural hospitals in the US. In 2018 under the Trump administration, CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) created a new rule that cut reimbursement for off-campus clinics by 30 percent this year. That cut will increase to 60 percent in 2020. The new rule said that “off-campus” meant more than 250 yards from a hospital (the previous rule was 35 miles from a hospital). The OMC hospital currently provides outpatient services at eight off-site clinics.

OMC and the community fought back, first with 1,780 citizen letters and comments to CMS. Next, the medical center became a plaintiff, along with the AHA (American Hospital Association) in a lawsuit challenging the new rule as unlawful. In addition, in May our Congressman, Derek Kilmer, introduced the PLACE Act (Protecting Local Access to Care for Everyone) to fight this onerous policy and help OMC, along with other rural hospitals, continue to provide accessible and affordable health care.

On September 18 a federal judge ruled in favor of the AHA and the other plaintiffs. There are still details to be worked out, but it should be noted that Jennifer Burkhardt, the OMC’s Chief Human Resources officer and General Counsel, believes that the 1,780 comments from Clallam County residents did resonate with the court.

The bottom line is that off-campus clinics that provide health care for any of our under-served rural areas need and deserve fair reimbursement from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Lisa Dekker is a member of PSARA and Indivisible Sequim.
Hey Democrats, Want to Know How to Win Rural Voters? Try Medicare For All!
By Mike Andrew

Medicare For All might be the best issue for Democrats to win over rural voters who backed Trump in 2016. Sometimes you hear Democratic Party strategists say that the way to win in 2020 is to peel away these rural voters and undercut Trump in his Midwestern base.

I'm skeptical of this approach, but for the sake of this article, let's say that our objective is to win rural voters to the Democratic Party.

The same pundits who push this approach say they know just how to do it – run to the center, don't talk about anything controversial, don't bring up wealth inequality. And never, never, never mention anything that has to do with taxes.

Wrong. The way to win rural voters is to stop talking about them like they're a bunch of rubes and offer them something that will make a real difference in their lives.

Medicare For All, for example. Why should this “socialist” notion appeal to people in rural areas, people who are, perhaps, more conservative in their habits and outlook then we are? Because their lives and livelihoods depend on it.

Rural hospitals, which serve close to one out of five people in the country, are being devastated by the for-profit health care system.

People who live in rural areas tend to be older and poorer than urban dwellers. They're also much less likely to have employer-provided health insurance. And if they live in one of the Red States that refused the Medicaid expansion they were offered under the ACA, they're on the hook for their own insurance.

Rural people are more likely to need medical care, and less likely to be able to pay for it. That's not a good combination.

And that, in turn, means that rural hospitals have to bear the financial burden of uncompensated medical care. Many rural hospitals are not able to bear that burden and survive. Since 2010, 113 rural hospitals have closed, leaving more than 30 million people an hour or more away from critical care. According to Healthline journal, another 700 rural hospitals are at risk of closing.

Hospital closures not only put the physical heath of a rural community at risk, they also impact the financial health of the community.

According to a 2017 study published in the Economic Development Quarterly, hospital jobs are among the best work to have in rural communities. For example, hospital workers with an associate's degree can expect to earn 21.4 percent more than workers in the same community with the same educational background. Those with a bachelor's degree can earn 12.2 percent more working in a hospital.

The same study showed that in rural counties, a general hospital is associated with 559 jobs in the county, 60 of which are hospital based, and 499 are non–health care related but depend on spending by hospitals and their employees. When the hospital goes, those jobs go as well.

Medicare For All would provide tremendous support to rural hospitals and the communities they serve, offering them better financial outcomes as well as better health outcomes.

First of all, Rep. Pramila Jayapal's Medicare For All bill includes funds that would go directly to areas without enough health coverage, including rural and low-income urban areas. Next, the bill would cover everyone in the country without exception, so rural patients would be able to pay for their hospital bills. Finally, the tax bill for most rural wage-earners would be far less than their medical insurance premiums.

A system like this would be a tremendous boost to the economies of rural communities, besides giving people access to the medical care they need.

So how about it, Democrats? Let's get behind Medicare For All, and strip away Trump's rural base.
On August 20, PSARA anchored the Seattle piece of a National Day of Action for lower drug prices.

As Congress gets set to take up the new NAFTA treaty (AKA the USMCA), we demanded that they take out provisions allowing Big Pharma to lock in drug patents, and therefore high prices, for the next decade.

Thanks to our two Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and to Reps. Adam Smith and Kim Schrier, who sent staff to read statements of support. Rep. Pramila Jayapal also expressed her support but was unable to schedule a staffer.

Thanks also to the organizations that joined us in our August 20 rally: 350 Seattle, Health Care for All - WA, Health Care is a Human Right, Occupy Bellingham, Physicians for a National Health Program - Western WA, Washington Fair Trade Coalition, Washington Alliance for Retired Americans, and Washington State Labor Council.

Bevin McLeod, of Health Care is a Human Right and Alliance for a Healthy Washington, speaks at the rally with the PSARA crew backing her up.

The Barbed Wire
By Barbara Flye

President Trump on Climate Change.

Fake news folks. They’re making a mountain out of a mole hill.
Happy 35th Birthday, PSARA!

Photos by Garet Munger

PSARA’s 35th Birthday BBQ was a smash hit!

Thanks to Karen Richter, Angie Bartels, Amy Davis, and Jessica Bonebright who conceived it, planned it, and worked hard to make it happen. Angie also provided the stunning venue.

Thanks to Marc Smason, Laura Oviedo, Lou Truskoff, and Mark Aalfs for their wonderful music.

Thanks to our grillmasters, Michael Righi and Robby Stern. They say too many cooks spoil the broth, so we only had two. And they didn’t make broth.

Thanks to our photographer, Garet Munger, so we can share the event with members who weren’t able to attend.

Thanks especially to all our members who made it the great time that it was.
Fo’ Real: A Tribute to Hava

By Bob Shimabukuro

A Bosnian Friend, Hava

“I don’t understand Americans, they’d rather have fascism than communism.”

I quoted my friend Hava’s comments during a recent RaGE meeting.

Instant laughter, and a comment from someone, “I never heard that one before, I’ll have to remember that one.”

At a Ben Cayetano For Governor of Hawaii fundraiser in Seattle

Fred Cordova: I really like the way you write. You know. Fast. Like a jet plane. I’m a turbo prop.

BS: I like the way you write. Can calm me down. Make me think better. Jet planes can do much damage.

Reed College professor, Nicholas Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler was lecturing on the possibilities of 1) life on other galaxies, and 2) space travel.

I considered him to be the most brilliant man in the world. He was a brilliant musician (classical and bluegrass) and a super calligrapher (he said that he had to practice calligraphy because he couldn’t read his own handwriting).

The gist of what he said: 1) If God had gotten away with a good/bad joke once, chances are he’s told it a thousand times; and 2) to gain enough thrust to push off the earth, you would have to blow up the world. You would need to build a shield. Pretty impossible dream.

But, he added, we could communicate with those other bad “bad jokes.” In fact, there was already equipment set up to receive signals from outer space.

And what we have are signals going back and forth, each waiting to find others to which they can connect. Which some folks think is what happens in the brain.

Bob’s Mind

Which brings me back to the central topic (in my mind) of this column: How does my mind work? When I was told that I had early stage dementia (Alzheimer’s), I didn’t know what to think. But the name Wheeler popped into my mind. So did Cayetano and Cordova; PSARA members David, Bonnie, Susan, Judy, and Frieda; James Joyce and Finnegan’s Wake; Alan L and Susan, and of course Hava.

There are things I hear or read that I don’t understand but I still like them. Like Finnegans Wake, which comes in annotated editions.

People sometimes say they like my writing style but don’t understand what I’m saying. Maybe I should do some annotations.

This column was originally going to answer the question “who would win the battle between the herpes virus and the cockroach for global supremacy?” Sorry. I’ve got a word limit. Might go back to that topic some other time.

I’ll leave you with this to ponder about when thinking about what RaGE is all about: The world’s greatest mind of the 20th/21st was a communist who felt equality was the way to go. He communicated this to others with his eyes when most of his other functions were gone. [Stephen Hawking]

Take a breath, then keep moving.

Bob Shimabukuro is Associate Editor of the Retiree Advocate and Co-Chair of PSARA’s RaGE (Race and Gender Equity) Committee.

“There is a fundamental difference between religion, which is based on authority, and science, which is based on observation and reason. Science will win because it works.”
We will get to the chickens in a bit. My intent here is to write about the basics, the underlying issues, of Britain leaving the European Union. Not about the parliamentary shenanigans, or the political maneuvering. Hopefully, we can then interpret the daily news a little more effectively.

First, we need a word: neoliberalism. Sorry, we can’t avoid it. Neoliberalism is the ideology and policies of Reagan and Thatcher, of Clinton and Tony Blair, of Davos and of global wealthy financial and corporate elites.

It means “free markets know best,” government rules and regulations are a burden, social spending must be minimized, government budgets must balance. It means capitalism is the natural order of things, there will be winners and losers, hierarchies are fine, elites must be respected as “job creators.”

The European Union

Next, we need a nuanced understanding of the European Union. The EU, formed in the post-World War II period, has been a project of US and European elites. It brought former enemy states into an economic alliance, and eventually a common currency, the Euro. It also expanded financial and goods markets for European multinational firms hoping to compete with those in the US.

On the plus side, the EU has allowed the much freer movement of workers. It has generalized the “softer” variant of capitalism that had grown up in Scandinavia, France, even Germany. Worker protections – hours, wages, representation, benefits – are significantly stronger than in the US. EU institutions have passed laws and regulations that protect health, the environment, and the climate. No, it’s not utopia. But it’s not the US either.

But European financial and governing elites have also adopted neoliberalism. When Greece was thrown into unpayable debt by the Wall Street financial crisis of 2008, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) put the Greek people through a series of “bailouts” that demanded massive cutbacks in spending (“fiscal waterboarding”). Unemployment took off, poverty increased, pensions were cut back, and health declined. If a country has its own currency, it can allow the currency to fall, supporting exports and jobs and devaluing its debt. But the Euro is a straightjacket, and government austerity is enforced by the ECB and IMF. Not only Greece, all EU countries must balance budgets. And EU neoliberalists (such as Macron in France) are determined to “liberalize” labor laws and environmental protections.

Brexit

UK’s pound is not even tied to the euro. So why does “Britain” want out? Not all do, of course, the Brexit vote was nearly even. “Remainers” appreciate the internationalism of the EU, the freer travel and job seeking across the EU. Some, on the left, prefer the more protective rules of the EU to Maggie Thatcher-style union busting, wide open capitalism, and government cutbacks (austerity).

But the neoliberal form of globalization, just as here, has led to job loss and widening inequality and increasing insecurity in Britain. Britain also has politicians willing to redirect people’s anger away from corporations and the 1% who benefit from this system, and blame immigrants and socialists and bureaucrats in Brussels. (You might be asking what a “good” kind of globalization is. I will try to do a future article.) Britain’s conservative governments and the EU have been negotiating the terms of leaving. Extremely complicated, also because of the border between Ireland (still in the EU) and Northern Ireland, and the possibility Brexit could jeopardize the peace agreements.

But lately, the “hard Brexit” politicians (Boris Johnson) are threatening to crash out of the EU without an agreement. What would that mean?

Continued on Page 11
Washington voters will have an opportunity to correct an injustice this month. We can vote to restore affirmative action in our state.

Many PSARA members will recall that affirmative action was barred in 1997 by I-200, an effort led by the then relatively unknown but now infamous Tim Eyman.

This year, Initiative 1000 was launched to restore affirmative action laws to our state.

PSARA endorsed I-1000 and our members gathered signatures to put the issue of affirmative action before the legislature. Our lawmakers responded and passed legislation to restore affirmative action – without quotas – in government contracting and employment, and in public university applications.

Under I-1000, women, veterans, small businesses, and people of color would get a level playing field in the public arena.

Although the legislature passed the measure, opponents of affirmative action successfully filed a referendum challenging the law. Now we have to take action again, this time at the ballot box.

Ballots will be mailed out starting on October 18. When you get your ballot, go to Referendum 88. It will ask you whether I-1000 should be approved or rejected. Please mark “Approved.”

You have until November 5 to mail in your ballots. Don't forget to vote, and don't forget to vote “Approved” on Referendum 88.

“This has been a priority for the Washington State Labor Council and our state’s labor movement for years,” said April Sims, Secretary Treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

“Our coalition is committed to restoring fairness and opportunity in Washington State by asking voters to approve I-1000.”
Finally, we get to the chickens. It would mean freedom from EU business regulation. It would mean turning from the EU to the US (some are calling this a “Trump Brexit”), possibly a trade agreement. US poultry processors have long wanted access to UK and EU markets for their chlorine-washed chickens. (This is prohibited in the EU but allowed in the US to disinfect the birds at the end of processing, when it may cover up earlier food safety issues).

OK, it’s not really all about the chickens, but they are a good metaphor --they represent all-out profit making, capitalist agriculture’s war on the soil, the environment, and the climate.

A hard exit and trade agreement with the US also exposes Britain’s National Health Service to US demands for privatization, for allowing US corporate access to health care markets.

So what are we to think? Support remaining in the EU? OK, but at what cost? Austerity? Support Brexit and other such “leave the EU” movements? But that means allying with far-right, anti-immigrant, racist and fascist forces, building walls and fences.

Trump and hard-Brexit pols are using their anti-EU and anti-globalization circus as a masquerade for doubling down on their neoliberal agenda – tax cuts, trade deals, deregulation. That is first and foremost what we need to fight. We need our cities, regions, states, and nations mobilizing for strong climate policies, social justice programs, great health care, and democracy. And, yes, we are internationalists and, of course, our movements and organizations will build solidarity across borders.

*Micah Righi is a retired economics professor and a member of PSARA.*

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**Kaiya Yonamine won the “Documentary of the Year” tonight!** We are so proud of her and especially so because her film was cut short, to our shock. At the end of the film festival, she was called to the stage to accept her award. She surprised the MCs in asking for the mic and gave an acceptance speech that disrupted the silence that was being perpetuated once again at this film festival — where little about the US and Japan’s involvement in Henoko’s ocean destruction was actually shown nor the Okinawan people’s movement to protect our ocean. Closing out with asking everyone to go see her full film, she called on each person to go to her website and help take action. I am cheering for you, Kaiya, loud and proud, in this moment as you truly rise — unapologetically in your Indigenous resilience, for leading with your chimu and soul, and your relentless determination to get up time and time again. We rise, Kaiya! We rise!

*Editor’s note: Moe Yonamine and her daughter, Kaiya, are both PSARA members. Kaiya’s award-winning video, Our Island’s Treasure, documents Okinawan resistance to the expansion of a US naval base on the island. PSARA will show the video in a special presentation featuring Kaiya and Moe on January 11, 2020. Watch for details.*
Meetings and Events

**West Seattle Hot Topics for Seniors & Senior Wannabes:** Noon – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 2, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. SW, Seattle, (35th & Henderson). Topic: *Voter Suppression in the US*. Brown bag lunch.

**PSARA Climate and Environmental Justice Committee:** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, October 3, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Government Relations Committee:** Noon – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, October 3, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Education Committee:** 2 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Southend Committee:** 1 p.m., Thursday, October 10, Burien Library, 400 SW 152nd St., Burien. Topics: *Wealth Inequality* with Michael Righi; *Universal Basic Income* with Martha Schimidt.

**PSARA Book Reading -- *News From Rain Shadow Country* by Tim Wheeler:** 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 12, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. See Page 1 for details.

**PSARA Fundraising Committee:** 11:00 a.m. – Noon, Monday, October 14, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Race and Gender Equity Committee:** 11 a.m. – Noon, Thursday, October 17, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**PSARA Executive Board:** 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, October 17, Washington State Labor Council office, 321 16th Ave. S, Seattle. All are welcome.

**Climate Change and What We Can Do About It:** 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 24, Port Townsend Community Center, 620 Tyler St., Port Townsend. Join us for a presentation by PSARA’s Climate and Environmental Justice Committee. All are welcome.

**Washington State Senior Lobby Conference:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Thursday, October 24, Hotel Murano, 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma. Cost: $60. Register at waseniorlobby.org