



LEOFF I COALITION Newsletter

Law Enforcement Officers & Fire Fighters

Representing Active and Retired Members of the LEOFF I Retirement System

January 2019



Meet Your New President of the LEOFF I Coalition

By Bill Dickinson,
LEOFF I Coalition President

It is an honor and a privilege to begin my term as president of the LEOFF I Coalition. Our outgoing president, Andy Wilson, deserves a big thanks from all of us. Andy will be a hard act to follow. I will be working with the Coalition Board Members to protect the LEOFF I Trust Fund and Medical Benefits for you and your spouse.

There was a court hearing that I attended with Dave Peery and Joyce Willms at the Thurston County Superior Court regarding discrimination against adopted children receiving the same benefits as naturally born children. The case was brought by Katherine Boreen on behalf of her deceased husband, LEOFF I member Lt. Phillip Boreen of the Seattle Fire Department. The court agreed, declared the law unconstitutional, and ordered that the Department of Retirement Systems award the family the same benefits as those of biological children. The Coalition was there for two years fighting for Boreen's children's benefits, alongside Attorney Aaron Orheim from the office of Talmadge Fitzpatrick Tribe.

Dave Peery and Joyce Willms from the Coalition office also received a call for help from David Comstock, the son of William Comstock who is a retired firefighter from the city of Kennewick and LEOFF I Coalition member. David Comstock initially went to the City of Kennewick Disability Board for Medical Benefits, but was denied.

I attended the last Kennewick disability board meeting with David Comstock and his attorney, Brian Davis, regarding the denied medical benefits. The Kennewick Disability Board reviewed William Comstock's medical information again and decided to pay for his medical care and reimburse him for past medical expenses.

If you ever have questions or need help regarding your LEOFF I Medical Benefits, call the Coalition office at 360-570-1035 or 877-553-6631. 🇺🇸

To read Bill Dickinson's Biography, go to the LEOFF I Coalition website at www.leoff1coalition.org



From Your Immediate Past President

By Andy Wilson,
LEOFF I Coalition Past-President

Dear LEOFF I Coalition Board members
LEOFF I members
Joyce Willms, Lobbyist and Communications

It has been a privilege to serve you as President of the LEOFF I Coalition for the past four years. I couldn't have done the job without the support of my wife, Kerry. I was honored to work with such a dedicated board. Joyce Willms did a great job lobbying. When I stopped by the Coalition office, it wasn't unusual to see a state legislator there. Dave Peery and Joyce Willms worked with me to help members fight for their medical disability benefits.

As president, I spent a lot of time in Olympia to lobby the Legislature to protect the LEOFF I Trust Fund from being used to balance the state operating budget or merging the LEOFF I Plan with the Washington State Teachers Retirement Plan I. The Coalition and the Retired Teachers worked together to kill the bill. All LEOFF I members and spouses worked beside the Coalition Board Members, Joyce Willms, myself, and other groups to kill the bill that would have merged LEOFF I and LEOFF II.

The time has come to hand the gavel over to a new president. I nominated Bill Dickinson for the office of President of the LEOFF I Coalition. The vote was unanimous. I will now serve as Past President and will continue to help lobby to protect the LEOFF I Plan Trust Fund and Medical Benefits. 🇺🇸

Thank you,
Andy Wilson, LEOFF I Coalition Past President

LEOFF I Coalition Executive Board

President Bill Dickinson
 Ret. King County Police Dept.
 Ret. Sequim Police Dept.
 360-640-5217

**Immediate Past President
 Andy Wilson**
 Ret. King Co Sheriff's Office
 WA. ST. Ret. Deputy
 Sheriff's & Police Officers Assoc.

Vice President Dennis Hooper
 Ret. Spokane Police Dept.
 WA. ST. Ret. Deputy
 Sheriff's & Police Officers Assoc.

Secretary Dave Peery
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Gary Lentz
 Ret. Clark Co. Sheriff's Office

Paul Johnson
 Ret. Olympia Police Dept.

Diane Rule Erickson
 Beneficiary

Honorary Board Member
 Congressman Dave Reichert
 Ret. Sheriff of King Co.

www.leoff1coalition.org

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 855 Trosper Rd. SW Ste. 108,
 PMB 127 • Tumwater, WA 98512

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2019 Legislative Session

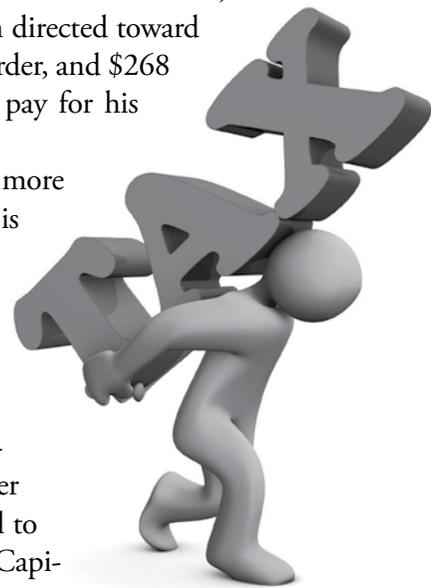
By Joyce Willms, Lobbyist LEOFF I Coalition

Washington State has the strongest economy in the nation, but that won't fix an estimated \$1.5 billion gap in the next biennium. In the 2019 Legislative Session, Governor Inslee will be proposing a state carbon tax, a new Western State Hospital (costing \$800 million), improving mental health, expanding early childhood education, affordable housing, ensuring dreamers the ability to pay for college, school construction, \$1.1 billion whale watching ban, \$30 million directed toward treatment and preservation of opioid use disorder, and \$268 million in his proposed two year budget to pay for his clean-air initiative.

The Governor is expressing the need for more revenue. If it will come from higher taxes, he is proposing a new capital gain tax and increasing business tax taxation on professional services and inheritance taxes.

Who really knows what will happen in the 2019 Legislative Session? I have received phone calls asking if the Legislature will go after the LEOFF I Retirement Fund. My answer is that I don't know. I don't have a crystal ball to tell you. I will be spending my time at the Capital to meet with leadership and new Legislators and educate them on the LEOFF I Retirement Trust Fund. Go to the LEOFF I Coalition's website at www.leoff1coalition.org to find out what's happening so you will know when we are calling for help. LEOFF I members need to call and/or email their Legislators. Tell them, "Don't touch our retirement funds. We worked hard for it and that was part of our contract when we started our job."

Go to LEOFF I Coalition's website at www.leoff1coalition.org. On the home page in the third column, half way down the page there are links that will take you to the Washington Legislative website to contact your legislator and find your legislative district. 🖋️



The Democrats Control the Legislature

The big question is, now that we have new leadership, what will it mean for LEOFF 1?

2018 election results put the Democrats in control of both the Senate and House. The Democrats gain three Senate seats and seven House seats. There are 49 Senators, with 28 Democrats and 21 Republicans. The House of Representatives has 98 members with 57 Democrats and 41 Republicans.



LEOFF 1 Coalition Stays Active in Olympia

By Bill Dickinson, LEOFF 1 Coalition President

Board members Dave Peery, Andy Wilson and Bill Dickinson joined our lobbyist Joyce Willms at the Capitol on December 11, 2018. While the legislature does not convene until mid-January, the Select Committee on Pension Policy meets in advance to consider legislation and support or decline support on proposals being pursued prior to being offered to the Legislature as a whole. We became aware that the Retired Firefighters of Washington group had written a letter to the Chair of the Select Committee asking for new legislation to change the existing laws that regulate the candidates for pension and disability boards for whom we are allowed to vote. Currently, each jurisdiction is required to offer an active or retired police or firefighter a board position (depending on whether it is a pre-LEOFF legacy board or a LEOFF board under RCW 41.26). Mr. Warbrouck alleges that boards in the State of Washington are having a hard time finding local active or retired members to fill those positions. While we have not been aware of any jurisdictions complaining of this problem, we do understand that as time goes by, the number of LEOFF 1 retirees diminishes. Local active and retired LEOFF 2 members are already allowed to run for pension and disability board positions under existing law. None-the-less, Mr. Warbrouck has offered two solutions to his issue.

His first proposal suggests that a jurisdiction must first try to find a local law enforcement or firefighter to sit on the appropriate board. If they cannot find a local ac-

tive or retired member to run for the position, they may then allow any resident retired law enforcement officer or firefighter to run for the position.

His second proposal suggests that the jurisdictions simply be allowed to open the local board positions to any law enforcement officers or firefighters who happen to live in the jurisdiction. The particular language in the second proposal does not require the candidates to be or have been a law enforcement officer or firefighter from Washington State. We really think anyone who represents police and fire concerns to the board should be experienced with, and be a member of the Washington State Retirement System.

Overall, our concern is that we don't want our LEOFF 1 pension and disability boards to be centralized in Olympia but to remain local to the jurisdictions in which we all served. Imagine having to drive all the way to Olympia in order to fight for your medical benefits from people who have no connection to your employing community. So, after discussing with a local disability board member, and the President of the Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriff's and Police Officer's Association, we testified to the Select Committee that we were supportive of the first proposal, but we were not supportive of the second piece of legislation. The Select Committee did not have a quorum to vote on the matter so we do not currently know the outcome, but you can be sure we will be watching closely as the legislature convenes in January. We will keep you posted! 🐼



Please clip out and mail



The LEOFF 1 Coalition works to protect your retirement pension and medical benefits. If you do not want the LEOFF 1 Coalition to work to protect yours, you can opt out by filling out this form and mailing it to: LEOFF 1 Coalition, 855 Trosper Rd. SW Ste. 108, PMB 127 • Tumwater, WA 98512

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Half Truths

Mr. Richard Warbrouck is the President of the Retired Firefighters of Washington. He originally served on the LEOFF 1 Coalition Board however he decided to strike out on his own using the base of his fellow retired Seattle Firefighters who all pay monthly dues to pay for his salary and expenses. He also requests donations to his Political Action Committee to make political contributions to certain law makers in an effort to gain their support. His mailing list is approximately 900 and our mailing list to both police, firefighters AND beneficiaries is approximately 4000 statewide. While it would make more sense to us that we would join forces and work together on our mutual LEOFF 1 issues, he chooses to take a different and often hostile path. Consequently he frequently publishes half-truths and sometimes outright falsehoods about the LEOFF 1 Coalition. You may hear these or receive a mailing where he suggests joining LEOFF 1 and LEOFF2 members into the Retired Firefighters of Washington which would of course greatly increase his revenue but we fear could create a conflict of interest. We present our responses to his statements for your consideration. Please feel free to call any of our board members or Joyce if you have any questions of the Coalition. The following statements are from his October, 2018 newsletter:

Richard Warbrouck has been attacking the LEOFF I Coalition in the Retired Firefighters of Washington newsletter for years. Now it's time to set the record straight. In the Retired Firefighters of Washington's last newsletter (available to read at rffow.org), Richard Warbrouck stated in October 2018 that:

Warbrouck's Statement: "The problem is that the Coalition has no dues structure, no membership list, and no authorization cards signed by retired police and fire officers authorizing the Coalition to represent them." (page 1, paragraph 4, line 10)

The Coalition's Response: The reality is that the Coalition receives donations from LEOFF I members and has a mailing list of retired Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers and their spouses.

No group, not Warbrouck or the Coalition, has an authorization card from all LEOFF I members and their spouses to represent them. All LEOFF I members and their spouses want their Retirement Pension and Medical Benefits protected and that's what the Coalition is doing.

Warbrouck's Statement: "This makes it illegal for an employee of the Coalition, as they have no elected offi-

cers to contact the Department of Retirement Systems, a Pension Board, a LEOFF I Disability Board or even the Legislature for information regarding an individual retiree." (page 1, paragraph 4, line 16)

The Coalition's Response: The Coalition has no "employees." We contract with Joyce Willms to lobby for us. Only a LEOFF I individual or beneficiary can ask about their individual retirement benefits. Any person can contact the Department of Retirement Systems, Select Committee on Pension Policy, Disability Boards, and the Legislature to ask general questions.

Warbrouck's Statement: "More importantly, is it in the best interest of a group of retired Law Enforcement Officers to make contributions to an organization and to rely on that organization for representation, when the organization has no elected officers, no membership, and no financial reports?" (page 2, paragraph 1, line 4)

The Coalition's Response: The Coalition has an elected board consisting of the following members: President Bill Dickinson (retired Sequim Police Dept.), Vice President Dennis Hooper (retired Spokane Police; WA State Ret. Deputy Sheriff's & Police Officer's Assoc.), Secretary Dave Peery (retired Seattle Fire Dept.), Treasurer Jerald Birt (retired Seattle Fire Dept.), Mark Curtis (retired Thurston Co. Sheriff's Office; WA State Ret. Deputy Sheriff's & Police Officer's Assoc.), Gary Lentz (retired Clark Co. Sheriff's Office), Paul Johnson (retired Olympia Police Dept.), Diane Rule Erickson (Beneficiary; WA State Ret. Deputy Sheriff's & Police Officer's Ass.). The past presidents of the LEOFF I Coalition include Andy Wilson (retired King County Sheriff's Office 2018-2014), Don Daniels (retired Seattle Police Officers 2014-2011), Bob Monize (retired Snohomish Co. Sheriff's Office 2011-2004), Mark Curtis (retired Thurston County Sheriff's Office 2004-2000). The Retired Firefighters of Washington (RFFOW) have had the same president, Richard Warbrouck, over 20 years. The RFFOW has a president, vice president, and a director's list, but apparently lists no secretary or treasurer.

The Coalition has a mailing list. The financial reports are given out at the board meetings as he does. According to Warbrouck, there are only a few options available to retirees:

(continued on page 5)

Half Truths (continued from page 4)

Warbrouck's Statement: "Form one new statewide retiree Fire and Law Enforcement Officers Association." (page 2, paragraph 2, line 2)

The Coalition's Response: There is a statewide Law Enforcement and Firefighter organization: the LEOFF I Coalition lobbies for all LEOFF I members. The Coalition also lobbies for the LEOFF I members of the Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriff's and Police Officer's Association. The LEOFF I Coalition welcomes all retired Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters. To join, go to leoff1coalition.org, scroll down the page to the gray box, and click to join.

Warbrouck's Statement: "This organization [Warbrouck's organization mentioned in the above point] would be open to LEOFF I or LEOFF I and LEOFF II." (page 2, paragraph 2, line 5)

The Coalition's Response: The Coalition Board Members say that this is a conflict of interest. Warbrouck's current organization (Retired Firefighters of Washington) is already open for LEOFF I and LEOFF II members, a conflict of interest. When Warbrouck is lobbying, is he protecting the LEOFF I Retirement Fund & Benefits? Or is he lobbying to merge LEOFF I and LEOFF II? It seems a bit like letting the fox guard the hen house, don't you think?

Warbrouck's Statement: "Restructure the Retired Firefighters of Washington (RFFOW) to allow all retired fire and police officers to join and hold office. Change the bylaws as necessary for LEOFF I or LEOFF I and LEOFF II." (page 2, paragraph 2, line 8)

The Coalition's Response: The LEOFF I Coalition already represents all LEOFF I members. The Coalition Board consists of retired sheriffs, police officers, and firefighters from all over the state. The Retired Firefighters of Washington's Board consists of retired firefighters from Seattle. Warbrouck was on the board of the Coalition, but he decided to leave when he could not control the Board Member votes. As stated in our response on the

previous point: there is a conflict of interest if any organization represents both LEOFF I and LEOFF II.

Warbrouck's Statement: "Have the Retired Firefighters affiliate with the Washington State Council of Firefighters (WSCFF)." (page 2, paragraph 2, line 15)

The Coalition's Response: The Washington State Council of Firefighters should only represent LEOFF II actives and retirees, and not LEOFF I, due to conflict of interest.

Warbrouck's Statement: "Restructure the LEOFF I Coalition to represent retired fire and police officers, changing bylaws as necessary to include meetings, elected officers, dues structure and financial reports." (page 2, paragraph 2, line 19)

The Coalition's Response: Restructuring the Coalition would require a vote of the Board. Warbrouck is not on the Coalition Board. He isn't even involved in the Coalition. Warbrouck wants to represent all Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers (LEOFF I and LEOFF II) statewide. As stated in the November 2018 Retired Firefighters of Washington newsletter, his membership is only 900 members.

The Coalition represents ONLY LEOFF I Members, both Law Enforcement and Firefighters, and their spouses. The LEOFF I Coalition works hard to protect your Retirement Fund and Medical Benefits for you, your spouse, and beneficiary.

I ask you, Richard Warbrouck, to focus on the same mission as the LEOFF I Coalition: to protect the LEOFF Plan I Retirement and Medical Benefits. We don't have to like each other, but it's time to stop writing newsletters that tell half-truths about the Coalition. Richard, please stop and think about what's best for all LEOFF I members and their spouses: protecting the LEOFF I Retirement Fund and Medical Benefits. 🐾

PLEASE
REMEMBER

UNITED
we
STAND
DIVIDED WE FALL

The Definition of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which an organization has competing interest or loyalties.

The Retired Firefighters of Washington (RFFOW), of which Richard Warbrouck is president, represents both LEOFF I and LEOFF II retired members. That is called a conflict of interest because each organization has different retirement plans and medical benefits. For example, if there is a merger attempt by LEOFF II, who would Warbrouck protect? LEOFF I or LEOFF II?

The LEOFF I Coalition, a statewide organization, only represents the LEOFF I members and their spouses. We have no conflict of interest.

The Coalition membership is statewide and includes both Law Enforcement and Firefighters. If you're not a

member of the Coalition, join now. Go to leoff1coalition.org or call Joyce Willms at the LEOFF I Coalition office at 360-570-1035 or 877-553-6631.

Warbrouck may be sending out an email to start a new organization to represent both LEOFF I and LEOFF II Firefighters and Law Enforcement officers with different retirement plans and medical benefits. That is a conflict of interest.

Here's an example that's not a conflict of interest. The Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriff's and Police Officer's Association (WSRDSPOA) members are both LEOFF I and LEOFF II. However, the WSRDSPOA is a social organization, so there is no conflict of interest. 🖱️

Protect You and Your Spouse's Pension Ensure Your Medical Expenses Are Paid By the Disability Board Protect You and Your Spouse's Annual Cost-of-Living (COLA)

Over the last year the Coalition has received 26 phone calls from LEOFF 1 Members, spouses, family members, or friends needing information on the LEOFF 1 Disability Board. Sometimes the LEOFF 1 member will call the Department of Retirement, if the department can't help, they will refer the caller to the LEOFF I Coalition office and tell them to talk to Joyce Willms and she can help you. On the following pages you will read some thank you letters from people we have helped. Please remember, in the future if you find yourself needing our help, we are just a phone call away.



We must stay diligent in our protection of yours and your spouses pension!

The Coalition needs your donation to protect your medical benefits and pension.

The mission of the LEOFF I Coalition is to protect the integrity of the LEOFF 1 Law and LEOFF I Retirement Trust Fund. LEOFF I Coalition members are law enforcement officers and fire fighters.

Your donations are used for:

- Lobbying Legislators
- Assist Members with Receiving Their Medical Benefits
- Protect Your Medical Benefits
- Lobbying State Agencies
- Attend Committee Meetings
- Lobbying Expenses
- Monitor LEOFF 1 Issues
- Attorney Fees
- Correspondence with Legislators & Members
- Website Updates & Newsletter
- Rent
- Office Expenses & Phone Bills
- Printing, Mail Prep & Postage
- Travel Expenses

Board members are not paid. Reimbursement is offered for travel to Olympia, however some board members decline that offer. If you have any questions about your contributions, please call President Bill Dickinson at 360-640-5217.

**Thank You for Your Generous Donation!
Your Donations Are Used To
Save Your Pension.**

The State of Washington Unconstitutionally Discriminated Against Adopted Children

By Aaron Orheim, WSBA #47670, Talmadge/Fitzpatrick/Tribe

On September 21, 2018, Judge Carol Murphy of the Thurston County Superior Court ruled that the State of Washington unconstitutionally discriminated against adopted children in its definition of “child” contained in LEOFF Plan I Pension Law. This important ruling vindicated the efforts of widow Katharine Boreen on behalf of her deceased husband LEOFF I member Lt. Phillip Boreen, of the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) and their adopted children. I have had the honor of representing the Boreen family who have also been aided by the LEOFF I Coalition throughout this ordeal.

Phillip Boreen received a disability retirement in 2000, after serving 28 years as a firefighter with the SFD. After his retirement, he and his wife, Katharine, adopted four minor siblings and cared for them in every way as children. In June of 2014, Mr. Boreen was diagnosed with late-stage cancer. He fought bravely, but he ultimately passed away on August 6, 2016.

Katharine contacted the Washington Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) to determine the family’s benefits in light of her husband’s passing. She was shocked when she learned that adoptive children are treated differently than natural-born (or biological) children under State statute in LEOFF Plan I Pension Law. To qualify for benefits, an adopted child must be adopted before a LEOFF I member receives a disability retirement. A biological child must meet no such precondition; a biological child automatically qualifies for benefits even when born after a

LEOFF I member disability retires.

Katharine, Joyce Willms (Coalition Lobbyist), and Dave Peery (Coalition Secretary) helped her navigate the system and lobby the State Legislature. Unfortunately, the State of Washington, under RCW 41.26.030, denied her every attempt. The Coalition Board suggested that she call Phil Talmadge’s office for help. That’s when Katherine Boreen contacted my office, and we filed a lawsuit arguing that the unequal treatment of adopted children violated their right to equal protection of the laws pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. On September 21, 2018, the court agreed and ruled that the disparate treatment of adopted children is unconstitutional. DRS may appeal, but we are prepared to fight every step of the way to uphold this just ruling.

As I mentioned, honor is the best word to describe how I feel about representing the Boreen family in this case. It is an honor to work on behalf of adopted children who have no control over the circumstances of their birth or their lot in life. And it is an honor to represent the family of a retired firefighter who dedicated 28 years of his life to serving those who needed help. I know Katharine is grateful for the LEOFF I Coalition’s hard work in righting this wrong, thus honoring her husband’s memory. 🖤



Dave Peery, Coalition Secretary, Bill Dickinson, Coalition President, Joyce Willms, Coalition Lobbyist, Aaron Orheim, attorney, Talmadge/Fitzpatrick/Tribe at the court hearing.

LEOFF 1 Coalition

Here to Help When You Need It Most

Open Letter to LEOFF 1 Members and Spouses

By Katharine S. Boreen

It is with great joy and relief and some sadness that I share with you the results of a court ruling taking place September 21st, in which the Boreen family prevailed. (see Aaron Orheim/Talmadge Law Firm ltr, on page 5). Thurston Co. Superior Court ruled that language in Washington statute was discriminatory in its definition of “child” and was in violation of the 14th Amendment; equal treatment under the law.

I became aware of this issue shortly before my husband, Lt. Phillip Boreen Seattle Fire Department (disability retired) lost his battle with cancer. I pursued action because I knew that the statute definition of “child” that separating adoptive children was morally wrong. An adopted child himself, Phil and I are the proud parents of four children whose existence did not begin with us.

That there are laws in this country that still count for something and are upheld, that this ruling will now enter the realm of case law not just in Washington but across the U.S as well, somehow softens the loss of Phil. As our children’s only surviving parent and their mother, I feel that even though I couldn’t prevent the loss of their father, the court’s finding has affirmed my children’s legitimate place in this world as his children. They will know I fought for them as hard as their dad fought to live for them.

My sadness is recalled in my immediate call for help in 2016 to RFFOW President Richard Warbrouck. My husband had been a long-time dues paying member of the RFFOW and I had read every newsletter faithfully. Mr. Warbrouck’s first response to this situation was to suggest I call DRS a second time. When I called him back and recounted what the second call had yielded, his response was “what if your husband had married a Chinese woman with

five kids.” I next made a plea for assistance and support in a written email to Mr. Warbrouck and Mr Fossos. (I had read many issues of the RFFOW newsletter; re: the brotherhood, all-for-one and one-for-all, etc...) I never received a reply, but I did receive a condolence card probably signed by the RFFOW secretary. As the grieving widow of minor children, all of which had just witnessed 2.5 years of catastrophic disease.... that card highlighted the lie that I had come to know as the RFFOW.

In fact, the truth is the only organization that came to my aid in terms of education, moral support, and navigating a very complicated political system was the LEOFF I Coalition. For two years, Coalition Board Members selflessly provided a presence at various hearings during this extremely emotional and nerve-racking effort. They treated me kindly and with respect. This included encouraging me to contact other fire organizations and becoming familiar with their board presidents and processes and mandates. Joyce Willms was nothing short of amazing from appeals, visits to the Department of Retirement Systems, to meeting with legislators. Coalition President Andy Wilson (currently Past President), Secretary Dave Peery, and Lobbyist Joyce Willms stood with me as I testified on our family’s behalf at the Select Committee on Pension Policy hearings. The Coalition’s current President Bill Dickinson, Secretary Dave Peery, and Lobbyist Joyce Willms also attended the actual Court hearing (defendant T. Guerrin, Director of the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems) because after two visits to Washington on this issue I was not able to travel a third time.

The true message of this open letter to LEOFF 1 Plan members AND spouses is this. I am worried that I see a movement of the Retired Firefighters of Wash-

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LEOFF I Coalition, Here to Help When You Need It Most Continued

To Bill Dickinson, LEOFF I Coalition President
 Dave Peery, LEOFF I Coalition Secretary
 Joyce Willms

William Comstock, my father and a retired firefighter and member of the LEOFF I Coalition, needed help with his medical benefits that were denied. I called Representative Brad Klippert and he said to call Joyce Willms at the LEOFF I Coalition for help. After calling the Coalition office and talking to Joyce Willms and Coalition Secretary Dave Peery, they were able to help me through the process and explain what I needed to do and why it was important to go through the appeals process that must be done within 30 days. If the LEOFF I member is turned down for medical coverage and just goes to an attorney and doesn't go through the appeals process, the LEOFF I member will not be reimbursed for their out of pocket medical expenses. That was great information and I went through the appeals process. The Coalition President, Bill Dickinson, said he would attend the disability board meeting with my attorney, Brian Davis, and myself. We won! Now my dad's medical bills are being paid and he received reimbursement for the medical bills he had already paid for.

Thank you,

Dave Comstock
 Son of William Comstock

Open Letter to LEOFF I Members and Spouses

(continued from page 8)

ington (and others) to represent both LEOFF I and LEOFF II. I believe this is a conflict of interest, and that these various group(s) have their own agenda for OUR retirement plan. Those organizations are the same ones who turned a blind eye to the plight of a LEOFF 1 widow with minor children at home, and who may not protect LEOFF 1 survivors.

It has never become so clear to me as when my husband passed that I better take care of the retirement plan that he was proud of as part of his career and trusted to take care of me, even if he couldn't be here to do so anymore.

It was shown to me throughout this two-year journey, that the organization that truly cares for LEOFF 1 members retirement and medical benefits is the LEOFF I Coalition.

After reading my story, I am sure you understand why I encourage all LEOFF I families to support LEOFF 1 Coalition. Join as a member; pay attention to what they have to say, what they do, and support them accordingly.

Respectfully,

Katharine S. Boreen,
 Proud Member, LEOFF I Coalition

(continued on page 10)

LEOFF I Coalition

LEOFF I Coalition, Here to Help When You Need It Most

(continued from page 9)

Fyi

Andy: I just thought you should know that I've been (continually) working with Joyce, LEOFF1 Coalition) to get help for a retired friend of mine. His name is Mark Wakefield, retired Monroe PD, covered by LEOFF1. Mark is seriously disabled and has had an extremely difficult time with the Snohomish County Disability Board in obtaining the medical benefits that he needs and requires. Joyce has been and is a Godsend in helping Mark. She's been on the phone, constantly, reminding the Sno County Board of their legal responsibilities. She was so effective (Mark did FINALLY get his benefits) that they (the Board) asked Mark to please get the Coalition off of their backs! She did a GREAT job! Can you please mention to Joyce how much her help was appreciated?

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request! Ollie Moore

To LEOFF I Coalition

Joyce Willms
Dave Peery

From Norman Sedor LEOFF I Retired
from the City of Edmonds Police Office
Larry Becker, friend of Norman Sedor

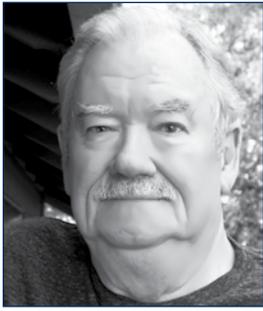
In August 2016, I was in a vehicle accident and suffered severe injuries. I was transported to a hospital. I was then transferred to Manor Care Nursing Facility on September 7, 2016, for further treatment. During the past eleven months, I have been in the hospital and nursing home. Most of my insurance has covered my medical and prescription expenses, but there are several things that were not covered (as Part A, which covers hospitalization and prescription expenses, but there are several things that were not covered (as I have been paying the expenses for the nursing home, medical, prescription and transportation expenses, and x-rays. I have paid approximately \$65,000 out of pocket. Now I'm out of money. I received information from the Department of Retirement Systems and was directed to contact Joyce Willms at the LEOFF I Coalition office. Joyce told me to contact the LEOFF I Disability Board of the City of Edmonds and help me go through their process.

Now I live in Manor Care and the City of Edmonds Disability Board is paying for my care. The City of Edmonds LEOFF I Disability Board reimbursed the \$65,000 that I spent on my health care.

Thank you to the LEOFF I Coalition, Joyce Willms, and Dave Peery for all your hard work.

Thanks,

Norman Sedor, LEOFF I Retiree
Larry Becker, friend of Norman Sedor



Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriffs And Police Officers Association

By Joe Dawson, WSRDSPOA President

The Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriffs and Police Officers Association (WSRDSPOA) is organized to further the social and educational association of retired Deputy Sheriffs and Police Officers by providing meetings and newsletters that provide information about our retirements and the retirement systems. To join our association, you can go to our website WSRDSPOA.org and click on membership. You can also call President Joe Dawson at 425-392-4361 or email jsdawson@comcast.net.

Originally the association was restricted to LEOFF I Retirees and their spouses. This was recently amended to include LEOFF II as full, voting members. Wives and husbands of law enforcement officers who qualify as members are included as full, WSRDSPOA voting members. We encourage all members to attend our meetings and welcome their input. We also accept Honorary Members and Associate Members.

The WSRDSPOA realizes that our spouses will receive our benefits and should therefore be involved in the direction the association proceeds. There are weaknesses we observe in the system due to the fact that most beneficiaries do not realize the process required when a member is in need of medical care. Often the spouse is left with little information about healthcare coverage or death benefits, including the continuation of retirement benefits after a death. We fill this gap.

Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriffs and Police Officers Association is in close communication

with the LEOFF I Coalition to provide lobbying for our association.

There are always those who see our retirement fund as money not being used to its full public benefit. We visualize that fund as security to our system. Often we see governments that file reorganization under bankruptcy. If this should occur to our retirement and the fund were to be removed where would that leave our system?

The LEOFF I Coalition was formed in 1980 as a lobbying organization, not a social organization, to protect the LEOFF I retirement.

At present it has been quoted that there are 7,300 in the retirement systems receiving LEOFF pensions. Some, who retired earlier, do not receive the same pension as later retirees. We consistently consider all WSRDSPOA members when decisions are made.

The LEOFF I Coalition was formed in 2000 as a lobbying organization, not a social organization, to protect the LEOFF I retirement.

There are those that were a part of that Coalition that have left because of differences of management styles. The LEOFF I Coalition office is in Olympia, 5 minutes from the Capital. Their lobbyist, Joyce Willms, has been lobbying for the Coalition for years and personally knows many of the State Legislators. The Coalition works tirelessly to protect the LEOFF I Retirement Trust Fund, provide information to members on what the LEOFF I Disability Board is responsible for, and administering State Law RCW 41.26.030. I encourage all LEOFF I members to join and donate to the LEOFF I Coalition. 🐾



LEOFF I COALITION

Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters

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The LEOFF 1 Coalition receives calls inquiring whether the Disability Board will pay for medical marijuana. The answer is, probably not. Although marijuana is legal in Washington State, it is still against the Federal law. Since the states, counties, and cities receive Federal funding they probably will not pay for medical marijuana at this time because it puts their Federal funding at risk.

Authority of a City or County Disability Board to Reimburse LEOFF Plan 1 Members for Their Authorized Use of Medical Marijuana

Marijuana – Retirement, LEOFF – Counties – Disability – Authority Of A City Or County Disability Board to Reimburse LEOFF Plan 1 Members For Their Authorized Use of Medical Marijuana.

1. A city or county disability board may permissibly reimburse LEOFF Plan 1 members for their authorized use of medical marijuana, if that use is properly authorized and if the board determines use of marijuana is medically necessary.
2. The potential effect, if any, of a board's reimbursement decision on city or county eligibility for federal funding depends on federal policy and the conditions of specific federal grants. 🍃

