



Sharon Bacon's Road to Spokane

By Jenny Rose

On July 31st, we are going to say “good-bye” to a true friend of SEA and an advocate for SEA members for the past 12 years! Sharon Bacon, SEA staff, will be leaving us to head off to new adventures—aka, she is retiring!

Actually, one could say Sharon's road to Spokane started the day she was born at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane. Her Dad was a teacher in Oaxdale and then in a small community outside of Tacoma.

Sharon's involvement with the union began simple enough---she was on her way to make a healthy environment for her building in the Bethel School District when she caught the bug-- the Association bug. Sharon originally had no plans to become involved, but fate had its hand in it.. She started off as a Building Rep, then V. President and then President. In her first year as President---her association was within two days of striking—it was the closest they had ever come—but, luckily, no strike happened.

Six years later, Sharon decided to try a new path in union work. She was accepted into the WEA and NEA Internship Programs. That was a wonderful, difficult, and life changing experience for her. Sharon had training in Washington D.C. and then an actual internship on the Olympic Peninsula. She didn't quite make it through her internship though. She started on December 1, 1998 as a UniServ Representative for WEA Eastern Washington UniServ Council (the other side of our building.) The following August, Sharon was hired by SEA to be our UniServ Representative/Director and has stayed ever since!

When asked about her job, her response is, “I have loved my job. I love working with the members, trying to help them solve their problems, bargaining in the most unusual way, developing new leaders, trying to make a positive difference in the lives of our members.”

Sharon has a new calling now. She has two very cute grandsons on the west side of the state along with her daughter and son-in-law who are anticipating her move back. The love of her life and husband, Mike, would like to see her more and have the adventures they haven't been able to have.

Sharon sums up her experience here as lucky, as in lucky to have this experience with her family's support. We say we are more than lucky to have had Sharon Bacon with us over the past 12 years. She has been a rock in a wavy sea. You will find no one more compassionate, with more knowledge, and a true advocate for what is right. Saying goodbye is always hard. We know Sharon has new places to go and new places to see. We wish her the best, but Sharon will never really be gone. She will be in our hearts forever. We salute you, Sharon, and thank you!