



# Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

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## Special Issue - Convention 2003

### President's Message

*by George Masten*

I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this year's convention a success. It's hard to mention each and every person without leaving someone out, and in reality, all delegates who attended contributed to the success of the event, especially since the facility presented challenges. You dealt with everything with dignity and grace and I salute you for it.

Certainly Dick Tatro and Jack Adams should get a nod for their hard work as hosts, along with all the eastern Washington chapters that chipped in to help out. The Council staff put in a lot of effort in the planning and preparation and it showed, especially with our new venture into technology. I was pleased that so many delegates who were asked to serve on committees were willing to do so. Not everyone had volunteered.

Leadership takes time and the following delegates deserve credit for their extra effort as co-chairs of committees: Registration - Evalyn Poff and Helen Carrell; Sergeant-at-Arms - Norm St. Denis and Henry Stockman; Constitution - Rose Gittings and John O'Brien; Resolution - Gwen Rench and Gloria Champeaux; Election - Barbie Montermini and Sharon Price; Legislative - Betty Crass and Bill Ziegler; Rules - Helen John and Sandra Gray. A special thanks to Kay Wood for outstanding work on the P.E.O.P.L.E. table, which netted \$2,240.

We've tried not to miss anyone in this special newsletter. If we did, please let us know and we'll do a follow up in the next.

### RPEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

George Masten	President
Ed Montermini	WW Vice-President
Howard Jorgenson	EW Vice-President
Anne Matthews	Treasurer
Gail Spaeth	Secretary
Rowland Williams	District 1
Joe Brown	District 2
Don McKay	District 3
Tom Mitts	District 4
Bill Ayres	District 5
Larry Vogltanz	District 6
Wanda Riley	District 7
Jim Spangler	District 8
Gwen Rench	District 9
Charles Gelsleichter	District 9

### RPEC COUNCIL OFFICE STAFF

Cassandra de la Rosa, Exec. Director  
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Linda Olson, Office Manager  
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Derek VanSpoor, Info. Tech. App. Spec.  
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Jean Kivi, Office Assistant  
jean@rpecwa.org

### Banquet Awards Door Prizes

The Council office in Olympia had a door prize raffle during the banquet celebration. The following were the prizes awarded and the recipients of those prizes:

1 night stay for 2 at Red Lion Hotel Wenatchee – Georgette Logan, Chapter 35  
Gourmet food basket – Ruth Chennault, Chapter 16  
4 pack of assorted wine from Claar Cellars – Jean Kivi, Council Staff

Outgoing Executive Board members received an inscribed award thanking them for their service to RPEC. District 1 – Tom Wood, District 2 – Betty Anderson, District 3 – Merle Hanson, District 4 – Dick Tatro, District 6 – Phyllis Piercey, District 9 – Heyward Cowan, and District 9 – Rene Tillman.

### Norm Schut Award

The Norm Schut Award was given to Jim Lengenfelder, Chapter 2, former Executive Board Treasurer from 1996-2002. The last time the Norm Schut Award was presented was in 2001 to John Demanovich, former President Emeritus.

### Membership Recruitment Awards

Individual Awards – Dale & LaDeanna Clark – Chapter 1, with 8 members recruited won \$100; Velma Vogltanz – Chapter

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SPECIAL ISSUE - CONVENTION 2003

Assorted basket - donated by Helen Carrell, Ch. 34 - won by Elizabeth Breitenfeldt, Ch. 34

Assorted basket - donated by Helen Carrell, Ch. 34 - won by Richard Severson, Ch. 7

Afghan - donated by Ruth Moffat, Ch. 6 - won by Joe Brown, Ch. 27

Doily - donated by Bea Fuchs, Ch. 39 - won by Ann Schelter, Ch. 30

Four potholders - donated by Doris Landkammer, Ch. 39 - won by Anne Matthews, Ch. 2

Three potholders - donated by Doris Landkammer, Ch. 39 - won by Sue Bracken, Ch. 13

Lap quilt - donated by Doris Landkammer, Ch. 39 - won by Phyllis Anderson, Ch. 13

Lap quilt - donated by Doris Landkammer, Ch. 39 - won by Tom Wood, Ch. 6

Lap quilt - donated by Doris Landkammer, Ch. 39 - won by Margaret McGillivray, Ch. 6

Assorted basket with wine - donated by Chapter 2 - won by Bev Hermanson, Ch. 2

Assorted basket with wine - donated by Chapter 2 - won by Ron Braucht, Ch. 15

Jam and jelly - donated by Chapter 11 - won by Charlotte Jones, Ch. 16

Condiments - donated by Chapter 11 - won by Bob Rupp, Ch. 21

Generous cash donations to P.E.O.P.L.E. were made by Duwane Huffaker (WFSE President) and by Chapter 27.

### Ruah Livingston

Ruah Livingston, long time member (since 1981) of Chapter 6 as well as RPEC's eldest member, passed away this past July of natural causes at the spry age of 108, in Oregon.

A person with a twinkle in her eye and a sense of humor - former District #1 Board Member Tom Wood recalls being invited to Ruah's 100th birthday celebration. He was unaware she was that age and expressed his shock. Ruah responded by saying she had to live to be 102. Tom inquired why? Ruah's response was "that's when my driver's license expires!" Well she made it to 102 and guess what - she was able to get her license renewed!

### Host Chapter Kudos

Thank you to Chapter 21 for all their efforts in making this year's convention special. They supplied wonderful goody bags and fresh apples, worked very hard at welcoming all the delegates and hosted a great hospitality suite. Much appreciation to Dick Tatro, Jack Adams and all the members of Chapter 21 in the Tri-cities.

Knit pillow - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Geoff Ethelston, Ch. 46

Birchwood birdhouse - donated by Shirley Morrow, Ch. 21 - won by Hazle Ferguson, Ch. 2

Mama and baby polar bears - donated by Sandy Gray, Ch. 2 - won by Howard Jorgenson, Ch. 14

Doll with white dress - donated by Nona Richardson, Ch. 28 - won by Alice Sutley, Ch. 16

Doll with red and white dress - donated by Mary Marbles, Ch. 28 - won by Howard Jorgenson, Ch. 14

Two ball caps - donated by Mary Marbles, Ch. 28 - won by George Green, Ch. 13

Pineapple design doily - donated by Lois McPherson, Ch. 39 - won by Ruth Chennault, Ch. 16

Scrappy quilt - donated by Virginia Kimball, Ch. 4 - won by Rosa Williams, Ch. 3

Cheese basket - donated by Virginia Kimball, Ch. 4 - won by Anne Matthews, Ch. 2

"Nautical Nest" birdhouse - donated by Anne Matthews, Ch. 2 - won by Howard Jorgenson, Ch. 14

Scarf - donated by Anne Matthews, Ch. 2 - won by Betty Anderson, Ch. 27

Honey Pot - donated by Irene Hayden, Ch. 9 - won by Barb Brandt, Ch. 25

Lawn care set - donated by Betty Crass, Ch. 18 - won by Joan Johnson, Ch. 12

Jewelry box - donated by Juanita Dunwoodie, Ch. 13 - won by Lee Nelson, Ch. 8

Harvest scarecrow - donated by Evelyn & Pat Bogrand, Ch. 10 - won by Gwen Rench, Ch. 3

Box of Water Globes - donated by Helen Sampson, Ch. 10 - won by Jean Chase, Ch. 35

Christmas decoration - donated by Bettie Brown, Ch. 10 - won by Howard Jorgenson, Ch. 14

Black knitted scarf - donated by Edith Harlow, Ch. 10 - won by Helen Sampson, Ch. 10

Red knitted scarf - donated by Edith Harlow, Ch. 10 - won by Malvolia Joseph, Ch. 3

Blue knitted scarf - donated by Edith Harlow, Ch. 10 - won by Janice Harkness, Ch. 20

Grey knitted scarf - donated by Edith Harlow, Ch. 10 - won by Jane Cole, Ch. 3

Green macramé plant hanger - donated by Paul Holmquist, Ch. 3 - won by Helen John, Ch. 16

Green macramé plant hanger - donated by Paul Holmquist, Ch. 3 - won by Helen John, Ch. 16

Wagon filled with goodies - donated by Chapter 17 - won by Jean Chase, Ch. 35

Assorted basket with crackers and wine glasses - donated by Chapter 17 - won by Jean Chase, Ch. 35

Assorted basket - donated by Helen Carrell, Ch. 34 - won by John O'Brien, Ch. 12

### To Question Corner:

*Is it considered discrimination retiring at 55 with 25 years in PERS I and waiting 11 years to receive a COLA?*

*Sincerely, Ronald Petersen, Chapter 2*

Ronald,

As much as it may feel that way, the unfortunate answer is no, it is not discrimination. It is, in fact, written in law that PERS I retirees must wait until the age of 66 before receiving a COLA, in RCW 41.40.197.

As pointed out in the Summer 2003 DRS Retirement Outlook newsletter, "COLAs for other retirement plans (*other than PERS I and TRS I*) are applied as a percentage of your current monthly benefit (*beginning one year after retirement*). The percentage is based on your retirement date, changes in the Consumer Price Index since the year you retired (*wouldn't that be nice for PERS I retirees!*), and previous COLAs that have been applied to your benefit... with a maximum in a single year of 3%."

RPEC continues its efforts to help PERS I retirees in their COLA fight. In our Legislative Goals for 2004, you will notice that again we will be pursuing legislation that will make PERS I retirees eligible to receive a COLA one year after their retirement date.

Send your questions for Question Corner to the Council Office in Olympia for publication.

PEBB Open Enrollment - October 20 thru November 20

## Speakers and Respected Guests

Attorney General Christine Gregoire delivered a dynamic keynote address to delegates, making it hard to believe she had cancer surgery just a month earlier. She outlined her efforts and successes on issues of concern to all senior citizens — combating fraud and identity theft, digging out scams perpetrated by the drug industry and making them pay restitution, fighting the tobacco industry, and protecting the environment. She also spoke in support of RPEC issues, such as maintaining the funding of the retirement systems. She thanked all who have sent her get well wishes since her surgery.

Joe Dear, executive director of the State Investment Board, did a very informative presentation on what the investment trust funds are, how the money is diversified and how funds are managed. He spoke as to how the trust funds have significant investments in Washington state. He allowed time for questions and made the topic understandable.

Steve Regenstreif and Karen Gilgoff, AFSCME Retirees' Program, as always, did a terrific job. This year they updated delegates on the Medicare prescription drug legislation currently being negotiated in Congress. They brought letters for members to sign and send to our U.S. Senators, Murray and Cantwell, asking them to vote against the legislation.

Gladys Burbank, who works for the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE), did a training session on parliamentary procedure to help delegates understand the best way to participate in convention proceedings. She made it simple and fun. Over half the delegates showed up for the one-hour session.

Bev Hermanson, RPEC member and lobbyist for WFSE working on retire/rehire, spoke on the importance of political action and how members can best have an impact on elected officials. She brought post cards for members to send to our U.S. Senators, telling them why we oppose the Medicare prescription drug legislation.

Duwane Huffaker, president of WFSE, and Joyce Williams, president of the Washington State School Retirees' Association, brought greetings from their organizations, thanked us for working with them on common interests and pledged continuing support.

## Convention Wrap-up

Total attendance at this year's meeting included 232 delegates (including Board members), 2 alternates, 20 guests and the Council Staff.

We had a great response from vendors also, including Lourdes Health Network (blood pressure checks), Washington State Combined Fund Drive, The Manor retirement village, Noridian Admin Services (Medicare Part B), Edward Jones Investments, Pre-Paid Legal Services, Retina Laser Eye Center and United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties.

## Next Year

Next year's convention, RPEC's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual, will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia, just off the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 101, at beautiful Capitol Lake in the shadow of the State Dome. The dates and details will be announced as we get closer to that event.

## Thank You(s)!!!

A very special thanks to Kay Wood – Chapter 6, Jane Cole – Chapter 3, Barbara Hohnsbehn – Chapter 39, and Pam VanSpor – volunteer, for their dedication and hard work in making the P.E.O.P.L.E. table a great success this year.

Thank you to all the committees, committee co-chairs and committee members who performed some outstanding work bringing together various parts of this convention. Registration, Sergeant-at-Arms, Elections, Constitution, Resolutions, Amendments, Rules, and Legislative. Thank you all.

Special thanks to Reverend Wendy Riddle from Riverview United Methodist Church in Pasco and Reverend Larry Hansmeier from First Christian Church in Kennewick for their morning invocations during the convention.

A thank you to Mayor Jim Beaver from the City of Kennewick for welcoming all delegates to the Tri-cities.

Thank you to the Masada Shrine Desert Patrol for their services as Color Guard.

Thanks go out to the Tri-Cities Fiddle Kids who left us wonderfully entertained at Tuesday night's banquet with their musical prowess.

And a very special thanks to all the delegates who attended and made this convention the success that it was.

## Executive Board Elections

This year elections were held for each of the 10 positions in the 9 districts for the Executive Board. Voting and elections for each district were done by district caucuses. The results are as follows:

District 1 - Rowland Williams, Chapter 8

District 2 – Joe Brown, Chapter 27

District 3 – Don McKay, Chapter 13

District 4 – Tom Miits, Chapter 16

District 5 - Bill Ayres, Chapter 9

District 6 – Larry Vogltanz, Chapter 19

District 7 – Wanda Riley, Chapter 2

District 8 – Jim Spangler, Chapter 10

District 9 – Gwen Rench, Chapter 3

District 9 – Charles Gelslechter, Chapter 46

## RPEC Legislative Priorities

### State

- Local government retirees' participation in former employers' health plans: We will make a strong effort to ensure the full implementation of ESSB 5777, which passed in the 2002 session, enabling local government retirees to participate in their former employer's health plan, provided the retiree pays the full cost of the coverage.

- Pension governance: We continue this vital issue as a primary legislative priority. The goal continues to be the establishment in state law, that the retirement funds be a trust, a governing board that has fiduciary responsibility and with fair and proportionate representation on the board of active and retiree members, and the board have the authority to hire its own independent actuary. The newly established "Select Committee on Pension Policy" functions and actions are to be closely monitored and input given when appropriate, including the urgent need for adequate COLA's.

- Prescription drugs: We will closely monitor the prescription drug legislation that was passed during the 2003 session of the legislature. Any deficiencies and inequities that are noted will be brought to the attention of the legislature for correction, modification or addition.

- PEBB Medicare offset: We will continue our efforts to ensure that the "explicit subsidy" of health insurance for Medicare-eligible state retirees continues to be included in the state's biennial budget with appropriate adjustments for increased health care costs.

- Contribution rates: We urge the legislature and governor to establish and maintain employer contribution rates in accordance with the State actuary's recommendations in order to maintain the retirement funds in an actuarial sound condition.

- COLA's for retirees at retirement: We will pursue a legislative change that will make PERS 1 retirees eligible to receive a COLA one year after the date of their retirement.

### Federal

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, of which RPEC is a member, monitors, develops positions, and lobbies Congress and agencies of the Federal government on issues of concern to retired members. RPEC members receive information on these issues through AFSCME publications and legislative alerts. RPEC supports the lead of AFSCME and passes on to its members information of federal issues of concern to retirees. RPEC continues to support AFSCME; and,

Therefore, the Legislative Committee recommends that RPEC formally endorse the following Federal legislative priorities and that AFSCME and our State Congressional delegation be notified of these endorsements.

- Social Security

- Medicare

- Medicaid

- Prescription Drugs

- Tax Reductions

- Older Americans Act

- Other issues of primary concern to AFSCME

## Amendments

The following amendments were passed by this year's delegation:

Amendment 1 – Article VI – modifies how dues are paid to the chapters from the Council office.

Amendment 2 – Article VI – constitution housekeeping.

Amendment 4 – Article VIII – modified terms of executive board members to 2 years from 3 years.

Amendment B – Article IX – constitution housekeeping.

## Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted by this year's delegation:

Resolution 2 – RPEC endorses HR676 "Medicare for All" Act.

Resolution 3 – The use of an overhead projector during Convention general session.

Resolution 7 – Providing training to Chapter officers.

Resolution 8 – Social Security and Medicare provider rates.

Resolution 9 – Medicare prescription benefits.

## Hospitality Suite

Everyone enjoyed munching on pizza, chicken wings, and meatballs and washing them down with a variety of sodas, beer and wine! There was a lot of great conversation and renewed friendships. Thank you Chapter 21 and District 4 (Co-Chairs Bernice Faries and Hank Freese) for all your hard work and making this year's Hospitality Suite so much fun!

## Banquet Centerpieces

At this year's banquet, lovely autumn flavored floral centerpieces and table napkins were made by Marie Tatro and Sharon Adams from Chapter 21. The lucky person at each table with a magical sticker under his or her bread plate got to walk away with the bouquet. Thank you Marie and Sharon!

## PEOPLE Table

The P.E.O.P.L.E. table this year was an overwhelming success. It managed to raise a record \$2,240.00! Below are the items and winners:

Bridgman Chardonnay - donated by Washington Hills Cellars - won by Mary Gruver, Ch. 24

Bridgman Merlot - donated by Washington Hills Cellars - won by Jack Adams, Ch. 21

Barnard Griffin Chardonnay - donated by Barnard Griffin Winery - won by Jane Perry, Ch. 37

Barnard Griffin Fumé Blanc - donated by Barnard Griffin Winery - won by Jean Chase, Ch. 35

Badger Mountain Merlot - donated by Badger Mountain Vineyards - won by Mary Gruver, Ch. 24

Badger Mountain Merlot in basket - donated by Badger Mountain Vineyards - won by Jack Adams, Ch. 21

Large round wood clock - donated by Bill & Mary Ann Ayres, Ch. 9 - won by Helen Carrell, Ch. 34

Diamond-shaped wood clock - donated by Bill & Mary Ann Ayres, Ch. 9 - won by Howard Jorgenson, Ch. 14

Wooden birdhouse - donated by Bill & Mary Ann Ayres, Ch. 9 - won by John Pierson, Ch. 14

Black leather wallet - donated by Wanda Riley, Ch. 2 - won by Evalyn Poff, Ch. 2

Sunset painting in white frame - donated by Merle Hanson, Ch. 13 - won by Barb Montermini, Ch. 2

Red, white, and blue afghan - donated by Leo Rubow, Ch. 21 - won by Jane Cole, Ch. 3

Ski Package - donated by Jean Kivi, Council office - won by Pat Starkovich, Ch. 28

Brown and yellow afghan - donated by Meredith Rafferty, Ch. 2 - won by Howard Jorgenson, Ch. 14

Hot pot for cooking - donated by Patti Fisher, Ch. 2 - won by Jean Ethelston, Ch. 46

Speed grill - donated by Patti Fisher, Ch. 2 - won by Bessie Sines, Ch. 16

Blue napkins in matching basket - donated by Kay Wood, Ch. 6 - won by Ja Dee Priest, Ch. 13

Yellow afghan - donated by Kay Wood, Ch. 6 - won by Joe Brown, Ch. 27

Pink napkins in matching basket - donated by Kay Wood, Ch. 6 - won by Joe Brown, Ch. 27

Blue napkins in matching basket - donated by Kay Wood, Ch. 6 - won by Ella Kirby Pitre, Ch. 3

Movie and coffee basket - donated by Chapter 3 - won by Jean Chase, Ch. 35

Shoe tree - donated by Chapter 35 - won by Hermine Stusser, Ch. 3

Tea cups - donated by Chapter 35 - won by Virginia Kimball, Ch. 4

Golden statues - donated by Chapter 35 - won by Ruth Chennault, Ch. 16

Silver metal lamp - donated by Chapter 35 - won by Ella Kirby Pitre, Ch. 3

Picnic basket - donated by Chapter 12 - won by Verna McClure, Ch. 8

"Bubbles" basket - donated by Chapter 12 - won by Norm St. Denis, Ch. 6

Blue afghan - donated by George & Lois Masten, Ch. 2 - won by Jane Cole, Ch. 3

Kitchen towels - donated by George & Lois Masten, Ch. 2 - won by Ann Schelter, Ch. 30

Candy bouquet - donated by Clark's Chocolates and Gifts - won by Ruth Chennault, Ch. 16

Bath products basket - donated by Gail Spaeth, Ch. 13 - won by Bob Rupp, Ch. 21

Craft Warehouse Gift Certificate - \$20.00 - donated by Craft Warehouse - won by Kay Wood, Ch. 6

Mary Kay Products Basket - donated by Chapter 28 - won by Barb Biesterfeld, Ch. 19

Mary Kay Products Basket - donated by Chapter 28 - won by Doris Walton, Ch. 28

Mary Kay Products Basket - donated by Chapter 28 - won by Joan Johnson, Ch. 12

Mary Kay Products Basket - donated by Chapter 28 - won by Lavonne Payton, Ch. 9

Mary Kay Products Basket - donated by Chapter 28 - won by Juanita Dunwoodie, Ch. 13

Assorted goodies - donated by Chapter 21 - won by Hank Freese, Ch. 21

Down throw - donated by Gloria Champeaux, Ch. 23 - won by Joan Johnson, Ch. 12

Organic basket - donated by Chapter 8 - won by Gene Lux, Ch. 3

Ceramic angel and heart frame - donated by Chapter 21 - won by Bob Rupp, Ch. 21

Knitted stole - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Joe Brown, Ch. 27

Baby afghan - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Dean Treichel, Ch. 13

Two knit hats - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Ann Schelter, Ch. 30

Baby afghan - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Sue Bracken, Ch. 13

Baby afghan - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Gwen Rench, Ch. 3

Knitted stole - donated by Nydia & Jim Spangler, Ch. 10 - won by Betty Anderson, Ch. 27

Christmas basket - donated by Elvira St. George, Ch. 1 - won by Ann Schelter, Ch. 30

Christmas doll - donated by Elvira St. George, Ch. 1 - won by Sharon Anderson, Ch. 9