

Membership News

from Betty Anderson, Membership Committee Chair

Donald Daley of Oak Harbor won the Tree Lighting trip to Leavenworth (Special Convention Issue - October) as a result of the membership drawing. He has decided that he has been there, done that and can think of no other trip he would like to take. Therefore, he donated the value of the trip, \$300, to the Legal Fund.

Thank You Chapter One - Buckley

A note of thanks and appreciation to Chapter One - Buckley area members Dan Morgan, Dale Clark, LaDeanna Clark, Arlene Martin, Marjorie Powell, Rita Seymour, and Kelly St. George for volunteering their time and energies to applying stickers reflecting the recent dues change on our blank membership cards. They took care of over 5000 membership cards and brochures.

Executive Board News

The executive board voted to fill two vacancies, one created by the resignation of Charles Collins from District 4, the other to replace George Masten, District 7, who was elected RPEC president.

Dick Tatro, Chapter 21, was appointed to fill the District 4 position; Wanda Riley, Chapter 2, is the new District 7 board member. Both were nominated by chapters in their board districts and are members of a chapter in their district, as required by the constitution.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be on Friday, December 6, at the Ramada Inn in Olympia. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. All members are invited to attend. If you want lunch, contact Linda at the Council office. The cost is \$11.95 plus tax and gratuity.

Election 2002:

A Wake Up Call for Senior Advocates

from Alliance for Retired Americans Friday Alert, Nov. 8th

"The November 5th mid-term elections were devastating to older Americans, as well as middle-income workers and their families, who took to their government for help with the essentials of life - jobs, education, housing, health care and pension protection," says George Kourpias, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

"As advocates, we knew the importance of the elections but sadly money talks and we were outspent and outmaneuvered by the pharmaceutical industry, private insurance companies and Wall Street money managers who bestowed hundreds of millions of dollars on ad campaigns to distort the issues."

Speakers Available

Leaders from the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) would like the opportunity to speak to members about the increasing difficulty senior citizens are having finding doctors. We would like to discuss some of the ways all of us can help change the state's ailing health care system. Please call Erik Mickelson at 206-262-0395 or email: emickelson@kncb.com

NOTICE - Your Legislative District

Beginning with this issue, you will notice on the addressed face of this newsletter, in the bottom left corner, "Your Legislative District is ____". This will remain on the newsletters during the 2003 Legislative session for your convenience.

If you have no legislative district listed, or feel the one provided is incorrect, please refer to your voter's card and also contact Derek at the Council office at 1-800-562-6097 to let us know so that we may update our records or assist you in finding your legislative district.

Please keep in mind also, that there was a recent redistricting so your legislative district may have changed.



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

December 2002

www.rpecwa.org

Toll-Free: 1-800-562-6097

Direct: 360-352-8262

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President's Message from George Masten

RPEC needs YOU!

Your membership empowers RPEC to help make your retirement more secure. Our mission is to protect the pension benefits you have earned from your public employment. We educate and, if need be, pressure members of the Legislature to do the right thing on retiree issues. Our first priority is pension governance - we must have a meaningful voice and vote in decisions affecting the retirement systems. We want health coverage to be available and affordable for all retirees, affordable prescription medicines, and realistic cost-of-living adjustments to protect the purchasing power of our pensions.

We are rapidly approaching 2003 and the next Legislative session. We are already working on the above issues - talking to legislators, testifying before the JCPP and working in partnership with active and retiree groups who share the same goals as we do and are working to achieve them.

At the last JCPP meeting, members of the committee were reminded that RPEC and the school retirees (WSSRA) represent over 27,000 members statewide. That's an impressive number, especially since retirees are known to be reliable voters.

During the coming session, we will need your voice to be heard when pension governance and prescription drug costs are being considered, either in committees or on the floor of the House or Senate. Your involvement, through e-mails, letters, visits or calls to your legislators, is vital to accomplishing our goals. We don't want them to get the notion that we are a paper tiger. Tell your local chapter you want to be contacted when we need your help.

Executive Director's Report from Cassandra de la Rosa

It's hard to believe that I've been your executive director for six months; here's a brief summary of what I've been doing.

Improving RPEC's visibility. We're working to develop awareness and support among the general public of RPEC and retiree issues. We've had several newspapers publish our letter on contribution rates. The Yakima Herald-Republic covered our convention and the Olympian did a story on our new president.

Member development. It's important to educate existing members as well as recruit new ones. We have new fact sheets on our key issues that are informative and easy to understand, and a new prospective member letter that highlights the benefits of joining RPEC. Our website and newsletter are loaded with information of value to members. I've been attending chapter meetings and have enjoyed meeting many of you.

RPEC office. The RPEC office is running smoothly and efficiently. The staff is there to serve the members, whether it's answering a question, getting information or helping solve a problem. They are doing a great job.

OUR STRENGTH IS YOUR SECURITY

