



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington *Update Issue*

June/July 2004 <http://www.rpecwa.org> Toll-Free: 1-800-562-6097 Direct: 360-352-8262

RPEC News Update

Thanks for the great response to the last newsletter in the new format. We'll be using it several times a year. Between "big" issues, you'll get RPEC news updates like this one.

Board Meeting Highlights

The RPEC board met on May 11, 2004. Copies of the minutes were sent to chapter presidents. Here are some highlights:

Chapter 4 revitalized!

No chapter is dead until it's buried. President George Masten and board member Jim Spangler reported on a special meeting with Chapter 4 members to renew participation in the chapter. George used a free lunch to tempt members to the meeting and enlisted a full slate of officers for 2004-05. Newly-elected president Gerry Beckendorf reported that 25 members attended the next meeting.

RPEC visibility is growing!

The monthly articles about RPEC members in the FTE Newsmagazine are working. The editor told RPEC that readers love the articles and look forward to them each month. A quarter page ad fashioned after our very popular posters was put in the June issue to bolster that visibility.

Legislative committee report

The Legislative Committee reports that they have met three times this year and plan to have a member attend each meeting of the Select Committee on Pension Policy to follow their issues. They asked each board member to notify chapters asking for their

requests for legislative priorities for the coming year. Be sure to contact Jane Perry (jperry1110@yahoo.com) or Cassandra de la Rosa at the Council office with your suggestions.

Tax Fairness Coalition presentation

This meeting's speaker was Paul Benz with the Tax Fairness Coalition. His presentation focused on the effects of Washington's tax structure on people of various income groups.

ARA Convention

Jim Lengenfelder and George Masten attended the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) regional convention in Las Vegas in late April. The western region of ARA has over 400,000 members. ARA focuses on national issues of importance to retirees. At the local level they develop leadership and do fundraising. The state ARA convention will be June 30. RPEC has notified chapter presidents that the Council is willing to pay the registration fee for delegates.

Norm Schut Award

Board members were reminded of the Norm Schut Award for exemplary service to RPEC. Chapters will be asked during the summer whether they wish to make nominations.

Forum nets just one candidate

On May 11, the RPEC general membership was invited to Olympia to hear the candidates for governor speak and answer questions. Roughly 35 people attended the breakfast meeting. The only candidate to appear was Christine Gregoire. The other candidates were invited by the Council office and contacted by individual RPEC members who know them personally, urging them to attend. They were also asked to send a spokesperson if they could not personally come. None did so.

Gregoire endorsed by PAC

The RPEC Political Action Committee (PAC) met in Olympia on June 14, to plan for the election season under way and to interview candidates for governor for the purpose of making an endorsement. All candidates were notified on the same day that interviews were being conducted and offered a choice of time slots. The Ron Sims campaign declined due to a conflict. Schedulers for Dino Rossi and Christine Gregoire scheduled interviews. On Friday, June 11, the Rossi campaign called to cancel the interview due to a conflict, though Mr. Rossi had a fundraising event in Olympia a few hours after the interview was scheduled to occur. Only **Christine Gregoire** appeared before the committee.

The committee listened to Ms. Gregoire and asked questions regarding issues of concern to retirees. Based on her willingness to appear and her positions on our issues, the committee voted to endorse her for governor and to contribute the legal maximum to her campaign.

Murray endorsed

In federal races, the committee endorsed **Patty Murray** for re-election to the **U.S. Senate**, and Jay Inslee, Rick Larsen, Brian Baird, Don Barbieri, Norm Dicks, Jim McDermott and

RPEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Wanda Riley - District 7

Jim Spangler - District 8

Gwen Rench - District 9

Charles Gelsleichter - District 9

RPEC COUNCIL OFFICE STAFF

Cassandra de la Rosa - Executive Director, Cass@rpecwa.org

Linda Olson - Office Manager, Linda@rpecwa.org

Barbie Montermini - Accountant, Barbie@rpecwa.org

Derek VanSpoor - Info Tech App Spec, Derek@rpecwa.org

Jean Kivi - Office Assistant, Jean@rpecwa.org

Adam Smith to congressional seats. RPEC cannot legally make contributions to federal candidates.

Kreidler endorsed

The PAC also voted to endorse state insurance commissioner **Mike Kreidler** without an interview, based on his past support for our issues and the fact that he has no credible opposition. The committee voted to contribute \$500 to his campaign.

Convention corner

The 33rd RPEC Annual Convention is just around the corner. It will be in Olympia on September 20, 21 and 22 at The Red Lion Olympia Hotel. If you haven't already done so, you will want to make your hotel reservations before all the rooms are gone. Be sure to tell them you are with the RPEC to get our discounted price. The chapter preliminary delegate lists are due July 2. Remember those old eye glasses and hearing aids for those who can't afford them? Bring them with you! Nydia Spangler will see that they get to those who really need them.

New Benefit for RPEC members

Discounts to over 1,500 health clubs nationwide including Bally Total Fitness, Select Gold's Gyms and many other top fitness clubs.

Things are shaping up for RPEC members. Get AFSCME discounts on new health club memberships at over 1,500 health clubs including Bally's Fitness and select World and Gold's Gym across the country. Union Plus has partnered with GlobalFit Fitness Solutions to provide these health club savings for you.

The Union Plus Health Club Discount gives you:

- A pre-negotiated 20-60% discount on initiation and monthly fees at over 1,400 health clubs nationwide, including Bally Total Fitness.
- The flexibility of a month-to-month membership. No long-term commitment necessary.

NOTE: To receive your AFSCME discounted rates, you must enroll through GlobalFit, not directly through the club. These rates are not available to the general public. Participation for current club members is not available. Toll-free Health Club Help Line — **1-888-294-1500**.

GIMME

RPEC will give you \$60 in return for 5 new members!

*If you recruit five (5) new RPEC members in one 12 month period, you'll automatically receive a check for \$60 from RPEC. **

Get \$60 for every five (5) members you sign up! No limit!

Plus... do your friends a favor by introducing them to the world of RPEC MEMBER BENEFITS!!!

The top three (3) recruiters will still win cash awards at the RPEC Annual Convention.

**effective July 1, 2004*

FIVE

OUR STRENGTH IS YOUR SECURITY!