



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington *Update Issue*

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

RPEC News Update

Board Highlights

The RPEC executive board held its regular quarterly meeting on Tuesday, August 10, in Olympia. Chapter presidents have been sent copies of the full minutes. Here are some highlights:

Treasurer's Report: Our membership numbers are less than we projected for this time, but not seriously so. We have a total of 9,956 dues-paying members plus 14 members of the 100 Club – members who are age 100 or older. 100 Club members pay no dues.

Membership Committee: The Membership Committee ordered vests with the RPEC logo on them. The vests are teal with tan trim and come in sizes M through XXXL. The vests are for sale for \$20 and also available for members to use at functions where we want to be easily identified as RPEC members.

PAC: The PAC continues to make endorsements for the coming primary and general elections. A report of current recommendations is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Legislative Committee: State and federal priorities for 2005 were submitted to the board. The board accepted the report and referred it to the 2004 convention for consideration by the RPEC delegates.

Ballot Issues: The board voted to take positions on some of the various ballot issues. Only the board, not the PAC, can act

on issues. Their recommendations are in another part of the newsletter.

Special Report: Bill Daley, from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, reported on a package of health care proposals the commissioner is supporting for next session. The issues are designed to help provide coverage for more of the uninsured which will in effect lower costs for all who pay for health coverage and services. The package includes proposals on risk-pooling for insurers; Washington Fair Share, requiring large employers to provide health coverage or pay a fee into a pool; insure all children under 18; and a private-public drug purchasing consortium. The board voted to refer the plan to the convention.

Convention Reminders

There is less than 1 month until the 2004 RPEC Annual Convention. Remember to bring those old eye glasses and hearing aids for Nydia Spangler so she can see that they are given to those who can't afford to buy new ones.

The date has now come and gone for submitting proposed Constitutional Amendments and proposed Resolutions. We have received two proposed Constitutional Amendments and five proposed resolutions. Our room block at the hotel is filling up fast, so if you haven't made your reservations yet, please do so quickly as they were only guaranteeing our block until August 20th.

Special thanks to Chapter 2!

Thanks to volunteers from Chapter 2 who stuffed the voter registration packets and AFSCME information folders.

Leadership workshops a hit!

Leadership workshops for chapter presidents, membership and legislative chairs were held in Olympia, Everett, Ellensburg and Spokane during July and August. Other chapter officers and members were welcome to attend. President George Masten and executive director Cassandra de la Rosa conducted the workshops, using new notebooks prepared by the Council office for presidents and membership chairs. The notebooks contain a wealth of information for officers to use and share, and were a hit with everyone. Central Washington chapters had the best turnout – 24 members! Notebooks are available for all chapter presidents and membership chairs. If you failed to attend a workshop, contact the Council office to get your copy.

Communication is the key!

Getting members to attend chapter meetings involves planning a good meeting, running the meeting in a business like fashion, having a good location, and making sure members know about the meeting! One thing was abundantly clear at the leadership workshops: chapters that use meeting notices or chapter newsletters get better turnouts than those who don't. The best turnout results from a written notice AND using the phone tree to remind members of the meeting.

RPEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

George Masten - President

Howard Jorgenson - Eastern WA. VP.

Ed Montermini - Western WA. VP.

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 - 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

Voter registration project causes confusion

A project to improve voter participation inadvertently caused some confusion for RPEC members. We apologize to those members who erroneously received a notice saying they weren't registered to vote.

The RPEC membership list was run against voter registration lists so we could encourage members who aren't registered to do so and to vote. After we had sent letters and registration cards to roughly 1700 RPEC members listed as non-registered, we learned that if names in our list and the voter list don't match exactly, the person is listed as non-registered. Thus, Heyward Cowan, who is registered as H.D. Cowan, and a few dozen other members, came back as non-registered. Please let the Council office know if you were incorrectly listed as non-registered so we can update our records.

The good news? Over 70 percent of RPEC members are registered to vote!

VOTE 2004

Washington voters will experience a new method of voting in the primary elections. Voters must choose ONE ballot only. Different counties are using different methods, so if you are uncertain of how to select your ballot, please call your county elections department for instructions. Your vote is precious and should not be wasted because you failed to follow directions or worse, refused to vote because the method is new. You may vote only for candidates from one party in the primary, plus candidates in the non-partisan races. Whatever your political persuasion, be sure to VOTE!

Election 2004 - PAC Recommendations

The full PAC interviewed candidates from both parties for the position of attorney general on July 26. On July 29, Ed Montermini and Rose Gittings participated in interviews of candidates for Supreme Court Justice. Local chapters are conducting their own interviews and in some cases, joining in interviews set up by the Washington Federation of State Employees for candidates for the state Legislature. Interviews will continue throughout September and into October. If there are legislative candidates in your area whom you believe merit support, call the Council office to discuss the possibility of setting up an interview.

BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS

The executive board makes the following recommendations on these ballot issues which will be on the NOVEMBER ballot (not the primary).

Initiative 892 –	Non-tribal gaming activities Oppose
Initiative 297 –	Sets standards for hazardous & radioactive waste Support
Referendum 55 –	Authorizing charter schools Oppose

The Political Action Committee makes recommendations on these candidates. Recommendations are based on support for our issues, personal interviews and above all, recommendations from local chapters.

U.S. Senate	Patty Murray (D)
Governor	Christine Gregoire (D)
Attorney General	
- Republican ballot	Mike Vasca (R)
- Democrat ballot	Mark Sidran (D)
Insurance Comm.	Mike Kreidler (D)
Supreme Ct Pos. 1	Mary Kay Becker (non-partisan)
Supreme Ct Pos 5	Barbara Madsen (non-partisan)
Supreme Ct Pos 6	No recommendation
U.S. Congress #1	Jay Inslee (D)
U.S. Congress #2	Rick Larsen (D)
U.S. Congress #3	Brian Baird (D)
U.S. Congress #4	No recommendation
U.S. Congress #5	Don Barbieri (D)
U.S. Congress #6	Norm Dicks (D)
U.S. Congress #7	Jim McDermott (D)
U.S. Congress #8	No recommendation
U.S. Congress #9	Adam Smith (D)

State Legislature

3 rd Legislative District	Senate Lisa Brown (D)
House Pos.1	Alex Wood (D)
House Pos.2	Timm Ormsby (D)
4 th Legislative District	Senate Tim Hattenburg (D)
11 th Legislative District	
House Pos.2	Bob Hasegawa (D)
21 st Legislative District	
House Pos.1	Mary Helen Roberts (D)
22 nd Legislative District	
House Pos.1	Brendan Williams (D)
38 th Legislative District	
House Pos.2	Mike Sells (D)

Many more candidate interviews are scheduled. This list will be updated before the general election.

OUR STRENGTH IS YOUR SECURITY!