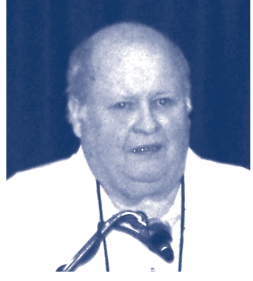


## President's Message



The membership, through your delegates to the convention, has spoken loud and clear. You said you want aggressive legal action to restore the Plans 1 COLA. You are not content to file a friend of the court brief (amicus) to be part of the lawsuit,

but in a second-tier way, in order to avoid legal costs. You have stated that you are confident we can raise the money to rise to the challenge and fight for what is rightfully ours as a primary plaintiff before the courts.

Fight we will!

One prospective member wrote to us and said, "RPEC, if you challenge the PERS 1 COLA

elimination I will join your fine organization and contribute \$250.00 toward legal costs, and many more will also I am sure. Good luck."

We sent this fine gentleman a membership card and expect a contribution soon. We are urging chapters with extra funds to consider contributing toward the legal fund. We urge members to send us what you can – a dollar, a hundred, it's up to you and what you can afford. Specify that it is for the legal fund and the money will go into that account.

We will step up to the plate as you have directed, but you must join us in the fight.

Sincerely,

Howard N. Jorgenson  
President

## Executive Director's Report

I have had a wonderful nine years serving RPEC and its members. It's the most rewarding job I have ever had next to teaching. I have helped shepherd the organization through some difficult and trying times from the start. When I assumed this position, RPEC was dysfunctional and sharply divided, communication with the membership was spotty and office management was poor. We worked through these issues and in the process, cut the voluntary member attrition rate by two-thirds, to roughly one percent per year, where it has remained.

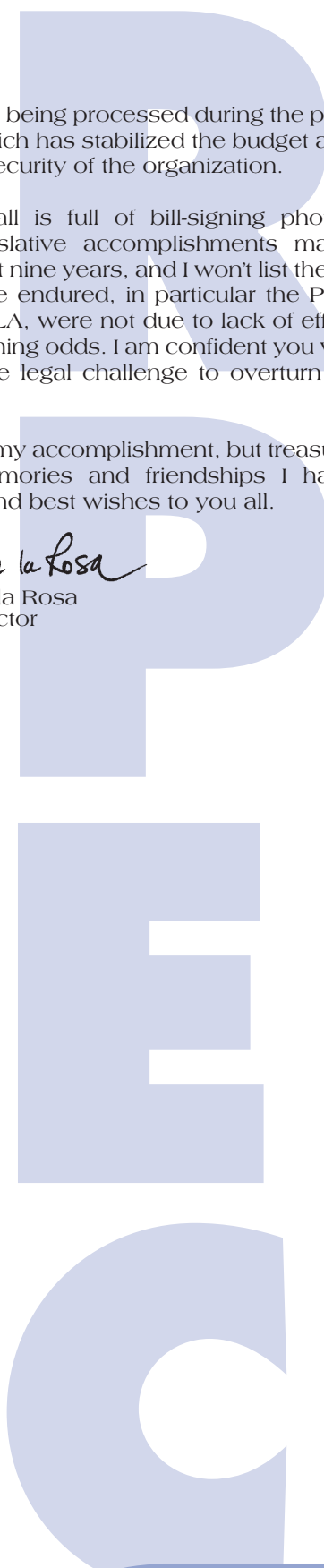
We then went through a financial crisis caused by declining membership because there was no way to access and recruit retirees. The budget was reined in and we secured legislation that guarantees us the right to do blind mailings to eligible retirees. We also developed a method of obtaining names and addresses of retirees. Both these efforts resulted in over three thousand

new members being processed during the past two years, which has stabilized the budget and the financial security of the organization.

The office wall is full of bill-signing photos reflecting legislative accomplishments made during the past nine years, and I won't list them. The losses we endured, in particular the Plan 1 Uniform COLA, were not due to lack of effort but overwhelming odds. I am confident you will succeed in the legal challenge to overturn its repeal.

I am proud of my accomplishment, but treasure most the memories and friendships I have made. Love and best wishes to you all.

Cassandra de la Rosa  
Executive Director



# RPEC



October 2011

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## RPEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Howard Jorgenson, President**
- Betty Anderson, Vice-President**
- Mary Marbles, Secretary**
- Eva Jean Shamley, Treasurer**
- Jim McDonald, District 1**
- Joe Brown, District 2**
- Don McKay, District 3**
- Tom Mitts, District 4**
- Bob Talent, District 5**
- Deborah Axelson, District 6**
- Mark O. Brown, District 7**
- Sharon Price, District 8**
- Bill Ziegler, District 9**
- Robert Porterfield, District 9**

**1-800-562-6097**  
**www.rpecwa.org**

## RPEC Council Office Staff

- George Masten, Interim Executive Director - George@rpecwa.org**
- Linda Olson, Executive Assistant - Linda@rpecwa.org**
- Derek VanSpoor, Info Tech App Spec. - Derek@rpecwa.org**
- Colette Jensen, Membership Coord. - Colette@rpecwa.org**
- Deb Green, Accountant - Deb@rpecwa.org**

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## W elcome to new and returning officers, e-board members

For the first time, state officers and executive board members were elected at the same convention. This is part of the new convention scheduling that calls for a two-day convention in odd-numbered years and a one-day event in even-numbered years. All statewide officers and executive board members are elected at the two-day convention.

This year all officers were re-elected. The positions of president, vice-president and treasurer were uncontested and elected by acclamation, according to Robert's Rules. Howard Jorgenson (Ch 13), is president, Betty Anderson (Ch 27) is vice-president, and Eva Jean Shamley (Ch 18) is treasurer. Mary Marbles (Ch 28) and Joan Johnson (Ch 12) both sought the position of secretary. Mary Marbles retained her seat. Congratulations to all.

Returning to the executive board are: Joe Brown (Ch 27) – District 2; Don McKay (Ch 13) – District 3; Tom Mitts (Ch 16) – District 4; Bob Talent (Ch 9) – District 5; Mark Brown (Ch 2) – District 7; Sharon Price (Ch 12) – District 8; Bill Ziegler (Ch 35) – District 9; and Robert Porterfield (Ch 3) – District 9.

New to the board are Jim McDonald (Ch 7) – District 1; and Debbie Axelson (Ch 24) – District 6.

## T hanks to exiting board members

Jane Perry (Ch 37) and Dorothy Meyer (Ch 24) chose not to run for re-election to their board seats. We send a strong thank you for their past service to RPEC and hope they will continue to be active in the organization.

## N orm Schut Award: the winner is ...

Joe Brown (Ch 27) was awarded the Norm Schut award for his dedicated and hard work in representing retirees. He has been a member of the RPEC Executive Board since 2004. Joe is also President of his chapter. Joe is known for ably and aggressively representing the interests of retirees.

## C onvention attendance

The Registration Committee listed 37 chapters, 13 executive board members, 167 delegates (including 12 executive board members), three alternates, sixteen guests and four staff, for a total of 204 in attendance at the convention in its final registration report.

## T hanks from Linda

Linda Olson, our long-time office staff lost her father on September 18, and was unable to attend the convention. She would like to thank all those who sent cards and condolences. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated.

## P .E.O.P.L.E. nets strong gains

The annual drive to raise money for the AFSCME's political activities was a huge success. Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality Program (P.E.O.P.L.E.) is a vital activity. This is the money that is used to support political causes and candidates. This year we took in \$1,431 on donations for the P.E.O.P.L.E. table and new and increased monthly pension deductions amounting to \$692 per year! With all the budget-cutting focus on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, we need a war chest to support federal and state elected officials who will support us.

## M eet your Fast Action Team

Diana Parkison and Marian VanDerHyde, chairs of the Legislative Committee, saw a need for a team of dedicated RPEC members who would be willing – at the drop of a hat – to come to Olympia to fill a hearing room, make phone calls or send e-mails to legislators, or perform other necessary advocacy in a rapid-fire manner at their own expense. Thus was born the Fast Action Team, which we do NOT call by its initials (FAT).

At the convention, twenty-eight members signed up for duty. They are: Jon Ferguson (Ch 15), Sarah Guthrie (Ch 15), Lois Danks (Ch 23), Susan Lodge (Ch 12), Joe Brown (Ch 27), Joan Johnson (Ch 12), Rene Tillman (Ch 12), Sharon Price (Ch 12), Ruben Rodriguez (Ch 37), Nancy Heley (Ch 2), Jeannine Bramstedt (Ch 18), Jane Lauzon (Ch 18), Judith Parent (Ch 2), Moh O'Hanlon (Ch 3), Nell Snodgrass (Ch 4), Gary Foley (Ch 12), Don McKay (Ch 13), Mary Swanson (Ch 13), Rita Harris (Ch 10), Helen John (Ch 16), Lorraine Young (Ch 16), Eva Jean Shamley (Ch 18), Jim Adams (Ch 3), Mike Marston (Ch 22), Blanche Goodfellow (Ch 27), Mary Marbles (Ch 28), Delores Anderson (Ch 10) and Charles Gelsleichter (Ch 46).

If you would like to join the Fast Action Team, call the office or go to [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org), download the form and send it in.

## W hat happened to the Hobo Stew?

Hungry delegates expecting Hobo Stew for lunch on opening day of the convention found the event cancelled. Sunday morning, when the hard-working crew making the stew plugged in the many electric stew pots they had brought from home, they blew every circuit in the vicinity of the hospitality room. Hotel staff had to be called to correct the mishap and they were advised that their great idea was too great for the electric circuitry in the hotel.

The cooked stew meat and canned goods were donated to the Yakima Union Gospel Mission, to serve in their hospitality kitchen – which has enough power to finish the job. The Mission was very appreciative of the donated food.

## RPEC 2012 ACTION and LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Delegates to the convention made small but significant changes in the 2012 priorities. The priorities were broadened to include not just legislation, but also RPEC action outside the Legislature. Delegates made it clear they wanted aggressive pursuit of legal action to restore the PLANS 1 COLA and believe we can raise the money to do it. Medicaid was added as a program that needs to be protected within the federal priorities. Here is the final version.

### TOP TIER PRIORITIES

Aggressively pursue legal action to restore Plan 1 COLAs  
Full funding of employer contribution rates to the pension plans  
Oppose effort to create a new state retirement plan  
Protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid

### STATE PRIORITIES

Retirement  
Aggressively pursue legal action to restore Plan 1 COLAs  
Join with other retiree organizations and fight for the reinstatement of PERS I COLA  
State Actuary has recommended full funding of employer contribution rates and RPEC will continue to support  
Oppose any new retirement plan for public employees  
Continue efforts to strengthen PERS governance structure

### Health Care

Work toward PEBB coverage for PERS II members age 55 or older with 10 years' service credit and separate from service Support limited open enrollment period for K-12 and PERS retirees who did not take PEBB coverage

### Administratively:

Support PEBB dental insurance as a stand-alone benefit

### Disability and Long-term Care

Pursue affordable long-term care insurance for retirees

### Contracting out/Privatization

Oppose efforts to privatize or contract out public services

### FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Social Security and Medicare  
Continue fight to protect social security from privatization  
Protect social security funding  
Protect social security benefit levels  
Protect Medicare and Medicaid financing, eligibility criteria, benefit levels and insure access  
Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

### RPEC ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Establish a Fast Action Team of RPEC member-volunteers to advance RPEC's legislative agenda and support lobbying activities

# Action on 2011 Resolutions

## Resolutions

Chapters submitted ten resolutions by the August 4 deadline. No late resolutions were submitted. Full text is available on the web site, [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

Resolution 1 – submitted by Ch 2 – Return PERS 1 and TRS 1 COLA Resolved to direct RPEC to use necessary resources to return COLA's to the PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees now and forever.  
Action: Concur

Resolution 2 – submitted by Ch 2 – Education program for state employees and retirees Resolved that the RPEC of Washington develop a multimedia retirement planning curriculum to be presented at events sponsored by that organization, and to be available to active employee organizations for their consideration and use.  
Action: Concur

Resolution 3 – submitted by Ch 2 – Social Security protection Resolved that the RPEC of Washington take the necessary steps to insure that its current and future membership are informed regarding this issue, and that it use its political resources to act to continue this program in its present form or with improvements.  
Action: concur

Resolution 4 – submitted by Ch 2 – College education Resolved that the RPEC of Washington encourage its membership to contribute to our institutions of higher education, that it develop further scholarship opportunities for families of its membership, and to encourage the legislature to adequately finance higher public education.  
Action: Concur as amended. (See strikeout.)

Resolution 5 – submitted by Ch 2 – Create a volunteer ombudsperson function within the Washington State Insurance Commissioner's Office Resolved that the RPEC convention approve a proposal to create a volunteer ombudsperson function within the Washington State Insurance Commissioner's Office, like SHIBA or SHIBA-like capabilities statewide, to assist HCA subscribers with denials and assist HCA subscribers through the coming major healthcare changes that affect all the retired public employee HCA subscribers and assess any negative impacts to retired public employee subscribers within Washington State, etc.  
Action: Concur

Resolution 6 – submitted by Ch 3 – In support of establishing a UNION LEGACY PLAN through the Washington State RPEC Resolved that the Washington State RPEC set up a committee to organize a UNION LEGACY PLAN. The UNION LEGACY PLAN will be a voluntary program to facilitate members in making arrangements to bequeath a portion of their estate to the state or federal government; and , Resolved that the Washington RPEC will provide will preparation services to aid in setting up legacy plans, and provide an incentive/reward for participation; and, Resolved that the Washington RPEC's Will Preparation Service provide annual estimates to document the approximate amount of funds bequeathed through the UNION LEGACY PLAN for use for informing government officials of funds potentially at stake. Action: Refer to executive board. There was a concern expressed that RPEC cannot legally assist with will preparation.

Resolution 7 – submitted by Ch 3 – In support of investigating the feasibility of establishing a UNION PUBLIC BANK chartered in Washington State Resolved that the Washington State RPEC set up a committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a UNION Public Bank modeled after the proposed Washington Investment Trust (WIT), but chartered in the State of Washington, primarily funded with UNION money and a UNION label; and, Resolved that in 10 months a summary report on "The Feasibility of Establishing a UNION Public Bank chartered in Washington State" will be produced, the report will be made available for Washington State RPEC membership to download from the RPEC website at least one month prior to next year's RPEC convention in Washington State, at which time members will then determine whether to proceed.  
Action: Motion to concur failed.

Resolution 8 – submitted by Ch 12 – Proposed convention scheduling change Resolved that the RPEC of WA reinstate our communication lifeline, our information format and the fellowship which is the glue that keeps an organization whole and revert back to 2 and 3 day conventions effective immediately.  
Action: Non-concur

Resolution 9 – submitted by Ch 4 – To restore Plan 1 COLA benefits Resolved that RPEC recommends that the following actions be taken:

Contact all Plan 1 unions, associations, individuals or stakeholders to alert them of proposed actions and costs of legal challenge, and determine if there is possible cost sharing for a class action.  
Request a formal legal opinion from counsel regarding all issues preparatory to a legal challenge. In addition, a clear summary of the COLA and Gain-Sharing issues should be prepared for distribution to all Plan 1 employees or retirees. Prepare a budget estimate outlining legal and court costs. Prepare a time line and milestones for the legal challenge. Develop a communication system to advise ALL Plan 1 retirees and stakeholders of the status of the legal challenge, and if necessary, solicit funds to support the legal challenge. Request the Board to commission a legal action committee consisting of stakeholder representatives to work at Board direction to repeal 2021 and to reinstate the COLA.  
Action: Concur

Resolution 10 – submitted by Ch 35 – On establishing a proactive role in protecting the pension system from further losses Resolved that the RPECWA will establish a proactive role in protecting the PERS system for its members by analyzing those aspects of PERS that can be changed by legislation and by determining the basic benefits that must not be lost to our members; and Resolved that RPEC must join with other public retirement organizations and unions to present a unified voice for all public system retirees.  
Action: Concur

### Action on Constitutional Amendment

One amendment to the constitution was submitted by Chapter 27, to allow vested members of a Washington retirement system to become dues-paying members who would be allowed to attend the convention and vote. A vested member is an employee who has worked long enough to have earned the right to a retirement benefit – five years in Plans 1 and 2, ten years in Plans 3. The amendment is in conflict with AFSCME's policy that members may not pay dues to more than one labor organization. The amendment was not approved on that basis.

## Applause to Chapter 16

This year's convention host, Chapter 16, gets an extra big thank you. Helen John, president, and her capable chapter members Les Vannice, Bessie Sines and others hosted last year's convention as well. We always need good troops on the ground at the convention location to help get the color guard, ministers for invocations, local officials to give greetings and find great entertainment for the banquet. Chapter 16 has come through twice in a row and deserve a great hand of applause.

## Save the Dates

A one-day, business-only convention is planned at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington, for next year. The tentative date is September 12.

November 14 – 9:00 a.m.  
Executive Board meeting, Lacey City Hall, Lacey, Wash.  
2012 Budget will be discussed and adopted.

## Convention Committees

Convention committees exist to facilitate the business of the delegates. These committees can only function if some delegates are willing to devote their time to the business of the convention. Thanks to the following members who served on convention committees. If we missed someone who joined a committee late, please let us know and we will be sure you get recognized in the next newsletter.

### Registration:

John O'Brien, Ch 12, Co-Chair,  
Maria Limtiaco, Ch 28  
Sarah Guthrie, Ch 15  
Richard Spaeth, Ch 13

Helen John, Ch 16, Co-Chair  
Anita Eakers, Ch 35  
Bonny Oborn, Ch 3

### Sergeant-At-Arms:

Dan Morgan, Ch 1, Co-Chair,  
Clarence Marbles, Ch 28  
Blanche Goodfellow, Ch 27  
Sally Davis, Ch 3  
Aurelia Turner, Ch 28

Dale Clark, Ch 1, Co-Chair  
Robert Hilgenberg, Ch 6  
Jeff Jaksich, Ch 2  
John Hampton Jr, Ch 28

### Constitution Committee:

Zona Gail Spaeth, Ch 13, Chair  
Wanda Riley, Ch 2

Mike Warren, Ch 3

### Resolutions Committee:

Charles Gelsleichter, Ch 46, Co-Chair,

Gwen Rench, Ch 3, Co-Chair

Jean Kelly, Ch 2  
Barbara Nordin, Ch 3  
James McDonald, Ch 7

Nell Snodgrass, Ch 4  
Elmer Swanson, Ch 13  
John Jackson, Ch 19

### Legislative:

Mark Brown, Ch 2, Chair  
Diana Parkison, Ch 2  
Judy DeVoe, Ch 20  
Barrie Hull, Ch 7

Alice Bullock, Ch 27  
Wendy Morgan, Ch 35  
Avril Meehan, Ch 46

### Rules Committee:

Jon Gust, Ch 17, Chair  
Nancy Heley, Ch 2

Henry Stockman, Ch 10

### Elections Committee:

Barbie Montermini, Ch 2, Chair  
Michael O'Hanlon, Ch 3  
John Chromy, Ch 35  
Ch 25  
Charles Dellinger, Ch 38  
Ja Dee Priest, Ch 13  
Andy Ransley, Ch 8

Robert Kibling, Ch 14  
Constance Dendickson,

Gerald Winkle, Ch 4  
Lawrence Erikson, Ch 27

### P.E.O.P.L.E.: Committee:

Bev Hermanson, Ch 2, Chair  
Marion VanderHyde, Ch 3  
Barbara Gelsleichter, Ch 46  
Margie Stauffer, Ch 2

Charles Zigler, Ch 35  
James Portch, Ch 37  
Sharon Price, Ch 12

## Open Enrollment X2

It's time for open enrollment – times two. Both Medicare and PEBB have open enrollment in the fall.

This year, Medicare open enrollment began October 15 and lasts until December 1. PEBB open enrollment is from November 1 through November 30. This is the time to evaluate whether the plan you have is meeting your needs and budget. Medicare recipients should have already received information on your Medicare choices. RPEC advises that you study your choices carefully. If necessary, get advice on your coverage and what you need from a SHIBA advisor. To locate SHIBA help call the Insurance Commissioner's office at 1-800-562-6900.

## New PEBB option for pre-Medicare

Employees, retirees, COBRA and Leave Without Pay members not enrolled in Medicare will see new plan choices in 2012: the consumer-directed health plan (CDHP) linked to a health savings account (HSA). Group Health, Kaiser Permanente, and the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) will all offer this new plan design, with some benefit, premium, and cost-sharing differences.

The CDHPs offer a low monthly premium, balanced with a higher deductible and out-of-pocket maximum. The higher out-of-pocket maximum increases the amount of coinsurance and copay charges members must pay before the CDHP pays 100% for covered benefits. However, members can use funds in their HSA to pay for many out-of-pocket costs (including deductibles), or allow HSA savings to grow for future medical expenses. The employer-paid premium includes a contribution of \$700 per subscriber, or \$1,400 per subscriber and one or more dependents annually (prorated monthly) to a subscriber's health savings account. Members may also choose to make tax-free contributions to their own health savings account.

## State Contributions Changes for Medicare Retirees

The state's contribution toward Medicare retirees' monthly premiums will decrease in 2012, as shown below:

2011: Lesser of \$182.89 or 50% of the plan's monthly premium  
2012: Lesser of \$150.00 or 50% of the plan's monthly premium

## Retiree Term Life Insurance Premium Change

Retirees enrolled in the PEBB Program's retiree term life insurance will see an increase in their monthly premium next year, from \$2.19 per month in 2011 to \$6.57 per month in 2012. This is the first cost increase in retiree term life insurance since 1999. The coverage will remain the same.

Plan Name	Medicare Retiree Contribution Retiree only	
Group Health	\$137.51	\$130.39
Kaiser Classic	\$183.42	\$149.23
Medicare Supplement Plan F (retired)	\$93.15	\$99.77
Medicare Supplement Plan F (disabled)	\$153.98	\$175.93
UMP Classic	\$194.13	\$213.87

## Need help? Have questions??

PEBB and Health Care Authority – 1-800-200-1004 or [www.pebb.hca.wa.gov](http://www.pebb.hca.wa.gov)  
Social Security Benefits – 1-800-325-0778 or [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)  
State Insurance Commissioner SHIBA – 1-800-562-6900  
Medicare – [www.cms.gov/center/openenrollment.asp](http://www.cms.gov/center/openenrollment.asp)

### Contact information:

Retired Public Employees Council of Washington  
3230 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Suite B  
Olympia, WA 98502

360-352-8262 or 1-800-562-6097  
[www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)