



Retired Public Employees Council of WA Chapter 1 – Eastern Pierce County Area December 2020

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Greetings Fellow Chapter 1 Members!

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. 2020 has been a difficult and stressful year for so many of us. We have sacrificed time with our family and friends, may have delayed trips we had planned, and some of us may be struggling financially and socially. There is light at the end of this long tunnel, with the promise of a vaccine that will hopefully protect us from this ugly virus.

Our Chapter 1 membership has grown over the year and we warmly welcome all our new members. For those who are new, our Chapter 1 Officers are:

President: Sue Henricksen
Secretary: Beverly Borchers

Vice President: Jerry Beckendorf
Treasurer: Ken Williams

Although most of us have been staying home, things within RPEC have continued to operate virtually.

Legislative Success in 2020 Session

Our members, staff and legislative team worked hard during this last session and gained a 3% COLA (at a maximum of \$62.50) that was effective July 2020 for PERS 1 and TERS 1 retirees.

RPEC of Washington Convention Recap

RPEC of Washington held their 2020 Convention on Wednesday September 23, virtually, using ZOOM. This was the first time I had used ZOOM and found it very easy. Chapter 1 was represented by Delegates Ken Williams, Jerry Beckendorf, and me.

Resolutions Passed by the Convention

- To evaluate RPEC legislative efforts at all levels to ensure effectiveness.
- To allow chapters to assess the cost/benefit of allowing members to voluntarily elect email newsletters in lieu of, or in addition to hard copies.
- To ensure that, within 90 days of election, Council Executive Board members shall receive board orientation/training.
- A late resolution pertaining to universal healthcare was sent on to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.

Summary of Constitutional Amendments Passed

- Retired employees of public employee unions, excluding law enforcement and firefighters' unions are eligible for RPEC membership
- Members who prefer not to have REPC dues deducted from their pension checks by DRS may opt to pay dues directly to RPEC by cash, check (annual preferred) credit card, bill pay or other secure electronic payment from a personal account.
- The annual RPEC Audit Report will be sent to Chapter Presidents in non-convention years.
- The Executive Board may meet by audio or video on request of the President in accordance with Appendix E of the International Constitution.

Newly Elected Statewide RPEC Officers

President: Kandy Kraig of Spokane Area Chapter 13
Vice President: Bill Ziegler of King County Retirees Chapter 35
Secretary: Mary Marbles of University of WA Chapter 28
Treasurer: Clair Olivers of Everett Area Chapter 6

Our Chapter typically meets on the second Thursday of the month at Denny's on South Hill, Puyallup. We are hoping to resume our regular meetings as soon as restrictions have been lifted, and I hope to see many of you soon.

As we move into a New Year, I wish all of you good health, bright days, laughter, and time with family and friends.

In Solidarity,

Sue Henricksen, President
RPEC Chapter 1