



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL OF WA CHAPTER 13 ~ SPOKANE AREA JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Go to [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for links and legislative news  
RPEC Olympia Headquarters Office 1-800-562-6097

*opeiu8/aflcio*

**No Meeting in July** Spokane Area Chapter 13 meets every month throughout the year except July and January when we have no meeting. Each month that we have virtual (Zoom) meetings, we will send out a newsletter or notice to give you the information needed to join in the meeting. When we change to in-person meetings we will also send out a newsletter to each member.

**Representative Riccelli will speak at June meeting:** Spokane Area Chapter 13 will meet by Zoom on June 10 at 1 pm. Representative Marcus Riccelli, Third Legislative District, will speak to us and take questions from members.

The information and codes to join the meeting that follow were copied from the ZOOM program so there will be no repeat of the error that occurred at the May 13 meeting when some members were not able to enter the meeting.

Please join the June 10, 2021, 1 pm meeting by going to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join), and entering the following:

Meeting ID: 891 1053 9140  
Passcode: 809938

Or to join from any phone dial,  
1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 891 1053 9140  
Passcode: 809938

**RPEC LOBBYIST REPORT:** In her report at the end of this session, Lobbyist Emily Murphy said; "Our 2022 work begins now. Our legislative success depends on RPEC member advocacy during the summer and fall. The RPEC Legislative Committee and Executive Board will be working with leaders, allies, new legislators and legislative champions to develop strategy to move a proposal for a substantive and consistent COLA in the upcoming 2022 session. The saying is true—all politics is local—and RPEC's continued success hinges on RPEC members organizing and educating legislators this interim to lay the groundwork for a productive 60-day short session in 2022." She added, "I am

honored to continue to serve as RPEC's lobbyist and I am humbled and grateful to advocate alongside this wonderful community."

**Leadership Training** RPEC members are invited to attend our State Council virtual **Leadership Training on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am-Noon**. This event is designed to help chapter leaders and those looking to get more involved in RPEC with the tools and resources they need to empower and engage their fellow retirees. We will have presentations from retiree leaders, information on the latest issues impacting retirees, and opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices with other RPEC members. **To RSVP for this event please visit:** <https://rpecwa.org/2021-leadership-training/> packet of materials and zoom meeting log-in information will be sent to those who register.

**Our RPEC website,** [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org), contains links to lots of information. For instance, you can sign up there to receive weekly updates on legislation, or find a bill's status; as well as the latest State Council newsletter, our constitution, and a link to find your legislator so you can contact him or her.

### **Scheduled Zoom State Council Meetings Open to Members**

June 7, 2021- RPEC Political Action Committee Meeting  
June 14, 2021- RPEC Leadership Training  
June 18, 2021- RPEC Legislative Committee  
July 27, 2021- RPEC Membership Committee Meeting  
August 16, 2021- RPEC Finance Committee Meeting  
August 25, 2021- RPEC Executive Board Meeting  
October 28, 2021- RPEC Membership Committee  
November 8, 2021- RPEC Finance Committee Meeting  
November 15, 2021- RPEC Executive Board Meeting

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**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL – SPOKANE AREA CHAPTER 13  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2021**

President Gail Spaeth called the meeting to order

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Gail Spaeth, President, Stan Chalich, Vice President, Dean Treichel, Treasurer, Sharon Etheridge, Secretary**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD: Sue Bracken, Duwane Huffaker-excused, Karol Hoffman, Bob Curry-excused**

**MINUTES: M/S/C** April Minutes as read and distributed with Newsletter

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Treasurer's report stands as written. Report states checkbook balance is \$2,375.64 and Savings balance is \$422.97 and the Total is \$25,149.29. Treasurer Treichel reported that 1 Certificate matured yesterday and 1 today. He rolled both Certificates into a new 18-month Certificate at .5%. He transferred an additional \$5000.00 from our checking and put in an existing Certificate at .95%. Treasurer Treichel also reported the Audit was done May 3, 2021. It was completed and all figures and expenditures were accounted for. He mailed the completed paperwork to RPEC Headquarters and will forward a copy to Secretary Etheridge for our files. Thank you to Treasurer Treichel and Julie Pruffer, Robert Reimer, and Elmer Swanson our Trustees for getting this required audit completed.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:** Karol Hoffman, Executive Board Member & District 3 Representative reminded the members the Leadership Training is June 14, 2021 starts at 10:00 am to noon; RSVP at Headquarters. Karol Hoffman, also reported that Emily Murphy, our Lobbyist, reported on the Legislative Session. Medicare Healthcare Subsidy was preserved but Plan I COLA did not survive the budget negotiation process. The Executive Board is completing several trainings virtually. James Cockburn, Executive Director has been getting requests for guidance for Chapters meeting in person. He replied that the Chapters wanting to meet in person should put a statement on the top of their newsletter about the requirements. It is alright to have in person meetings but must follow all state and local regulations: Masks, Social Distancing, or Outside.

Kandy Kraig, RPEC President mentioned that some of the Chapters have had our State Treasurer as a guest speaker, she left a message on behalf of our Chapter. But had not heard back.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Stan Chalich, Vice President has been approached by a local candidate for Spokane City Council that he would like to speak at a meeting. President Spaeth noted that we don't usually have local candidates and that we would then have to invite all candidates to speak. President Spaeth informed the group that she got a call to be at a SEIU rally at MultiCare, which is also could be a problem for us to participate in. Gail and Stan will meet soon to discuss upcoming speakers.

President Spaeth opened the discussions regarding continuing the monthly Newsletter as it is time consuming, does cost our Chapter to mail and are we getting the results we want. The group felt communication were important to perhaps interest some to start attending meetings whether virtual or in person. President Spaeth noted she had about 10 calls but after the phone message went out this month. She also verified the cost for us was about \$.13/per newsletter; because the state pays half. The idea of at least sending out a post card to inform of upcoming meetings, hopefully speakers and other issues. We are hopeful that soon we can have in person meetings and that members will feel comfortable to have a decent attendance when we do. Of course, we would meet all the government requirements and what was needed for comfort/trust level of members in order for them to attend.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Executive Board Member Karol Hoffman reminded the group of the contest drawing (\$100.00) for signing up 5 new members.

**M/S/C to** continue with zoom meeting in June with a Newsletter and Minutes draft mailed; no meeting in July; Executive Board will meet in July to determine how we will conduct the August meeting

We had 9 in attendance

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Etheridge, Secretary

**DRAFT**



## Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

Dear RPEC Leaders,

**State Legislative Update:** The 2021 Legislative Session concluded on time on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The final budget preserved the PEBB Medicare Benefit, fully funded the employer contributions to the pension systems, and will enact a progressive tax on high-end capital gains for the first time ever. These achievements are due in no small part to the advocacy of retirees like you, so thank you for reaching out to your legislators. It has made a difference.

Unfortunately, the proposal to provide a one-time increase to Plan 1 retirees did not survive the budget negotiation process. This is especially frustrating given the modest nature of the increase which was capped at \$22 per month and the fact that it was included in the house budget with unanimous support. The RPEC Legislative Committee and Executive Board will be working with our leaders, allies, and Legislative Champions to develop strategy to move a proposal for a substantive and consistent COLA in the upcoming 2022 session.

**Leadership Training:** Our virtual Leadership Training will be on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am-Noon. This event is designed to help provide Chapter leaders and those looking to get more involved in RPEC with the tools and resources they need to empower and engage their fellow retirees

**To RSVP for this event please visit:** <https://rpecwa.org/2021-leadership-training/>  
All members are encouraged to attend the Leadership Training even if they are not chapter officers.

**Online Membership Application:** We have updated the "Join RPEC" page on our website to provide the option for new members to sign up for dues deduction or payment via credit card. Please encourage any fellow retirees to utilize this new convenient and secure option to sign up today at: <https://rpecwa.org/join-rpec/>

Make sure they list your name in the "Recruited By" field so you can be entered into our membership recruitment rewards program.

Sincerely,

James Cockburn, Executive Director, Retired Public Employees Council of Washington