



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 18 – Grays Harbor County

Johanna Standish, President

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Hybrid Meeting March 12th, 2024 @ 11:30 AM

Join from home by Zoom or in-person

In-Person Meeting Location

Gepetto's
1256 E Pioneer Ave
Montesano, WA 98520

Computer Login Information

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
ID: 869 2962 6040
Passcode: 391928

Phone Login Information

Dial: (253) 215- 8782
ID: 869 2962 6040
Passcode: 391928

Program

Hi everyone. For those of you who will be joining by ZOOM, we have decided that the first half-hour of each meeting will be for members to eat lunch and visit. You are welcome to join at any time, but business will not be done before noon.

Our guest speaker will be Bev Hermanson, an RPEC Chapter 2 member, Chair of RPEC's Political Action Committee, and a member of the Select Committee on Pension Policy for the State Legislature.

We are looking for ways for our chapter to save money... and to let you choose how you prefer to hear from us. One way to reduce the cost of our newsletters is by sending them by email to those members who have provided an email address and agreed to receive correspondence by email. If you currently have a correct email address on file, you will receive an email asking whether you prefer to get your newsletters by email. This email will be sent just prior to the March meeting.

If yes, do a Reply- To- Sender and type yes. If you prefer to continue with the Postal Service, you do not need to reply.

If you do not get an email, that means that either we do not have an email on file or the one we have is incorrect. Please send email additions or corrections to lacerta123@comcast.net. Thank you for your consideration.

Election of Officers

This is an election year for our chapter. Since we are holding hybrid meetings, we will be taking nominations from the floor in March and holding the election in April. The duties and powers of each position are described below for those who may be interested in taking a more active role with our chapter. **Note: All terms are for two years.**

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the chapter and the executive board; shall appoint an election committee to supervise all elections and appoint all other committees not otherwise provided for in this Constitution; shall be a member ex officio of all committees except the election committee; and shall co-sign any withdrawals against the funds of the chapter. At the conclusion of his/her term, the president shall deliver to his/her successor all books, papers and other property of the chapter, which are in his/her possession at the close of the official term.

Section 2. Vice-President. The vice-president shall assist in general work among the members to keep the organization active and shall assist the president in every way possible. In the absence or incapacity of the president, may co-sign any check drawn on the chapter funds.

Section 3. Secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the executive board and meetings of the chapter. The secretary shall record a roll call of all officers at each meeting, carry on the official correspondence of the chapter, except as the executive board may direct otherwise, and shall perform such other duties as the president shall require. In the event the president and the vice-president are not present at a meeting of the chapter, the secretary shall serve as presiding officer pro-tem.

Section 4. Treasurer. The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursements made by the chapter and shall render a financial report at each meeting of the chapter. The treasurer shall deposit all monies received to the credit of the chapter in a financial institution selected by the executive board; shall sign any withdrawals against the funds of the chapter and shall make arrangements with the financial institution so that the president, vice-president, or an alternate officer authorized by the executive board, shall co-sign any withdrawals against the funds of the chapter. Expenditures from the chapter's general fund shall be in conformance with procedures and guidelines adopted by the chapter executive board. The treasurer shall submit the chapter books and records for audit when required by the chapter or by the executive board of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington. The chapter treasurer shall provide any information to the RPEC council office, which is necessary to obtain a surety bond.

If the chapter establishes the office of secretary-treasurer, that officer shall perform all duties outlined in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article.

Section 5. Executive Board Members-at-Large. The executive board members- at-large shall represent the wishes of the chapter membership on the executive board. They shall be entitled to vote on any matter coming before the executive board for action.

Note: There are three available at-large positions.

Section 6. Executive Board. The executive board shall be the governing body of the chapter between meetings of the chapter. All matters affecting the policies, aims and means of accomplishing the purposes of the chapter not specifically provided for in this constitution or by the action of the chapter shall be decided by the executive board, subject to the approval of the chapter at the next meeting. A report on the actions taken by the executive board shall be made to the membership at the next meeting of the chapter. **Note: Board is made up of the four officers plus three at-large board members).**

The executive board shall meet at the call of the president, or at such times as a majority of the members of the board shall call for a meeting. A majority of the members of the chapter executive board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Trustees are not an elected position, per Chapter 18's Constitution. Trustees can be appointed by the Chapter Executive Board. Below is information about trustee positions, as referenced in the AFSCME Retiree Officers Manual:

Trustees. The Trustees shall make or cause to be made, at least semi-annually, an audit of the finances of the chapter or subchapter, including the finances concerning any health and welfare, insurance or other membership benefit programs sponsored by the chapter or subchapter. It is also their responsibility to report to the membership on the results of the audit. Because of the special nature of their duties, the Trustees are not members of the Executive Board. Their function is to guarantee the members the protections described in the AFSCME Retirees Bill of Rights:

Members shall have the right to a full and clear accounting of all chapter and subchapter funds at all levels. Such accounting shall include, but not be limited to, periodic reports to the membership by the appropriate fiscal officers and periodic audit by officers elected for that purpose or by

independent auditors not otherwise connected with the retiree organization.

The International Union recommends that Trustees be responsible for the annual audit and that they arrange for such an audit to be performed by a certified public accountant. Copies of the audit should be studied by the Executive Board and discussed at general meetings. A copy should also be sent to the International Secretary Treasurer. All audits should look for the authorization of expenditures as well as the expenditures themselves. **Note: Two Trustee Positions**

See you at Gepetto's in Montesano at 11:30 am on the 12th of March.

Best Regards,

Johanna Standish
Chapter 18 President

March 2024 Executive Director's Report

Federal Advocacy

Call to action on The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023: Your federal retirement benefits are at risk if Congress passes [The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 \(H.R. 5779\)](#). This legislation will create a 16-member fiscal commission to search for ways to reduce the national deficit and balance the national budget. Funding for Social Security and Medicare will be targeted for cuts. **Call 844-331-0441 today! Tell Congress to vote NO on this bill and similar proposals calling for fiscal commissions that aim to reduce your hard-earned retirement benefits.** A detailed [position paper](#) about the proposed debt commission is available at <https://retiredamericans.org>.

Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Update

Based on the information available to date, it appears the Health Care Authority (HCA) will recommend the PEB Board adopt a new pharmacy benefit for Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare at its April 11 meeting. The medical portion of the plan will remain unchanged. The pharmacy benefit will transition to a Part D employer-managed plan - eligible for federal subsidies. With the transition to the Part D plan, retirees are expected to see a decrease in monthly premiums in 2025. Moda will remain as the plan administrator to provide continuity and a seamless transition for UMP Classic Medicare enrollees. If you are interested in learning more about HCA's proposal to the PEB Board, visit www.hca.wa.gov. This topic will dominate the agenda of the Board's next meeting on March 21. You can access the agenda, meeting materials, and obtain the Zoom link by navigating to the Retiree webpage at www.hca.wa.org. The PEB Board links are on the right side of the page. RPEC members wishing to comment during the meeting will have opportunities to do so.

State Advocacy

The Legislative session will conclude on March 7. Thus, the information included in this Letter will only be current through the date of publication. To learn more about the status of RPEC's key legislative priorities, access the bill tracker at www.rpecwa.org.

SHB 1985: Ad Hoc COLA for PERS/TRS 1 – The House passed SHB 1985 in early February and funded it in their initial budget proposal. The bill has cleared Senate Ways & Means and Senate Rules and could be voted on the floor on any day. The bill is likely to be funded in the Legislature's final supplemental budget. If the legislation is funded in the final budget act and signed by the Governor, the COLA will be implemented in July.

HB 2481: Month of Death Public Employees Benefits Board Benefit – The bill waives the payment of healthcare premiums for plans managed by PEBB during a retiree's month of death. This bill also has a high likelihood of passing, given its broad support in both chambers.

SSB 5986/HB 2285: Curbing out-of-pocket healthcare costs – The bill curbs the cost for ground ambulance services for healthcare plan enrollees. The bill is supported by all RPEC's healthcare partners and has received strong bi-partisan support. It was sent to the Rules Committee on February 26.

ESB 5241: Material changes to the healthcare marketplace – This bill is designed to provide greater protections to consumers due to healthcare mergers, acquisitions, and contracting, with the goal of ensuring that consumers receive the same or greater access to quality, affordable care. The bill was sent to the Rules Committee on February 26.

Legislative Updates: The last weekly legislative update call will take place on March 8. All members are invited to attend from 2-3 p.m. The Zoom link is available at www.rpecwa.org. A final legislative session report will be issued by the Council in April and available to all members on the website. Starting in April, the monthly legislative update calls will be held the first Friday of each month. Please join us on April 5 from 2-3 p.m.

Executive Board Update

At the February 26 Executive Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved the formation of a special task force that will meet virtually to create a process, to be piloted this year and next, for regular review of the organization's governance and fiscal structures. Recruitment will begin soon. It is anticipated that the task force will begin meeting by Zoom in June. The Board also tasked the Membership Committee with developing plans to recruit and engage former union leaders and those with workplace leadership experience to become active in RPEC chapters. The Legislative Committee was tasked with embellishing the organization's federal policy and legislative agenda. The Executive Board's next meeting is on May 6 via Zoom. The link and more details are available at www.rpecwa.org. All members are invited to attend.

Upcoming Events

Visit www.rpecwa.org for a full calendar of Council Office and chapter meetings.

- March 7 Sine Die (end of the legislative session)
- March 8 Last weekly Legislative Update call (2 p.m.)
- March 14 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- March 15 Legislative Committee (10 a.m.)
- March 15 Open Zoom Convention Questions (10a.m.-4p.m.)
 - Stop by anytime if you have questions
- March 21 PEBB meeting (9-4 p.m.)
- April 5 Legislative Update call (2:00 p.m.)
- April 11 PEBB meeting (9-4 p.m.)
- April 11 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- April 12 Legislative Committee (10 a.m.)
- April 16 Select Committee on Pension Policy (10 a.m.)
- April 19 Pension Policy Workgroup (10 a.m.)
- April 25 Membership Committee (10 a.m.)
- April 25 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)