

May 2012 Meeting Notice

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES OF WASHINGTON CHAPTER 2 - - OLYMPIA

Next Membership Meeting: Thursday May 10 at 1:30PM at the Olympia Center 222 North Columbia Olympia. Multipurpose Room A. The monthly Chapter Executive Board Meeting is held the same day at 10:30AM, second floor of the Olympia Center. Members are welcome to attend those Board Meetings.

Guest Speaker: Representative Sam Hunt

**Please join us at the May meeting to honor past *President Jean Kelly*
for 5 years of service as president of our chapter!**

Message from your President:

As your newly elected Chapter President, I would like to express my appreciation to those who have helped me to this position. I believe that one of the greatest compliments you can afford another is to let them know that you have learned from them. I have learned a lot from the membership, the officers and the board members of our organization. Thank you. If you recall a previous “*News You Can and Should Use*” article in this newsletter, you will know that three of my favorite words are “We the People.” The membership of this chapter is the “people” and I will stand by those words. You let me know what you want.

Denny Johnston - - - email: wsu74@comcast.net

News You Can and Should Use by Denny Johnston

Used to be that a rumor or half-truth would have to go through a certain process before people began to accept it as “fact”, such as - my uncle’s cousin’s friend works in the New York City sewers and says that there are alligators in the sewers (there are not). In the age of email, twitter, Facebook and the like, we have streamlined this process to the maximum. Seems now that any statement becomes “fact” at its initial utterance, usually by those looking to solidify that which they already accept as truth. In politics, accuracy and accountability are no longer required, mainly because we are not

asking for it to be so, and electronic media leaves much to be desired in holding feet to the fires of truth for what is said. During the Watergate Hearings in the 1970's, Senator Edward Kennedy said, "One of the prerequisites of a democracy is the free and unfettered flow of information to the people." It is from this flow of information from many sources upon which we rely to make credible decisions in any number of venues in our lives. It is our responsibility to seek out credible information, otherwise there is less hope of credible decisions, and to know whether or not it is truly free or unfettered. We have a duty as voters/citizens to make wise decisions, to interact with others, to ask questions, to enlighten others and to hold ourselves and others accountable. Wow, what a concept: **Accountability, duty, and responsibility!**

Important Dates:

- May 21st: Executive Board Meeting at the Columbia Building (*Soon to be New Office Location*)
- June 14th: President's Meeting in Ellensburg
- Sept 11th: Executive Board Meeting in Ellensburg
- Sept 12th: RPEC State Convention in Ellensburg

Check out the RPEC Web Site for updated information on Retiree Issues: www.rpecwa.org