



# Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 25 – Grant County Area

**Dorene Bendickson, President**  
**(509) 765-4414 or (509) 750-0223**

## **Chapter President's Message**

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on May 20th, the last meeting prior to our usual summer hiatus.

This is a particularly important meeting, as we will determine the future course of our Grant county area Chapter 25. And whether we will continue to be viable as a group. Our current chapter leaders are dealing with health issues and have served the chapter for many years. We welcome the support of any members who are willing and able to step up to keep the chapter viable.

We will resume our normal membership meeting schedule in September.

We hope that you and your loved ones will have a pleasant summer, your gardens are bountiful, and that you enjoy reasonably good health.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out if you find yourself in need of assistance. We care about our RPEC family and will do our very best to help you to find the resources you might need.

In Solidarity,

Dorene Bendickson, RPEC Chapter 25 President

## **RPEC Chapter 25 Membership Meeting** **Thursday ~ May 20, 2021 ~ 11:30 AM**

### **Agenda**

- **Nominations & Elections for all Chapter Leadership Positions**
- **Legislative Session Wrap Up**
  - **Other Chapter Business**

### **To Attend the Meeting In-Person, go to:**

**Country Deli**  
**245 Basin St NW, Ephrata, WA 98823**

### **To Join the Meeting by Telephone:**

Dial: **1-701-802-5007**  
Enter Passcode: **743 1912**

**RPEC Executive Director's Report**

If your Chapter is considering in-person meetings, make sure you understand and follow the local health agency guidance and/or State guidance

**Final State Budget Update:** On the evening of Sunday April 25th, the Legislature voted to approve the final negotiated 2021-2023 budget. It included a strong measure to address the capital gains tax loophole while exempting retirement accounts, residential property, and small businesses. The success of this near decade long effort to enact a capital gains tax is due in no small part to the work of members like you. Together with our allies, we have taken a big step towards fixing the state's upside-down tax code.

The budget will also keep the PEBB monthly Medicare benefit at its current level. This is a tremendous victory given there was genuine concern about losing this important benefit entirely.

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.

In the coming days and weeks, we will putting together more information and having discussions about where we go from here on the Plan 1 COLA issue. Our sincerest appreciation to those who called, emailed, testified, and otherwise made their voices heard during this Legislative session.

**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.

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

**Monthly Post-Session Legislative Update Zoom Call:** During the post-session interim, we will have a monthly update on our Legislative priorities and activities on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm. Please join us on June 2nd for our first update. We will send an email reminder out as the date nears.

Sincerely,



James Cockburn  
Executive Director  
RPEC of WA