



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 28 – University of Washington

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 19th, 2023
Meeting Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Meeting Location: Anthony's Homeport Restaurant
Meeting Address: 421 S 227th St, Des Moines, WA 98188

WINTER HOLIDAY SOCIAL (RSVP Deadline – 12/15/2023)

GREETINGS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON MEMBERS & FRIENDS!

AGENDA Regular business is deferred to the next regular chapter meeting. Time-sensitive matters will be addressed to keep everyone up to date.

- 11:00 a.m.** Arrival – Welcome – Introductions & Announcements (Place Lunch Orders); Chapter covers up to \$25 per member (special is for this event only). Members pay additional amounts, guests & spirits.
- 11:30 a.m.** Social Only with Gift Exchange, \$20 Maximum for gifts suggested.
- 12:00 p.m.** "GIVE A GIFT – PICK A GIFT" – (Gift Exchange)
"Chapter 28 Reflections in 2023" – Members & Friends in Action – THANK YOU!
- 1:00 p.m.** Adjournment



Give a Gift, Pick a Gift

Mary Marbles, Ch. 28 President, RPEC

RPEC Chapter 28 Meeting Minutes - Tuesday October 17, 2023

Called to order by President Mary Marbles with a welcome to all @ 11:36 A.M

Meeting conducted in-person at Claim Jumper Restaurant

Review of written minutes for June 20, 2023, by attendees. M/S/C.

Roll call of officers present:

Mary Marbles (**President**); Alma-jean Marion (**Vice-President**); Neomi Ramsey (**Trustee**)
Juanita Taylor (**Treasurer**) **absent**; Benester Fields (**Secretary**)

Roll call of members present:

Richard Crossland	Eva Leverett	Sean Harvig
Rosemary Rognstad	Susan Little	Ravinder Tahim
Richard J Rognstad	Menia Traxler	Zaida Quinby

Introduction of guest speaker Cathy Moore, retired King County Superior Court Judge now running for King County Council District 5. Judge Moore began her career as a Public Defender and Family Law Attorney. She is endorsed and sponsored by RPEC Chapter 3, District 9 Representative Claude Burfect.

****Holiday Logo designed by niece of Chapter 28 Trustee, Benester Fields****

She is committed to the following agenda:

- Re-instituting COLA
- Quality Healthcare
- Livable Communities
- Keeping older adults in their homes
- Maintaining and informing seniors of special dispensations
- Building and maintaining strong community relationships
- Requesting we continue to work on PERS2

President Report: Mary Marbles

- Introduction of new members.
- Many members have dropped membership due to age and cost of dues.
- Announcing the passing of our dear and valued member George Armour.
- A request to members for a donation to buy an advertisement in the newsletter of the Washington State Rhinestone Debutante Council. The ad entered by RPEC/Chapter 28 would establish supporting the granddaughter of our Treasurer Juanita Taylor.
- Along with several RPEC members, attended Banquet at the Washington Convention Center for candidates running for City of Seattle and King County offices.
- Encourage established members to recruit new members.

Treasurer Report: Juanita Taylor (absent due to illness)

Chapter 28, reporting period August 1, 2023-September 30, 2023

- Beginning balance money mover checking account \$22,308.86
- Total income \$1,490.73
- Savings acct. balance \$87.52
- Total Assets Chapter 28, \$30,501.73
- CD total assets \$6,853.74
- Total expenses \$238.92
- Ending Balance Chapter 28 money mover checking account \$23,560.67

M/S/C to accept treasurer's report as given.

Vice President Report: Alma-jean Marion

- District 9 Report/Bill Ziegler
- Attending Banquet at Washington Convention Center reviewing candidates running for City and County offices.
- RPEC announced support of Mike Pellicciotti running for State Treasurer who is dependent on small money donations.
- Attendance at MLK Labor Day cookout in Lakewood.
- Finance Committee meeting fundraiser with 350 members in attendance.
- Emphasis on Strategic Planning
- Resolution for support of Permanent COLA.
- Emphasis on RPEC delivering needed information to attendees.
- Washington State *will no longer remove Uniform Health Plan.*
- Encourage members to review RPEC online which offers an abundance of information on medical coverage including Medicare vs Medicare Advantage.
- Support of candidate Joy Hollingsworth running for District 3 City Council.

Discussion/New Business

- Request motion to approve \$300 donation to the campaign for Mike Pellicciotti running for State Treasurer. M/S/C, approved by membership.
- Request motion to approve \$300 donation to the campaign for Cathy Moore running for Seattle City Council District 5. M/S/C, approved by membership.

- Request motion to approve purchase of a full-page ad at the cost of \$150 for the support of Amaya Edwards being presented as a debutante at the Washington State Rhinestone Ball. M/S/C, approved by membership.
- Next meeting and Holiday Gift exchange scheduled for Tuesday December 19, 2023. The tentative venue suggested is Anthony's Home Port located in Des Moines, Washington. Menia Traxler and Alma-jean Marion will research and confirm location, TBA.
- Menia Traxler, Sunshine Committee Cards sent to the following: John Hampton, Get well; Aurelia Turner, Thinking of You; Family of George Armour, Sympathy/Condolences. A total of 25 cards sent out.

M/S/P Meeting adjourned by President Mary Marbles @1:00 P.M.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Benester Fields, Secretary

In Memory of

Herold F Eby, survived by his spouse Loretta L Eby who was also an RPEC member.

CHAPTER 28 OFFICERS

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November 2023 Executive Director's Report

What a busy time! Much is happening this month as we approach the end of the calendar year and the launch of the new legislative session on January 8th. Today, the Executive Board is due to take action on the 2024 operating budget and the draft strategic plan that will guide RPEC through 2027. Tomorrow, the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) meets to consider a bill for an ad hoc cost of living adjustment for retirees vested in PERS 1/TRS 1. And, our Political Action Committee (PAC) continues to make early endorsements in important state races with much more to come.

It's an exciting time to get more involved in RPEC's legislative affairs activities. Encourage your members to get involved, whether that be by attending the Legislative Committee meeting (next one is December 8th) to learn more about our Legislative Priorities, taking part in the "call to action" alerts from the Council Office, or registering to join us in person in Olympia for the annual Legislative Day on January 22nd. Registration opened early this month. Visit <https://rpecwa.org/2024-rpec-wea-retired-legislative-day/> to register and for more information.

Federal Relations

Member legislative advocacy

Much has happened in the last month in Congress, including the selection of a new Speaker. Without an additional temporary funding bill or bi-partisan support for a comprehensive

funding bill, the federal government is, again, threatened with a full or partial shutdown, starting on November 17th. This is a fast-moving issue. Keep apprised through the Council's weekly email NewsFlash communication. We continue to work closely with AFSCME Retirees on our collective next steps.

State Relations & Advocacy

Register today for RPEC/WEA-R Legislative Day – January 22, 2024

RPEC's annual Legislative Day, held in concert with the Washington Education Association-Retired (WEA-R), will take place on January 22nd in Olympia. The event is open to all RPEC members. The annual event gives RPEC members a chance to meet with their state legislators from their legislative districts in their offices on the Capitol campus. Register at <https://rpecwa.org/2024-rpec-wea-retired-legislative-day/>.

New Guide to Open Enrollment now available on RPEC website PEBB Open Enrollment extends through November 30th

Do you receive your healthcare insurance through the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB)? If so, you may change healthcare plans this month during open enrollment. To help our members navigate the state's complex healthcare landscape, RPEC partnered with SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) to produce a three-part webinar series to help you understand your options. The three-part series features Tim Smolen of SHIBA and is facilitated by Matt Groshong (Chapter 3 President and Chair of the Healthcare Workgroup). You will also find a detailed presentation by HCA archived on the webpage, as well as links to other valuable HCA resources. Visit <https://rpecwa.org/health-insurance-open-enrollment-2023-2024/>. The Guide to Open Enrollment is also accessible on the RPEC homepage.

HCA Update

The PEBB Stakeholders Medicare Coalition continues to meet regularly with HCA staff regarding outcomes from the listening sessions held this spring to improve service to retirees. As was noted in last month's Executive Director letter, the agency is exploring reconfiguring UMP Classic Medicare to be a medical-only policy with a managed pharmaceutical drug plan. This option is being researched and may be presented at the PEB Board's February 1st, 2024 retreat, which is open to the public. Based on feedback from RPEC's Healthcare Workgroup, the Coalition sent a letter to the Governor and Health Care Authority Director Sue Birch stating that our members want healthcare choices to include the current UMP Classic Medicare plan. If HCA introduces another option in spring 2024, it should not replace the current plan, as retirees overwhelmingly communicated this in the listening sessions.

Select Committee on Pension Policy Update

The Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) will be considering a draft bill tomorrow that will grant another one-time 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2024 while the Committee researches and works to draft a proposal for the 2025 legislative session that will fund a recurring COLA.

We thank all members who responded to our Council “call to action” to sign in PRO. Regardless of your retirement plan, we stand in solidarity with our PERS 1/TRS 1 retirees in securing a recurring COLA.

Upcoming Events

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

- Dec. 4 – PSARA Webinar (5:00 pm)
- Dec. 8 – Legislative Committee Meeting (10:00 am)
- Dec. 11 – Executive Board Meeting (10:00 am)
- Dec. 12 – Select Committee on Pension Policy Meeting (10:00 am)
- Dec. 13 – Health Care is a Human Right Meeting (5:00 pm)
- Dec. 14 – Healthcare Workgroup Meeting (3:30 pm)
- Dec. 18 – Senior Lobby (10:00 am)
- Dec. 25 – Jan. 1 – Council Office Closed, Holiday Break
- Dec. 28 – Healthcare Workgroup Meeting (3:30 pm)
- Jan. 2 – Council Office Reopens
- Jan. 3 – Legislative Day Registration Deadline

Best,
Laurie

RPEC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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