

Retired Public Employees Council

Chapter 3 Newsletter

May, 2012

RPEC Chapter 3 Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Fonzie's at 1415 NW 58th, in Ballard.

Fonzie's is in the Family Center, the large, green-roofed building across the street from the church and school.

Take bus # 15 from downtown, or #45 from Laurelhurst to NW 59th and 15th NW.

If you need a ride, call Gwen Rench at 206-324-2786.

10:45 – Executive Board Meeting.

11:30 - Social Hour

12:00 - GUEST SPEAKER: George Masten, Interim Executive Director of RPEC.

12:30 – LUNCH (\$8): Roast pork loin, buttered carrots and green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, mini cheese cakes.

1:10 - CHAPTER MEETING.

(Drawing for lottery tickets after the meeting)

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY: Bring non-perishable food items for the needy. Ethel Thomas will take it to CAMP Food Bank. This is a fragrance free event.

To confirm your attendance, please call Sally Davis at 206-860-8965 or e-mail sdavistora@comcast.net, or Gwen Rench, at 206-324-2786, by Friday, 5/11/2012.

President's Report

This month's meeting will be our last until September (with the exception of the July 24th picnic). With guest speaker George Masten, it will be an excellent opportunity to get complete information about what happened in this last Legislative session, comprehensive information about our pensions (George is on the State Investment Board) and the latest regarding the cost of living (COLA) lawsuit. **Also, this will be the last opportunity to present and act on resolutions to be forwarded to the statewide convention in Ellensburg on Sept. 12th. What issues do you want RPEC to pursue in the next Legislative session? The September 12th one day convention will determine the goals of RPEC for the next year. If you're interested in attending, we will be electing delegates at the May meeting. If you're interested in being a delegate but can't attend the meeting, give me a call at 206-324-2786.** Also, if you would like to attend but not be a delegate, that is possible as well.

One resolution Chapter 3 will be voting on calls for support of a U.S. Constitutional amendment to establish that a corporation should not be considered the equivalent of a citizen as pertains to rights afforded to citizens by the First Amendment. Also there will be a resolution urging the Legislature to tax capital gains. We should be vocal in urging the Legislature to take positive steps in our interests and not simply tell them when they're not taking the right actions.

We've already started to hear from one of the gubernatorial candidates, a proposal to save money by targeting the health care benefits for public employees and retirees. We always seem to be the easy target when it comes to proposals to save state dollars. This is why we need to be well organized and to have an organization like RPEC to keep us aware of legislative actions that will hurt us and to lead the fight to prevent harm. During our retirement years we shouldn't have to fight the rollback of our basic benefits, but reality dictates otherwise. Our state government must stand by the contractual obligations it makes to its employees.

At the national level we need organizations like the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) to fight to protect Social Security and Medicare. Do we really want to go back to the so called good old days? Prior to the implementation of programs like Social Security, what happened when the breadwinner died or someone didn't save enough for retirement years? As a woman, I feel like we're being forced to repeat the battles for women's rights. I still remember the battles for the small issues, like the right to wear slacks to work, and more important issues, such as when management was talking of putting a quota on how many employees could be on maternity leave. Are we going to keep moving forward to better ourselves and our country or are we going to go back to when women were dependent on men for their income and decision making? Women's rights haven't just benefited women; they've given men more freedom as well.

Come to the May meeting, get the latest information, enjoy a good lunch, and help determine the RPEC agenda!

Gwen

gwenrench@covad.net

**Members attending the
4/17/12 RPEC Meeting**

Cathy Baker
Willie Bennett
Sam Bess
Judith Connor
Thomas Connor
John Guevarra
Cassie Ingram
Henry Iske
John Labaras
Gene Lux
Colleen McGinn
Dick Mitchell
Barbara Nordin
Bonnie Oborn
David Rader
Melvin Rayner
Gwen Rench
Carol Sandoval
Ethel Thomas - *new*
Marian Van der Hyde
Velenda Vann
Julie Watling *new*
Tomas Watling *new*
Linda Warren
Michael Warren
Don Williams

Guest speaker: Cathy
Lamb, AAA travel

MEMBERSHIP:

Update report from the State Membership Committee meeting - outcome from proposal to develop a statewide procedure for recruiting WSLCB (Liquor Board) employees who may retire in 2012 rather than face layoff and /or an uncertain job market. RPEC packets will be given statewide to our target group before the State goes out of the Liquor business.

THANKS FOR TELEPHONE TREE PARTICIPATION:

Thanks to all who phoned or e-mailed to their Legislators in the 2012 session. A special thank you to all those who took telephone tree lists. Your efforts are much appreciated. The system is what keeps our members notified of bills and keeping us actively involved in our issues. Chapter 3 members who took the lists are as follows: Jim Adams, Joan Allen, Sam Bess, Sharon Boehm, Marjorie Brown, Ellen Carmody, Lena Clark, Martha Davis, Sally Davis, Al Drackert, Mark Durfee, David Griffin, John and Robin Guevarra, Michiko Harada, Fred Hyde, Charlotte Jahn, Pat Kenney, Katherine King, Sybil Knudson, Judith Leconte, Gale Lurie, Gene Lux, Judy May, Colleen McGinn, Dick Mitchell, Barbara Nordin, Jean O'Neill, Jo Anne Paxton, Ron Quist, David Rader, Lanny Remme, Gwen Rench, Robert Rhea, David Robel, Carol Sandoval, Patty Seales, Lori Simmons, Ilene Solemsaas, Ethel Thomas, Kathleen Thurman, Karna Town, Marian Van Der Hyde, Janet Ward, Mike Warren, Bob Whiteley, Don Williams and Anne Wright. We could have used a few more volunteers.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY:

Bring a non-perishable food item for the needy. New member Ethel Thomas will take our donation to CAMP.

Reminders: RPEC Chapter 3 summer picnic will be on Tuesday, July 24th at 11:30 AM to about 2:00 at Magnuson Park (formerly Sand Point Naval Air Station in northeast Seattle). Fried chicken, coffee, soda, paper plates, cups and utensils will be provided. Please bring potluck items in addition.

Also, the RPEC State Convention will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Delegates will be chosen at the May General Membership Meeting.

*Retired Public Employees Council
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