



## Retired Public Employees Council of Washington (RPEC) Chapter 46 MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

### Legislation Session Recap

Welcome back Representative Mark Mullet (D, 45<sup>th</sup> LD)

Plan to join us on ZOOM via your Computer, Tablet or Phone on May  
19<sup>th</sup>

**Speaker at 11am, Business Meeting to follow.**



Last fall we met with Representative Larry Springer, (D. 45) , who set the stage for the Legislative session to come. On May 19<sup>th</sup> Senator Mark Mullet will wrap up the recently concluded session for us.

Mullet has served the 45<sup>th</sup> District since January 2013 and was recently re-elected to a term ending in January 2025. He supported the one-year PERS 1 COLA which subsequently did not make it into the final budget, and opposed the Capital Gains Tax, voting against the majority of his party.

Mullet's issues have been:

- Improving our schools
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Helping our environment
- Improving healthcare
- Ensuring fiscal accountability

Even if you do not live in the 45<sup>th</sup>, do not miss this important opportunity to reacquaint Senator Mullet with our senior issues.

***We'd love to have you participate in the May meeting! Feel free to invite your spouse or a state retiree friend to our Zoom; even if she/he doesn't currently belong to the Chapter. If you are uncomfortable with using Zoom, or just have a question, contact our Vice President, Marianne Wilkins. Come a little early and/or stay a little late to chat!***

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**Topic: RPEC46 May Meeting**

**Time: May 19, 2021 10:45 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229716841?pwd=WTK2MG1SS1UvcVFFRTdJSGpXRXN3UT09>

**Meeting ID: 872 2971 6841**

**Passcode: RPEC**

**One tap mobile**

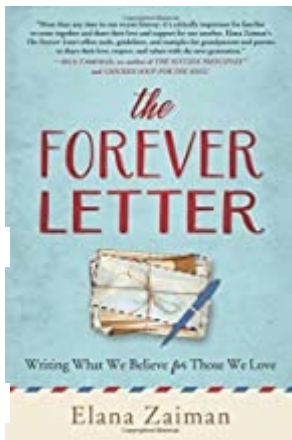
**+12532158782,,87229716841# US (Tacoma)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**Meeting ID: 872 2971 6841**

**WHAT I’VE BEEN READINGI**



What values do you want to pass on to the next generation?

**The Forever Letter: Writing What we Believe for Those we Love**, by Elana Zalman explains the tradition of the ethical will in which you can relate your values to the people who matter most to you. She gives examples and tips for writing for those letters that will help us pass on our legacy.

What have **you** been reading? Please let President Frey know and we can feature your recommendation in an upcoming newsletter.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

**RPEC** is resuming Leadership Training with a **Leadership Meeting** Monday June 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm via Zoom. If you are a current Chapter 46 officer, or evaluating whether to run for office in April 2022 (when we will have openings), or you are just curious about how RPEC works, you’ll want to participate. Register at <https://rpecwa.org/2021-leadership-training/> Or call 1-800-562-6097. **You need to register by May 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**

Until we can meet safely face-to-face, we are relying on the Monthly Newsletter and occasional e-mail blasts to keep you up to date. If you have an email address, please send it to Vice-President Wilkins, so we can keep you in the loop.

**INTERESTED IN FEDERAL AND LOCAL ISSUES?**

Now that the Washington Legislative session is over, the “weekly” legislative update on Zoom will move to a monthly meeting with more focus on Federal issues. It will be held on the first Wednesday at 1pm. Executive Director James Cockburn review the current status of federal legislation bills affecting our RPEC issues. Obtain Information on the RPEC website or by contacting Olympia office. **Beginning in June, on the 1st Wednesday of each month, RPEC will have an update on our Legislative priorities and activities. Please join us on June 2nd at 2pm for our first update.**

**Via Computer or tablet:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82866346713?pwd=NkVEY2NsL1J6Z0dmQQxEdjQyTnFwQT09>

Or, go to: <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 828 6634 6713

Passcode: 205507

**Via Phone:**

Dial: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 828 6634 6713

Passcode: 205507

We also often hear of **local political gatherings or groups discussing issues** too late to include in the newsletter. If you would like to be kept up to date on those, please let President Frey know.

**UPCOMING CHAPTER 46 CALENDAR**

- May 19, 11am Ch. 46 Zoom Meeting Rep. Mark Mullet, (D 5<sup>th</sup>) Speaker will be on at 11.
- Chapter 46 voted to meet over Zoom during the summer with interesting speakers, but no business meetings. We will continue our connections while we are not able to meet physically. So reserve June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> and we'll find some interesting programs. More information at the May meeting.

**YOUR 2020-2022 RPEC CHAPTER 46 OFFICERS**

Judith Frey	President	<a href="mailto:freybroughton@aol.com">freybroughton@aol.com</a>
Marianne Wilkins	Vice President	<a href="mailto:marianne@msn.com">marianne@msn.com</a>
Peggy Pilkington	Secretary	(425) 776-3773
Katie Kerfonta	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Katie.kerfonta@frontier.com">Katie.kerfonta@frontier.com</a>
Edgar Heil	Board	(425) 877-7944
Dennis Montgomery	Board	<a href="mailto:denmont@comcast.net">denmont@comcast.net</a>
Harold Pilkington	Board	(425) 776-3773
Tony Schock	Board	<a href="mailto:mjtschock@comcast.net">mjtschock@comcast.net</a>
Duane Isackson	Trustee	<a href="mailto:disackson1@gmail.com">disackson1@gmail.com</a>
Joanne Isackson	Trustee	<a href="mailto:disackson1@gmail.com">disackson1@gmail.com</a>
Herbie Martin	Trustee	<a href="mailto:hdjmartin@msn.com">hdjmartin@msn.com</a>

**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL**  
**CHAPTER 46 MEETING VIA ZOOM**  
**April 21, 2021**  
**Minutes**

**Officers Present:** Judith Frey, President; Marianne Wilkins, Vice President, Katie Kerfonta, Treasurer **Absent:** Peggy Pilkington, Secretary,  
**Board:** Edgar Heil, Dennis Montgomery, **Absent:** Harold Pilkington, Tony Schock  
**Trustees:** Herbie Martin, **Absent:** Duane Isackson, Joanne Isackson  
**Members:** Barbara Gelsleichter, Charles Gelsleichter, Arnetta Henninger, Bonnie Montgomery, Janet Peacey  
**Guests:** Claude Burfect, Judy Finn, Colleen McGinn, Kandy Kraig, Alma-jean Marion, Clair Olivers, Bill Ziegler

**CALL TO ORDER** at 11: 06 a.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Minutes** from March, 2021 m/s/a
- **Treasurer's Report** \$10, 342.18 beginning balance plus membership receipts of \$410.90, and check to Northwest Harvest for \$350, current balance is \$10,402.83. m/s/a
- Katie Kerfonta shared that she included the member payment for March in the reported balance, but that payment has not been received into our account at Columbia Bank. She is working with the new RPEC Accountant in Olympia to resolve the issue. Clair Olivers, Chair RPEC Finance Committee indicated that this issue affected several chapters and is being resolved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Request to contact Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell to ask for their support to the Social Security Fairness Act.
- Request to contact Senators and Representatives regarding keeping 1% 1-year PERS 1 COLA in budget.
- Request, if you support the Capital Gains tax, to contact your Senators and Representatives.
- President Frey recommended the **Legislative Update Zoom** every Friday at 1pm. Information is on the RPEC website [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) or contact her. These will reduce to once or twice a month when the legislative session is over.
- Members encouraged to attend the **Leadership Meeting** Monday June 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm via Zoom; **Treasurer's training** May 24<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, also via Zoom. We will have officer openings at our next election in April, 2022, so we need to start preparing now!
- **May Meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup>** (incorrect in Newsletter) Members are encouraged to sign in before 11am as our speaker: **Representative Mike Mullet** (D 5<sup>th</sup> District) will be with us at 11am. Business meeting will follow the speaker.
- We received a copy of the revised RPEC State Constitution and Bylaws.
- RPEC **President Kraig** reminded us that the Legislative session is scheduled to end on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**INPUT FROM DISTRICT 9 Alma-jean Marion** indicated that the District 9 Roundtable will resume meeting May 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a virtual invitation to Chapter Presidents. **Claude Burfect** indicated that he is serving on the HCHR (Health is a Human Right) Steering Committee of the Seattle Metropolitan Area and will keep Chapter 46 members informed of their work.

**MEMBERSHIP Colleen McGinn** told us that the next RPEC Membership Committee meeting will be next Tuesday April 27 from 10am-2pm. She suggested that member emails can be a clue to the talents they could bring to a chapter.

**SPEAKER Bonnie Bizzell** from Honoring ChoicesPNW discussed Advance Care Planning.

- Plans can go awry, but if we have a plan it can get you where you want to be.
- Advanced care documents can help us and help those who will be dealing with our affairs.
- Start from what brings you joy so that this can be provided to the extent possible.
- Forms include the Advanced Directive (legal), the Durable Power of Attorney-Healthcare and the Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment. (POLST)
- It is important to choose a health care agent (or agents) who is aware of your personal values and goals  
Bonnie can be reached at [bonnie-bizzell@honoringchoicespnw.org](mailto:bonnie-bizzell@honoringchoicespnw.org)

She will forward the slides and important links to us to distribute to members.

#### **GOOD OF THE CAUSE**

President Frey read the statement of AFSCME President Lee Saunders following the sentencing of Derek Chauvin.

Meeting adjourned 12:46 pm

Submitted by

Judith Frey, President Chapter 46, RPEC

Marianne Wilkins, Vice President Chapter 46, RPEC

#### **RPEC FUTURE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIONS**

Please read the RPEC Executive Director's Report below, to see what's up on the federal and state levels. You can always get an update on the RPECWA website [www.rpecawa.org](http://www.rpecawa.org)

**Judith Frey, President RPEC Chapter 46**  
**[freybroughton@aol.com](mailto:freybroughton@aol.com) (425) 455-4298**

#### **RPEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

**State Legislative Update:** The 2021 Legislative Session concluded on time on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The final budget preserved the PEBB Medicare Benefit, fully funded the employer contributions to the pension systems, and will enact a progressive tax on high-end capital gains for the first time ever. These achievements are due in no small part to the advocacy of retirees like you, so thank you for reaching out to your legislators. It has made a difference.

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.

The RPEC Legislative Committee and Executive Board will be working with our leaders, allies, and Legislative Champions to develop strategy to move a proposal for a substantive and consistent COLA in the upcoming 2022 session.

**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.

The Zoom login information will be the same each week. To join the weekly update calls via computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to <https://zoom.us/join>. You will need to enter the meeting ID: 828 6634 6713, and the passcode: 205507. Or, via telephone, dial 1-253-215-8782, meeting ID: 828 6634 6713, and passcode: 205507.

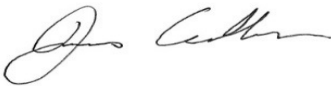
**Leadership Training:** Our virtual Leadership Training will be on Monday, June 14th from 10 AM - Noon. This event is designed to help provide Chapter leaders and those looking to get more involved in RPEC with the tools and resources they need to empower and engage their fellow retirees. All members are encouraged to attend the Leadership Training even if they are not chapter officers.

To RSVP for this event please visit: <https://rpecwa.org/2021-leadership-training/>

**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 at: <https://rpecwa.org/join-rpec/>

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

Sincerely,



James Cockburn  
RPEC Executive Director