



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington Chapter 6 – Everett Area Newsletter June 2021

Your Voice for Retirement Security

Working to protect and enhance the pension and health care benefits of Washington retired state, county, and local government employees

opeiu/aficio

Do you know someone recently retired in the state retirement system? Tell them about RPEC. You can also receive email reminders for each meeting. Please send an email with your name to:

Mark Somers at msomers25@gmail.com

May 4, 2021 Chapter 6 Membership Meeting Recap

The regular May membership meeting was held via Zoom.

Guest Speaker: Leah Hammon, RDN, CD. Leah is the Senior Nutrition Manager at Homage – Snohomish County Senior Center. Homage provides Meals on Wheels to local Seniors through the Washington Basic Food Program.

New Business: A resolution was adopted to urge the US State Department to supply Covid Vaccinations to Americans that live overseas through the US Embassies. Many Americans living abroad do not have access to vaccinations.

Motion adopted to clarify that RPEC Chapter 6 does not endorse candidates at the City or Municipal level. We will defer to the Snohomish/Island Central Labor Council for recommendations.

President Lavra appointed Jim Brandley and Renee Peare to work on a social function for our Chapter 6 members in August.

We will revisit the possibility of meeting in person in September.

RPEC Chapter 6 Virtual Membership Meeting

Tuesday – June 1, 2021 at 1:00 PM

**Agenda: Planning for District 1 Meeting
(June 8th)**

**To Join the Meeting Online by
Computer, Tablet or Smart Phone go to:**

<https://zoom.us/j/2211859458?pwd=d2lVEIZd2NFMDZTK0JkZVBpV1lldz09>

Or go to: www.zoom.us

Click on: **Join a Meeting**

Enter Meeting ID: **221 185 9458**

Enter Passcode: **6tSpf7**

To Join the Meeting by Telephone:

Dial-In Number: **1-253-215-8782**

Meeting ID: **221 185 9458**

Passcode: **558027**

We currently have 611 members.

The District 1 meeting will be held virtually June 8th. 30 legislators were invited. Joel Hall, District 1 Director will be formulating questions to ask the legislators during the meeting.

Snohomish/Island County Central Labor Council endorsed Jared Mead for Snohomish County Council.

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.

e-Newsletter now available

We are now offering a digital version of our Chapter Newsletter

By choosing email rather than a mailed paper newsletter, you help reduce mailing expenses and staff workload. Plus, you can get the newsletter and meeting reminders faster and in **C-O-L-O-R!**

Let us know how you want to receive your monthly newsletter:

Email or Mailed paper

Please include your name, email address and year you joined

Reply to:
rpecchpt6@gmail.com

Or call Mark Somers at: **425-335-1442**

Membership Dues Hardship Fund

Are you having difficulty paying your annual RPEC dues?

If so, contact us to see if you qualify for help through our 2021 Membership Dues Hardship Fund

Contact us at:

rpecchpt6@gmail.com

or

425-335-1442

Mark Somers, Membership Chair

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