



Retired Public Employees Council of WA Chapter 7 – Whatcom County Area June 2021 Newsletter

Cheryl Moser, President
(360) 201-8605 – moserci@comcast.net

[opeiu8/aflcio](#)

About Our June Guest Speaker

Please join us on June 1st for our last membership meeting for the summer season.

Our speaker is Hans Erchinger-Davis, director Lighthouse mission. He will speak about homelessness in Whatcom County and services offered by the Lighthouse Mission.

As usual, digital invitations will be emailed to all members who we have email addresses on record. If we do not have your email, please contact President Moser to have an invitation emailed to you.

Please consider attending this meeting. You will have an opportunity to ask your questions about an issue that impacts everyone in Whatcom County.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE!

The following Tuesday, June 8th at 1pm Chapter 6 will host our 2nd annual district legislative meeting. All Chapter 7 members are encouraged to attend! This will be another virtual meeting on Zoom. Every member in District 1 that we have email address will receive an invitation. If you don't receive an invitation, it means that we don't have your email address. If you want to attend the meeting get in contact with President Moser or see the meeting login information below.

Chapter 7 Virtual Membership Meeting

Tuesday – June 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Note: Please sign on at 9:45 AM

Guest Speaker

**Hans Erchinger-Davis, Director of
Lighthouse Mission**

**To join the meeting online by
computer, tablet, or smartphone**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84198207264?pwd=akMza08zc2cxZERRU1M3aWJnR25BZz09>

Or go to: www.zoom.us/join

Enter Meeting ID: 841 9820 7264

Enter Passcode: 857800

To join the meeting by telephone

Dial: 1-253-215-8782

Enter Meeting ID: 841 9820 7264

Enter Passcode: 857800

Legislators from every Legislative District in the area will attend. They will answer questions about issues impacting retirees.

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.

RPEC District 1 Meeting

Tuesday – June 8, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Note: Please sign on at 12:45 PM

To join the meeting online by computer, tablet, or smartphone

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88947470172?pwd=M0RQenlzazFORWJDMmhOdjA2UDgxdz09>

Or go to www.zoom.us/join

Enter Meeting ID: **889 4747 0172**

Enter Passcode: **236076**

To join the meeting by telephone

Dial: **1-253-15-8782**

Enter Meeting ID: **889 4747 0172**

Enter Passcode: **236076**