

# RPEC TODAY!

Summer 2019

Your Voice for  
Retirement Security

Our mission is to unite retired  
public employees for their  
mutual benefit and welfare.



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## 2019 Legislative Scorecard - How Did Your Legislators Vote?

We have compiled an easy-to-read scorecard of how your local legislators voted in the 2019 Legislative session on issues of importance to RPEC members and all public employee retirees.

[read more on page 4]



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## President's Letter

- Kandy Kraig

**Summer is here and we hope you are enjoying this time. I know many of the chapters take the summer off from meetings and are spending quality time with family and friends.**



It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet with your representatives while they are at home before the 2020 legislative session starts. Consider calling your elected officials and have a meeting to educate them on our important issues. These relationships make a difference when we take on our legislative priorities during the session.

The RPEC Leadership Conference was held on May 21st in the Olympia office. Participants focused on chapter health, communication, as well as, building our membership. We encourage you to participate in future events to learn and use these skills to strengthen your chapter participation and RPEC.

AFSCME held their annual retiree meeting on July 21st through the 25th in Washington, D.C. Representatives from all across the United States were represented. Information was presented with updates on political action, membership data management, cyber-scrutiny (what's verifiable and what is false information), a retiree chapter digital tool box, email, websites, Facebook and texting as a retiree mobilization and communication tool. We will look for ways to implement some of the ideas to make a difference for our membership.

*[continued on page 3]*

## Executive Director's Note

- James Cockburn

**Greetings to all RPEC members! I hope you are enjoying your summer. We are pleased to have our new Membership Coordinator, Tara Jo Heinecke, on board.**



She comes to our organization with a great deal of experience working in the labor movement and with the Legislature. She is excited to be working with our chapters to support their efforts to grow and strengthen the organization. If you need any materials or information from her, she can be reached by calling the Council Office or emailing: [tarajo@rpecwa.org](mailto:tarajo@rpecwa.org)

In light of the failure by the Legislature to pass a one-time 3% COLA for Plan 1 retirees during the 2019 session, it is important for RPEC and its members to strategize ways to be more successful in 2020. The increase in engagement and education of Legislators by our members has been fruitful. We saw this in the one-time 1.5% COLA that was passed in 2018 and by the increase in bi-partisan co-sponsors for the 2019 bill. In follow up meetings with Legislators, the lack of funds to pay for the COLA was cited as the main reason it was not included in the final state budget.

RPEC is a member of the Balance our Tax Code Coalition which seeks to fix Washington's upside down tax code which requires the least wealthy in the state to pay a far higher portion of

their incomes in taxes than the wealthiest. The reliance on sales and property taxes means that the state budget cannot keep up with needs of our state's growing population. Being engaged in the discussions around creating additional, sustainable revenue gives RPEC credibility with legislators.

In addition to the budgetary concerns cited by Legislators, it is also important to look at the groups that have argued against the recent COLA bills during public testimony. Representatives from the cities and county employer associations have consistently testified against the COLA proposals. It is true that the one-time COLA would require both the state and local government employers to pay increased contribution rates, totaling 22 million dollars over two years for all local governments in the state. It is important to note that the state and local governments did not pay the actuary's recommended contribution rate from 2000-2010.

***“In light of the failure by the Legislature to pass a one-time 3% COLA for Plan 1 retirees during the 2019 session, it is important for RPEC and its members to strategize ways to be more successful in 2020.”***

RPEC members, particularly those who worked for local government employers are encouraged to communicate with their elected city and county council members about the importance of the COLA issue. Many are likely unaware that many of their former employees are struggling due to a loss of purchasing power. It is important to remind them of the service that Plan 1 retirees gave to their communities and the benefit that pensions bring into local economies. Retirees should ask that the local government support the COLA bill (HB 1390/SB 5400) in 2020 and ask that they request the associations representing their local government to not oppose our member's efforts to advocate for the bills.

## President's Letter (cont.)

We are excited about the ability to make a difference in state elections with voluntary contributions from individual members. These contributions can be made direct from your DRS pension account. If you are interested in participating please contact the Council Office or visit [rpecwa.org/rpec-pac-deduction-form](http://rpecwa.org/rpec-pac-deduction-form).

## Political Participation Options RPEC PAC

RPEC members can now take part in political giving in two ways, due to a resolution passed at the 2018 convention. While members can still contribute to candidates that support our issues through AFSCME's PEOPLE Program, now members also have the option of giving to RPEC's own PAC. One difference is that RPEC's PAC is limited to candidates running for state office only. If you are interested in more information, you can call the office at 1-800-562-6097. To sign up, simply fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter, and return it to the Council Office.



# 2019 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

- How Your Legislators Voted on RPEC Issues

House Member	Kloba	Stanford	Barkis	Wilcox	Ormsby	Riccelli	McCaslin	Shea	Callan	Ramos	Graham	Volz	Kretz	Maycumber	Boehnke	Klippert	Dye	Schmick	Paul	Smith	Bergquist
Party	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	D
District	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11
<b>HB 1390 - One-time 3% COLA - Budget Amendment</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>SB 5360 - Plan 2 Default</b>	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>HB 1065 - Surprise Billing</b>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>HB 1224 - Rx Drug Transparency</b>	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

House Member (cont.)	Caldier	Young	Fey	Jinkins	Kilduff	Leavitt	Kirby	Morgan	Pellicciotti	Reeves	Inwin	Stokesbary	Davis	Ryu	Gregerson	Orwall	Cody	Fitzgibbon	Griffey	MacEwen	Frame
Party	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D
District	26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	31	32	32	33	33	34	34	35	35	36
<b>HB 1390 - One-time 3% COLA - Budget Amendment</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>SB 5360 - Plan 2 Default</b>	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>HB 1065 - Surprise Billing</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>HB 1224 - Rx Drug Transparency</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Senate Member	Becker	Billig	Padden	Mullet	Holy	Short	Brown	Schoesler	Bailey	Hasegawa	Hawkins	Warnick	King	Honeyford	Walsh	Wilson	Rivers	Takko	Braun	Lias	Hunt
Party	R	D	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	D	D
District	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>SB 5360 - Plan 2 Default</b>	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>HB 1065 - Surprise Billing</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>HB 1220 - Rx Drug Transparency</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y

Hudgins	Goehner	Steele	Dent	Ybarra	Corry	Mosbrucker	Chandler	Dufault	Jenkin	Rude	Harris	Kraft	Hoff	Vick	Blake	Walsh	DeBolt	Orcutt	Ortiz-Self	Peterson	Doglio	Dolan	Appleton	Hansen	Chapman	Tharinger	Chambers	Gildon
D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R
11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18	19	19	20	20	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	25
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Tarleton	Pettigrew	Tomiko Santos	Robinson	Sells	Eslick	Sutherland	Lekanoff	Morris	Senn	Thai	Shewmake	Van Werven	Chopp	Macri	Lovick	Mead	Goodman	Springer	Pollet	Valdez	Entenman	Sullivan	Slatter	Walen	Jurado Stonier	Wylie
D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
36	37	37	38	38	39	39	40	40	41	41	42	42	43	43	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47	48	48	49	49
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Rolfes	Van De Wege	Zeiger	Randall	Darneille	O'Ban	Conway	Wilson	Fortunato	Salomon	Keiser	Nguyen	Sheldon	Carlyle	Saldafia	McCoy	Wagoner	Lovelett	Wellman	Ericksen	Pedersen	Hobbs	Dhingra	Froctt	Das	Kuderer	Cleveland
D	D	R	D	D	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ex.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## PEBB Report - Uniform Medical Plans (UMP) Formulary Update

- by Carol Dotlich

The Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) passed the following resolution at their April 24th meeting:

Beginning January 1, 2020, upon approval of a resolution by both the PEBB and SEBB, all Uniform Medical Plans (UMP) plans require the use of a value-based formulary and:

- Non-formulary drugs are covered only when medically necessary and all formulary drugs were ineffective or are not clinically appropriate for that member, and
- Multi-source brand-name drugs, including those in refill protected classes, are covered only when medically necessary and all formulary drugs have been ineffective or are clinically inappropriate for that member, and
- Members who have been taking a non-formulary drug are required to

switch to the formulary drug, unless they receive or have already gone through the exception process and been approved, or their drug is with one of the refill protected drug classes which include: antipsychotics, antidepressants, anti epileptics, chemotherapy, antiretrovirals, immunosuppressives, and immunomodulatory/antiviral treatment for Hepatitis C.

Information provided to the board indicated that 20% of UMP users are retirees and 40% of the drug spending is retirees. Previously, we were told that the premium cost to the consumer has trended upward due to the high cost of prescription drugs. The purpose of the resolution is to try to control drug costs.

Concerns were expressed about the impact on seniors who have conditions well controlled by current medications who

## Chapter Spotlight: Getting to Know Your Board Members

- by Nancy Heley

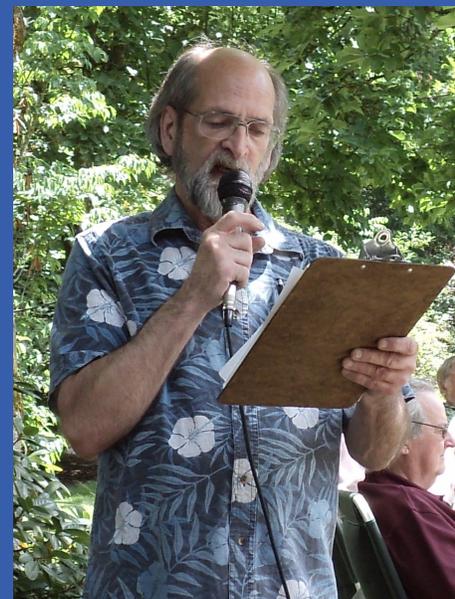
### District #7 Board Member Denny Johnston Chapter 2 - Olympia Area, representing Chapter 2

Denny Johnston retired from the Department of Corrections in 2009, joined the Retired Public Employees Council in 2010, and was elected to the RPEC Executive Board in 2018. He states that his reason for joining RPEC was a natural extension of his membership in AFSCME. When asked what he enjoyed most about retirement, his answer was, "saying yes, volunteering, and those 4 pm naps." His biggest concern about retirement is that younger people get the same or better benefits than he receives.

Denny loves college football, especially the WSU Cougars, and has personally

seen nearly 60 different college football games in 35 different venues all over the country.

As an RPEC Executive Board member, he hopes to contribute ideas and listen to ideas to help RPEC and assure that everyone feels included. Welcome to the Executive Board Denny.



may be forced to try alternative medications and when they don't work, have to go through an undefined exception process.

As your voice at PEBB, I asked that seniors who have existing medical conditions that are well controlled on their current medications be exempted from this requirement. That was refused, stating that the original resolution was changed to exempt a number of drugs that treat specific conditions based on concerns I and others expressed in prior meetings. I moved to table the resolution until June 5th to allow time for staff to provide the Board with the exception procedure. The motion to table failed and the resolution passed with only Greg Devereux (active state employees), Tom MacRobert (retired school employees) and I voting No.

The reasons Health Care Authority (HCA) staff have stated for this change was necessary are as follows:

- Clearer and simpler for members to

understand

- Exception process is more equitable and members may save on out-of-pocket costs by switching drugs
- Protect member premiums from extreme volatility in drug pricing
- Paying for value-not paying for higher priced drugs that are equally effective as formulary options

HCA will begin reaching out to current UMP subscribers who are taking non-formulary drugs to inform them of the changes and encouraging them to begin the process of working with their provider to switch to alternative drugs or begin the exception process.

**RPEC members on UMP who would like to check if their medications are on the preferred drug list should call Washington State Rx Services at 1-888-361-1611 or visit <https://www.hca.wa.gov/ump/ump-classic/prescription-drugs>.**

## And the 2019 RPEC Legislative Champion Awards go to...

On the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, the RPEC Executive Board has created an annual award for legislators who go above and beyond to champion bills that support retirees in Washington State. **The 2019 RPEC Legislative Champion Awards go to:**

- **Representative Mari Leavitt, 28th LD** - Mari was the prime sponsor of our COLA bill and worked hard to get the budget amendment to add the funding for the COLA passed on the House floor.
- **Representative Laurie Dolan, 22nd LD** - Laurie was the prime sponsor of the bill to add a representative from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) to the Public Employee Benefits Board (PEBB), and she also sponsored the bill

to increase the state's support for the retiree Medicare premium to 50% of the monthly cost.

The Council Office will be working with the chapters in the recipient's district to present the awards.



