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Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 13 – Spokane Area

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Meeting Date:	Thursday, June 9, 2022
Meeting Time:	Lunch: 11:00 AM, Meeting: 12:00 PM
Meeting Place:	Selkirk Pizza
Meeting Address:	12424 N Division St Spokane, WA 99218

JUNE CHAPTER MEETING June 9, 2022 Spokane Area Chapter of RPEC will meet at the Selkirk Pizza, 12424 N Division St., Spokane. We gather at 11:00 AM to get our meal or snack and the meeting starts at 12:00 noon. You do not have to buy a meal to attend the meeting. As usual, **there will be no meeting in the month of July.**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND A SPECIAL INVITATION TO MEMBERS WHO DO NOT LIVE IN SPOKANE COUNTY AND FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COME TO MEETINGS. YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A DELEGATE TO THE 2022 RPEC STATE CONVENTION, **read on....**

RETIRE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL STATE CONVENTION: The RPEC convention will be held in Wenatchee September 27-29, 2022, at the Wenatchee Convention Center, 121 North Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee. The main hotel is the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, 201 N Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee. Our Spokane Chapter sends delegates to this convention, and typically almost all who wish to attend as a delegate are elected. The Chapter pays the registration fees which includes three meals, and reimburses delegates (with receipts) for expenses such as hotel room and auto mileage. **Delegate election will be at the June meeting**, you may be nominated at that meeting or give your name to President Gail before the June 9 meeting. Gail will place your name in nomination at the June meeting. We encourage members to attend the convention, for good fun, good food, and in sun in Wenatchee. There will be more information at meetings and on the RPEC website, www.rpecwa.org.

The Spokane Area Chapter will pay a registration fee for each delegate. This includes 3 meals: lunch and banquet on the 28th and breakfast on the 29th. Delegates to the convention will be reimbursed for expenses for meals outside of the ones provided, hotel room for the 27th and the 28th, and mileage at the rate of 50 cents per mile from your home to Wenatchee, round trip, whether there is one person in the car or several. Receipts are required for reimbursement for meals and hotel. The Treasurer will give each delegate a travel voucher to report your expenses.

If you plan to attend the convention, please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. You may call 509-662-1234 or email fom@wenatcheecenter.com. When making a room reservation, say you are attending the RPEC Convention so you will get the contracted rate of \$109 a night.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES: The Convention determines the policies and priorities of our organization for the next two years. We do this by submitting resolutions on issues important to us as retired public employees. Our chapter will accept resolutions presented at a meeting in June or August and decide whether to support them and submit to the State Convention. At the Convention, all resolutions are assigned to either the Resolutions Committee or the Legislative Committee. The work of these committees is very important and influential, as they may recommend passage or non-passage to the full convention. They may also vote to amend resolutions.

There are seven other committees that are also very important: Constitution, Elections, Registration, RPEC-PAC Raffle, Rules, and Sergeants-at-Arms. When you place your name in nomination, you have an opportunity to ask to serve on any one committee. Because the work of the committees is so important, our chapter will reimburse members for expenses for the day of committee meetings.

WE APPRECIATE YOU, OUR MEMBERS. SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU. STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED. YOUR ADVICE AND IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT. COME HELP US MAKE DECISIONS FOR SPOKANE AREA CHAPTER, RPEC.

Executive Director's Report

Dear RPEC Leaders,

It's been a whirlwind first month of employment. Here's a recap of the highlights and a few key events to put on your radar.

Leadership training, June 13 & 17

Congratulations to all those newly elected to chapter leadership roles. Please plan to join us for annual Leadership Training via Zoom on June 13. The training is designed for all new and returning chapter leaders and members who may have an interest in serving in a chapter or Council leadership role in the future. The training will cover everything you need to know about RPEC, the Council Office, and the roles and responsibilities of chapter leaders. Special breakout sessions are planned in the afternoon for key leadership roles, including chapter presidents and secretaries.

On June 17, AFSCME will host a Financial Standards workshop for all presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. This training is also open to all members who have an

interest in learning more about financial reporting for chapters and those willing to serve as chapter trustees for auditing.

Council staff will be leading monthly Leadership Calls for all chapter leaders and anyone interested in learning more about chapter leadership. Each month, we anticipate focusing on a specific topic addressed in the June leadership training sessions. We also will allow time for attendees to share best practices. The schedule of topics for the Monthly Leadership Calls will be provided at the June training sessions, promoted through the events calendar on the website at www.rpecwa.org and promoted through my monthly letter to chapter leaders.

PAC on the attack

Our PAC (Political Action Committee) is on “offense,” fully engaged and already working on your behalf to ensure pro-retiree candidates are positioned to win the primary elections in August. All the House legislative seats are up for election, as well as about half of the state Senate seats.

The PAC has completed its slate of incumbent endorsements and will be releasing the list soon. Moreover, the PAC has finalized the candidate questionnaire that will be used, in concert with candidate interviews, to determine the endorsement of those running for state offices for the first time.

In addition to donating to the PAC, there are many other ways you can become involved in helping pro-retiree state candidates win their races. Once the PAC releases the slate of endorsed candidates, invite endorsed candidates to speak at chapter events. This is a great way to educate incumbents and those seeking office to learn about our legislative agenda and priorities as retired public employees. Consider getting involved in the campaigns of endorsed candidates. Candidates running for office always need extra hands to extend the visibility of their campaigns. This presents a great opportunity to not only gain visibility with candidates but also to network on behalf of RPEC. We also urge members to attend candidate forums. This is another way to get to know the candidates who are running and for them to learn about us and our legislative priorities as retired public employees.

Together, we can help elect candidates who will work to protect pensions, benefits, and retirement security.

Donate to the PAC

Members recently received a letter about donating to the PAC. The best time to endorse candidates and donate to their campaigns is early in the campaign cycle leading into the primary elections. Your contribution, of any amount, can be automatically deducted monthly from your pension. One-time contributions by check, addressed to RPEC PAC, are always welcome. The contribution form is available at <https://rpecwa.org/rpec-pac-deduction-form/> or by contacting the Council Office at (360) 352-8262.

Maximizing the interim legislative session

The Legislative Committee and the Plan 1 COLA (cost of living adjustment) Workgroup have been strategizing about RPEC's path forward regarding a permanent COLA to support Plan 1 members. Work is beginning on a plan to unify our advocacy efforts targeting key decision makers in the Legislature. The work of the PAC will align with the Legislative Committee's plans by identifying and cultivating legislative champions who will stand with us in our fight for a permanent COLA for Plan 1 members and will advocate for the legislative priorities of our Plan 2 and 3 members.

20 years and countless accolades later

Many of you probably know Derek VanSpoor, our Communications & IT Specialist. He's always working behind the scenes improving office operations to better serve our members. It's hard to enumerate all the ways that Derek has impacted the growth and stability of RPEC through his service commitment to our members. He's spearheaded many of the major innovations that have enabled the organization to grow and serve members through modernized technology. He has led all our technology integration and implementation efforts, all branding and strategic communication, as well as the staging of our Convention. He is also our resident historian and probably has our entire constitution memorized! Derek rarely toots his own horn, so we are doing it for him. He recently passed his 20-year anniversary milestone. If you happen to call the Council Office or email Derek, please extend your thanks for his 20 years of service and for all he has done and continues to do for all of us and RPEC.

Important Dates

Visit the RPEC website at www.rpecwa.org for a full calendar of Council and chapter events and meetings.

June 13: Leadership Training (virtual)

June 17: AFSCME Financial Standards Training (Virtual)

July 1: Deadline for Convention Delegate Registration

August 13: Resolution/amendment submittal deadline for Convention

August 24: Executive Board meeting (virtual)

Sept 27-29: RPEC Convention (in-person, Wenatchee)

November 14: Executive Board meeting (virtual)

Best,

Laurie