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# Retired Public Employees Council

## Chapter 16 – Yakima Area

*Julianne Moore, President*

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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022  
**Meeting Time:** 11:30 AM  
**Meeting Place:** Sea Galley Restaurant  
**Meeting Address:** 25 E Valley Mall Blvd, Union Gap, WA 98903

Greetings Chapter 16 Members!

This month (May) was named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. Another possibility is the Latin word *maiores*, or “elders”, who were also celebrated during this month. Maia was considered a nurturer and an earth goddess.

Chapter 16 will have its very own “earth goddess” (Diana Pieti), to lead our celebration of Spring: a chatty, cheerful, witty, Master Gardener! Come prepared to giggle and chuckle, while taking notes!

A true Yakima Valley native, Diana started life in west valley and then spent the next 43 years in the Wenas Valley. Somewhere in there she rose to supervisor at Zirkle Fruit Company, from which she retired after 38 years. Kids and grandkids went to Selah schools. She is not done yet, as a master gardener since 1998, and a continuing member of the Selah Downtown Association, whose aim is to beautify Selah. She likes to “empower” kids by getting their hands dirty. She refers to herself as a “cheerleader”... and we think you'll find your spirits lifted too.

### Future Programs

Locally, we are taking the month of June off, but may join other labor organizations for a picnic in July, and an indoor “Cool-your-heels get-together” in August. There is a great fall line-up of speakers ahead! But first, there are two online training sessions coming up in June!

#### **Part A - Leadership Training**

Date: Monday, June 13, 2022

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. to include breaks

Format: Virtual via Zoom hosted by RPEC Council Office

Who is this for: All current chapter leaders and those who may want to consider a leadership role in the future.

#### **Part B - AFSCME Financial Standards Code Training**

Date: Friday, June 17, 2022

Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. to include breaks

Format: Virtual via Zoom hosted by AFSCME

Who is this for: All chapter presidents, treasurers, and secretaries.

These events are designed to provide chapter leaders and those looking to get more involved in RPEC with the tools and resources to they need to empower and engage their fellow retirees. A packet of materials and Zoom meeting login information will be sent to those who register.

**Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 31.** If you have any questions, please contact the Council Office at 1-800-562-6097 or email [info@rpecwa.org](mailto:info@rpecwa.org) <https://rpecwa.org/2022-leadership-training/>

Registration forms for USPS will be available at the general Chapter 16 meeting, May 18.

We have a couple delegate spots at the Convention in Wenatchee, September 27-29. What will you give Chapter 16 in service if you are selected for a paid trip? We also need to fill a couple of e-board seats.

## **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](http://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.

### **Convention in person in Wenatchee, September 27-29**

Be on the lookout for the spring membership newsletter, which you will be receiving soon. The newsletter features details about our Convention in September in Wenatchee, our first in-person gathering in several years. Chapters must submit their list of delegates to the Council Office by July 1. If you are interested in representing your chapter at Convention as a delegate, confirm your interest right away with your chapter president. Most of the expenses associated with participation as a delegate will be covered by your chapter.

### **20 years and countless accolades later**

Many of you probably know Derek VanSpor, 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](http://www.rpecwa.org) for a full calendar of Council and chapter events and meetings.

**May 4:** Executive Board meeting (virtual)

**May 6:** Legislative Committee meeting (virtual)

**May 6:** Monthly Legislative Update Call (virtual, rescheduled from May 4)

**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