



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 18 – Grays Harbor County

Johanna Standish, President

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Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Meeting Time: 11:30 AM
Meeting Location: Montesano Timberland Library Meeting Room
Meeting Address: 125 S Main Street, Montesano, WA 98520

Program

Clair Olivers, RPEC Statewide Treasurer
RPEC Today – And what's Next?

Business Meeting Agenda Items

- Board Approval? of possible Budget Adjustment for Convention Expenses
- Board Approval? of possible change from Pacific Bank to a local Credit Union.
 - Member Input for Programs September 22 – May 23
 - See April Minutes on the reverse

HOORAY! The one-time PERS 1 COLA will be in the July checks.

As the minutes show, in April, we celebrated the “retirement” of three dedicated officers who had served for five or more years as Vice President – Jane Lauzon, Treasurer – Paulette Straughn, and Secretary – Sharon Chestnut. Again, please accept our thanks for all your hard work these many years.

We are excited about your new officers. Ruth Cook is your new Vice President. Alan (Al) Telecky is your new Treasurer and Nancy Heley is your new Secretary. Phil Jones was elected to Board Position 1, and Alan Rammer and Paul Mallary are our Trustees. Al, Alan, Paul, and Paulette have hit the ground running. They have already scheduled the audit of our Chapter books. Great work!

Leadership Training is available in June to anyone who registers. What RPEC does and how it gets done will be much better understood by members if they attend these Zoom sessions. We encourage your attendance.

Long-time members know that May is our last membership meeting of the summer season. We will resume our second- Tuesday- of- the- month schedule on September 13. Location to be determined.

Over the summer, your Chapter's Legislative Committee will be actively identifying local races, (such as County Commissioner) and interviewing local candidates for possible endorsement, dollar donations and campaign work for those we endorse. EVERY race, local, state and national, is important this year. Watch for action messages from this Chapter, from Council 10, and from AFSCME.

Whatever your political views, get informed, involved, and VOTE.

Stay healthy and engaged.

Johanna Standish
President

Retired Public Employees Council of Washington
Chapter 18 Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022
Montesano Library

The meeting was called to order by President Johanna Standish. There were 15 members present and one guest, Bill Ziegler, RPEC Council Vice President. All stood for the flag salute. The minutes of March 8 were read and approved. Treasurers report was given showing a balance of \$7,252.56

The nominating committee (Alan Rammer and Jane Lauzon) made the following nominations: Johanna Standish, President; Ruth Cook, Vice President, Nancy Heley Secretary, Al Telecky, Treasurer, Phil Jones, Executive Board Member-at-large, Position 1, Paul Mallory, and Alan Rammer, Trustees. There were no other nominations from the floor and all those nominated were elected then sworn in by Past President, Jeanine Bramstedt. Retiring officers, Jane Lauzon and Paulette Straughn will be removed as approved account signatories and replaced by Ruth Cook and Al Telecky.

Chapter 18 delegates elected to the 2022 RPEC Convention are: Johanna Standish, Elyette Weinstein, Jeanine Bramstedt, Paul Mallory, Ruth Cook, Jane Lauzon, Al Telecky, and, as alternates, Alan Rammer, and Nancy Heley. Anna Telecky may attend as a guest. This is the highest ever delegate count to Convention from our Chapter.

Alan Rammer presented a fossil platter on behalf of Chapter 18 to President Johanna Standish recognizing her for her work for RPEC and Chapter 18 members.

Discussion followed regarding arrangements for the convention. Delegates will make their own room reservations and the chapter will submit registration forms and fees. Delegates will be reimbursed for their shared room charges and for mileage for three vehicles, based on the approved rate. Johanna will be the convention coordinator for Chapter 18.

Johanna shared that she will be running for Council Secretary. She also shared that she will be drafting a resolution that members can discuss and vote on at the May meeting. The resolution involves a Council 10 constitutional amendment to allow Executive Committee, Executive Board and/or rank and file, members to request special meetings of the Executive Committee or the Executive Board.

Ann Widger, AFSCME, will be asked to speak at our May 10 meeting. Members voted to hold the May meeting in person at the Montesano Library. **CORRECTION:** RPEC Treasurer Clair Olivers has been scheduled for May's meeting.

Cake was provided celebrating the PERS 1 COLA and honoring our outgoing officers. We are thankful for their work and involvement with Chapter 18 and RPEC.

NOTE: Any meeting with Ann Widger from AFSCME's D.C. office would need to be via Zoom. A District-wide Zoom meeting invitation to Ms. Widger is under consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Heley, Secretary

Executive Director's Report

In service to you

Warm greetings to each of you! My name is Laurie Weidner, and I am deeply honored to serve as your new Executive Director. I officially joined the RPEC team on March 24. It's been both an exciting and busy first week. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from chapter and committee leaders. Your kind gestures reaffirm the special culture we have at RPEC. I look forward to serving the organization and working in partnership with you to safeguard pensions and benefits for all RPEC members. My contact information is: laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org and (360) 352-8262, ext. 101.

One-time Plan 1 COLA

Through the extraordinary advocacy work of our members statewide, SB 5676 (one-time 3% Plan 1 cost of living adjustment) unanimously passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed by Governor Inslee in March. RPEC Plan 1 retirees will receive the COLA at the end of July. This is the largest one-time COLA Plan 1 retirees have received since the state revoked the ongoing Plan 1 COLA in 2011. The spring newsletter will contain a roundup of other key legislation benefiting all RPEC members.

Donate to RPEC PAC

With the legislative session now behind us, RPEC's Political Action Committee (PAC) is ramping up for the state mid-term elections. All House seats and 26 of the 49 Senate seats will be up for election. RPEC aims to ensure pro-retiree candidates not only succeed in the August primaries but also win the November general election. Although the candidate filing deadline is May 20, committee members and staff are already refining the candidate questionnaire and the interview process that will lead to PAC endorsements. If you have not yet donated to the PAC, this is the ideal time to consider contributing. 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. Look for more details in a letter coming to you this month. One-time contributions by check, addressed to RPEC PAC, are always welcome. The contribution form is available at [RPEC PAC Deduction Form - Retired Public Employees Council of WA \(rpecwa.org\)](#) or by contacting the Council Office at (360) 352-8262.

Beyond donating to the PAC, there are many other ways you can become involved in advancing pro-retiree state candidates. Once the RPEC PAC issues its state candidate endorsement slate, the Council and your chapter will offer suggestions of the many ways that you can help these candidates win their primary elections.

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

Register today for Convention

Join us as we all come together again! Our 2022 Convention will be in-person and is scheduled for September 28-29 in beautiful Wenatchee, with committee meetings on the afternoon of the 27th. If you are interested in attending as a delegate for your chapter, please contact your chapter officers or attend the next chapter meeting to let them know.

The convention call has been sent to your chapters with all pertinent information, as well as posted on the RPEC website at <https://rpecwa.org/convention/>. RPEC is a member-driven organization, and this is where it all begins. The convention sets the course for RPEC's directions and legislative priorities.

Chapter elections

Have you considered serving in a leadership role within your chapter? Chapters are recruiting members now for chapter elections. In most cases, elections will take place this month at chapter meetings. For more information, contact your chapter president. The Council will provide Leadership Training on June 13-14 via Zoom. Details will be available soon. The training is open to all members but is specially geared toward chapter leaders and those interested in serving in a leadership role within their chapter in the future. Registration will open April 15.

Important Dates

Visit the RPEC website at 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)

June 13: Leadership Training Part A (virtual)

June 17: Leadership Training Part B (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