



# Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

## CHAPTER 19 KITSAP COUNTY

**PRESIDENT: SANDIE REYNOLDS: 253-820-6620 OR [sandielee@comcast.net](mailto:sandielee@comcast.net)**

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 8, 2022      TIME: 12:00-1:30 PM**

**ALL STAR LANES RESTAURANT  
10710 SILVERDALE WAY NW, SILVERDALE, WA 98383**

### **Dear Members.**

Wow! What a great May meeting. Rep. Caldier joined us, and we ran into overtime. She was open to all our questions and stated she was supportive of a permanent COLA but said that 3% is just not sufficient! Rep. Caldier feels it needs to be much higher than that. Whether that is achievable will depend on both houses working in unison and understanding the need.

She was surprised to learn some of the obstacles we have run into as ~~ss~~Seniors and retirees with PEBB. We discussed the issues around the poor dental insurance we currently have and why seniors would rather let that go in favor of other expenses due to the high costs of uncovered treatments. She explained why dental insurance is not dental insurance, but rather a type of "savings" account. That is the primary reason why there is such a high cost. She offered a way of creating a type of "catastrophic coverage for dental and how that might be done. The latter will require a good deal of thought and research.

We talked about the hike in gas prices and the real estate taxes. She also talked about the pros and cons of the upcoming (2030) electric car issue and how selling our gas vehicles soon would be very difficult. Questions were raised by two folks who have electric vehicles and find that the fees for use and the lack of electrical charging stations is problematic to that plan. Her own recent health issues with the pharmaceuticals and the costs have given her a new view of what the seniors are facing on an everyday basis. We had examples for her about costs of medications and hospital issues. She brought up the issue of the Franciscan clinics monopolizing a good portion of our State for health care and being one of the central themes of increased costs and deductibles.

GUEST NEXT MEETING: Josh from Kitsap Aging was not able to attend but we are planning to have him at our June meeting.

Our attendance at meetings still remains low despite membership numbers. We have almost 300 members in our Chapter. There is some talk about how we can keep our members informed and interactive. This is your chapter and input from our members is critical to how we can best meet our mission to keep you informed.

Hildegard Stone has volunteered as one of our Trustees. Thank you, Hildegard!!!! She is a member in good standing and has held one of our offices previously. We now have a full compliment of officers and board members for our chapter.

Theresa Adams, our Treasurer, presented the current budget and treasury report.

\*\*Don't forget: The chapter will be picking up the cost of lunch for anything over \$10.00. Our Treasurer asks that members please pay your \$10 to her before you order so she can promptly pay for lunches at the end of the meeting. Theresa asks, if possible, please pay in cash as that will make it so much easier for her. Thank you.

REMEMBER: THERE ARE NO MEETINGS FOR JULY OR AUGUST!

### **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.

## **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](http://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