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# Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 2 – Olympia Area

**“Retired from Work, Engaged in Life!”**

**Tim Welch – President: (360) 481-5092 • afscmeco28@comcast.net**

**Katrina Wynkoop Simmons – Vice President**

**Martin Rollins – Secretary**

**Pat Mix – Interim Treasurer**

**Diana Finch – Membership Chair**

**Lonnie Johns-Brown – Legislative/Political Action Chair**

**Gary Bruebaker – Finance Chair**

## **SPECIAL COMBINED ISSUE for December & January**

The in-person Chapter 2 General Membership Meetings will be held on **Dec. 8** and **Jan. 12**. • Register by Jan. 11 for RPEC Legislative Day on Jan. 30 (an in-person event). – You can make a difference in 2023 with your stories and our voices on pensions, healthcare and more. • Up-to-date information on the status of major action that RPEC seeks from the 2023 Legislature (see Executive Director’s Report later in this newsletter). • Also inside: Easy actions to get updates you need during legislative session starting on Jan. 9 – important upcoming dates.

### **December 2022:**

**Join us live and in person as  
Chapter 2’s Annual Holiday Party  
returns Dec. 8 @ The Olympia Center**

- **DATE:** Thursday, Dec. 8
- **TIME:** 1:30 p.m.
- **WHERE:** The Olympia Center,  
222 Columbia St. NW,  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Multipurpose Room A,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor

#### **FEATURED:**

- **Holiday treats!**
- **FIVE door prizes worth \$50 each!**
- **PLUS:** Holiday **sweater contest**; a visit from **Santa**; and a performance from noted local **musician Dusty Rhodes**; more details below.

**WHAT TO BRING:** We’d welcome any holiday goodie, favorite dessert or snack item you can share while we enjoy the special program.

**GIVING BACK:** Also returning is our traditional cash box for contributions to one of our community partners. This year all cash donations will go to the **South Sound Pet Assistance for Low-income Seniors (PALS) Fund**. This program is run by Senior Services for South Sound with all cash

donations going to pay veterinary bills for low-income seniors.

#### **Holiday sweater contest.**

Remember to wear your most festive holiday sweater. We’ll have a friendly competition recognizing the most noteworthy fashion selections, and winners will receive a prize!



#### **Santa Claus is coming back to Chapter 2!**



donations going to pay veterinary bills for low-income seniors.

This year, Santa’s return visit to Chapter 2 comes live and in person. **Santa Bob Parflow**, you may remember, is a former state Capitol reporter for The Olympian. Today, he and Mrs. (Dee) Claus – as former foster parents -- devote much of their time to bringing joy and dignity to children in stressful situations. Santa

Bob will share some of those stories. Santa Bob also happens to be a retired public employee – he appreciates our intense effort on pensions (notably a Plan 1 COLA). Even Santa needs to keep up with the cost of living. He promises a very special wish to all of us going into 2023.

**Dusty Rhodes returns with seasonal songs**

Noted area musician (and retired state employee) Dusty Rhodes will close out the program with a selection of holiday songs and special stories. He was with us the last time we gathered for our holiday festivities – Chapter 2 members who were there will never forget it. We're glad Dusty can come back for a return engagement three years in the making.



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We'll start the special holiday program Dec. 8 immediately after a short business session.

**Other Dec. 8 Agenda Highlights:** Adopting Chapter 2's Budget for 2023; more on the upcoming legislative session.

**January 2023 Meeting Notice**

*Chapter 2's General Membership Meeting  
(in-person)*

- **DATE:** **Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023**
- **TIME:** **1:30 p.m.**
- **WHERE:** **The Olympia Center,  
222 Columbia St. NW,  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Multipurpose Room A, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.**
  
- **WHY ATTEND?** The 2023 Legislative Session starts Jan. 9. The deadline to register for RPEC Legislative Day is Jan. 11. On Jan. 12, Chapter 2 is the place to be for live, in-person status updates of proposed legislation on Plan 1 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), plus other priorities in 2023 that impact you and all retired public employees.
- **Also:** Guest speaker, Jakob Canup, RPEC's Membership Coordinator, will attend our meeting and will cover the benefits of membership and how to grow our member base. We will also cover committee reports, updates, and opportunities to talk to your officers and board members.
- **Plus: DOOR PRIZES!**

**Important Chapter 2 Dates**

\*See Executive Director's Report for other key dates

<b>Dec. 8, 2022 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Chapter 2 December 2022 Executive Board Meeting</b> <i>(In-person)</i> The Olympia Center, Room 100
<b>Dec. 8, 2022 – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Chapter 2 December 2022 General Membership Meeting</b> <b>SPECIAL EVENT: HOLIDAY PARTY</b> <i>(In-person)</i> The Olympia Center, Multipurpose Room A
<b>Dec. 25, 2022</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> (Sunday)
<b>Dec. 26, 2022</b>	<b>Christmas Day State Holiday</b> (Monday)
<b>Jan. 1, 2023</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b> (Sunday)
<b>Jan. 2, 2023</b>	<b>New Year's Day State Holiday</b> (Monday)
<b>Jan. 9, 2023</b>	<b>2023 Legislature convenes for scheduled 105-day session</b>
<b>Jan. 11, 2023</b>	<b>Registration deadline: 2023 RPEC Legislative Day</b>
<b>Jan. 12, 2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Chapter 2 January 2023 Executive Board Meeting</b> <i>(In-person)</i> The Olympia Center, Room 100
<b>Jan. 12, 2023 – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Chapter 2 January 2023 General Membership Meeting</b> <i>(In-person)</i> The Olympia Center, Multipurpose Room A
<b>Jan. 13, 2023 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>RPEC Weekly Legislative Update</b> (via Zoom and telephone)
<b>Jan. 16, 2023</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day State Holiday</b>
<b>Jan. 30, 2023</b>	<b>2023 RPEC Legislative Day</b>

## NOTES:

**a) This combined newsletter covers both December and January.** Due to the holiday season printing schedules; pre-session info and actions you can take before the 2023 Legislature convenes on Jan. 9; and provide notices now to save the date for the 2023 RPEC Legislative Day on Monday Jan. 30.

**b)** The Dec. 8 General Membership Meeting will be our first in-person meeting since the "Pandemic Pause" hit in February 2020. And it's the first in-person Holiday Celebration since 2019. We'll be evaluating all in-person meetings for obvious reasons. We've secured a meeting space through May but can quickly "course correct" to virtual meetings based on any new COVID surge or feedback from members.

**c) At in-person meetings, full meeting agendas, draft minutes and other documents and resources will be available on-site at the General Membership meetings** at The Olympia Center on Dec. 8 and Jan. 12. For instance, draft minutes from the Nov. 10 General Membership Meeting will be available on Dec. 8 at the in-person meeting, along with the agenda and the draft Chapter 2 2023 Budget. Minutes from Dec. 8 will be available at the in-person meeting on Jan. 12, along with the agenda and other relevant documents. Motions related to those documents will be put before the general membership for debate and votes. During this transition to in-person meetings, for most if not all General Membership Meetings, Chapter 2 members can receive relevant documents electronically by request. E-mail those requests to Chapter 2 President Tim Welch at [afscmecoco28@comcast.net](mailto:afscmecoco28@comcast.net)

## Action and info:

RPEC's statewide Legislative Advocacy Program has a few easy pre-session actions you can take to make a difference.

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## An opportunity to make our voices heard!



## Register by Jan. 11 for RPEC Legislative Day

- For more information and to register online, go to <https://rpecwa.org/2023-legislative-day/>.
- Legislative Day begins 9:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 30 @ the Olympia Hotel @ Capitol Lake (formerly the Hotel RL), at 2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia 98502.
- Morning training, noon lunch, and evening reception will be in the Forest Ballroom. Afternoon meetings with your legislators at the Capitol.

**Questions?** Email [info@rpecwa.org](mailto:info@rpecwa.org) or call toll-free 1-800-562-6097

## Quick resource links from RPEC:

Get calls to action, messages to legislators, regular updates and virtual briefings.

- **RPEC Action Email Program:** Go to [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org). Look for the box titled "Get RPEC Email NEWS & ALERTS." Fill it out to get important email updates.

- **Find your legislators' contact info:**

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>

- The toll-free State Legislature switchboard to leave a "HOTLINE" message is 1-800-562-6000.

- **RPEC's Virtual Legislative Updates** (via Zoom and telephone) – Log-on pre-session at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7. When the legislative session starts, the updates become weekly, every Friday, 2 - 3 p.m., beginning on Jan. 13.

**Log on via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89045365250?pwd=cHYvbU80d08xTXRLImpOZGF1VW53QT09>

Meeting ID: 890 4536 5250

Passcode: 320296

**Dial:**

253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 890 4536 5250

Passcode: 320296

Watch for the updated schedule once the Legislature convenes on Jan. 9.

## **Executive Director's Report – November 28, 2022**

Dear RPEC Leaders & Members:

November is a time when we quicken our pace in our legislative affairs activity with a focus on ensuring that members vote for RPEC-endorsed candidates who prioritize retiree issues, influencing the Select Committee on Pension Policy's (SCPP) endorsement of legislation that benefits our members, and gearing up for Legislative Day on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

<https://rpecwa.org/scpp-testimony-preparation-training/>

### **Earn \$84 for recruiting 2 new members**

Member-to-member recruitment has proven to be the most effective way to grow RPEC's membership and that's why RPEC is calling on you to contribute to the growth of your chapter through the Recruit 2 Campaign. If you recruit 2 new members, you get an \$84 check (the cost for a year of membership)! Be sure that the recruit writes your name on the application as the referral, so we keep an accurate tally of the members who recruit the greatest number of new recruits. When recruiting associate members, you will receive credit towards Recruit 2 after they become a full member upon retirement. Another benefit of recruiting 2 new members is you will be recognized publicly for your efforts!

All told, 22 new members joined RPEC in October with 138 new members joining since August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. A handful of other RPEC members were also honored at Convention for their Recruit 2 efforts since the launch of the campaign. Here are the chapters that have participated in the Recruit 2 campaign thus far: Ch 2, Ch3, Ch 6, Ch 7, Ch 12, Ch13, Ch 16, Ch 18, Ch 20, and Ch 35

Won't you join us in expanding our membership? Recruit 2 and receive a check for \$84 – your annual fee for membership.

### **We All Win as RPEC Grows**

All RPEC leaders and members share responsibility for strengthening RPEC. With more members, RPEC will garner a larger political presence, gaining greater influence on legislators to strengthen pension and health care security. The more our membership base grows and the more members we have regularly participating in our chapters, the more influence we harness to advance our legislative priorities. One way you can help RPEC grow is by reaching out to your former coworkers and inviting them to attend your chapter meeting to learn more about our organization. RPEC's advocacy efforts impact the well-being of all Plan 1, 2 and 3 retirees. Moreover, our chapters offer many ways to engage with like-minded retirees. As you work to help strengthen RPEC, please keep in mind these three membership eligibility categories:

- Full Member: Retired public sector employees of any age
- Associate Member: Active public sector employees within 18 months of retirement
- Vested Members: Non-retired employees who have left the public sector, but are vested in PERS, PSERS, SERS, and/or TRS

If you have questions or want to learn more about Recruit 2 or how you can help RPEC grow, please contact Jakob Canup, membership coordinator, at [Jakob.canup@rpecwa.org](mailto:Jakob.canup@rpecwa.org) or 360-352-8262, ext. 106.

## **Legislative Day, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Registration is now open for RPEC's annual Legislative Day on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The event will be held in person in Olympia. Register online at: <https://rpecwa.org/2023-legislative-day/>. No registrations will be taken by email or over the phone. Registration will close on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The host hotel will be the Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake (formerly the Hotel RL). Lodging is the responsibility of attendees or their chapters. The Council Office will reimburse attendees for mileage to/from the event. Lunch and a post-event reception will also be covered by the Council Office. For more information, contact Alissa Brady, administrative project coordinator, at [Alissa.brady@rpecwa.org](mailto:Alissa.brady@rpecwa.org) or 360-352-8262, ext. 100.

### **Important Dates**

Visit the RPEC website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for the full calendar of RPEC meetings and events:

**Dec. 7:** Monthly Legislative Update

**Dec. 9:** Legislative Committee

**Dec. 13:** SCPP meeting (tentative)

**Dec. 16:** Monthly Leadership Call

**Dec. 23-Jan. 2:** Council Office closed in observance of December holidays

**Jan. 3:** Council Office resumes regular hours

Best,  
Laurie