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# Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) Chapter 2 – Olympia Area

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

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Katrina Wynkoop Simmons – Vice President; RPEC Exec. Board-Dist. 7 Rep  
Martin Rollins – Secretary • Sandra Groves – Treasurer  
Susan Herring & Lonnie Johns-Brown – Legislative/Political Action Co-Chairs  
Diana Finch & Margie Stauffer – Membership Co-Chairs • Gary Bruebaker – Finance Chair

## **April 2024 RPEC CHAPTER 2 NEWSLETTER:**

Join us – live and in person @ The Olympia Center  
for RPEC Chapter 2’s April General Membership Meeting (4/11/24)

### **THINGS ARE HEATING UP IN APRIL!**

- **WHAT:** Chapter 2 April 2024 General Membership Meeting
- **DATE:** Thursday, April 11
- **TIME:** 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- **WHERE:** The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA 98501  
Multipurpose Room A, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

- **VIRTUAL OPTION: Can’t make the meeting in person?**

We have set up a special Zoom link for the April 11 General Membership Meeting:

Direct link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83261480687?pwd=YVQJ2AZea0hLa7biSaVdjAbIRgOYrR.1>

Meeting ID: 832 6148 0687 • Passcode: 506135

Dial: (253) 215-8782 • Meeting ID: 832 6148 0687 • Passcode: 506135

### **April 11 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

Join Chapter 2 on April 11 for thoughtful discussions, meeting your new leaders, treats, and prizes:

- **Is ignoring Global Warming harming our pensions and pocketbooks?** At press time, we were putting together a panel of chapter members and local elected officials. From the State Investment Board to local climate initiatives, more and more people – pro and con – see links we need to be aware of.
- **Final report of the Chapter 2 Election Committee** (and any elections that need to take place)
- **Comments from outgoing Chapter 2 President**
- Installation (swearing in) of new Officers and 16 Executive Board Members-at-Large

**\$500+** in prize drawings up for grabs at the March 14 RPEC Chapter 2 General Membership Meeting!

> The \$500 Meeting Attendance Incentive Award > Also: Three gift cards worth \$25 each will be drawn. Remember: You must be present in person to win all door prizes!

**See Executive Director’s Report on page 3 in this newsletter for other important updates.**

**Chapter 2 Calendar**

**April 11, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 12 Noon**

**Chapter 2 April 2024 Executive Board Meeting**

*(In-person) The Olympia Center, Room 102*

**April 11, 2024 – 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

**Chapter 2 April 2024 General Membership Meeting**

*(In-person) The Olympia Center, Multipurpose Room A.*

**Special order of business:** Installation of Ch. 2's new Officers & Executive Board for 2-year term.

**April 22, 2024**

**Earth Day**

**April 22, 2024**

**Passover begins (sundown)**

**May 2, 2024 – 10 AM**

**Ch. 2 Finance Committee**

**May 9, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 12 Noon**

**Chapter 2 May 2024 Executive Board Meeting**

*(In-person) The Olympia Center, Room 102*

**May 9, 2024 – 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

**Chapter 2 May 2024 General Membership Meeting**

*(In-person) The Olympia Center, Multipurpose Room A.*

**Special order of business:** Chapter 2's Annual Senior Resource Fair.

**July 11, 2024 – 11:30 AM – 2 PM**

**Chapter 2's Annual Summer Celebration & BBQ**

*Tumwater Historical Park, Sign up to help at April 11 Chapter 2 General Membership Meeting.*

**TELL CHAPTER 2 IF OUR IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE FOR YOU: Part 1**

*NOTE: A digital questionnaire will follow in late April or early May.*

Have you attended a Chapter 2 General Membership Meeting in person since they resumed post-pandemic in December 2022? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If YES, what attracted you to attending in-person? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If NO, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Meetings, whether in-person or virtual, aren't for everybody. What other kinds of Chapter 2 activities would you be interested in attending or taking part in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cut out and place in an envelope and mail to:**

CHAPTER 2 MEETINGS  
c/o RPEC  
906 Columbia Street SW, Suite 501  
Olympia, WA 98501-1240

## April 2024 Executive Director's Report

### **Convention 2024, Sept. 24-26, Wenatchee Convention Center**

Are you interested in serving as a chapter delegate to RPEC's biennial Convention? You do not need to be an officer or chapter committee leader to attend. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as delegate. If you are interested in being considered for your chapter's delegation to Convention, contact your chapter president. Delegates are chosen by election at a chapter meeting. If you are selected to represent your chapter, your Convention registration fee and lodging will be covered by your chapter. Guests may also attend at their own expense. The registration fee is \$150, which covers the Convention packet and all meals. The Convention hotel is the Coast Wenatchee. The RPEC rate is \$116.00 per night before taxes and fees. Visit [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for more details or contact your chapter president.

### **Federal Advocacy**

**Call to action on The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023:** If you have not already done so, please join your fellow RPEC members and AFSCME Retiree chapters nationwide in urging Congress to oppose The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 (H.R. 5779). If this legislation is approved, your federal benefits will be at risk. [The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 \(H.R. 5779\)](#) will create a 16-member fiscal commission to search for ways to reduce the national deficit and balance the national budget. Funding for Social Security and Medicare will be targeted for cuts. **Call 844-331-0441 today! Tell Congress to vote NO on this bill and similar proposals calling for fiscal commissions that aim to reduce your hard-earned retirement benefits.** A detailed [position paper](#) about the proposed debt commission is available at <https://retiredamericans.org>.

### **Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) To Vote on Potential New Pharmacy Benefit, April 11**

On April 11, the PEB Board will act on a resolution that will change the pharmacy benefit for Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare. RPEC's Legislative Committee supports this change, as it will lower monthly premiums for most plan subscribers. The medical benefits in the plan will remain unchanged. The new pharmacy benefit will continue to be administered by Moda to provide continuity of service and care for retirees. By making this plan more affordable, the new benefit, if adopted at the April PEB Board meeting, will help to ensure that an employer-managed plan remains in the mix of healthcare plan options available to public sector retirees. Currently, all but two plans are privatized. Preserving traditional Medicare continues to be a key federal priority for RPEC, in addition to preserving these options for the public sector retirees in Washington. Members are encouraged to attend the April 11 meeting and offer comments during the Public Comment period. Visit [www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov) for more details.

### **State Advocacy**

Beginning this month, the Legislative Update Calls will be held monthly, the first Friday of each month. Please join us on April 5 from 2-3 p.m. Details are available at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

## **Council Welcomes New Team Member**

Jane Hewitt joined RPEC in mid-March as our new Finance and Operations Specialist. Jane brings more than 40 years of relevant work experience to RPEC. She is married with grandchildren, originally hails from Great Britain, and is an animal lover with three rescue pets. Jane can be reached at [jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org](mailto:jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org). Please give her a warm welcome to RPEC!

## **Upcoming Events**

Visit [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for a full calendar of Council Office and chapter meetings.

- April 5 Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- April 11 Public Employees Benefits Board (9:00 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- April 11 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- April 12 Legislative Committee (10 a.m.)
- April 16 Select Committee on Pension Policy (10 a.m.)
- April 19 Pension Policy Workgroup (10 a.m.)
- April 25 Membership Committee (10 a.m.)
- April 25 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- April 26 RPEC Staff retreat (10 a.m.-3 p.m.)
- May 3 Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- May 6 Executive Board Meeting (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)
- May 7 Executive Board Strategic Plan Work Session (9:30-12:30 p.m.)
- May 8 Public Service Recognition Week (at Heritage Park, Olympia)
- May 9 Public Employees Benefits Board (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- May 9 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)