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Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 27 – Chelan-Douglas Counties

Don Boxford, President

(509) 670-7493 or dbox@nwi.net

Virtual Meeting Date:

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting Time:

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Computer Login Information

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 227 058 2870

Passcode: nP3L7M

Phone Login Information

Dial: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 227 058 2870

Phone Passcode: 956551

Greetings Chapter 27 members,

At our April meeting our guest speaker was Rep. Mike Steele from the 12th Legislative District. We thanked Mike for his past and continued support of RPEC issues. Mike wants to work with us over the summer to draft a bill for a permanent cost-of-living-adjustment for Plan1 retirees, which he would sponsor.

We held nomination and election of chapter officers. The following officers were elected by acclamation, as no other members were nominated for their positions. President Don Boxford, Vice President Tomas Sandoval, Secretary Steve Sype, Treasurer Betsy Peirce, Executive Board one year term Brenda Hand, Executive Board two year term Betty Rae Adams and Lois Ruggles, Executive Board three year term Fred Stanfield, and Trustee Julia Sandoval with one trustee position open.

The RPEC Convention will be held in Wenatchee September 27-29, with convention committee meetings from noon to 5:00 PM on September 27 and general convention session on September 28 and 29.

If you would like to be a delegate to the convention, please feel free to contact Don Boxford at (509) 665-8818 or email dbox@nwi.net. Chapter 27 will reimburse fully authorized Chapter 27 delegates for two nights lodging and two meals. Delegates are responsible for making their own lodging reservations at Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Delegates must provide receipts to get reimbursed for lodging and meals. Delegates guest logging and meals are at the expense of the delegate. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Don or the RPEC main office (360-352-8262).

Delegate/Alternate Registration: \$120.00 (includes convention packet and 3 meals) Chapter 27 will pay for Chapter 27 delegates.

Lodging (Coast Hotel): \$109.00 per night plus tax and fees for single or double.

Guest Meal Tickets: \$39 for the lunch, \$49 for the banquet, and \$32 for breakfast (\$120.00 for all three meals).

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 and June 17 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