



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 27 – Chelan-Douglas-Grant-Adams- Kittitas-Okanogan Counties

Don Boxford, President
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opeiu8/aflcio

Hybrid Meeting Date: Thursday, April 11th, 2024
Hybrid Meeting Time: 10:30 AM

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

In-Person Meeting Location

Wenatchee Senior Center

1312 Maple St

Wenatchee, WA 98801

CHAPTER ELECTIONS REMINDER

Nominations for chapter officers will continue at our **April 11th meeting**, followed by **elections at the end.**

Greetings Chapter 27 members,

At our March meeting, I had mentioned that the 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) bill was sent to the governor for him to sign. The Governor signed SHB 1985 on March 26, which enacts a one-time COLA for PERS/TRS 1 retirees, effective in July. We also had a representative from the Wenatchee Museum attend the meeting, who gave a presentation on events and programs they provide to the public and children. You can go to the museum's website to get more information about upcoming events and programs.

We also talked about the upcoming RPEC Biennial Convention in September and opened the floor for members to nominate themselves or others to be a Convention Delegate representing our chapter. Please feel free to call or email me with any nominations for Convention Delegates. Should we have more nominees than delegate positions, we will then vote for who will be our delegates.

Please be advised that nominations for officers will still be open at our April meeting, followed by election of officers after the nominations are closed at that meeting.

Please remember to call the Senior Center at 509-662-7036 the day before the meeting if you are having lunch.

Don Boxford, RPEC Chapter 27 President

Guest Speaker: State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti

Mike Pellicciotti (Pelleh-chee-otti) was elected Washington's 24th State Treasurer in 2020.

As Washington's chief financial officer, Mike is dedicated to financial transparency, protecting Washington's financial health, and leading policies that best serve our state's working families and retirees.

Mike has worked with the Legislature to strengthen budget reserves, manage debt costs, and increase pension funding. As a direct result, Washington has maintained outstanding credit ratings, including the highest “Aaa” rating from Moody’s. Leveraging our state’s strong financial reputation, Mike has refinanced existing debt to save Washington over a half-billion dollars since 2021. He has also increased investment returns for state and local governments, bringing billions of new dollars to Washington communities.



As Treasurer, Mike has led the passage of new laws that make state financial operations more modern and efficient. He has also offered bipartisan legislative proposals consistent with his belief that all Washingtonians should have economic opportunity at birth, the tools to thrive financially throughout life, and a path to security in retirement. Specifically, Mike has expanded financial education access in Washington, and has requested legislation to require financial education in our schools.

Mike has lived and has family on both sides of the Cascades and is committed to serving the entire state. He is particularly focused on promoting policies that support economic development in our rural regions and other communities that have been historically denied access to capital. In these pursuits, he has held hundreds of stakeholder meetings and town halls throughout all of our 39 counties.

Before being elected State Treasurer, Mike was an assistant attorney general and served two terms in the Washington House of Representatives. While representing the 30th Legislative District of South King and North Pierce Counties, he led efforts to increase penalties for corporate crime, to get “dark money” out of politics, and to increase government transparency.

If you would like to receive your chapter newsletter by email instead of hard copy, please contact Don Boxford at dbox@nwi.net.

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 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 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.

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. Please give her a warm welcome to RPEC!

Upcoming Events

Visit 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 a.m.-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.)