



## Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 28 – University of Washington

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
**Meeting Location:** Claim Jumper Steakhouse & Bar  
**Meeting Address:** 5901 S 180<sup>th</sup> St, Tukwila, WA 98188

WELCOME MEMBERS & FRIENDS! Looking forward to seeing you; please come and bring someone. RPEC is on the move, and CH 28 members have been well represented and engaged in the development of much needed strategies to move the agenda of our members (seniors & families) forward and in the right direction. Much has been accomplished and there is still so much to be done.

Please join us in solidarity in achieving our goals and priorities. Everyone is needed – each one of us makes a difference. We Matter!

**RPEC ON THE MOVE: Please read the RPEC Executive Director's Letter (SEE PAGE 5).**

### Mike Pellicciotti Fundraiser Kick-Off Luncheon



RPEC leaders joined over 200 guests attending the State Treasurer's re-election kick-off luncheon held May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Athletic Club in Downtown Seattle.

RPEC staff and Executive Board members attending were Laurie Weidner, Executive Director; Emmett Mills, Government Affairs Coordinator; RPEC Executive Board Officers: President Clair Olivers, Treasurer Johanna Standish, Secretary Nancy Heley, and District Reps Cheryl Moser (1), Katrina Wynkoop-Simmons (7), Carol Dotlich (8) Claude Burfect & Alma-jean Marion (9).

Special guests included Seattle Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, County District 2 making the introduction of the State Treasurer as the right person to do the job. He is a long-time servant and holds a record of saving the State of Washington millions.

Mr. Pellicciotti spoke about his duties as State Treasurer which includes managing the State debt, balancing the State budget, Transportation, State Banker, Money in Money out, writing checks, providing financial

guard rails, i.e., making sure our pensions are funded. He has introduced a Bond, "Washington Future Bond-Baby Bond, to be used for education, to start small business or buy property for children born after next year.

## MEETING AGENDA

**11:00 a.m.** Arrival – Welcome – Introductions & Announcements  
(Place Lunch Orders); Chapter covers up to \$20 per member.  
Members pay for additional amounts, guests & spirits.

**11:30 a.m.** Welcome to Guest Speaker, Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

- running for King County Council District 8 (Schedule changes possible; Campaign Manager Alexis Mansanarez substituting). District 8 covers a wide array of land, including downtown, West Seattle, Burien, parts of Tukwila & Vashon Island.
- Mosqueda, having served six years on the Seattle City Council, she is seeking to replace outgoing King County Councilmember Joe McDermott.
- Among her motivations for pursuing a King County seat she sees the growing need to build workforce housing, invest in public & behavioral health and support families and small businesses.



**11:45 a.m.** Questions & Answers

**12:00 p.m.** Business Meeting: Period April-May, 2023

- Officer Reports (Secretary, Treasurer, President, District 9 Rep.)  
April, 2023 Minutes – Benester Fields, Secretary  
Financial Report – (April, 2023) - Juanita Taylor, Treasurer  
President's Report – Mary Marbles,  
District 9 Report – Alma-jean Marion, District 9 Representative

**12:45 p.m.** - Sunshine Report, Menia Traxler  
- New Business

**1:00 p.m.** Adjournment

Mary Marbles, President  
Chapter 28, Retired Public Employees Council

Questions: Mary Marbles, 206-295-6231

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### **RPEC Chapter 28 Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2023 – Claim Jumper Steakhouse & Bar**

**Called to order by President Mary Marbles with a welcome to all @ 11:35 A.M**  
**Meeting conducted in-person Claim Jumper Restaurant**

**Introduction** of guest speakers by Alma-jean Marion, Roberta and David Cornelson speaking on behalf of services offered by the organization representing Union Home Services. For more visit the website

www.unionhomeservices.com. The service will provide home buying assistance to union members and their dependents.

Review of written minutes for February 21, 2023 by attendees. M/S/C.

**Roll call of officers present:**

Mary Marbles (**President**) Alma-jean Marion (**Vice-President**) Neomi Ramsey (**Trustee**)  
Juanita Taylor (**Trustee**) Benester Fields (**Trustee & Secretary Pro-tem**)

**Roll call of members present:**

Menia Traxler Richard Crossland Eva Leverett  
James Bals Mabel Cross Annette Burfect

**President Report: Mary Marbles**

- Elected secretary Kathy Craig has officially resigned from the position. Recently she was injured due to a fall. She will eventually return to attending union meetings.
- George Armour has been ill and a request to send him a "Thinking of You" card is requested.
- John Hampton is ill.
- C. David -Ericson has requested removal from membership due to payment of dues. She feels she can no longer afford the fees. Our President has proceeded with processing her request.
- Chapter 28 welcomed new member Amelia Burfect retired from Harborview Medical Center.

Treasurer Report: John Hampton (not present)

- Chapter 28, reporting period February 21, 2023-April 17, 2023
- Beginning balance money mover checking account \$24,171.18
- Total income \$1,242.45
- Savings acct balance \$87.43
- Total Assets Chapter 28, \$28,420.36
- CD total assets \$6,818.22
- Total expenses \$3,908.92
- 3/31/23, CH28 membership 480 individuals with 12 members paying dues by cash.
- Corrections to previous financial report January 1, 2023-February, 20,202 include the following: total income: \$1,142.79, Ending balance Money mover checking: \$24,171.18.
- Chapter 28 Audit Team met on March 9, 2023 and conducted the annual audit for the year 2022. All findings were approved by the audit team. The audit will also aid in the transfer of financial records to a newly elected chapter treasurer.
- The current treasurer John Hampton has submitted a letter of resignation the chapter 28 President Mary Marbles.

**M/S/C to accept treasurer's report as given.**

**Election of New Officers: Bill Ziegler**

**Nominations:**

- **President: Mary Marbles**, M/S/C accepted by acclimation
- **Vice President: Alma-jean Marion**, M/S/C, accepted by acclimation
- **Secretary: Benester A. Fields**, M/S/C, accepted by acclimation
- **Treasurer: Juanita Taylor**, M/S/C, accepted by acclimation
- **Trustees: Neomi Ramsey, James Bals, Kathleen Craig**  
M/S/C, accepted by acclimation.

**Discussion:**

- President presented to members if we should have a meeting during the summer or take that time off, a motion was made with a second that the chapter would have a meeting in June 2023. Motion passed unanimously.
- A suggestion was brought to the floor by Alma-jean that a \$500 donation be made by Chapter 28 to the RPEC Political Action Committee. An amendment by Jim Bals to increase the donation to \$1000 was made. It was moved with a second and passed by chapter members to accept the amended amount. The donation is a one-time only. This will ensure that Chapter 28 is dedicated to the legislative agenda of RPEC and we are aware of what is going on.

**CHAPTER 28 OFFICERS**

Mary Marbles, President	(206) 295-6231	<a href="mailto:mmarbles46@icloud.com">mmarbles46@icloud.com</a>
Alma-jean Marion, Vice President	(206) 721-3088	<a href="mailto:alma-jean@comcast.net">alma-jean@comcast.net</a>
Benester Fields, Secretary	(206) 722-6755	<a href="mailto:bienestar111@yahoo.com">bienestar111@yahoo.com</a>
Juanita Taylor, Treasurer	(253) 236-4047	<a href="mailto:missroxy5@yahoo.com">missroxy5@yahoo.com</a>
Jim Bals, Trustee	(206) 932-0547	<a href="mailto:jdbals11@gmail.com">jdbals11@gmail.com</a>
Neoma Ramsey, Trustee	(253) 854-0107	<a href="mailto:sweetne2004@hotmail.com">sweetne2004@hotmail.com</a>



Mary Marbles, President; Alma-jean Marion, Vice-President & District 9 Rep; Juanita Taylor, Treasurer; Jim Bals, Trustee; Neoma Ramsey, Trustee; Benester Fields, Secretary

**RPEC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Toll Free: **1-800-562-6097** – Direct: **360-352-8262**

Executive Director	Laurie Weidner	<a href="mailto:laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org">laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 101
Associate Director	Derek VanSpoor	<a href="mailto:derek.vanspoor@rpecwa.org">derek.vanspoor@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 104
Finance & Operations Specialist	Elisabeth Wittenberg	<a href="mailto:elisabeth.wittenberg@rpecwa.org">elisabeth.wittenberg@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 102
Membership Coordinator	Jakob Canup	<a href="mailto:jakob.canup@rpecwa.org">jakob.canup@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 106
Government Affairs Coordinator	Emmett Mills	<a href="mailto:emmett.mills@rpecwa.org">emmett.mills@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 103
Administrative Project Coordinator	Alissa Brady	<a href="mailto:alissa.brady@rpecwa.org">alissa.brady@rpecwa.org</a>	Ext. 100

**[www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)**

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

Gerry Acuesta  
Leticia Acuesta  
Fe Alcantara  
Ardith Arnold  
Vera Bachicha  
Darlene Baete  
Alta Lyn Bassett  
Cheryl Bateman  
Linda Bellile  
Cardury Blackwell  
Marilyn Bowen  
Mary Bustard  
Barbara Cardell  
Harjeet Chopra  
Elena Colmenarez  
Rebecca Corpus  
Michael Dermond  
Dale Dietrich  
Daniel Joseph Dunne  
Luella Durall  
Piotr Dzieciatkowski  
Diane Evans  
Robert Foedisch  
John Gannon  
Bhupinder Gill  
Claire Gonder  
Gary Gorsha  
Deborah Gruenfeld  
Kathryn Chadbourne  
Hahn  
Carla Marie Hansen  
Shirley Hell  
Bobbie Henderson  
Gayle Hiler  
Joan Jackson

Carol Jerome  
Patrick Jundt  
Gurja Kafel  
Delores Kannas  
Ewa Kelly  
Roy Kleiven  
Dora Krasucki  
Kristie A Kujawski  
Nancy Leigh  
Nelia Llanes  
Jody Mallari-Singh  
A Manzanares  
Geraldine Mauro  
Joseph Maxwell  
Ora May  
Barbara McClure-Blair  
Arva McCoy  
Colleen McKay  
Yohannes Michael  
Gerrit Missler  
Dianne Mollette  
Cynthia Montgomery  
Norma Mortensen  
Verlenia Murphy  
Carol Norred  
Leslee O'Neill  
Josette Ouellette  
Mary Pagels  
Nelia Palacay  
Susan Pennington  
Johnson  
Barbara Petersen  
Dolores Petra  
Anderson Phung  
Venkatram Podduturi

Susan Qualls  
Wan Saechao  
Amador Saucedo  
Dagmar Schmidt  
Pilarenciana Aquino  
Servito  
Christy Shaw  
Leela Shepard  
Jimmy Shilt  
Robert Sidis  
Randy Small  
Madison Son  
Chamneane Sonthisay  
John Sordetto  
Christine Southwick  
Wandamae Penelope  
Stanard  
Barbara Steele  
James Thompson  
Billie Thompson  
Cerie Marie Thoren  
Keith Van Meter  
Doneen Vandebroe  
Apolonio Vanzuela  
Karen Watland  
Thu Willey  
Joseph Williams  
Lois Winters  
Elsa Yanez  
Cheryl Yates  
Donna Yellam  
Changpu Yu  
Joan Zebroski

## **IN MEMORY OF**

John Duchscherer

Thomas Fowler

Nicholas Pasche

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## **June 2023 Executive Director's Report**

Dear RPEC Leaders:

While our work advocating for members' priorities never stops and is truly year-round, the late spring is the time when we refresh our interim legislative session advocacy plan, invest time to deepen relationships with legislators, craft and implement our strategy with the Select Committee

on Pension Policy (SCPP) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB), and cultivate new RPEC champions, both at a local and state level, as candidates launch their campaigns for the 2024 election season. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Based on the initial responses from our all-member written survey, Plans 2/3 members have expressed great interest in working on federal issues impacting retirement security. To that end, my monthly letter and the weekly Newsflash emails will be carrying more information on these subjects. Stay tuned!

## **Federal Relations Update**

### **Debt ceiling**

Thank you for taking the time to call members of the Washington congressional delegation about the need to remedy the debt ceiling stalemate. As you know, the call to action came at the request of the AFSCME Retiree Council and we stand in solidarity with our labor siblings on this important piece of legislation. At the time of this publication, the House had approved the compromise bill with the Senate vote to follow the week of June 5. RPEC urged our members to weigh in, so that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid payments would not be impacted, nor vital services administered locally to seniors, that are entirely or partially federally funded.

### **HB 82 & S 597 – Social Security Fairness Act**

AFSCME Retiree Council has been working tirelessly to broaden the scope of congressional cosponsors for these companion bills. These bills repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive pensions from state and local governments, eliminate the government pension offset (which reduces the benefits for spouses, widows and widowers who receive government pensions of their own), and eliminate the windfall elimination provision, which in some cases reduces benefits for those who receive a pension from an employer who did not withhold Social Security taxes. Several of our House members and one of our US senators have not yet signed on in support. RPEC will work this summer to ensure that happens!

### **Speakers' Series**

Stay tuned for more details about RPEC's new Speakers' Series, which will kick off in August with a member of the Washington congressional delegation. Details to follow. More information will be available in my July all-member letter and the weekly Newsflash emails.

## **State relations & advocacy**

### **Healthcare**

This past legislative session, RPEC worked to support the successful passage of several key healthcare-related bills that will take effect on July 23.

[SSB 5490](#) is an important bill for any RPEC member who lost access to Public Employees' Benefits Board (PEBB) healthcare coverage for failing to notify the Health Care Authority (HCA) of their intent to defer benefits and filed an appeal. The HCA anticipates that the bill will only impact about 100-120 retirees given the eligibility requirements outlined in the bill. HCA will be providing RPEC with details soon to help our members determine if they are eligible and the steps to take to initiate PEBB healthcare coverage. Details will also be available on the HCA website in July.

[SB 5421](#), an agency request bill initiated by the HCA, protects the confidential information that healthcare plan enrollees submit during open enrollment from inclusion in public records requests.

As more information is available, it will be shared through the weekly Newsflash emails with all members.

### **One-time COLA for PERS 1/TRS 1**

Through our successful advocacy of SB 5350, RPEC members vested in Plan 1 will receive a one-time 3% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) next month. The COLA is capped at \$110 per month.

### **Health Care Authority (HCA)**

#### **Online FAQ now available**

Many thanks to all RPEC members who took part in the Health Care Authority's (HCA) listening sessions and public forums. All told, about 176 retirees, many of whom were RPEC members, joined the conversation to provide insights to HCA staff. As a follow-up to those meetings, the HCA crafted a frequently asked question (FAQ) document, drawn from the questions asked by retirees during these sessions. The FAQ also addresses myths that surfaced during the stakeholder engagements. The FAQ is hard to find on the HCA's new website – [www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov). After accessing the main homepage, find the [Employee & Retiree Benefits Page](#). Once you arrive on that page, access [Retiree Engagement](#). The questions are found at the bottom of that page.

#### **Agency launches new online portal - Benefits 24/7**

The HCA will launch a new online benefits portal on June 12th. I met with HCA leaders recently and suggested that they offer a webinar for retirees on how to navigate the new portal and to preview its features. They agreed! More details to follow. In the meantime, RPEC members who obtain their healthcare insurance through PEBB can read more about [Benefits 24/7](#) in HCA's PEBB Program May newsletter. HCA staff say the portal will make it easier for retirees to apply for and change benefits during open enrollment. Paper forms will remain available for those who cannot access the portal or choose not to use it.

### **Monthly Legislative Update Calls Extend through December**

The Legislative Update Calls will be held monthly through December. The next call will take place on June 2nd from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Visit [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for the login information.

### **Upcoming events**

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

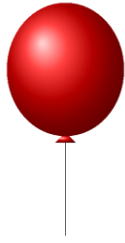
- June 2: Monthly Legislative Update Call, 2:00 PM
- June 8: Public Employees Benefits Board Meeting, 9:00 AM
- June 8: Healthcare Workgroup Meeting, 3:30 PM
- June 9: Monthly Leadership Call, 1:00 PM
- June 20: RPEC Select Committee on Pension Policy Meeting, 10:00 AM
- June 20: Select Committee on Pension Policy Meeting, 1:00 PM
- June 22: Healthcare Workgroup Meeting, 3:30 PM
- June 23: Pension Policy Workgroup Meeting, 10:00 AM
- June 26: Leadership Training Part A, 10:00 AM
- June 29: Public Employees Benefits Board Meeting, 9:00 AM
- June 30: Leadership Training Part B, 10:00 AM

Best,  
Laurie

## CHAPTER 28 BIRTHDAYS

### **April**

Janet E Pearson  
Leo E Ball  
Joan Mc Daniel  
Aurelia A Turner  
Loretta E Radnich  
Shirley G Jacobs  
Rosemary Rognstad  
Patricia E Simmons  
Alice L Gronski  
Marina S Ferguson  
Marie I Doman  
Trudy F Geissler  
Elizabeth Mulligan  
Candace Plog  
Marie L Hurlbut  
Zheng Chen  
Jean Forster  
Katherine Gordon  
Thomas P. Riley  
Nedra Pautler  
Margaret Frest  
Janet Miller  
Katherine Guiberteaux  
Nancy Healy  
Michael E Purdy



Heechun Huh  
Clarine Dunn  
Celeste R Stubbs  
Jeanne Tagliente-Wolf

### **May**

Gloria C Smith  
Barbara Mercer  
Stanley L Goldstein  
Sally A Little  
Gary D Cole  
Sonia C Camero  
Antonio Fontanilla  
Lawrence Gales  
Gene A Washington  
Jane E Debrock  
Anita A. Whitney  
Francis J Zellner  
Ingrid K Pearson  
Amelia C Baluca  
Soraya S Clemans  
John Gofman  
Nancy Kloster  
Juanita R Taylor  
Louis A Rivas  
Betty Garvida



Karen Laemmler  
Maryrose Trubiroha  
Marilyn Dominguez-Aquino

### **June**

Helen Sardarov  
Mabel Cross  
Marian Lindell  
Ruth A Handewith  
Joyce N Rowland  
Elaine C Martinez  
Ruth A Henderson  
Judith A Murphy  
Jackie Mc Kenney  
Barbara Gregory  
Mary E. Lovell  
Marilyn Pangilinan  
Ardis M Steggall  
William O'Brien  
Roberta A. Aldrich  
Robert Chase  
Debra Palmquist  
Robert Rhodes  
Kristian Kofoed



*Welcome New Member-  
Annette Burfect - Retiree,  
Harborview Medical Center,  
Food Services Manager with  
20+ Years Service. Favorite  
Color: Black & White Favorite  
Hobby: Needlework Joined  
RPEC because she was  
invited (Word of Mouth).*