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Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 30 – South King County

Debbie Haigh, President – (509) 688-9489
debbie14haigh@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, May 10th, 2023
Time: 12:00 PM
Place: Azteca Restaurant
Address: 153 SW 157th St, Burien, WA 98166

CHAPTER 30 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Debbie Haigh
Vice-President	George Chan
Secretary	Joni McKee
Treasurer	Bill Riedler
Executive Board Member at Large	Vikki Goodman
Executive Board Member at Large	(Open)
Executive Board Member at Large	Ida Ott

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: The next Chapter 30 meeting will be held at 12:00 pm on May 10, 2023, at the Azteca restaurant located at 153 SW 157th St, Burien, WA 98166. The chapter will pay up to \$20.00 for your lunch (excluding tip, taxes, alcoholic drinks). The Executive Board will meet one hour (11:00 am) prior to the general union meeting.

WE'RE SORRY TO NOTIFY YOU ABOUT THE PASSING OF FOUR OF OUR UNION MEMBERS: Carolee Crook, Andre Pardon, Patrick Tobin, and Ray Zipp.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD: Looking to further your involvement in your retirees' chapter? We will be holding elections for the executive board and trustee positions on May 10th. These positions are for a one-year term. If you are unable to attend the May lunch meeting and are interested in one of the positions, please email me your name and what position you are interested in, and I will add your name to the nominations list. If only one candidate is nominated for a position, the candidate will be declared elected by acclamation. In the event there is more than one candidate for the position, a secret ballot election will be conducted by U.S. mail.

Duties of the Positions:

President – presides at chapter and executive board meetings. Serves ex-officio on other chapter committees.

Vice-President – assists the President and serves as President if needed.

Secretary – Keeps and reports minutes and notes of chapter and executive board meetings.

Treasurer – cosigns checks and handles the chapter's financial affairs.

Executive Board member at large – participate in fulfilling the objectives of the chapter.

Trustee – annually audit the finances of the chapter and report at the membership meeting on the results of the audit. Trustees are not members of the Executive Board.

PRESENTATIONS:

At our last meeting, Mike Pellicciotti, our State Treasurer, spoke about his duties as State Treasurer. His duties include managing the state debt of \$22,000,000,000.00, balancing the state budget, transportation, state banker, tracking the state's cash flow, writing the checks, and providing financial guard rails, such as making sure our pensions are funded. He also 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." He stated that Washington has AAA credit rating.

RPEC's Executive Director Laurie Weidner talked about the Recruit 2 program, our need to contact our legislators about supporting SB 5350/HB1057, HB1459, and SB 5169. To keep informed about these bills and others that align with RPEC's legislative priorities, attend the weekly Legislative Update Calls held each Friday via Zoom from 2-3 p.m. The Zoom link, as well as a current list of the bills RPEC is monitoring, is available at www.rpecwa.org. Laurie also discussed the pilot Health Care Authority Listening Session with our members and the Public Employees' Benefits Board.

KING COUNTY WASTE MOBILE:

Created in 1989, Wastemobile was the first traveling hazardous waste collection program in the nation. Wastemobile events take place in rural, suburban, and urban areas in King County to provide more convenient options for safe disposal of hazardous waste. Since first hitting the road, Wastemobile events have collected more than 17,000 tons of hazardous household waste from nearly 500,000 customers. When will the Wastemobile be near you in 2023? Find free hazardous waste collection events in our region through King County Wastemobile 2023 (kingcountyhazwastewa.gov).

I have listed some of the Wastemobile pickup location and times: May 26, 27, 28th - 15635 SE 272nd St, Kent @ the Puget Sound Fire Station #75, July 21, 22, 23rd - 22447 24th Ave South, Des Moines @ the Midway Elementary School, September 15,16, 17th - 14300 1st Ave South, Burien @ the Fred Meyers store, and October 13,14,15th - 440 Rainier Ave S, Renton @ the McLendon Hardware store.

GIFT CARD DRAWING: There will be two drawings for \$100 gift cards at the end of the meeting. You must be present to win.

Debbie Haigh
President, RPEC Chapter 30

April 2023 Executive Director's Report

Dear RPEC Leaders:

April marks another successful whirlwind month for RPEC and its legislative priorities. This is also a big month for member engagement. We need your immediate assistance with an urgent state budget priority.

Background on the Senate and House Budget Proposals

Two of our key priorities have been included in the Senate budget proposal.

Funding is earmarked to implement [SB 5350](#), which provides a one-time 3% COLA to PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees capped at \$110 per month. It also includes language to require the Select Committee on Pension Policy to study and recommend a proposal for a recurring annual COLA. RPEC worked tirelessly to create this language and ensure it was retained throughout the legislative session.

The Senate budget proposal also addresses the need for greater accountability for the Health Care Authority (HCA), which selects and administers healthcare plans for many public sector retirees. The budget proposal allocates \$500,000 for use by the HCA to report to the Legislature the findings from the stakeholder engagements (virtual and in-person listening sessions and virtual public forums highlighted in this Monthly Letter) taking place this spring. The proviso specifies that retiree feedback from these engagements will be used to inform policy decisions about the selection of healthcare plan choices and features. Furthermore, the proviso directs HCA to explore the availability of additional government self-insured healthcare plans with benefits that are equal to or greater than those of Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare but are more affordable. This proviso supports the intent of Substitute Senate Bill 5169, which RPEC initiated, in concert with the Public Employees Benefits Board Stakeholders' Medicare Coalition.

While the House also intends to give a one-time 3% COLA to Plan 1 retirees in 2023, the House would prefer to pay for the COLA at a later date. Because of this, funds are not allocated to pay for the one-time COLA in the House budget proposal.

RPEC, as well as our partner organizations, prefer the language found in the Senate budget proposal, which prioritizes the full funding of the pension plans. We aim to make sure the Senate's proposal moves forward. Your advocacy for the adoption of the Senate's language will help House fiscal leaders understand how high a priority this is for all public sector retirees. When you reach out, be sure to also cite the need to allocate the funding for HCA, which does not appear in the House's budget. (See above).

All-member written survey – Please complete the survey and mail it back!

In April, all RPEC members will receive a written survey (with a postage paid return envelope) via U.S. mail. The survey should arrive in your mailbox soon. Gleaning your insights and understanding the priorities and needs of our members is the first step in the strategic planning process for the Executive Board. Please take the time to complete the survey when it arrives at your home and mail it back right away, so that your input can be used to help shape the Board's priorities.

Register Today for the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Virtual and In-person Listening Sessions and virtual public forums – Space is limited!

All RPEC leaders and members who receive their healthcare benefits from the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) are asked to register today to take part in virtual and in-person listening sessions hosted by HCA. Registration is required. Space is limited.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/news/announcements/register-pebb-medicare-listening-sessions>

Retirees and their spouses or partners who are covered under UMP Classic Medicare, a Kaiser Permanente plan, UHC, or Plans F or G are eligible to participate. The listening sessions and public

forums are your opportunity to share insights with HCA staff about your healthcare plan and quality of services you receive from HCA. All virtual and in-person listening sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Each session will be capped at 12 participants. HCA will follow-up with registrants via email and provide the questions, background information, and Zoom log-in information (for the virtual sessions) and/or the location/directions (in person sessions).

In addition, HCA will also host **virtual public forums**. The virtual public forums will be held on April 26, May 17, and May 24 via Zoom from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Unlike the listening sessions, the public forums will function like a public hearing. Participation will be limited to 30 participants who will each have 3 minutes to speak about whatever issue, challenge, or suggestion they want to convey to HCA staff.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/news/announcements/pebb-medicare-retirees-participate-virtual-public-forum>

If you cannot attend a virtual or in-person listening session, the virtual public forum is another opportunity to share insights about your healthcare plan and the quality of service you receive from HCA. The virtual public forums are also open to those who have already participated in a listening session. You can also use your 3 minutes to offer suggestions to HCA regarding how they can improve communications and service to retirees.

Interested in Learning More About RPEC? Register to Attend the Two-part Leadership Training Sessions on June 26 & June 30

All members-at-large who want to learn more about RPEC or who may be interested in serving in a leadership role within their chapter or the Council are welcome to register for the two-part annual Leadership Training , taking place on June 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and June 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Part 1, held on June 26, is designed for those who have been elected to serve as chapter officers or are serving in elected or appointed chapter chair positions. The training will cover everything you need to know about the organization, our mission, the Council Office, how to work with our professional team, legislative affairs, building chapter member engagement and more.

<https://rpecwa.org/2023-leadership-training/>

Part 2, held on June 30th, is the AFSCME Financial Standards Code Training. This training session is designed for all chapter leaders. The training will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

<https://rpecwa.org/2023-leadership-training/>

Monthly Legislative Update Zoom Call

With the Legislative Session wrapped up for 2023, we will not be holding any more Weekly Legislative Updates. We will be resuming our Monthly Update calls beginning on Friday, May 5th, and continuing on the first Friday of each month until the 2024 Legislative Session begins.

Please join us on Friday, May 5th at 2 pm for our first monthly Legislative Update Zoom call.

To join the update calls:

Via Computer or tablet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89045365250?pwd=cHYvbU80d08xTXRLTmpOZGF1VW53QT09>

Or, go to: <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 890 4536 5250

Passcode: 320296

Via Phone:

Dial: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 890 4536 5250

Passcode: 320296

Blogs & Weekly E-Blast

Are you receiving the *RPEC Weekly Newsflash*? It is the best way to keep apprised of our weekly news and to learn about our legislative and government affairs priorities. Sign up on the RPEC homepage at www.rpecwa.org.

Upcoming events

Visit www.rpecwa.org for a full calendar of Council Office and chapter meetings:

May 2: HCA Virtual Listening Session

May 4: HCA Virtual Listening Session

May 5: Legislative Committee Meeting

Monthly Legislative Update Zoom Call @ 2:00 PM

May 9: HCA Virtual Listening Session

May 10: HCA Virtual Listening Session

May 11: Health Care Workgroup

Best,
Laurie