



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington



Chapter 35 - King County/Metro Retirees

RPEC Office: (800) 562-6097 – www.rpecwa.org

JUNE CHAPTER MEETING!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our Virtual Membership Meeting at **11:00 AM on June 7**. You can participate online using a computer, tablet, or smartphone, or you can dial in by phone (see box at right).

ELECTION RESULTS

Chapter 35 held an election for chapter officers and board members at our virtual meeting on April 12. The results are as follows:

President: Vicki Schmitz

Vice President: Andrea Torland

Secretary: Anita Eakers

Treasurer: Linda Zigler

Executive Board members: Brad Berry, Colleen Boyns, Kevin Kiernan, Trish Ryan, Dan Wasell, Robert Williams, Duane Wright, Cindy Lee, Chuck Zigler and new Board member, Linda Nelsen.

Thanks to all for volunteering to serve!

CHAPTER 35 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday June 7, 2022 at 11:00 AM

AGENDA

- * **Guest:**
Clair Olivers, RPEC Treasurer
- * **Training and Convention**
- * **Other Business**

This meeting will be held via the Zoom audio/video application.

To join the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

Go to www.zoom.us/join
Enter Meeting ID: 851 012 0811
Enter Passcode: 851012

To join the meeting by telephone:

Dial: [1-253-215-8782](tel:1-253-215-8782)
Enter Meeting ID: 851 012 0811
Enter Passcode: 851012

PERS 1 COLA - Effective July 2022

Remember to thank your Senator and Representatives for the one-year 3% capped COLA for PERS 1 Retirees and ask for their support for a permanent, consistent, and substantial COLA for PERS 1 Retirees.

Get the contact information for your legislators by entering your address at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> Click on the Legislator's name and create your message.

REGISTER FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Chapter 35 members are encouraged to sign up for the annual virtual Leadership Training hosted by the RPEC Council Office. This year there will be two sessions:

Part A, June 13 (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM), is for current members interested in leadership roles. It is very important for all board members to sign up for part A.

Part B, June 17 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) is AFSCME Financial Standards Code Training for chapter presidents, treasurers and secretaries. See the Executive Director's Report below and go to <https://rpecwa.org/2022-leadership-training/> to **register by May 31**.

RPEC STATE CONVENTION

Delegate spots are still available for the 2022 RPEC State Convention, in-person, **Sept. 27-29 at the Wenatchee Convention Center**. Chapter 35 is allotted 24 delegates; some have stepped forward but there is room for more. If you're interested, contact: Anita Eakers, Chapter Secretary at aekers@hotmail.com by the June 7 membership meeting. **NOTE:** You are required to attend all meetings and vote along with Chapter 35 delegates. The complete Convention call is at: www.rpecwa.org/convention/

The Chapter will pay for mileage, hotel, and registration fees for current members who are delegates, plus one additional meal that is not already provided at the Convention. You will make your own hotel reservations and be reimbursed after the Convention. Delegates should make their room reservations **early** and tell the hotel you are with RPEC in order to receive the convention discount rate.

HOTEL: Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel (509) 662-1234, or: fom@wenatcheecenter.com

Executive Director's Report

Dear RPEC Leaders,

It's been a whirlwind first month of employment. Here's a recap of the highlights and a few key events to put on your radar.

Leadership training, June 13 & 17

Congratulations to all those newly elected to chapter leadership roles. Please plan to join us for annual Leadership Training via Zoom on June 13. The training is designed for all new and returning chapter leaders and members who may have an interest in serving in a chapter or Council leadership role in the future. The training will cover everything you need to know about RPEC, the Council Office, and the roles and responsibilities of chapter leaders. Special breakout sessions are planned in the afternoon for key leadership roles, including chapter presidents and secretaries.

On June 17, AFSCME will host a Financial Standards workshop for all presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. This training is also open to all members who have an interest in learning more about financial reporting for chapters and those willing to serve as chapter trustees for auditing.

Council staff will be leading monthly Leadership Calls for all chapter leaders and anyone interested in learning more about chapter leadership. Each month, we anticipate focusing on a specific topic addressed in the June leadership training sessions. We also will allow time for attendees to share best practices. The schedule of topics for the Monthly Leadership Calls will be provided at the June training sessions, promoted through the events calendar on the website at www.rpecwa.org and promoted through my monthly letter to chapter leaders.

PAC on the attack

Our PAC (Political Action Committee) is on “offense,” fully engaged and already working on your behalf to ensure pro-retiree candidates are positioned to win the primary elections in August. All the House legislative seats are up for election, as well as about half of the state Senate seats.

The PAC has completed its slate of incumbent endorsements and will be releasing the list soon. Moreover, the PAC has finalized the candidate questionnaire that will be used, in concert with candidate interviews, to determine the endorsement of those running for state offices for the first time.

In addition to donating to the PAC, there are many other ways you can become involved in helping pro-retiree state candidates win their races. Once the PAC releases the slate of endorsed candidates, invite endorsed candidates to speak at chapter events. This is a great way to educate incumbents and those seeking office to learn about our legislative agenda and priorities as retired public employees. Consider getting involved in the campaigns of endorsed candidates. Candidates running for office always need extra hands to extend the visibility of their campaigns. This presents a great opportunity to not only gain visibility with candidates but also to network on behalf of RPEC. We also urge members to attend candidate forums. This is another way to get to know the candidates who are running and for them to learn about us and our legislative priorities as retired public employees.

Together, we can help elect candidates who will work to protect pensions, benefits, and retirement security.

Donate to the PAC

Members recently received a letter about donating to the PAC. 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. One-time contributions by check, addressed to RPEC PAC, are always welcome. The contribution form is available at <https://rpecwa.org/rpec-pac-deduction-form/> or by contacting the Council Office at (360) 352-8262.

Maximizing the interim legislative session

The Legislative Committee and the Plan 1 COLA (cost of living adjustment) Workgroup have been strategizing about RPEC's path forward regarding a permanent COLA to support Plan 1 members. Work is beginning on a plan to unify our advocacy efforts

targeting key decision makers in the Legislature. The work of the PAC will align with the Legislative Committee's plans by identifying and cultivating legislative champions who will stand with us in our fight for a permanent COLA for Plan 1 members and will advocate for the legislative priorities of our Plan 2 and 3 members.

20 years and countless accolades later

Many of you probably know Derek VanSpoor, our Communications & IT Specialist. He's always working behind the scenes improving office operations to better serve our members. It's hard to enumerate all the ways that Derek has impacted the growth and stability of RPEC through his service commitment to our members. He's spearheaded many of the major innovations that have enabled the organization to grow and serve members through modernized technology. He has led all our technology integration and implementation efforts, all branding and strategic communication, as well as the staging of our Convention. He is also our resident historian and probably has our entire constitution memorized! Derek rarely toots his own horn, so we are doing it for him. He recently passed his 20-year anniversary milestone. If you happen to call the Council Office or email Derek, please extend your thanks for his 20 years of service and for all he has done and continues to do for all of us and RPEC.

Important Dates

Visit the RPEC website at www.rpecwa.org for a full calendar of Council and chapter events and meetings.

June 13: Leadership Training (virtual)

June 17: AFSCME Financial Standards Training (Virtual)

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

For questions or comments on this newsletter, contact Andrea Torland at andrea@msn.com, or Bill Ziegler at flzwez@hotmail.com or call (206) 713-1879.