



# Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 39 – Asotin & Garfield Counties

**Darrell Russell, President: (509) 295-6244**

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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
**Meeting Time:** Noon  
**Meeting Place:** Mama's Kitchen  
(Formerly Jawbone Flats Café)  
**Meeting Address:** 902 6<sup>th</sup> St, Clarkston, WA 99403

Greetings Chapter 39 Members,

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 20**, at **noon** for an important chapter meeting at **Mama's Kitchen** (formerly Jawbone Flats Café). We will hold nominations and elections for the following chapter positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and three Executive Board Members-at-Large. Are you interested in taking an active role in our chapter? Please contact me at (509) 295-6244 so we can discuss how you can get involved.

We will also discuss sending delegates to the 2022 RPEC Convention, September 27-29, in Wenatchee. Please join us if you are interested in serving as a delegate.

I look forward to seeing you on April 20.

Darrell Russell  
President, Chapter 39  
Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

## **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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 13-14 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](http://www.rpecwa.org) for a full calendar of Council and chapter events and meetings.

**April 6:** Monthly Legislative Update (virtual)

**April 21:** Political Action Committee meeting (virtual)

**April 26:** Membership Committee meeting (virtual)

**May 4:** Executive Board meeting (virtual)

**June 13-14:** Leadership Training (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