



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 6 – Everett Area

Your voice for Retirement Security

Working to protect and enhance your pension and health care benefits

April/May Newsletter

RPEC Chapter 6 Officers – Contact Info

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Treasurer	Jim Brandley	(425) 337-0884	js.brandley@gmail.com

Chapter Executive Board: Leslie Douglas, Ralph Knutson, Renee Peare, Kathryn Watanabe

Do you know someone recently retired in the state retirement system? Tell them about RPEC.

You can also receive email reminders for each meeting. Please send an email with your name to **Christine Lavra** at 4ce4prof@earthlink.net.

Chapter President's Message

It has been a tumultuous two years, and the changes are not yet over. We may have weathered the worst of COVID-19. The senior center closed but has been resurrected as the Carl Gipson (community) Center under the management of the Volunteers of America. We recently learned that as a lobbying group, we do not fit the mission of a community center and will need to find a new regular meeting place after the May meeting. We have learned to meet via Zoom and attempted hybrid in-person/online meetings with some success and some frustration. Some meetings were held at the main Everett Public Library and the Evergreen Branch.

April 2022 Membership Meeting Recap

In April we were back in person at the Carl Gipson Center where we had a quorum for the chapter elections. Please see above for new officers and board members. We are still in need of members to serve as chairs for the chapter Membership and Legislative committees. We could also use help finding a new place to hold our regular meetings. A hospitality committee might help with this effort to attract fuller attendance. Please contact me by email, phone, or text at (425) 280-4477 if you would like to help in this effort. Christine

May Chapter 6 Membership Meeting

Where: The **Carl Gipson Center at 3025 Lombard Avenue, Everett, WA 98201**

Note that everyone should check in with the front desk when entering the center. Visitor parking is available in the parking garage, entrance on Wall Street.

When: 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Agenda: Planning for the state convention to be held September 27 – 29, 2022 in Wenatchee.

Committee appointments.

Discussion of how and where to hold meetings in the future.

June District 1 Meeting

Where: **Alfy's Pizza, 9330 State Avenue, Marysville, WA 98270**

When: 1:00 –3:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Agenda: We have invited State Senators and Representatives, or their staff, along with RPEC district members as well as Skagit and Whatcom County Washington Education Association members to discuss the 2022 legislative session. Pizza, salad, and soft drinks will be provided.

June Chapter 6 Membership Meeting

A brief Chapter 6 meeting will be held *immediately after* the above District 1 meeting.

When: 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Agenda: Finalize chapter delegation for the state convention and authorize travel expenditures.

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 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 27th. 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 for a full calendar of Council and chapter events and meetings.

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

e-Newsletter now available

We are now offering a digital version
of our Chapter Newsletter

By choosing email rather than a mailed
paper newsletter, you help reduce mailing
expenses and staff workload. Plus, you can
get the newsletter and meeting reminders
faster and in **C-O-L-O-R!**

Let us know how you want to
receive your monthly newsletter:

Email or Mailed paper

Please include your name, email
address and year you joined

Reply to:

rpecchpt6@gmail.com