

# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON

## President's Message

Dear members,

In September, RPEC will hold its annual convention. Thus far we have 175 delegates from 36 chapters registered to attend.

The convention is more than a social event. This is a democratic organization and members elect delegates to represent them and set policies for the organization. It's the responsibility of the board to carry out those programs and policies. So the role of a delegate is very important because the convention delegates are the true governing body of this organization.

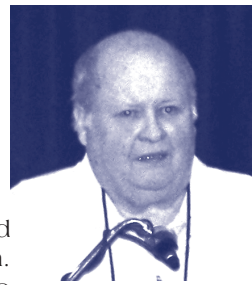
This newsletter includes a summary of the constitutional amendments and resolutions that were submitted. It also includes a report from the RPEC Political Action Committee, listing candidates who were endorsed and who received money. To carry out our legislative agenda we need to get candidates elected who will not just support our issues, but promote them. It's vital that we make ourselves known to lawmakers. This strategy helped us get our mailing bill passed at a time when the survival of this organization depended on it. The state faces another major revenue shortfall next session. We will need to ensure adequate pension funding to protect future benefits in Plans 1, so it is essential that we have lawmakers with a sense of responsibility in this area.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention. Many delegate slots go unfilled, so I hope others will choose to get themselves elected next year and join us.

Sincerely,



Howard N. Jorgenson  
President



## Executive Director's Report

If you haven't visited the new web site, by all means do so! It is easier to read and use and has loads of information. It's a work in progress. Our blog feature is activated and we seek input from members on features you would like to see.

RPEC can now accept credit card payments for donations to the organization, which are not tax-deductible. We also accept credit card dues payment for a full year only.

The t-shirts and cookbooks are ready. Suggested donation is \$15 each for the t-shirts and \$16 each for cookbooks. These will be available at the convention for you to pick up. You may order one or more from the office, pre-paid only, and postage costs will be charged if we have to mail them. The cookbooks are very good looking and would make a lovely gift.

We had a few bumps in the road with direct deposit of chapter monthly allocations. We think the problem has been solved and direct deposit will resume. If chapters continue to get checks in the mail instead of direct deposit, please call Deb at the office, extension 106, or e-mail her at [deb@rpecwa.org](mailto:deb@rpecwa.org). Deb works half-time and is in most mornings.

Staff did an outstanding job of processing over 2,000 new members this year and is now getting ready for convention. We look forward to seeing many of you in Yakima. As always, if you have questions or need help, please call me.



Cassandra de la Rosa  
Executive Director

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# RPEC



AUGUST 2010

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## RPEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Howard Jorgenson**, President  
**Betty Anderson**, Vice-President  
**Mary Marbles**, Secretary  
**Eva Jean Shamley**, Treasurer  
**Jane Perry**, District 1  
**Joe Brown**, District 2  
**Don McKay**, District 3  
**Tom Mitts**, District 4  
**Bob Talent**, District 5  
**John Jackson**, District 6  
**Wanda Riley**, District 7  
**Sharon Price**, District 8  
**Bill Ziegler**, District 9  
**Charles Gelsleichter**, District 9

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## RPEC Council Office Staff

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**Deb Green**, Accountant - [Deb@rpecwa.org](mailto:Deb@rpecwa.org)

# Convention Information

September 20-21-22, 2010 Yakima Convention Center Yakima, Washington

Delegates were elected in the spring, but guests are welcome to register. Call the office.

## Agenda

### Monday, September 20, 2010

11:00 Light lunch meeting for Chairs from Election, Resolutions, Constitution, Legislative Committees  
9:30 - 6:00 Registration  
Committee Meetings:  
9:00 - 9:30 Registration Committee  
9:30 - 10:00 P.E.O.P.L.E. Committee  
12:00 - 1:00 Election Committee  
12:00 - 2:00 Sergeant-At-Arms Committee  
12:00 - 12:30 Rules Committee  
12:30 - 1:00 Constitution Committee  
12:00 - 1:00 Legislative Committee  
2:00 - 5:00 General Session  
2:00 Convention Convenes  
Welcome - Chapter 16 -  
Flag Presentation - VFW Post 379  
Invocation - Pastor Michael Bailey, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Welcome  
Introduction of Council President Howard Jorgenson  
Introduction of Guests  
2:30  
Call to Order  
Partial Report of Registration Committee  
Roll Call of officers and board members  
2:45 Featured speaker  
3:45 Break  
4:00  
Rules Committee Report  
Adoption of Agenda  
Approve 2009 Convention Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Eva Jean Shamley - Treasurer  
Submittal of Late Resolutions  
6:00 - 9:00 Hospitality Room - Hosted by Chapter 35  
Room 171 of the Red Lion Yakima Center Hotel

### Tuesday, September 21, 2010

8:00 - 10:00 Registration - Hallway in front of meeting rooms  
9:00 Convention reconvenes  
Flag Salute - Howard Jorgenson  
Invocation - Pastor Brandon Reynolds, The Cross Church  
9:15 Committee Reports  
Final Report of Registration Committee -  
9:30 President's Report  
Executive Director's Report  
9:45 Featured Speaker  
10:45 - 11:00 Break  
11:00 - Committee Reports  
12:00 - 1:30 Lunch  
1:30 Election of District Board Members  
Adoption of Proposed Election Rules  
Nominations for District Board Members  
Caucus/Election of District Board Members  
3:00 - 5:00 Membership Committee Workshop  
3:00 - 4:00 Finance Committee  
5:30 - 6:30 No-Host Social Hour - Yakima Convention Center  
6:30 Banquet - Yakima Convention Center  
Recruitment Awards  
8:30 Entertainment - Yakima Indian Dancers

### Wednesday, September 22, 2010

9:00 Reconvene  
Committee Reports  
Old Business  
New Business  
Announce Election Results  
Swearing in of new District Board Members  
Good and Welfare  
Adjournment  
P.E.O.P.L.E. TABLE (COLLECT YOUR PRIZE)

## RPEC-PAC endorses, contributes

The RPEC Political Action Committee met July 26, 2010 and took action to endorse candidates and make contributions. The following candidates were endorsed, and those with an asterisk next to their name received a \$300 contribution. Because PAC funds were limited this year, the committee was not able to provide as much financial assistance as we would have liked. Reminders: not all state senators are up for re-election this year, and while chapter members may make personal endorsements in these races, RPEC-PAC bylaws state that chapters may not make endorsements, only recommendations to the Council.

1st District	*Luis Moscoso, House Position 2	32nd District	*Maralyn Chase, Senate
2nd District	*Tom Campbell, House Position 2		Cindy Ryu, House Position 1
3rd District	Andy Billig, House Position 1		Ruth Kagi, House Position 2
	Timm Ormsby, House Position 2	33rd District	Karen Keiser, Senate
4th District	Larry Crouse, House Position 1		Tina Orwall, House Position 1
6th District	*Chris Marr, Senate		Dave Upthegrove, House Position 2
	*John Driscoll, House Position 2	34th District	Sharon Nelson, Senate
8th District	Jerome Delvin, Senate		Eileen Cody, House Position 1
9th District	Joe Schmick, House Position 2	35th District	Tim Sheldon, Senate
10th District	Norma Smith, House Position 1		Kathy Haigh, House Position 1
	Barbara Bailey, House Position 2		Fred Finn, House Position 2
11th District	Zack Hudgins, House Position 1	36th District	Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Senate
	Bob Hasegawa, House Position 2		Reuven Carlyle, House Position 1
12th District	Mike Armstrong, House Position 2		Mary Lou Dickerson, House Position 2
13th District	Judy Warnick, House Position 1	37th District	Adam Kline, Senate
15th District	Jim Honeyford, Senate		Sharon Tomiko Santos, House Position 1
16th District	Maureen Walsh, House Position 1		Eric Pettigrew, House Position 2
17th District	Tim Probst, House Position 1	38th District	Jean Berkey, Senate
	*Monica Stonier, House Position 2		John McCoy, House Position 1
18th District	*Dennis Kampe, House Position 1		Mike Sells, House Position 2
19th District	Dean Takko, House Position 1	40th District	*Jeff Morris, House Position 2
	Brian Blake, House Position 2	41st District	Marcie Maxwell, House Position 1
20th District	Gary Alexander, House Position 2		Judy Clibborn, House Position 2
21st District	Paull Shin, Senate	42nd District	*Al Jensen, House Position 1
	Mary Helen Roberts, House Position 1		Kelli Linville, House Position 2
22nd District	Marko Liias, House Position 2	43rd District	Ed Murray, Senate
	Chris Reykdal, House Position 1		Jamie Pedersen, House Position 1
	*Sam Hunt, House Position 2		Frank Chopp, House Position 2
23rd District	*Sherry Appleton, House Position 1	44th District	Hans Dunshee, House Position 1
	Christine Rolfes, House Position 2	45th District	Roger Goodman, House Position 1
24th District	*Kevin Van De Wege, House Position 1		Larry Springer, House Position 2
25th District	John Thompson, House Position 1	46th District	Scott White, Senate
26th District	*Derek Kilmer, Senate		David Frockt, House Position 1
	Larry Seaquist, House Position 2		Phyllis Kenney, House Position 2
27th District	Jeannie Darneille, House Position 2	47th District	*Claudia Kauffman, Senate
28th District	Tami Green, House Position 2		*Geoff Simpson, House Position 1
29th District	Steve Conway, Senate		Pat Sullivan, House Position 2
	*Connie Ladenburg, House Position 1	48th District	Ross Hunter, House Position 1
	Steve Kirby, House Position 2		Deb Eddy, House Position 2
30th District	*Tracey Eide, Senate	49th District	Jim Jacks, House Position 1
	Mark Miloscia, House Position 1		Jim Moeller, House Position 2
31st District	Pam Roach, Senate		
	Chris Hurst, House Position 2		

## Federal Races

RPEC cannot endorse or contribute in federal races, but we have recommended these candidates to AFSCME for support.

### Senate Patty Murray

#### Congressional

1st	Jay Inslee	2nd	Rick Larsen	3rd	Denny Heck
4th	No Action	5th	No Action	6th	Norm Dicks
7th	Jim McDermott	8th	No Action	9th	Adam Smith

#### Supreme Court

Position 1	No action	Position 5	Barbara Madsen	Position 6	Charlie Wiggins
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## Initiatives

Only the RPEC board can take action on ballot measures. The board took the following action:

Oppose I-1100: Privatization of Liquor Sales  
I-1105: Privatization of Liquor Sales  
I-1106: Repeal portions of 2010 revenue package  
I-1107: Repeal portions of 2010 revenue package  
I-1053: Reinstate 2/3 majority of Legislature to raise taxes  
I-1082: Workers' compensation three-way

Support R-52: Healthy Schools Act

\*No Action I-1098: High earners income tax

The board referred I-1098 to the convention delegates without recommendation. It will be a business item at the convention.

## Status of 2009 Resolutions

A status report of the resolutions passed at the 2009 convention was sent to chapter presidents the first week of August. Here is a summary:

**Resolution 1:** Calls for RPEC to be active in efforts to understand and evaluate tax reform proposals. ACTION: RPEC worked with organizations such as FUSE Washington during session on legislation to close tax loopholes. The board requested presentations pro and con on I-1098, a tax reform measure on the November ballot.

**Resolution 2:** Calls for the development of a Strategic Plan for RPEC to be presented to the board and then the convention. ACTION: The president appointed a committee that developed a plan and it will be in convention packets.

**Resolution 3:** Calls for RPEC to be in favor of a single payer health plan and to notify the Congressional delegation. ACTION: Letter sent to delegation.

**Resolution 5:** Calls for RPEC to work with Councils 2 and 28 and other labor organizations on a week of action in Fall 2009 to protest state budget cuts. ACTION: None. There was no week of action that took place.

**Resolution 6:** That the board explore a constitutional amendment on biennial conventions. ACTION: The president appointed a committee that recommended an amendment providing for alternating one-day and two-day conventions. Board approved the amendment for consideration by the delegates.

**Resolution 9:** Calls for the federal government to use figures reflecting true inflation to figure Social Security COLAs. ACTION: Letter stating concern sent to Congressional delegation.

**Resolution 10:** Calls for establishment of a system whereby members can make voluntary credit-card contributions to the Council. ACTION: A commercial credit card account was set up and RPEC can now accept credit card transactions.

## Delegates tapped for committees

RPEC president Howard Jorgenson appointed the following delegates to serve on the convention committees.

The committee meeting time is noted.

#### Registration Committee

Anne Matthews, Ch 2, Co-chair  
Helen John, Ch 16, Co-chair  
Lavonne Payton, Ch 9  
Anita Eakers, Ch 35  
Christine Clark, Ch 13  
John O'Brien, Ch 12  
John Mann, Ch 35

#### Sergeant-At-Arms Committee

Dan Morgan, Ch 1, Co-Chair  
Dale Clark, Ch 1, Co-Chair  
Aurelia Turner, Ch 28  
Clarence Marbles, Ch 28  
Blanche Goodfellow, Ch 27  
Robert Hilgenberg, Ch 6  
Nell Snodgrass, Ch 4  
Bob Kibling, Ch 14  
Hank Stockman, Ch 10

#### Constitution Committee

George Masten, Ch 2, Chair  
Zona Gail Spaeth, Ch 13  
Robert Lawson, Ch 27

#### Resolutions Committee

Gwen Rench, Ch 3, Co-Chair  
Duwane Huffaker, Ch 13, Co-Chair  
Bill Ziegler, Ch 35  
Jane Caughlan, Ch 28  
Moh O'Hanlon, Ch 3  
Ed Montermini, Ch 2

#### Legislative Committee

Mark Brown, Ch 2, Chair  
Jim Rabideau, Ch 21  
Carol Carnahan, Ch 36  
Diana Parkison, Ch 2  
Art Robins, Ch 16  
Heyward Cowan, Ch 30  
Jane Perry, Ch 37

#### Rules Committee

Irene Alseth, Ch 16, Chair  
Alice Bullock, Ch 27  
One vacancy

#### Election Committee

Barbie Montermini, Ch 2, Co-Chair  
Evelyn Bogrand, Ch 10, Co-Chair  
David Rader, Ch 3  
Mack Jordan, Ch 39  
Nancy Heley, Ch 2  
John Chromy, Ch 35  
Ja Dee Priest, Ch 13  
Maryhelen Hudson, Ch 6  
Jerry Beckendorf, Ch 4  
Jim McDonald, Ch 7

#### P.E.O.P.L.E. Committee

Bev Hermanson, Ch 2, Chair  
Barrie Hull, Ch 7  
Marty Manahan, Ch 11  
Bob Wallin, Ch 12  
Betty Labish, Ch 14  
Rita Harris, Ch 10  
Helen Sampson, Ch 10  
Bonita Osborn, Ch 24  
Helen Carrell, Ch 34

## 2010 Resolutions and Amendments

No resolutions were submitted by chapters to the Council office for the convention. Late resolutions are allowed by the Constitution. They must be submitted the first day of the convention, which will be Monday afternoon, September 20. They must be in proper format and copies must be provided for all delegates by the chapter. Delegates vote on whether to accept late resolutions for consideration by the body.

The only constitutional amendment submitted comes from the board. It would specify that conventions will continue to be held annually, but during the even-numbered years they will be of no more than one day's duration. During odd-numbered years they will be no more than two days. Elections of all officers and board members would be held during the odd-numbered years. Board members elected in 2010 would serve a one-year term to put the board on the correct election cycle should the amendment pass.

Delegates may pass, reject or change amendments, but there is no provision for submitting late amendments.

# WASARA to feature Dean Baker

Dean Baker, a nationally respected economist, will speak at the annual convention of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans (WASARA). The convention will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at the Machinists Hall located at 9125 15th Place S. in South Seattle. Bill Gates, Sr. has also been invited to speak briefly on the history leading up to the development of Initiative 1098, which is on the ballot this fall. You can contact the WASARA office at (206) 448-9646 and request a convention application or use one appearing in the August issue of The Retiree Advocate. The \$25 registration includes lunch.

## Senior Lobby Conference

The annual Senior Lobby Conference will be held Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at the SeaTac DoubleTree. For information, go to [www.waseniorlobby.com](http://www.waseniorlobby.com).

## Proposed 2011 Legislative Agenda

The standing Legislative Committee met Tuesday, July 27, 2010, and developed the proposed agenda for 2011. The convention legislative committee (which is not the same as the standing committee) will review the proposal and accept it, change it or reject it and develop a new agenda for delegates to approve.

This is the proposed agenda:

### Top Tier Priorities

- Full funding of employer contribution rates
- Oppose any effort to create new state retirement plans
- Monitor SB 6584 process and pursue changes if necessary
- Protect Social Security

## State Priorities

### Retirement

Support full funding of employer contribution rates as recommended by State Actuary for all Washington state public employee plans. Maintain 100% funding for all Tier 2 and 3 Plans and LEOFF I and eliminate unfunded liability for PERS and TERS I by approximately 2024. Improve Plan 1 COLA benefits. Oppose creation of any new retirement plan for public employees – no plan 4 or 401K. Continue coalition efforts to strengthen PERS governance structure.

### Health Care

Monitor results of SB 6584 process; review results of mandatory report and pursue legislative and/or administrative changes if necessary. Provide PEBB access for all local government employees.

Support continuation of PEBB coverage for PERS 2 members age 55 or older who have 10 years of service credit and who separate from service. Support a limited open enrollment period for K-12 and PERS retirees who did not take PEBB coverage. Support PEBB dental insurance as a stand-alone benefit

### Disability and Long-term Care

Pursue affordable long-term care insurance plan for retirees

## Federal Priorities

### Health Care

Improve on 2010 health care reform legislation to insure universal coverage using single payer and/or public plan to ensure affordability and portability for all

### Pensions

Discourage the trend found in the private sector towards defined contribution retirement plans

### Social Security

Continue to fight to protect social security from privatization and protect funding and benefit levels. We will carefully monitor the work of the "Fiscal Commission" and their recommendations and will oppose any recommendations that reduce benefits. Support HR 5987 to provide a one-time \$250 payment for retirees and other social security beneficiaries who are not receiving cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)

### Board Meeting Highlights

The RPCE executive board met Tuesday, July 27, 2010, following a board training session on July 26. Draft (unapproved) minutes have been sent to chapter presidents. Highlights of the meeting are:

Treasurer Eva Jean Shamley reported that we renewed five certificates of deposit since the last board meeting. Rates were the best we could get in the current market. In June, three \$27,000 CDs were renewed for \$30,000 each, meaning the Council is not just in the black but adding to reserves.

Vice-president and membership committee chair Betty Anderson presented a membership plan to the board, which was adopted. The plan calls for higher involvement in membership recruitment and retention by board members and chapters.

State Actuary Matt Smith did a presentation on the PERS 1 and TRS 1 unfunded liability, its history, present status and strategy to retire the debt. He made it clear that the Legislature needs to abandon its past practice of skipping or reducing payments or risk serious consequences in terms of the Plans 1 trust fund solvency. While Plans 2 and 3 are in good condition, contribution rates must be maintained and raised in future years to keep these plans in good health.

Those who attended the presentation were pleased at Matt's ability to make the issue clear and concise so they could understand it.

The board acted on issues related to ballot measures reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

For complete minutes, contact your chapter president.

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