



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 1 – East Pierce County

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10th, 2023
Meeting Time: 10:00 AM – NOON
Meeting Place: Sumner Senior Center
Meeting Address: 15506 62nd St Ct E
Sumner, WA 98390

Welcome to Fall! Our next meeting will be October 10th at the Sumner Senior Center.

The RPEC Convention was held September 24-26th at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Unfortunately, due to illness, myself and the other delegates from Chapter 1 were unable to attend.

Luckily, we have a special guest speaker for this meeting who can provide some insight on the events of Convention. **Our guest speaker for this meeting will be the newly elected RPEC District 8 Representative Paulette Thompson of Chapter 12.**

RPEC Convention Recap

Special speakers included President April Sims of the Washington State Labor Council, a recorded video from President Lee Saunders of AFSCME International, a recorded video from Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, and Tim Smolen, Program Manager of the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA).

We will discuss the events of Convention further at the meeting, and you can also read more at the following weblink: <https://rpecwa.org/rpec-2024-convention-report/>

The September 2024 chapter meeting minutes are attached as part of the newsletter.

Bob Bandarra
Chapter 1 President

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Introductions**
- 3. Guest Speaker – Paulette Thompson – New RPEC District 8 Board Member**

Paulette Thompson was elected at the RPEC Biennial Convention in Wenatchee last month by District 8 members, taking over for Carol Dotlich. Carol decided to not seek reelection but pursue other opportunities.

Paulette will update us on her background, her time with RPEC, and her plans for the future of District 8. She will also summarize the key items coming out of the 2024 Convention, especially the approved resolutions and constitutional amendments.

- 4. Approve September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Treasurer Report – Ken Williams**

6. **RPEC Biennium Convention Summary Report**
 7. **RPEC Executive Director Laurie Weidner's Report**
 8. **Next Month's Meeting** - Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 21st** at the Sumner Senior Center (15506 62nd St Ct E Sumner 98390) at 10 am. **November 21st is not our normal meeting date.** The Senior Center had a conflict for our normal meeting date of November 14th! **Please note the change on your calendar that the next meeting will be November 21st at 10 am.**
 9. **Adjournment**
-

Chapter 1 Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2024

Our Chapter 1 meeting for September was held at the Sumner Senior Center, 15506 62nd St Ct E Sumner 98390; September 12, 2024 at 10am.

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by President Bob Bandarra at 10:05 am.
2. **Introductions** – The sign-in list was distributed and each person in attendance introduced themselves. There were four-chapter members in attendance. Gert Williams attended as a guest.
3. **Guest Speaker: There was no guest speaker at this meeting.**
4. **Executive Director's Report – Bob Bandarra**
Bob updated the members present on the Executive Director's recent report.
5. **Approve July 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Bob Bandarra** highlighted the meeting minutes as they were not distributed in advance of the meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Motion/Second/Approved (M/S/A)
6. **Treasurer Report** – Ken Williams updated the chapter on the current financial status of Chapter 1 as of August 31, 2024. Balance is \$26,402.25 Budget moved for approval as discussed. M/S/A
7. **RPEC Convention in Wenatchee**

This year's RPEC Convention will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center (121 N Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801) from September 24-26. Committee meetings will be held on the afternoon of the 24th with the main body of the convention on the 25th and adjournment on the 26th. Chapter 1 will be sending 3 delegates to date, Bob & Kris Bandarra and Sue Henricksen.

Bob highlighted briefly the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions. They will be discussed in detail at the convention on September 24th; 3:00 PM

8. Next and Future Meetings

The next meeting will be October 10th at 10:00 am; Sumner Community Center. Bob will not be presiding over the meeting as he will be in California. **He needs someone to step up and lead the meeting!**

The November meeting date has been **CHANGED** from November 14th to **November 23rd; 10:00 at the Sumner Senior Center.** The Senior center has a conflict for the date of

November 14th and our meeting was bumped to the following Thursday a week before Thanksgiving. I will be back and presiding over that meeting.

The December meeting will return to the second Thursday of the month, December 12th; 10:00 am. I will still be here and presiding over that meeting.

9. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

OCTOBER 2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Get more involved statewide: Appointment Considerations Underway for Standing Committees, Workgroups and the Political Action Committee (PAC)

At our biennial Convention in Wenatchee in late September, President Clair Olivers, keynote speaker April Sims, President of the Washington State Labor Council, and I all spoke about what makes our union strong. It's YOU! RPEC is powered by the generosity of your time and talents. The newly elected Executive Board will meet next month to appoint members at large to serve on Standing Committees (Legislative and Membership), the Political Action Committee (PAC), and Workgroups (Pension Policy, Healthcare, and Policy Review).

Serving on a Statewide Committee, the PAC, or a Workgroup is a great way to learn more about retiree issues and RPEC's policy priorities. You'll meet like-minded retirees and will put to use your unique skills. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. All meetings are held by Zoom to enable greater participation statewide. The Standing Committees generally meet about four times per year. The Healthcare Workgroup meets twice monthly, and the Pension Policy Workgroup meets on an as-needed basis. The PAC meets about four times per year in the even-numbered years, and as-needed in the odd-number years.

President Olivers will be considering committee and workgroup appointments this month, so please indicate your interest by emailing info@rpecwa.org or by calling the Council Office at 360-352-8262 before **October 31**. He will recommend a slate of appointees to the Executive Board for action at the November 19th meeting.

Select Committee On Pension Policy (SCPP) Takes Important First Step

Your advocacy efforts paid off last month at the September hearing of the SCPP. Because you answered our call to action, RPEC was well represented in the legislative record in support of restoring a recurring cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retirees vested in PERS/TRS 1. Because of your efforts, and those of our partners, the SCPP voted to direct the Office of the State Actuary to craft sample bill language to provide these retirees with a recurring COLA (mirroring the benefit afforded to retirees vested in Plans 2/3) and the Legislature's funding mechanism to pay for it.

- 522 retirees signed in PRO on the Legislative website
- 40 RPEC members called the Office of the State Actuary

- 14 shared written testimony (about ½ were RPEC members)
- 60 attended in person in a silent show of solidarity (most were RPEC members from Chapters 2, 10, 12, 18, 24, and 30).



Our work is not done. Our continued advocacy will be important for the SCPP to support legislation for the 2025 legislative session.

If you are meeting with your local legislators, and those seeking state offices, initiate a conversation about the need for all retirees to have recurring COLAs for retirement security. Thank you for your support.

All Member Mobilization: Sign in before 9 AM on October 15 (No Call-in Option)

Please register a PRO position on the Plan 1 COLA action item for the October 15th SCPP meeting. **The agenda does not include a public hearing. Therefore, it is critical that you follow all the steps below:**

- 1) Access the Joint Committee Sign In page:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Joint?selectedCommittee=-4&selectedMeeting=32111>
- 2) Select "Select Committee on Pension Policy" and select the "10/15/24" date
- 3) Select "Public Comment"
- 4) Select "I would like to submit written testimony." (The agenda is not structured to allow you to cite PRO on the draft bill action item on the agenda.)
- 5) Cite your position as "PRO."
- 6) Provide your first and last name and email address. Your organization is the Retired Public Employees Council of WA (spell it out). Provide your home address and phone number.
- 7) In the written testimony box write: "Please approve the bill to provide an annual COLA." (If you wish to add more, please do.)
- 8) Click – I am not a robot.

Upcoming Events

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

- Oct. 10 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
- Oct. 11 – PAC Meeting (11:00 am)
- Oct. 11 – Special Executive Board Meeting (1:00 pm)
- Oct. 15 – Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)
*Please Sign In before 9 AM
- Oct. 17 – Senior Lobby Virtual Fall Conference (9 am – 4 pm)
- Oct. 24 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Nov. 1 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)