



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 11 – Walla Walla County

Barry Jenkins, President

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Meeting Date:	Tuesday, October 14th, 2025
Meeting Time:	11:30 AM
Meeting Place:	Denny's
Meeting Address:	814 W Chestnut St, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Autumn is here and lunch time is the best time of day to venture out. **Our next meeting of your Walla Walla Chapter of the Retired Public Employees Council is on Tuesday, October 14th at Denny's, located at 9th & Chestnut.** Look for the private meeting room to your left as you enter. Their menu has affordable selections for 55+ and a 15% senior discount if you show your AARP card! **We recommend you arrive for our RPEC lunch meeting at 11:00 AM to receive your food before the meeting.** We hope you will come and enjoy lunch and share conversations with your fellow retirees. It's never too late to invite other retired public employees that you know. *If they sign up, you'll both get a free lunch!* **NEW MEMBERS**, we'd love to have you join us for a free lunch at your first meeting.

Our October meeting will feature **RPEC Bingo** with prizes donated by President Barry.

NEWS OF YOUR CHAPTER:

At our September meeting we had presentations by Steven Gamble, RPEC District 4 Board Member and Dave Koenig, Legislative Committee Chair. We learned about the challenges facing our state RPEC organization and efforts to recruit new members. Also, we heard about the PERS 1 COLA issue going back to the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) for consideration in the next legislative session. Meanwhile, **on November 4th there is a meeting with our District 16 legislators at the Pasco Red Lion for us to advocate for COLA's.**

The office of Secretary is now vacant. Please consider whether you would like to help us as Secretary or at least join with others to take turns taking minutes as "Secretary-of-the-Month". If you can attend meetings and take accurate minutes, we will help with typing and copying as needed. No previous experience necessary; you get on-the-job training.

We are continuing our mailed and emailed newsletter distribution. Please keep us notified if you need to update your email or other contact information.

***** **Also, if you are unable to attend a meeting due to lack of** *****
transportation, let me know and we will help you get a ride.

Call or text Barry at 509-240-2844 or email at barryjenkins53@yahoo.com

As a reminder, whenever you have knowledge of the passing of a member, please bring it to my attention so that our State RPEC Office may be notified, and so that we can recognize their career of public service. If anyone has any questions regarding canceling a person's membership after their passing or regarding pension-related issues, we can help.

OCTOBER 2025 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Are you ready to get to work helping us to protect your retirement security? Our union is fueled by each of you – your talents, strengths and commitment to service. We ask each of you to join with the members of your chapter to meet with state and federal legislators. RPEC's mission is to protect your retirement benefits. We can only do that by being visible with elected officials who are entrusted with legislative authority. We are specifically looking for members who are willing to work with us this fall and in the new legislative session to offer testimony. To that end, we will be hosting a Zoom educational program for all those who would like to gain experience in developing written and verbal testimony. We are looking for members who have not done this before or those who have not been involved in providing testimony for some time. Legislators need to meet as many new RPEC members as possible from their legislative and congressional districts. Everyone is welcome. See details below.

One of the many things I love about RPEC is the spirit of our members. RPEC members are expectant – ready and willing to engage in a worthy fight. Protecting your retirement benefits is worthy of your time and talents. Please join us. If you have very little time to give, we'll find a place for you to contribute. If you would like to learn more about how to get more involved in our legislative work, please reach out to me and Associate Director Derek VanSpoor at the Council Office or via email at info@rpecwa.org.

Strategic Plan Update – Strategic Plan Special Task Force Delivers Report, Oct. 17

Two years ago, the Executive Board appointed about a dozen members-at-large from across the state to serve on the Strategic Plan Special Task Force. The Task Force was formed to evaluate the governance structures of RPEC with the goal of making recommendations to the Board to strengthen the organization. The Task Force met in 2024 to develop checklists that could be used for the evaluations. The checklists emerged from months of meetings and research. The checklists detail the “gold standard” attributes that are evident in high-functioning membership-driven organizations/unions. The checklists were then reviewed and approved by the Executive Board in November 2024. At that Board meeting, additional Task Force members were appointed (to replace those who for various reasons were unable to continue service) to serve in 2025.

In January, the Task Force formed into smaller groups to begin the evaluation process using the approved checklists. The small groups have been meeting 2-3 times per month to evaluate the effectiveness of RPEC's governance structures (overall statewide governance, chapter governance and fiscal governance).

The Task Force will share its final report with recommendations to the Executive Board at an Executive Board Work Session on Friday, October 17th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The work session is an educational opportunity for the Board. Members are welcome to attend as guests. The log-in for the work session is available on the RPEC website at www.rpecwa.org.

Guests will be asked to submit questions via the Chat feature in Zoom. When a meeting summary is developed for record-keeping purposes, it will include the questions submitted by meeting guests and the answers to each question.

Associate Membership Program Now Available

RPEC has revised the Associate Membership program, and information about the updated program is now available on the website. Public sector employees who are within 18 months of retirement are eligible to join RPEC as Associate Members. To elevate the value of Associate membership and to increase the number of members who transition from Associate to full membership upon retirement, Associate members will pay a nominal fee to cover production and mailing costs for the resources they receive from RPEC, and in return they will receive their first 3 months of full membership for free when they become a dues paying member. Do you have friends who are still working and will be retiring soon? Please invite them to join as Associate Members. Please meet with union locals in your area to ask them to provide gifted memberships to those poised for retirement. Associate members can sign up on the website at www.rpecwa.org.

Registration Now Open for Written & Verbal Testimony Educational Webinar, October 24, 10-11 AM

Did you know that one of the best ways to strengthen mental processing in retirement is by trying something new? Would you like to learn how to provide written and verbal testimony for legislative hearings? Please register to attend a special member-only, one-hour program to learn the basics of providing written and verbal testimony. The session will be taught by RPEC members, as well as members of RPEC's professional team. Register at www.rpecwa.org.

New Resources for PEBB & Medicare Open Enrollment Periods

RPEC has launched a special resource page on the website to help members navigate PEBB Open Enrollment (Oct. 27-Nov. 24) and Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 15 through Dec. 7). The new resource page includes recorded webinars covering the PEBB plans, as well as the [new Medicare Open Enrollment Jumpstart Tool Kit](#) from the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA).

Registration is still open for a member-only informational Zoom program on November 7th to help members understand the differences among the healthcare plans available through Medicare Open Enrollment. Register at www.rpecwa.org.

Important Dates

Visit the RPEC website at www.rpecwa.org for the full calendar:

- Oct. 10: Legislative Committee (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 16: Virtual Senior Lobby Fall Conference (9:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 17: Executive Board Work Session (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 20: Meet the New DRS Director (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 21: Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 23: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Oct 24: Written & Verbal Testimony Educational Webinar (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 29: WSARA Annual Convention (9:00--3:00 p.m.)