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## Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 12 – Pierce County

*Carol Dotlich, President*

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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>Gather at 11:00 AM – Meeting at NOON</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b>Homestead Restaurant</b>
<b>Meeting Address:</b>	<b>7837 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409</b>

Dear RPEC Members,

It is an honor to have Representative Cyndy Jacobsen as our guest speaker. She has been our guest at past district meetings so you may have met her there. The 25th District includes Puyallup, South Hill, Midland and part of Parkland. She serves on the Select Pension Policy Committee as well as several others.

Our PERS/TRS 1 pension members did not receive a cost-of-living adjustment this year, which was a huge disappointment. The cost of living, demonstrated by the cost of groceries, utilities, insurance and other items, has put a further hardship on all our members, but especially on members of these pension plans. The ability to share information about matters with and from her matters, so please don't miss this opportunity.

Chapter 1 has had a very difficult time recruiting and maintaining officers in leadership. Ken Williams, long serving the chapter as Treasurer, had to step down due to serious health issues. Jerry Beckendorf, another long-serving leader, also faces serious health issues. They deserve our deepest thanks for their dedication and service. Past presidents Pam Miller, Sue Henricksen, and Bob Bandarra all deserve our thanks and praise for their efforts on behalf of the Chapter 1 membership. Thank you to all the officers who have served in leadership of Chapter 1. As we move forward, Chapter 12 members have voted to provide support for our Chapter 1 members by inviting them to our upcoming member meetings and providing information about the issues that impact them. Information is always available through the RPEC.WA website. If I can be of service to you, please reach out.

In solidarity,

Carol Dotlich  
Call or Text (253) 985-3280

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### **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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> to help members understand the differences among the healthcare plans available through Medicare Open Enrollment. Register at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### **Important Dates**

Visit the RPEC website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for the full calendar:

- Oct. 3: Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- 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.)