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# Retired Public Employees Council

## Chapter 12 – Pierce County

*Celeste Suliin Burris, Secretary*  
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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Meeting Time:** Gather at 11:30 AM – Meeting at Noon  
**Meeting Location:** Homestead Restaurant  
**Meeting Address:** 7837 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

Greetings everyone,

Chapter 12 will meet on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Homestead Restaurant (7837 South Tacoma Way in Tacoma, 98409) banquet room at noon. Doors will open at 11:30am to allow time for members to order lunch.

Our guest speaker for the March meeting is Suzanne Klenk from Washington State Employees Credit Union (WSECU).

**NOTE: We will be opening nominations for chapter officers and board members at this meeting. Nominations will remain open until the elections which will be held at our meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.** If you are interested or would like more information about what holding a position entails, please contact me or the RPEC office at (360) 352-8262.

**Welcome to our new members!** We look forward to meeting you! As a welcome gift, Chapter 12 will buy lunch for all members joining us for the first time.

Celeste Suliin Burris, Chapter 12 Secretary  
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### **MARCH 2025 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

It's hard to believe that this long legislative session is only on day 39 (date of publication) given our level of engagement on bills that impact your retirement security. With your help, we have registered more PRO sign-ins and testified on more bills than we have in at least the past five legislative sessions. For that, we thank you. Every time you take a few moments to answer our "Calls to Action" through the weekly NewsFlash, you are signaling the importance of our bills to the legislators. Keep up the good work! Please monitor your emails, as there will be more opportunities for you to help us elevate our shared legislative priorities, including improving healthcare access and affordability, increasing property tax exemptions, and securing a much-needed cost-of-living adjustment for our brothers and sisters vested in PERS/TRS 1.

## **Legislative Session Update, Week 6**

To date, more than 1,000 bills have been introduced in the House and 769 bills in the Senate. Interestingly, bills are still being introduced! In addition to considering legislation, the Legislature is also hyper focused on finding ways to trim expenditures given the projected state deficit, which has been estimated to be between \$12 billion and \$15 billion. The legislative committees are generally advancing bills that support ongoing state investments/priorities and those that save the state money.

## **More Ways for RPEC Members to Engage in Advocacy**

From late February through March 12<sup>th</sup>, bills that have successfully passed through the initial legislative process will be poised for full Senate and full House floor votes. We will keep you apprised of how our priority bills are doing and may ask you to reach out to your state legislators to urge them to support RPEC's priority bills. This will be another opportunity for you to thank them for supporting policies that provide retirement security for public sector retirees.

When RPEC members reach out prior to floor action, it also signals that RPEC is paying attention to votes! Please read your emails and the weekly NewsFlash for more details on when and how to take the next steps in the legislative process.

## **Stay informed!**

The best way to stay informed is to read the weekly NewsFlash (sent via email each Friday), participate in the weekly Legislative Update Calls (held weekly at 2 p.m. on Fridays, see details on the Calendar at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)), and read your chapter newsletter.

You also can keep apprised of the 30+ bills RPEC is tracking by accessing the bill tracker on the website at <https://rpecwa.org/legislative-bill-tracker/>.

Finally, all members are also invited to attend the statewide Legislative Committee meeting on March 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Zoom link is available on the calendar on the RPEC website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org). These meetings address our federal priorities, our priority bills moving through the Legislature, and the status of our work with state agencies.

## **RPEC to Host Washington State Investment Board Educational Webinar, March 28**

Did you know that RPEC is the only retiree organization that has a active member serving on the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB)? Learn more about the WSIB and its important work by attending an educational webinar on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Registration is required. The program will include presentations by three speakers, including WSIB Vice Chair Yona Makowski, who is an active member of RPEC Chapter 2. The program will include time for Q&A.

Register at <https://rpecwa.org/washington-state-investment-board-educational-program/>

**Note:** *You must be registered on the RPEC website to access the webinar registration form.*

## **RPEC to Host Member-Only Webinar on Universal Healthcare, April 4**

Registration is also now open for a special member-only webinar on the status of universal healthcare both in our state and nationwide. The educational webinar will be held on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. The program will feature two leaders from

the Universal Healthcare Commission and Rose Roach, National Coordinator, Labor Campaign for One Payer. The presenters from the Commission will address the status of universal healthcare in our state. Rose will provide an overview of the federal landscape and the steps that the labor community nationally and other states are taking to bring the U.S. closer to realizing a Medicare-for-all model. The program will include time for Q&A. Registration is required.

Register at <https://rpecwa.org/rpec-speakers-series/>

**Note:** You must be registered on the RPEC website to access the webinar registration form.

### **Important Dates**

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

- March 11 – PEBB Town Hall Event Webinar (2:00 pm)
- March 12 – PEBB Town Hall Event Webinar (10:00 am)
- March 13 – Public Employees Benefits Board meeting (9:00 am)
- March 13 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
- March 14 – Legislative Committee meeting (10:00 am)
- March 14 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)
- March 17 – Senior Lobby (10:00 am)
- March 20 – Membership Committee meeting (10:00 am)
- March 21 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)
- March 27 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
- March 28 – WSIB Educational Webinar (10:00 am)
- March 28 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)
- April 4 – Universal Healthcare Webinar (10:00 am)
- April 4 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)