



Retired Public Employees Council SPOKANE AREA CHAPTER 13

NEWS MARCH 2025

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NOTICE!! Nominations for all officers of RPEC Chapter 13 will be held at the regular membership meeting on March 13, 2025, with elections held at the April 10, 2025, meeting. Join us for good food, see old friends and make new ones. Guests are very welcome. We will meet at the Longhorn Barbecue, 7611 W. Sunset Highway, Spokane. We gather at 11 am to eat lunch and visit. The meeting begins at 12 noon. You do not need to buy lunch to attend the meeting. There are two chances to win \$10 in a drawing for members present.

LEGISLATIVE-POLITICAL NEWS National news tells us each day of possible and real federal monetary cuts to programs that we and our families and neighbors depend on. What can YOU do? All RPEC members like us have two contacts sending us information we can trust and ways we can respond. At the state level, we can sign in at rpecwa.org, and at the federal level at AFSCME.ORG. Why AFSCME (our national affiliate)? There are over 3,400 local unions and 58 councils and affiliates in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. We have a strong, active, retirees group. You can be involved by attending the Legislative Update Calls every Friday at 2 pm by Zoom, by checking the weekly RPEC NewsFlash, and taking action as asked. It depends on us, the members, to stay informed and involved. Thank you for your support.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAPTER 13 OFFICERS: All Chapter officer positions are open for nominations. Officer positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, four Executive Board officers, and three Trustees. Two long-time officers who will not accept nomination this year are: Sharon Etheridge, Secretary; and Gail Spaeth, President. The nomination and election of officers will be conducted in accordance with our constitution. We hold the nominations of officers at the regular membership meeting in March and the election at the regular membership meeting in April in odd numbered years for a two-year term. Officer training is offered by our state RPEC Office annually.

OFFICER DUTIES, in brief are:

The President shall preside at all general meetings of the chapter as well as of the Executive Board, countersign all checks drawn against the funds of the chapter, appoint all standing committees and all special committees, report periodically to the membership regarding progress, the standing of the organization, and regarding the President's official acts.

The Vice President shall assist the President in the work of the President's office. In the absence of the President, preside at all meetings and perform all duties otherwise performed by the President, including co-signer of checks drawn on the chapter's funds.

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies of the chapter or subchapter, deposit all money received in the name of the chapter or subchapter in a bank or banks selected by the chapter Executive Board, prepare and sign checks only for the purposes required by the constitution or authorized by the Executive Board, and prepare and submit a monthly financial report at membership meetings.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of all membership meetings and of all Executive Board meetings, and carry on the official correspondence of the organization, except when the Ex Bd directs otherwise.

The Executive Board (The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus the Executive Board at-large) shall be the governing body of the chapter except when general membership meetings are in session.

The Trustees shall make, at least semi-annually, an audit of the finances of the chapter, reporting to the membership the results of the audit. Trustees are not members of the Executive Board due to the nature of their duties.

MORE DIRECTION AND DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN the AFSCME Retirees Officer's Manual, which will be available at the membership meetings.

WE ALSO laugh together, encourage members to become acquainted with their legislators on our organizations' behalf, have a great biennial convention, and engage interesting speakers for meetings.

In Solidarity,

Gail Spaeth, President Chapter 13

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 12th, 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), 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. 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 28th 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 4th 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 for the full calendar:

March 7: Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)

March 13: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)

March 14: Legislative Committee (10:00 a.m.)

Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)

March 27: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)

March 28: Washington State Investment Board Member-only Webinar (10:00 a.m.)

April 4: Universal Healthcare Member-only webinar (10:00 a.m.)