



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 18 – Grays Harbor County

Johanna Standish, President

(360) 538-0826 or lacerta123@comcast.net

Hybrid Meeting May 14th, 2024 @ 11:30 AM

Join from home by Zoom or in-person

In-Person Meeting

Location

Gepetto's
126 E Pioneer Ave
Montesano, WA 98520

Computer Login

Information

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
ID: 869 2962 6040
Passcode: 391928

Phone Login Information

Dial: (253) 215-8782
ID: 869 2962 6040
Passcode: 391928

Program

Hi everyone. For those of you who will be joining by ZOOM, we have decided that the first half-hour of each meeting will be for members to eat lunch and visit. The business meeting will then start at noon. You are welcome to join at any time. **Remember, this is our last business meeting until September.**

Since our speaker for April was unable to join us, he will now be our May speaker. It is Walt Bowen, President of the Washington State Senior Lobby. You can read the rest of his bio in the previous newsletter.

During the business portion of our meeting, we will be discussing:

- Delegate elections for 9/24-26 at the RPEC State Convention in Wenatchee, noting that the chapter covers costs.
- Presentation of 2024 operating budget for member approval.
- If we add Pacific County members, help us save chapter funds by sending an email to lacerta123@comcast.net stating you prefer email newsletter delivery.
- Our Summer Celebration is on August 13 at Friend's Landing.

Reminder: Gepetto's provides the meeting room for free but does require that those attending in person spend, on average, \$15.00 on food.

April Meeting

RPEC President Clair Olivers addressed the group. He talked about RPEC goals and accomplishments for this year. He also pointed out how Chapter 18 members are involved with the work of the organization. At the end of his presentation, he answered questions from attendees.

After Clair's presentation, Johanna conducted the business meeting. The President's report was read. Topics included member advocacy and partnering with other retiree organizations, and the RPEC Convention Sep 24-26, in Wenatchee. Delegates must register by July 1. There are costs to send delegates to the convention, although statewide RPEC officers (Nancy and Johanna) attend at the expense of RPEC. Regarding the inactive Pacific County RPEC Chapter: Some of their members may transfer into Ch. 18 depending

on the State Executive Board's vote. Membership of more than 200 at Chapter 18 will require us to pay about \$1400/year in printing supplies and postage for our newsletter, unless we can get people to sign up to newsletters by email.

Executive Committee minutes were read. One of our two CD's matured, so a meeting was called to roll over that CD, and to set procedures for new CD purchases, requiring two members of the Executive Board and a report back to the membership, and allowing a CD to be rolled over by two Executive Board officers. A motion was made that two people from the Executive Board may make decisions regarding rollover or purchase of CDs, and that will be reported to the membership at the next meeting. The motion was passed.

The following Ch. 18 positions were declared and sworn in:

Johanna Standish, **President**
Ruth Cook, **Vice President**
Al Telecky, **Treasurer**
Donna Albert, **Secretary**

Members-at-Large
Connie Greenidge
Jane Lauzon
Phil Jones

Did You Know

The Olympic Area Agency on Aging has 3 offices in the Grays Harbor/Pacific County area. They are located in Aberdeen, Raymond, and Long Beach. The agency provides information and assistance on a variety of services including:

- **Planning and Decision Making** Whether you're seeking assistance for yourself or for a loved one, our experienced professionals can help you to assess your needs, explore your options and develop a plan. Next, we can guide you through the maze of bureaucracy and paperwork to help you apply for the services you need.
- **Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP)** We recognize the crucial role unpaid caregivers play in helping frail older adults and adults with disabilities remain in their homes.
- **Case Management** Information & Assistance provides service coordination (case management) service for clients who are on Medicaid in-home care programs, in conjunction with Home & Community Services.
- **State-Wide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)** This service gives YOU answers. A network of trained volunteers that educate, assist, and serve as advocates for people with health insurance issues.

You can get more information and contact numbers on their website, www.o3a.org

See you at Gepetto's in Montesano at 11:30 am on the 14th of May.

Best Regards,

Johanna Standish
Chapter 18 President

May 2024 Executive Director's Report

Extend a warm welcome to newcomers

Each year, RPEC works in tandem with AFSCME Retirees on a mass mailing to retirees who have yet to join RPEC. We are beginning to process the new member applications and expect that new members may be joining your chapter's summertime activities. Extend a warm welcome to new members and help plug them into your local advocacy efforts. In addition, we welcome members to attend the Zoom meetings held this month for RPEC's statewide committees, workgroups, and Executive Board. (See events below. Also see calendar at www.rpecwa.org.)

Get to know your legislators and those running for office

This summer, your chapter will be holding outdoor events and will be scheduling meetings with current state and federal legislators and those who are running for office. If you are new to RPEC or have never taken the opportunity to get involved in our advocacy work, now's your chance! The summertime events and meetings are an ideal time for you to build critical relationships that will help us achieve our legislative priorities (available in PDF form at www.rpecwa.org). If you have never met with a legislator, don't worry. Many members of your chapter have been doing legislative advocacy around RPEC's priorities for years. They will help you and can answer your questions. In retirement, we have opportunities to grow and learn new skills. Many seasoned RPEC members, and our staff at the Council Office, are available to help you gain confidence in communicating with legislators. We need all our members joining our advocacy efforts, so that we can be successful in expanding and preserving your retirement benefits at state and federal levels.

Federal Advocacy

Call to action on the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82): If you have not already done so, please join your fellow RPEC members and AFSCME Retiree chapters nationwide in urging Congress to pass this important piece of legislation, which repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These two provisions have unfairly penalized public service retirees for decades. RPEC's legislative priorities are consistent with this legislation. AFSCME Retirees has created an [easy form](#) that will send a letter of support for this legislation to members of the Washington state congressional delegation. Learn more at: <https://act.afscme.org/letters/tell-your-representative-repeal-gpo-and-wep>.

Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Approves New Pharmacy Benefit for UMP Classic Medicare

On April 11th, the PEB Board approved a change to the pharmacy benefit for Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare. Beginning in January 2025, the pharmacy benefit will be a PEBB-managed Part D plan. This change is expected to lower premiums by several hundred dollars per month for many retirees. You can read more about the new benefit in RPEC's spring membership newsletter, which members will receive by mail very soon. RPEC will be partnering with the Health Care Authority (HCA) on an extensive member education effort in advance of open enrollment, which is held November 1-30. Visit www.hca.wa.gov for more details.

Convention 2024, Sept. 24-26, Wenatchee Convention Center

Are you interested in serving as a chapter delegate to RPEC's biennial Convention in September? You do not need to be an officer or chapter committee leader to attend. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as a delegate. If you are interested in being considered for your chapter's delegation, contact your chapter president. Delegates are chosen by election at a chapter meeting. The registration deadline is July 1. If you are selected to represent your chapter, your Convention registration fee, travel, and lodging will be covered by your chapter. Guests may also attend at their own expense. Visit www.rpecwa.org for more details or contact your chapter president.

State Advocacy

The Legislative Update Calls are held monthly through December. The calls are held the first Friday of the month from 2-3 p.m. Details are available at www.rpecwa.org.

Partner Events

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) is hosting a [regional meeting](https://retiredamericans.org/2024-regionals/) in Las Vegas on Wednesday, June 5 through Thursday, June 6. The \$150 registration fee covers attendance at informational workshops and plenaries, a reception, one lunch and one breakfast. The regional meeting will take place at the Westgate Hotel. ARA has negotiated an \$89 nightly room rate at the host hotel with a special meeting code. More details are available at <https://retiredamericans.org/2024-regionals/>.

AFSCME Retirees will be hosting its annual meeting in Los Angeles at the Biltmore Hotel from Saturday, August 10 through Monday, August 12. The annual meeting aligns with the AFSCME International Convention, which will take place August 12-16. RPEC is entitled to send two Executive Committee officers as delegates. Chapters may send members as guests at the chapter's expense. Guests may attend the International Convention as observers. The annual meeting and Convention call details will be available next month. Save these dates!

Upcoming Events

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

- May 3 Pension Policy Workgroup (10:00 a.m.)
- May 3 Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- May 6 Executive Board Meeting (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)
- May 7 Executive Board Meeting, Strategic Planning (9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.)
- May 8 Public Service Recognition Week (at Heritage Park, Olympia)
- May 9 Public Employees Benefits Board (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- May 9 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- May 17 Leadership Training Registration Deadline
- May 20 Political Action Committee (PAC, 10 a.m.)
- May 21 Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- May 23 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- May 24 Pension Policy Workgroup (tentative, 10 a.m.)
- May 27 Council Office closed, Memorial Day
- June 5-6 ARA Western Regional Meeting, Las Vegas, NV