



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 18 Grays Harbor/Pacific Counties

Ruth Cook, Vice-President
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Meeting March 11th, 2025 @ 11:00 AM
Join from home by Zoom or in-person

In-Person Meeting Location

Ocean Palace Restaurant
112 E Wishkah St
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Computer Login Information

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 836 0967 671
Passcode: 089488
Business Meeting at Noon

Phone Login Information

Dial: (253) 215-8782
Meeting ID: 836 0967 8671
Passcode: 089488
Business Meeting at Noon

Program

Hi everyone. At our last meeting, Johanna resigned as President for personal reasons. We are sorry that she felt unable to continue at this time. It has been Johanna's efforts that have made our chapter more involved in the efforts of RPEC. We will miss her leadership and will continue soliciting her input.

At our March meeting, rather than having a guest speaker, we will discuss business issues, including our budget, our summer celebration, chapter outreach efforts, potential guest speakers and the appropriate steps for replacing chapter officers. Anyone interested in assuming the position of President should attend this meeting.

During the social hour, I will show anyone who is interested how to set up the computer equipment for the hybrid meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST MEETING

RPEC President Clair Olivers addressed the group via Zoom. He once again commended our chapter for our involvement in working toward accomplishing RPEC's goals.

Alex Blumenthal, Grays Harbor County Public Health Housing Program Coordinator, joined us in-person and spoke about the coordination between her office and local entities in addressing the affordable housing and homeless issues.

Ruth requested approval for reimbursement for the new laptop, additional monitor, and software for our hybrid meetings. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Discussion on the Summer Celebration started and then, due to time constraints, was moved to the March meeting. Members are looking for ways to increase participation.

Good of the Chapter

Reminder: If you need help with completing your tax return this year, help is available. AARP is providing assistance with tax returns beginning on February 3rd. Sessions will be at the Aberdeen Senior Center on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm and at the Ocean Shores Library on Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm. Assistance at these locations will be available through April 15th. No appointment is necessary.

Did You Know

If you plan on flying anywhere in the near future, remember that the ID requirements will be changing soon. After several delays, Real ID will take effect on May 7, 2025. REAL ID is a federal law, not an actual piece of ID.

The REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver licenses and ID cards. Starting May 7, 2025, anyone traveling by airplane or visiting certain federal facilities must use a REAL ID-compliant document. These identification options meet REAL ID standards and can be used to board domestic flights:

- [Enhanced driver license \(EDL\)](#)
- [Enhanced identification card \(EID\)](#)
- U.S. Military ID
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Passport Card
- Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- Federally recognized tribal-issued photo ID
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- Foreign Passport

You can get a full list of acceptable documents at <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

Standard driver licenses and ID cards

The State will continue to offer standard driver licenses and ID cards that can be used by Washington residents to drive or as identification. They don't indicate a person's residency or legal status and starting May 7, 2025, they will no longer be accepted as valid forms of ID for boarding domestic flights.

Enhanced driver license (EDL) and enhanced identification (EID)

An EDL or EID is a form of identification with enhanced security features that shows proof of identity and proof of citizenship. An EDL/EID meets federal requirements under REAL ID and is an approved alternative to a passport or passport card for re-entry into the U.S. at land and sea borders between the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

Who can get an EDL or EID?

You must be a U.S. citizen and provide a Social Security number, proof of citizenship, proof of identity, and proof of Washington State residency.

Do I have to get an EDL or EID?

If you don't plan to fly domestically, or already have acceptable identity documents, you may not need an EDL or EID. The standard license will continue to permit you to drive, and your standard ID will continue to serve as a valid form of identification within the state.

See you at the Ocean Palace Restaurant on March 11th.

Best Regards,

Ruth Cook
Chapter 18 Vice-President

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.)