



opeiu8/aflcio

# Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) Chapter 2 – Olympia Area

**“Retired from Work, Engaged in Life!”**

**(VACANT) – President**

**Tim Welch – Vice President (360) 481-5092 • E-mail: [timw98513@gmail.com](mailto:timw98513@gmail.com)**

**Martin Rollins – Secretary • Liz Larsen – Treasurer**

**Susan Herring & Lonnie Johns-Brown – Legislative/Political Action Co-Chairs**

**Diana Finch & Margie Stauffer – Membership Co-Chairs • Gary Bruebaker – Finance Chair**

**Katrina Wynkoop-Simmons – RPEC Exec. Board-Dist. 7 Rep.**

## **May 2024 RPEC CHAPTER 2 NEWSLETTER:**

**Join us – live and in person @ The Olympia Center  
for RPEC Chapter 2’s May General Membership Meeting (5/9/24)**

**“Senior Resource Fair” returns to Chapter 2 • LIVE & IN-PERSON at our May 9 meeting!**

- **WHAT: Chapter 2 May 2024 General Membership Meeting**
- **DATE: Thursday, May 9**
- **TIME: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**
- **WHERE: The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA 98501  
Multipurpose Room A, 1st Floor**

*NOTE: No virtual option because of fair's format.*

### **May 9 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Join Chapter 2 on May 9 for our annual “Senior Resource Fair.”** Almost all our 90-minute monthly meeting will be devoted to the fair. Much of it will be self-directed: You'll seek out the information most relevant to you. **Visit with dozens of special guests.** Our special guests have prepared a lineup of brief presentations on volunteer, health, and community services that should be of interest to you. These volunteers with our community partners will be on hand at “Fair Booth Tables” arranged around our usual meeting space at The Olympia Center: Multipurpose Room A on the First Floor.
- **Expanded refreshments table.** Enjoy appetizers, snacks, & treats while you take in the fair.
- **Door prizes & more. \$500+ in prize drawings up for grabs!** The \$500 Meeting Attendance Incentive Award! Gift cards worth \$25 each. Remember: You must be present in person to win all door prizes!

**Don't forget PALS!** Our ongoing designated “collection box” charity benefits **Pet Assistance for Low-Income Seniors (PALS)**. That program is run by Senior Services for South Sound. All cash donations help low-income seniors pay veterinary bills. Look for the collection box at our sign-in table.

### **OFFICIAL NOTICE:**

**Chapter 2 General Membership Meeting Schedule, June 2024-May 2025** (Notice required by Ch. 2's Constitution.)

- June 2024/July 2024/August 2024: No General Membership Meetings (summer break)
- September 2024-May 2025: Chapter 2's General Membership meetings scheduled 2-3:30 PM, in person @ The Olympia Center, the second Thursday of every month: Sept. 12, 2024; Oct. 10, 2024; Nov. 14, 2024; Dec. 12, 2024; Jan. 9, 2025; Feb. 13, 2025; March 13, 2025; April 10, 2025; May 8, 2025.
- The Chapter 2 Executive Board meets the morning before every monthly General Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM in person at The Olympia Center. Other chapter committees schedule meetings as needed. Chapter 2's monthly newsletter will cover any schedule changes.

**See Executive Director's Report on page 3 in this newsletter for other important updates.**

## New board takes office

Your new Chapter 2 officers and board members have started their 2-year terms.



Sixteen Executive Board Members-at-Large were all elected by acclamation (meaning they all ran unopposed). The chapter's Election Committee certified the results in its final report presented at the April 11 General Membership Meeting.

- **The 16 board members (in alphabetical order) are:**

Mark Brown; Gary Bruebaker; Roger Cummings; Sharon Fasnacht; Jon Halvorson; Susan Herring; Lonnie Johns Brown; George Masten; Pat Mix; Judy

Parent; Dave Peeler; Jerry Pike; Katrina Wynkoop-Simmons; Margie Stauffer; Richard Swanson; and Sarah C. Wilson.

- **Three of four officers were also declared elected** by acclamation: Tim Welch-Vice President; Martin Rollins-Secretary; and Liz Larsen-Treasurer.
- The office of chapter President is vacant because there were no candidates.
- **What happens now?**

Under the chapter's constitution: The Chapter 2 Executive Board by majority vote will elect a member to fill the vacancy; in the meantime, the Vice President will perform the duties of the President.



## Chapter 2 Calendar

**May 2, 2024 – 10:00 AM**

**May 9, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 12 Noon**

**May 9, 2024 – 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

**July 11, 2024 – 11:30 AM – 2 PM**

### **Ch. 2 Finance Committee**

#### **Chapter 2 May 2024 Executive Board Meeting**

*(In-person)* The Olympia Center, Room 102

#### **Chapter 2 May 2024 General Membership Meeting**

*(In-person)* The Olympia Center, Multipurpose Room A.

**Special order of business:** Chapter 2's Annual Senior Resource Fair.

#### **Chapter 2's Annual Summer Celebration & BBQ**

Tumwater Historical Park, *sign up to help at the July 11 Chapter 2 General Membership Meeting.*

### **RPEC's Monthly Legislative Updates (Virtual) start May 3**

Log on or call the 1st Friday of every month @ 2 p.m., May-Dec.

**Via Computer or tablet:** • **Direct link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89045365250?pwd=cHYvbU80d08xTXRLTmPOZGF1VW53QT09>

• Or, go to: <https://zoom.us/join> **Meeting ID:** 890 4536 5250 • **Passcode:** 320296

**Via Phone:** • **Dial:** (253) 215-8782 **Meeting ID:** 890 4536 5250 • **Passcode:** 320296

## April 2024 Executive Director's Report

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

Are you interested in serving as a chapter delegate to RPEC's biennial Convention? You do not need to be an officer or chapter committee leader to attend. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as delegate. If you are interested in being considered for your chapter's delegation to Convention, contact your chapter president. Delegates are chosen by election at a chapter meeting. If you are selected to represent your chapter, your Convention registration fee and lodging will be covered by your chapter. Guests may also attend at their own expense. The registration fee is \$150, which covers the Convention packet and all meals. The Convention hotel is the Coast Wenatchee. The RPEC rate is \$116.00 per night before taxes and fees. Visit [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for more details or contact your chapter president.

### Federal Advocacy

**Call to action on The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023:** If you have not already done so, please join your fellow RPEC members and AFSCME Retiree chapters nationwide in urging Congress to oppose The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 (H.R. 5779). If this legislation is approved, your federal benefits will be at risk. [The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 \(H.R. 5779\)](https://www.congress.gov/bills/118/5779) will create a 16-member fiscal commission to search for ways to reduce the national deficit and balance the national budget. Funding for Social Security and Medicare will be targeted for cuts. **Call 844-331-0441 today! Tell Congress to vote NO on this bill and similar proposals calling for fiscal commissions that aim to reduce your hard-earned retirement benefits.** A detailed [position paper](https://retiredamericans.org) about the proposed debt commission is available at <https://retiredamericans.org>.

### Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) To Vote on Potential New Pharmacy Benefit, April 11

On April 11, the PEB Board will act on a resolution that will change the pharmacy benefit for Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare. RPEC's Legislative Committee supports this change, as it will lower monthly premiums for most plan subscribers. The medical benefits in the plan will remain unchanged. The new pharmacy benefit will continue to be administered by Moda to provide continuity of service and care for retirees. By making this plan more affordable, the new benefit, if adopted at the April PEB Board meeting, will help to ensure that an employer-managed plan remains in the mix of healthcare plan options available to public sector retirees. Currently, all but two plans are privatized. Preserving traditional Medicare continues to be a key federal priority for RPEC, in addition to preserving these options for the public sector retirees in Washington. Members are encouraged to attend the April 11 meeting and offer comments during the Public Comment period. Visit [www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov) for more details.

### State Advocacy

Beginning this month, the Legislative Update Calls will be held monthly, the first Friday of each month. Please join us on April 5 from 2-3 p.m. Details are available at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### Council Welcomes New Team Member

Jane Hewitt joined RPEC in mid-March as our new Finance and Operations Specialist. Jane brings more than 40 years of relevant work experience to RPEC. She is married with grandchildren, originally hails from Great Britain, and is an animal lover with three rescue pets. Jane can be reached at [jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org](mailto:jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org). Please give her a warm welcome to RPEC!

## **Upcoming Events**

Visit [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for a full calendar of Council Office and chapter meetings.

- 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, Strategic Planning (9:00-12:30 p.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 (10:00 a.m.)
- May 21 Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 a.m.)
- May 23 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- May 27 Council Office Closed, Memorial Day