



**Retired Public Employees Council**  
**Chapter 23 – Clallam County**  
**Lois Danks, Secretary: (360) 808-3196**  
**[lfdanks@yahoo.com](mailto:lfdanks@yahoo.com)**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
**Meeting Place:** Lincoln Center  
**Meeting Address:** 905 W 9<sup>th</sup> St, Port Angeles, WA 98363

Greetings Chapter 23 members,

The Clallam County chapter of the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) will meet in-person on **Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Lincoln Center, located at West 8<sup>th</sup> and B Street in Port Angeles.**

The program will include a presentation by Vikki Adams on Clallam County Community Outreach services as well as the latest information on the campaign for an ongoing three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees.

Clallam County Community Outreach helps those in need with hygiene, used clothing, food, and other needs as community donations make them available.

Complimentary lunch will be provided by the student-run Wildcat Café, courtesy of RPEC. Current and retired state, county, city, and other public employees and guests are invited to attend.

RPEC's mission is to unite retired public employees, to build labor solidarity, and to provide information to members on Social Security, Medicare, pensions and other retiree issues.

I look forward to seeing you on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

Lois Danks  
RPEC Ch 23 Secretary

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**OCTOBER 2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Get more involved statewide: Appointment Considerations Underway for Standing Committees, Workgroups and the Political Action Committee (PAC)**

At our biennial Convention in Wenatchee in late September, President Clair Olivers, keynote speaker April Sims, President of the Washington State Labor Council, and I all spoke about what makes our union strong. It's YOU! RPEC is powered by the generosity of your time and talents. The newly elected Executive Board will meet next month to appoint members at large

to serve on Standing Committees (Legislative and Membership), the Political Action Committee (PAC), and Workgroups (Pension Policy, Healthcare, and Policy Review).

Serving on a Statewide Committee, the PAC, or a Workgroup is a great way to learn more about retiree issues and RPEC's policy priorities. You'll meet like-minded retirees and will put to use your unique skills. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. All meetings are held by Zoom to enable greater participation statewide. The Standing Committees generally meet about four times per year. The Healthcare Workgroup meets twice monthly, and the Pension Policy Workgroup meets on an as-needed basis. The PAC meets about four times per year in the even-numbered years, and as-needed in the odd-number years.

President Olivers will be considering committee and workgroup appointments this month, so please indicate your interest by emailing [info@rpecwa.org](mailto:info@rpecwa.org) or by calling the Council Office at 360-352-8262 before **October 31**. He will recommend a slate of appointees to the Executive Board for action at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) Takes Important First Step**

Your advocacy efforts paid off last month at the September hearing of the SCPP. Because you answered our call to action, RPEC was well represented in the legislative record in support of restoring a recurring cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retirees vested in PERS/TRS 1. Because of your efforts, and those of our partners, the SCPP voted to direct the Office of the State Actuary to craft sample bill language to provide these retirees with a recurring COLA (mirroring the benefit afforded to retirees vested in Plans 2/3) and the Legislature's funding mechanism to pay for it.

- 522 retirees signed in PRO on the Legislative website
- 40 RPEC members called the Office of the State Actuary
- 14 shared written testimony (about 1/2 were RPEC members)
- 60 attended in person in a silent show of solidarity (most were RPEC members from Chapters 2, 10, 12, 18, 24, and 30).



Our work is not done. Our continued advocacy will be important for the SCPP to support legislation for the 2025 legislative session.

If you are meeting with your local legislators, and those seeking state offices, initiate a conversation about the need for all retirees to have recurring COLAs for retirement security. Thank you for your support.

### **All Member Mobilization: Sign in before 9 AM on October 15 (No Call-in Option)**

Please register a PRO position on the Plan 1 COLA action item for the October 15<sup>th</sup> SCPP meeting. **The agenda does not include a public hearing. Therefore, it is critical that you follow all the steps below:**

- 1) Access the Joint Committee Sign In page:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Joint?selectedCommittee=-4&selectedMeeting=32111>

- 2) Select "Select Committee on Pension Policy" and select the "10/15/24" date
- 3) Select "Public Comment"
- 4) Select "I would like to submit written testimony." (The agenda is not structured to allow you to cite PRO on the draft bill action item on the agenda.)
- 5) Cite your position as "PRO."
- 6) Provide your first and last name and email address. Your organization is the Retired Public Employees Council of WA (spell it out). Provide your home address and phone number.
- 7) In the written testimony box write: "Please approve the bill to provide an annual COLA." (If you wish to add more, please do.)
- 8) Click – I am not a robot.

### **Learn about the three ballot initiatives – I-2117; I-2109; and I-2124**

As registered voters, we all have a responsibility to do our homework before casting our votes for the general election. If you are interested in learning more about the three initiatives that could negatively impact the state's operating budget if approved by voters, check out the recorded webinar featuring the No Campaigns for each of these initiatives. Learn more at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### **Upcoming Events**

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

- Oct. 10 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
- Oct. 11 – PAC Meeting (11:00 am)
- Oct. 11 – Special Executive Board Meeting (1:00 pm)
- Oct. 15 – Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)  
\*Please Sign In before 9 AM
- Oct. 17 – Senior Lobby Virtual Fall Conference (9 am – 4 pm)
- Oct. 24 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Nov. 1 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)