



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 23 – Clallam County

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Meeting Date: Thursday, March 20th, 2024
Meeting Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Meeting Place: Port Angeles School District
Meeting Address: 905 W 9th St, Port Angeles, WA 98363

Retired Public Employees Meeting

The Clallam County chapter of the Retired Public Employees Council will meet at 11:00 am on Thursday, March 20, at the Port Angeles School District headquarters, located at West 9th and B Street in Port Angeles.

The agenda includes nomination and election of officers for the next two-year term and approval of the chapter budget for 2025. After ordering lunch from the Wildcat Café at 11:00, the business meeting will be held in the Board Room on the first floor. Lois Danks will give an informational talk on the impacts of recent federal funding cuts and policy changes on workers in the local community.

Current and retired state, county, city, and other public employees and guests are invited to attend. There is no charge for members' lunches. N95 masks will be provided for those who want them.

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 March 20th at 11:00 AM.

Lois Danks
RPEC Ch 23 Secretary

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.)