



## Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 24 – Mason County Area

Joe Vukich, President: (360) 791-5936

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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Meeting Time:** 12:00 PM  
**Meeting Place:** Mason Co. Senior Activities Center  
**Meeting Address:** 190 W Sentry Dr, Shelton, WA 98584

Hello fellow Chapter 24 members,

**Our next meeting is on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at the Mason County Senior Activities Center in Shelton.**

Members will have an opportunity to grab an affordable hot meal from the Senior Center, \$4 for members of the Senior Center and \$5 for non-members.

We will have guest speaker, Elyette Weinstein, an RPEC member who has served on the Public Employees Benefits Board. She will be talking to us about changes to our health care benefits regarding PEBB coverage. If the membership has specific questions they would like addressed they can contact Elyette at [elyette@msn.com](mailto:elyette@msn.com) or me, Kathy, at [nabernath@hotmail.com](mailto:nabernath@hotmail.com).

### **Constitutional Amendment:**

In ARTICLE VI Section 4 of the RPEC Chapter 24 constitution, it states: "A minimum of nine (9) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum except a majority of the executive board for a chapter with 50 or less members."

We will be taking a vote to change the constitution to say: "A minimum of ~~nine (9)~~ **six (6)** members in good standing shall constitute a quorum except a majority of the executive board for a chapter with 50 or less members."

Kathy Abernathy-Robinson  
Chapter 24 Secretary-Treasurer

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### **Chapter 24 Meeting Minutes 7/16/25**

#### **Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Vukich at 12:00 p.m. at the Mason County Senior Center.

#### **Roll Call:**

Members present were: Joe Vukich, Kathy Abernathy-Robinson, and Frank Pinter. Guests present were: Elayne Stodola, Co-Chair RPEC State Membership Committee and Chapter 19 Secretary, Kitsap County, and Theresa Adams Chapter 19 Treasurer, Kitsap County.

**Secretary's Report:**

Frank made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 16th meeting as mailed out, Joe 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's report showed \$1213.80 dues income, \$3.28 interest income, \$28.00 for meeting expenses, and \$60.32 for printing and postage expenses leaving a balance of \$13,691.66 for the period ending 6/16/25. For audit purposes the ending balance 6/30/25 was \$13,894.66. Frank made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Joe 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Kathy reported on her visit to Chapter 18's meeting to gather information regarding Zoom equipment. Frank is a techie and may have computer options available that would save us money. Kathy gave him the information received from Chapter 18; he will research our options and costs involved to proceed and report back at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

There was discussion regarding forming a membership committee to contact current and potential members to get more involvement. Frank & Joe will contact members by phone, email or mail to invite them to our meetings. Kathy supplied them with our membership list as provided to us by Jakob at RPEC.

Kathy presented additional information received at the Chapter 18 meeting regarding a "stand-alone" retractable banner, 33 1/4" wide x 81" tall. This banner can be used at meetings and events to introduce us to the public. The approximate cost is under \$200. Elayne and Theresa reported that their Chapter has purchased one from same place Chapter 18 purchased theirs, they recommend we contact Derek for approved wording and logo. Frank made the motion to approve the purchase of the banner with a cap of \$200. Joe 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

During our recent Leadership training and visits to other chapter's, we learned that it was accepted protocol to purchase lunch for our guests, and existing members attending for the first time. Frank made the motion to approve the purchase of lunch for our guests and first time attendees with a cap of \$30. per meeting, Joe 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Frank made the motion to issue payment of \$10. for today's room rental to the Sr Ctr, and \$15. to Kathy for guests' meals, Joe 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**Announcements:**

Joe will make arrangements for a guest speaker for our October meeting regarding fraud.

We've been invited to join Chapter 18 at Friend's Landing in Montesano on August 12, for the annual picnic, with lunch at noon. They will have music and games.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday October 15, 2025** from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Mason County Senior Activities Center, located at 190 W Sentry Dr., Shelton, WA 98584. A hot lunch is available, \$4 for Sr Center members and \$5 for non Sr Center members.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L Abernathy-Robinson  
Secretary/Treasurer

The quarterly 2025 meeting schedule is **January 15, 2025; April 16, 2025, July 16, 2025 & October 15, 2025**. The meetings will be held at the Mason County Senior Activities Center, located at 190 W Sentry Dr., Shelton, WA 98584. A hot lunch is available, \$4 for Sr Center members, and \$5 for non Sr Center members.

### **OCTOBER 2025 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Are you ready to get to work helping us to protect your retirement security? Our union is fueled by each of you – your talents, strengths and commitment to service. We ask each of you to join with the members of your chapter to meet with state and federal legislators. RPEC's mission is to protect your retirement benefits. We can only do that by being visible with elected officials who are entrusted with legislative authority. We are specifically looking for members who are willing to work with us this fall and in the new legislative session to offer testimony. To that end, we will be hosting a Zoom educational program for all those who would like to gain experience in developing written and verbal testimony. We are looking for members who have not done this before or those who have not been involved in providing testimony for some time. Legislators need to meet as many new RPEC members as possible from their legislative and congressional districts. Everyone is welcome. See details below.

One of the many things I love about RPEC is the spirit of our members. RPEC members are expectant – ready and willing to engage in a worthy fight. Protecting your retirement benefits is worthy of your time and talents. Please join us. If you have very little time to give, we'll find a place for you to contribute. If you would like to learn more about how to get more involved in our legislative work, please reach out to me and Associate Director Derek VanSpoor at the Council Office or via email at [info@rpecwa.org](mailto:info@rpecwa.org).

### **Strategic Plan Update – Strategic Plan Special Task Force Delivers Report, Oct. 17**

Two years ago, the Executive Board appointed about a dozen members-at-large from across the state to serve on the Strategic Plan Special Task Force. The Task Force was formed to evaluate the governance structures of RPEC with the goal of making recommendations to the Board to strengthen the organization. The Task Force met in 2024 to develop checklists that could be used for the evaluations. The checklists emerged from months of meetings and research. The checklists detail the “gold standard” attributes that are evident in high-functioning membership-driven organizations/unions. The checklists were then reviewed and approved by the Executive Board in November 2024. At that Board meeting, additional Task Force members were appointed (to replace those who for various reasons were unable to continue service) to serve in 2025.

In January, the Task Force formed into smaller groups to begin the evaluation process using the approved checklists. The small groups have been meeting 2-3 times per month to evaluate the effectiveness of RPEC's governance structures (overall statewide governance, chapter governance and fiscal governance).

The Task Force will share its final report with recommendations to the Executive Board at an Executive Board Work Session on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The work session is an educational opportunity for the Board. Members are welcome to attend as guests. The log-in for the work session is available on the RPEC website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

Guests will be asked to submit questions via the Chat feature in Zoom. When a meeting summary is developed for record-keeping purposes, it will include the questions submitted by meeting guests and the answers to each question.

### **Associate Membership Program Now Available**

RPEC has revised the Associate Membership program, and information about the updated program is now available on the website. Public sector employees who are within 18 months of retirement are eligible to join RPEC as Associate Members. To elevate the value of Associate membership and to increase the number of members who transition from Associate to full membership upon retirement, Associate members will pay a nominal fee to cover production and mailing costs for the resources they receive from RPEC, and in return they will receive their first 3 months of full membership for free when they become a dues paying member. Do you have friends who are still working and will be retiring soon? Please invite them to join as Associate Members. Please meet with union locals in your area to ask them to provide gifted memberships to those poised for retirement. Associate members can sign up on the website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### **Registration Now Open for Written & Verbal Testimony Educational Webinar, October 24, 10-11 AM**

Did you know that one of the best ways to strengthen mental processing in retirement is by trying something new? Would you like to learn how to provide written and verbal testimony for legislative hearings? Please register to attend a special member-only, one-hour program to learn the basics of providing written and verbal testimony. The session will be taught by RPEC members, as well as members of RPEC's professional team. Register at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### **New Resources for PEBB & Medicare Open Enrollment Periods**

RPEC has launched a special resource page on the website to help members navigate PEBB Open Enrollment (Oct. 27-Nov. 24) and Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 15 through Dec. 7). The new resource page includes recorded webinars covering the PEBB plans, as well as the [new Medicare Open Enrollment Jumpstart Tool Kit](#) from the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA).

Registration is still open for a member-only informational Zoom program on November 7<sup>th</sup> to help members understand the differences among the healthcare plans available through Medicare Open Enrollment. Register at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### **Important Dates**

Visit the RPEC website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for the full calendar:

- Oct. 10: Legislative Committee (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 16: Virtual Senior Lobby Fall Conference (9:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 17: Executive Board Work Session (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 20: Meet the New DRS Director (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 21: Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 23: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 24: Written & Verbal Testimony Educational Webinar (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 29: WSARA Annual Convention (9:00--3:00 p.m.)