



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 24 – Mason County Area

Joe Vukich, President: (360) 791-5936

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Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 5th, 2024
Meeting Time: 11:30 AM
Meeting Place: Shelton Timberland Library
Meeting Address: 710 W Alder St, Shelton, WA 98584

Hello fellow Chapter 24 members,

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 5th at 11:30 AM at the Shelton Library. We will have a guest speaker at this meeting, so let's have a good attendance and make it worth their while.

Guest Speaker: Valerie Aubertin, Community Outreach Director, Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging (LMT AAA)



Please attend to learn about the variety of resources available to you through the Area Agency on Aging and in the community. She will provide handouts as well.

I'm seeking your input on ideas or thoughts about chapter activities. Please share any ideas for meeting locations, guest speakers, agenda topics, legislative activities, member social gatherings, or other general suggestions. Feel free to propose a different time and day of the week for future chapter meetings.

Joe Vukich
Chapter 24 President

Chapter 24 Meeting Minutes – 10/1/24

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Joe Vukich, President at 12:00 p.m. at the Shelton Timberland Library.

Roll Call:

Members present were: Joe Vukich, Kathy Abernathy-Robinson, & Martharose Laffey.

Due to lack of a quorum no official business took place.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

There were no changes in the Treasurer's report that was presented at the September 10th meeting.

Reimbursement checks were issued to Joe Vukich for \$556.73 for convention mileage and hotel expenses; and to Kathy Abernathy-Robinson for \$506.13 for convention mileage, hotel expenses and coffee for this meeting.

Topics of conversation included:

- Convention report from Kathy & Joe. Cheryl was unable to attend. Chapter 24 was recognized as a Chapter in the rebuilding stage.
- Audit committee appointments/volunteers and scheduling audit
- Budget planning
- RPEC T-shirt availability
- Summer picnic possibility

Announcements:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 5th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Shelton Timberland Library. Starting at 12:00 p.m. we will have a guest speaker, Valerie Aubertin, from the Lewis, Mason, Thurston, Area Agency on Aging, LMTAAA. Valerie will share information with us about programs available to us through her agency and our community. Please plan to attend and be sure to pick up a LMTAAA resource guide.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L Abernathy-Robinson, Chapter 24 Secretary/Treasurer

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 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 19th 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 ½ 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.

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.

Upcoming Events

Visit www.rpecwa.org for a full calendar of Council Office and chapter meetings.

Nov. 1 – Monthly Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)

Nov. 5 – General Election Day

Nov. 11 – Council Office closed, Veterans Day

Nov. 12 – Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)

Nov. 12 – Legal Basics of Social Security Retirement Benefits Webinar (11:00 am)

Nov. 14 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)