



## Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 27 – Chelan-Douglas-Grant-Ferry- Kittitas-Okanogan Counties

*Don Boxford, President*  
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opeiu8/aflcio      Hybrid Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Hybrid Meeting Time: **10:30 AM**

### Computer Login Information

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 227 058 2870

Passcode: nP3L7M

### Phone Login Information

Dial: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 227 058 2870

Phone Passcode: 956551

### In-Person Meeting Location

Wenatchee Senior Center

1312 Maple St

Wenatchee, WA 98801

Greetings Chapter 27 members,

Well, the mornings are getting cooler, and it won't be long before Halloween will be here and then we can expect to start seeing snow at any time. It could be sooner for some of our members.

I want to bring to your attention to the chapter meeting date and starting time change. **We will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 10:45 AM at the Wenatchee Senior Center.** So, our October meeting will be on October 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:45 AM in Suite A. We hope this will not be too much of an inconvenience to everyone. Also, our tentative guest speaker for the meeting in October is Tamara Steffan with Confluence Health. Our meetings at the Senior Center always have a Zoom option, and if you would like to try a virtual meeting for practice just contact me at 509-665-8818 or [dbox@nwi.net](mailto:dbox@nwi.net).

Senator Keith Goehner was our guest speaker at our September meeting, and he reminded us of his support for the restoration of a permanent Plan 1 COLA, and the support of our other District 12 legislators Mike Steele and Brian Burnett. We also invited the rest of the seniors at the center to set in during his presentation.

**Our guest speaker Rep. Alex Yharra will not be able to attend the special meeting in Ephrata at the Country Deli on October 16 at 11:00 and paying for members' lunches. We are in the process of securing another speaker for that meeting.**

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Don Boxford  
RPEC Chapter 27 President

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Hello all from your District 2 representative, Betty Rae Adams. Seems like RPEC always has important events happening, and this fall is no exception. Medicare and health insurance Open Enrollment is starting. RPEC provides information so we can make informed choices. CHECK YOUR OPTIONS FOR EVERY OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD! One of our members did not check her Medicare Part D policy

and was hit with a \$35 per month increase. Provider, premium or prescription changes can affect you for the next year.

RPEC has already held a webinar about PEBB plans for next year. Registration for the November 7th Webinar on Open Enrollment starts October 1. That webinar features 3 very knowledgeable speakers. The Executive Director in her last report encouraged us to get the Medicare Open Enrollment toolkit from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner. Sounds like a good plan to me!

Another good option is to make an appointment with a Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisor (SHIBA). Independent volunteers, no charge, and unbiased! Speaking of SHIBA, I want to lament the passing of Dick Anderson. He was a SHIBA volunteer for over 15 years! He spoke at our chapter at least twice and was even knowledgeable about PEBB options!

Legislative week will continue to be virtual. It is set for January 26th to January 30th. I encourage you to participate. If no one from your legislative district participates, YOUR legislators do not hear about our issues or get your encouragement to vote our way. PLEASE put that week on your calendar. RPEC will be announcing how to register. On the 26th, usually in the morning, there will be a Zoom training on the key issues and suggestions on how to advocate to your legislators on those issues. RPEC will have coordinated dates and times for members to meet with their respective legislators that week. If you have a computer and have not used Zoom before, I suggest you ask your kids, grandkids, or other members to help you set it up. Although I did set it up all on my own, so pretty easy.

If you have questions or would like to take a more active role in RPEC, feel free to contact me at [shrinkingbetty@gmail.com](mailto:shrinkingbetty@gmail.com) or 509-679-6007. Hope all is well with you!

*Betty Rae*

If you would like to receive your chapter newsletter **by email instead of hard copy**, please contact Don Boxford at [dbox@nwi.net](mailto:dbox@nwi.net).

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### **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. 3: Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- 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.)