



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 28 – University of Washington

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 21st, 2025
Meeting Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Meeting Location: IHOP
Meeting Address: 610 Rainier Ave S, Renton, WA 98057

Chapter 28 Members, Friends & Guests,

Please note: Due to the closure of the Claim Jumper Restaurant (Tukwila) chapter meetings have moved. IHOP on Rainier Ave., South, offers breakfast, lunch & dinner menus, a dedicated private conference room, off-street parking – Come and check it out!

AGENDA

11:00 a.m. **Arrival – Welcome – Introductions & Announcements**
(Place Lunch Orders); Chapter covers up to \$20/member
Members pay for additional amounts, guests, & spirits.

11:30 a.m. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Edwin Obras, 33rd LD, (RPEC
Endorsed Candidate)
Received maximum allowance (\$1,200) for his
campaign to defeat the mayor of Burien. Additional (if you
choose) individual contributions can be made.

Work in Seattle Focus: Critical Social issues,
homelessness, anti-hunger efforts, youth development,
community safety, & supporting survivors of domestic
violence & sexual assault

(Insert Photo)

Academic Foundation: B.A., University of WA;
Master of Public Administration,
Northeastern University

Professional Experience: 25 years in the human
services field, working for nonprofit
organizations in King County & the City of Seattle; 17 years with Seattle's
Human Services Dept. in positions of Deputy Div. Dir., Budget 7 Policy Dir. &
Contract Mgr.



12:00 p.m. **Business Meeting:**
- Chapter Meeting Minutes (08-19-2025) – Benester Fields, Secretary
- Financial Report – (August-September 2025) – Juanita Taylor, Treasurer,
(handout)
- President's Report, Mary Marbles
- District 9 Report – District 9 Representative
- Sunshine Report – Menia Traxler
- Council Committee Reports
- Legislative Committee (Trustee, Jim Bals)

- Membership Committee (VP, Alma-jean Marion)
- Other Business

01:00 p.m. - Adjournment

In Memory Of:

Linda Dee
Ingrid Klock
Virgil Morgan

Pilarenciana Aquino Servito
Dean Speer

CHAPTER 28 OFFICERS

Mary Marbles, President	(206) 295-6231	mmarbles46@icloud.com
Alma-jean Marion, Vice President	(206) 721-3088	alma-jean@comcast.net
Benester Fields, Secretary	(206) 722-6755	bienestar111@yahoo.com
Juanita Taylor, Treasurer	(253) 236-4047	missroxy5@yahoo.com
Jim Bals, Trustee	(206) 932-0547	jdbals11@gmail.com
Neoma Ramsey, Trustee	(253) 854-0107	sweetne2004@hotmail.com

New Members – WELCOME!

Hollis Near

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.

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 17th 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.

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.

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.

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 7th to help members understand the differences among the healthcare plans available through Medicare Open Enrollment. Register at www.rpecwa.org.

Important Dates

Visit the RPEC website at www.rpecwa.org for the full calendar:

Oct. 13 – Finance Committee meeting (10:00 am)
Oct. 16 – Senior Lobby Fall Conference (9:00 am)
Oct. 17 – Executive Board Strategic Plan Work Session (10:00 am)
Oct. 20 – Meet the New DRS Director Webinar (10:00 am)
Oct. 21 – Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)
Oct. 23 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
Oct. 24 – Legislative Testimony Educational Webinar (10:00 am)
Oct. 29 – WSARA Convention (10:00 am)
Nov. 7 – Traditional Medicare (non-PEBB) Open Enrollment Webinar (10:00 am)
Nov. 7 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)

RPEC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Toll Free: **1-800-562-6097** – Direct: **360-352-8262**

Executive Director	Laurie Weidner	laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org	ext. 101
Associate Director	Derek VanSpoor	derek.vanspoor@rpecwa.org	ext. 104
Finance & Operations Specialist	Jane Hewitt	jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org	ext. 102
Membership Coordinator	Jakob Canup	jakob.canup@rpecwa.org	ext. 106
Project Coordinator	Alissa Brady	alissa.brady@rpecwa.org	ext. 100

www.rpecwa.org

Member Birthdays

NOVEMBER

Mary-Agnes Heath
Elpidia U Mina
Margaret J Hammack
Allan G Brookes
Jane Caughlan
James L Shaw
Paz Bucsit

John C Hampton
Marie E Morris
Sherryl Singleton
Janet T Loehr
Ronald Maxell
David B Carver
Mary Rogers

Jeanne Y Turgeon
Laurie Towe
Katherine Hall
John Malestky
Neil Bogue

DECEMBER

Margaret Healy
Daniel C Lee
Leslie W Cunningham
Philip L Katz

Janet E. Duecy
Miriam Garvey
Harold Baldwin
Thomas Anderson

Karen E Davis
Charles G. Cooper
Donna M Oiland
Chandrama Mishra

RPEC Chapter 28 Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

Meeting conducted in-person Claim Jumper Restaurant

Roll call of Officers:

Mary Marbles **(President)** Neomi Ramsey **(Trustee)** Benester Fields **(Secretary)** Alma-jean Marion **(vice-president)** James Bals **(Trustee)** Menia Traxler **(Trustee)** Juanita Taylor **(Treasurer)**

Members present:

Zaida Quimby, Aurelia Turner, Karen Turner, John Hampton, Kathy Craig,
Terri Bean, Helen Murphy
Colleen McGinn (Guest), Debbie Haigh (District Rep)

Roll call of Officers

Reading of previous minutes dated June 17,2025, motion to accept minutes as presented.

M/M. Traxler S/ J. Taylor, motion passed

Introduction of guest speaker by chapter 28 Vice-President

Alma-jean Marion

Elisabeth Beaber, Epidemiologist, King County Dept of Health/Vaccines

Department of King County is supplied with a sufficient number of vaccines:

- At this time one dose of RSV Vaccine is recommended.
- One in five adults not up to date with vaccines.
- Adults 65 and older are more susceptible to serious illness without recommended vaccines.
- Vaccine database is connected throughout the state with all recipients.
- Those interested in volunteering can contact the King County Reserve Corp.
- What can citizens do in case of Federal cuts.
 1. Mobile Vaccine clinics
 2. Harborview Adult Health/Gerontology
 3. Sound Health
- Public Health/Seattle King County
- King County.gov for more information
 1. Immunizations/
Phone:206-296-4774
Email: vaccineinfo@kingcounty.gov
Look-up vaccine records: myirmobile.com
Website: kingcounty.gov/immunization
 2. Questions about volunteering with the Public Health Reserve Corps
Email: PHRC@kingcounty.gov
Website: kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/health-safety/safety-injury-prevention/emergency-preparedness/public-health-reserve-corps.
- Annual Seattle/king County Clinic
Next clinic April 23-26, 2026
Volunteer information: Website: seattlecenter.org/skcclinic/volunteers

Colleen McGinn, Chapter 3-RPEC Membership Committee

- State membership committee revamping associated members recruitment and retention plan.

President Report: Mary Marbles

- Encourage membership to sign up for financial standards refresher course.
- Reminding membership of email scams especially targeting seniors.
- 90th year anniversary of Social Security.

Treasurer Report: Juanita Taylor

Reporting period June 1-30, 2025. July 1-31, 2025

Treasurer report submitted and reviewed by membership.

M/AJ Marion, S/B. Fields, accept treasurer's report with necessary corrections. motion passed.

Legislative Report/ Jim Bals

- Merging of LEOFF with PERS 1 in/ order to pass COLA, bill passed.
- Educate care of elders, SHB11 providing in-home care for seniors.
- Only 1/3 of all RPEC chapters are stable, help support other chapters
- Join meetings with other chapters
- Newsletter

District Representative/Debbie Haigh

- Encourage voting by membership
- Chapter 30 was burglarized.
- RPEC Executive Director is resigning.

Sunshine Committee/ Menia Traxler

- Please keep Menia informed of any losses and illness

Alma-jean Marion /vice President

- Create and provide newsletter update flyer printed and distributed.

Motion to adjourn meeting, by President Mary Marbles @1:00P.M.

M/M Traxler, S/B Fields, passed.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Benester Fields, Secretary