

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL

CHAPTER 3 NEWSLETTER

October 2025

RPEC Chapter 3 Meeting **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

Razzi's Pizzeria
8523 Greenwood Ave N.
Banquet room upstairs

Take buses #5 from downtown and #45
Parking in back

**The chapter will pay up to \$10 off each
lunch, plus the tip!**

11:15 Executive Board Meeting

11:45 Arrive for Lunch

12:00 Zoom attendees log in

12:00 Chapter business meeting

12:30 Guest Speaker: Matt Groshong, on
how to select the best 2026 retiree health in-
surance.

Food for the Needy: Please bring
non-perishable food items to donate. David
Rader will take them to Rainier Valley Food
Bank.

Attend online on Zoom!

-Go to www.zoom.us

-Click on "Join"

-Enter Meeting ID 856 8884 8661

-Passcode 8888

Or by phone: dial 253.215.8782

President's Message

Hello Chapter 3 Members,
Medicare open enrollment season is
approaching, and every year around 70% of
retirees do not compare their current
coverage with other plans. The insurance
companies know that. Now is the time to start
planning to ensure that your 2026 health
insurance coverage meets your health needs
and your pocketbook. Yours truly will be the
speaker this month, and I will review some
retiree insurance tips and tricks, and explain
some common mistakes made by millions of
people each year. I hope to see you there.

And did you know that RPEC has a
comprehensive Health Insurance Open
Enrollment webpage at www.rpecwa.org? It
has a wealth of information for both those
who get their coverage through PEBB and
those who buy their own through a broker or
directly from a health insurance company.

I also strongly suggest that you watch the
2026 RPEC open enrollment webinar by Tim
Smolen (SHIBA Program Manager), Alissa
Brady from the RPEC state office and
myself. It is full of information everyone
needs to make optimal health insurance
decisions. It is particularly helpful for those
who do not get their coverage from PEBB
and have either a Medicare Advantage plan,
or Original Medicare with a Medigap plan
and Part D drug coverage. Go to YouTube
and search for "Episode 11- Navigating
Medicare Open Enrollment."

Matt Groshong

Chapter 3 President

Chair, RPEC Healthcare Workgroup

mgroshong1@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Chapter 3 checking balance is \$3,613.79, after receiving \$1,048.60 from Olympia RPEC for July dues. Savings balance is \$5,115.49, CD #1 balance is \$3,981.26, and CD #2 balance is \$10,575.70.

At the September membership meeting it was decided to withdraw \$4,000 from savings to purchase a short-term CD which could be available for the 2026 RPEC convention. In addition, membership is requesting setting an alert with Washington State Employees Credit Union to contact Matt and/or David if there is a withdrawal of \$300.00 or higher from our account. This is because there has been an increase in bank fraud. We will also ask them to send us new checks with two signature lines per account requirements, and to also allow Matt or David to have digital access to our checking account. All these changes will be done after the October meeting, with officers going to WSECU and signing up as official signatories.

David Rader

Colleen's Report

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION:

We were asked to call our Congresspersons re insisting on the continuing resolution on the budget bill being amended to show no cuts to Medicare and Medicaid AND to continue the Affordable Act premium subsidies.

Outcome: Amendments were defeated so we now have a government shutdown. The expected result will be cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, resulting in low income and disabled seniors having higher health insurance rates, particularly for those who purchase their coverage on the open market. Vulnerable people will lose healthcare coverage.

FROM THE STATE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Those who have been kept on the Associate Member program over the 18-month limit to ensure they can be reached upon retirement are being removed from the program. Once they do retire, they will need to complete an RPEC membership application as a retiree.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE APPEARANCE 10-3-2025:

Claude Burfict and Colleen McGinn, Chapter 3, Alma-Jean Marion, Chapter 28 [University] and Wilhelmina Daniels, Chapter 30 [South King county] appeared at WFSE [Wa Federation of State Employees] state convention. Results: 1 prospect for Chapter 13 [Spokane] and 1 for Chapter 16 [Yakima]. The morning shift was swamped. One union contact. One took brochures for coworkers.

For the first time more attendees were interested in taking QR cards to learn more about RPEC than signed up for personal contact.

Colleen McGinn

Please send your ideas on speaker topics for our meetings to Marsha Gresham at greshamn@gmail.com

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)