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Retired Public Employees Council

Chapter 30 – South King County

Debbie Haigh, President – (509) 688-9489
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Date: Wednesday, September 10th, 2025
Time: 12:00 PM
Place: Tuscany Restaurant
Address: 21830 Marine View Dr S, Des Moines, WA 98198

CHAPTER MEETING: The next Chapter 30 meeting will be held at 12:00 pm on September 10, 2025, at the Tuscany Restaurant located at 21830 Marine View Dr S Des Moines WA 98198. The Chapter will pay up to \$20.00 for your lunch (excluding tips, taxes, and alcoholic drinks). The Executive Board will meet one hour (11:00 am) prior to the general union meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is an official 10-day notice that we will be considering a change in Chapter 30's constitution. We are considering adding this new verbiage: **Appendix A chapter constitution & by-laws/ section 1. B. Two executive board members will be nominated/elected on even number of years.** This addition of two new executive members will increase participation of our chapter and train members on our core values and ensure that the chapter continues to fight for our right to a healthy retirement.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Our Chapter 30 checking account was recently hacked and our money taken! Special thanks to Jane Hewitt, RPPEC's Finance & Operations Specialist, for her guidance in dealing with the bank and what we needed to do (police report). Our Treasurer George Chan, Vice President Gary Durst, and I closed the checking account. We now have a new checking account and the bank fraud department concluded that there was no fraud by our chapter members and has deposited our money back into our account.

PRESENTER: At the September meeting we will be having a member of the Attorney General's office come to speak to us about fraud and scams that are occurring and how to protect ourselves. They have met with other RPEC chapters and from feedback of those members it was very informative.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH: Retired Public Employees Council of Washington (RPEC) was formed in 1971 to protect and expand the retirement security of Washington public service retirees. With over 13,000 members and 30 chapters state-wide, we're leading the fight to protect our benefits, but we can't do it alone. We have members representing retirees on the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP), the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB), the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) Advisory Committee, and the Washington State Investment Board. We fight to protect the benefits you earned through a lifetime of public service. Protecting Washington pensions and our federal benefits have always been our top priorities. RPEC members have been making sure that the state legislature provides the funding for all the pension plans. For years, we have strengthened public service retirees' clout on all levels of government – including in Washington, D.C. RPEC members are actively engaged in defending our pensions, as well as Social Security and Medicare benefits. These are OUR benefits! We earned them and we paid for them over a lifetime of work and public service. But to build our strength we need to encourage more workers to join our organization. Many of us have family members who are nearing the end of their work life so please have them contact me,

Debbie Haigh, at debbie14haigh@yahoo.com about their interest in becoming a member. Let them know our dues are only \$7 per month.

Debbie Haigh
President, RPEC Chapter 30

SEPTEMBER 2025 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Fall is my favorite time of year, especially here in the PNW. Right after Labor Day, I begin dragging out the boxes of decorations filled with pumpkin-themed items for my home. Some people dread new seasons ... I never have. I always embrace and welcome them. New beginnings are the spice of life! As some of you may have heard, I am embarking on a new season – a new chapter – of my life in 2026. The Executive Board accepted my letter of resignation. I will continue working through the end of December. The decision to leave full-time employment at a place that I love was not an easy one for me. I wrestled with this decision for months. My time at RPEC has been a deeply rewarding season of my 40-year career. I will share more with you in future Executive Director Reports through December.

With our dynamic policy and legislative agenda, we have a great deal more to accomplish together before my departure. So, roll up your sleeves, and get ready to dive into our legislative work this fall. Please read your emails, as I will be calling upon you for assistance.

Hiring Process for New Executive Director

On August 4th during the Executive Session of the Executive Board meeting, the Board accepted my resignation and identified a path forward for the selection of my replacement. A Hiring Committee, composed of the organization's officers and four Executive Board members (with extensive hiring experience), will lead the hiring process. Here is the approved Board motion: task the Hiring Committee to conduct interview of the Associate Director and bring a recommendation to the Executive Board to either appoint or do a broader search and allow the Associate Director to compete in the broader search.

Executive Board Approves 2026 Operating Budget with Projected Deficit

At the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 4th, the Board approved the organization's operating budget for 2026. RPEC continues to operate with a structural deficit because the organization's only source of revenue (member dues), is outpaced by operating expenses. In addition, the organization's new revenue, which is generated through a large direct mailing to prospective members, did not produce the anticipated returns this year, resulting in lower revenue projections for next year. This approved budget includes the following: a virtual Legislative Day/Week; continued Zoom meetings for all standing committees, workgroups and the Executive Board; no more photocopied and mailed materials (Legislative Day/Week, standing committees, Executive Board or Leadership Training); and one in-person meeting for the newly elected Executive Board in November 2026, following the biennial Convention. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org.

Updated Associate Membership Program to Be Available This Fall

At the August Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board also approved the parameters for an updated Associate Membership Program – shaped by the statewide Membership Committee and Council Office. 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 if they become a dues paying member. The program will be officially launched in early fall. Jakob Canup, Membership Coordinator, is available this fall to speak to your members about the program to enlist their help in recruiting new members. Contact Jakob at jakob.canup@rpecwa.org.

Register Today for PEBB Open Enrollment Webinar, September 26

Do you receive your healthcare benefits through the Public Employees Benefits Board? If so, register to attend an informational webinar hosted by Health Care Authority staff to prepare our members for open enrollment. Register on the RPEC website under Calendar & Events → Upcoming Events & Educational Webinars → PEBB Open Enrollment for 2026 Webinar, or at <https://rpecwa.org/pebb-open-enrollment-for-2026-webinar/>. **The deadline to register is Sept. 19th.** If you have questions, please call Jakob Canup, Membership Coordinator, at 360-352-8262, ext. 106. In addition to this webinar on September 26th.

New resources for PEBB & Medicare Open Enrollment Periods

By late September, you will have access to special resources to prepare you for either PEBB Open Enrollment (Oct. 27-Nov.24) or Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 15 through Dec. 7). The new resources include 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). A member-only informational Zoom program, slated for November 7th, will feature SHIBA Program Director Tim Smolen. More details will be available soon at www.rpecwa.org.

Important Dates

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

- Sept. 1: Council Office closed for Labor Day Weekend
- Sept. 5: Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- Sept. 11: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Sept. 15: Senior Lobby (10:00 a.m.)
- Sept. 16: Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 a.m.)
- Sept. 25: Membership Committee (10:00 a.m.)
Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Sep. 26: PEBB Open Enrollment Informational Webinar (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 3: Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- Oct. 10: Legislative Committee (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 17: Executive Board Work Session (10:00 a.m.)