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Retired Public Employees Council

Chapter 30 – South King County

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Date: Tuesday, May 7th, 2024
Time: 12:00 PM
Place: Tuscany Restaurant
Address: 21830 Marine View Dr S, Des Moines, WA 98198

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: The next Chapter 30 meeting will be held at 12:00 PM on May 7, 2024, 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 tip, taxes, alcoholic drinks). The Executive Board will meet one hour (11:00 AM) prior to the general business meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: I am pleased to announce our 2024-2025 Executive Board and trustees. President Debbie Haigh, Vice President George Chan, Secretary Wihelmina Daniel, Treasurer Bill Riedler, At-Large (1st position) Ida Ott, At-Large (2nd position) Harris Smith, At-Large (3rd position) Benjamin Girlando, Trustee Sharon Peterson, and Trustee Jennifer Jackson.

PRESENTERS: Bill Ziegler, Ch. 35, and Claude Burfect, District 9 Representative, discussed the RPEC Strategic Plan for 2023-2027. The strategic plan goals are RPEC organizational stability, membership recruitment, membership retention and engagement, member communications, and federal advocacy. Bill talked about how Plans 2 & 3 members would like to see RPEC put more emphasis on federal issues regarding health care, Medicare, and Social Security. Reminded members to send letters to their legislators to tell them not to mess with our Social Security. Be sure to get out and vote for legislators who support retirees in state, local, and federal elections. Talked about how members who lost their significant others lost financial security and became victims in one of the leading causes of death – poverty. Claude reminded us that PEBB wanted to eliminate the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare, and when they didn't get their way, they increased the cost for us using that health plan. He stated that other organizations supported us in preventing this from happening.

RPEC CONVENTION: Wenatchee Convention Center, 121 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801 September 24 – 26, 2024. We will be nominating members at the May 8th meeting. If you are interested in being one of the members going to the convention and cannot be at the May meeting, please let me know and I will include your name. Chapter 30 pays for your cost for travel, hotel, and food not provided at the conference. I would like to encourage Plans 2/3 members to participate because you are the future of our union!

MEMBER CONCERN: One of our members changed her health plan and that plan signed her up for Part D, even though she did not authorize it. The member's prescription cost increased dramatically. Please let the RPEC Office team know if you have had the same or similar issue.

RESOURCES: I would like to encourage you to go to rpecwa.org to find some information about our affiliate unions, affiliate organizations (which include Washington State Senior Citizen's Lobby, Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans, and Washington Education Association-Retired), Washington State agencies, and federal resources. We are not alone in our fight for better healthcare, pension protection, and stopping others who are trying to eliminate Social Security.

GIFT CARD DRAWING: There will be two drawings for \$100 gift cards at the end of the meeting. You will need to be present to win.

Debbie Haigh
President, RPEC Chapter 30

April 2024 Executive Director's Report

Convention 2024, Sept. 24-26, Wenatchee Convention Center

Are you interested in serving as a chapter delegate to RPEC's biennial Convention? You do not need to be an officer or chapter committee leader to attend. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as delegate. If you are interested in being considered for your chapter's delegation to Convention, contact your chapter president. Delegates are chosen by election at a chapter meeting. If you are selected to represent your chapter, your Convention registration fee and lodging will be covered by your chapter. Guests may also attend at their own expense. The registration fee is \$150, which covers the Convention packet and all meals. The Convention hotel is the Coast Wenatchee. The RPEC rate is \$116.00 per night before taxes and fees. Visit www.rpecwa.org for more details or contact your chapter president.

Federal Advocacy

Call to action on The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023: If you have not already done so, please join your fellow RPEC members and AFSCME Retiree chapters nationwide in urging Congress to oppose The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 (H.R. 5779). If this legislation is approved, your federal benefits will be at risk. [The Fiscal Commission Act of 2023 \(H.R. 5779\)](#) will create a 16-member fiscal commission to search for ways to reduce the national deficit and balance the national budget. Funding for Social Security and Medicare will be targeted for cuts. **Call 844-331-0441 today! Tell Congress to vote NO on this bill and similar proposals calling for fiscal commissions that aim to reduce your hard-earned retirement benefits.** A detailed [position paper](#) about the proposed debt commission is available at <https://retiredamericans.org>.

Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) To Vote on Potential New Pharmacy Benefit, April 11

On April 11, the PEB Board will act on a resolution that will change the pharmacy benefit for Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare. RPEC's Legislative Committee supports this change, as it will lower monthly premiums for most plan subscribers. The medical benefits in the plan will remain unchanged. The new pharmacy benefit will continue to be administered by Moda to provide continuity of service and care for retirees. By making this plan more affordable, the new benefit, if adopted at the April PEB Board meeting, will help to ensure that an employer-managed

plan remains in the mix of healthcare plan options available to public sector retirees. Currently, all but two plans are privatized. Preserving traditional Medicare continues to be a key federal priority for RPEC, in addition to preserving these options for the public sector retirees in Washington. Members are encouraged to attend the April 11 meeting and offer comments during the Public Comment period. Visit www.hca.wa.gov for more details.

State Advocacy

Beginning this month, the Legislative Update Calls will be held monthly, the first Friday of each month. Please join us on April 5 from 2-3 p.m. Details are available at www.rpecwa.org.

Council Welcomes New Team Member

Jane Hewitt joined RPEC in mid-March as our new Finance and Operations Specialist. Jane brings more than 40 years of relevant work experience to RPEC. She is married with grandchildren, originally hails from Great Britain, and is an animal lover with three rescue pets. Jane can be reached at jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org. Please give her a warm welcome to RPEC!

Upcoming Events

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

- April 25 Membership Committee (10 a.m.)
- April 25 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- May 3 Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- May 6 Executive Board Meeting (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)
- May 7 Executive Board Strategic Plan Work Session (9:30-12:30 p.m.)
- May 8 Public Service Recognition Week (at Heritage Park, Olympia)
- May 9 Public Employees Benefits Board (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- May 9 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- May 17 Leadership Training Registration Deadline
- May 20 Political Action Committee (10:00 a.m.)
- May 21 Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 a.m.)
- May 23 Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- May 27 Council Office Closed, Memorial Day