



**Retired Public Employees Council**  
Olympia Office (360) 352-8262 [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)

**Chapter 35 – King County/Metro Retirees**  
**Andrea Torland, President**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Time:** 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Ivar's Salmon House  
**Address:** 401 NE Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98105

**CHAPTER 35 MEETING**

Come to the Chapter 35 luncheon meeting at **Ivar's Salmon House** on **January 14 from 12:00PM to 2:00PM**. There is plenty of free parking across the street. Our speaker will be Warren Warfield, President of Chapter 46 and Chair of the RPEC Pension Policy Work Group.

There will be a buffet with clam chowder, Caesar salad, fish and chips, grilled chicken breast marsala, mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables, assorted cookies and brownies. **RSVP by Jan. 7** to: [andreajule@msn.com](mailto:andreajule@msn.com) subject: Chapter 35.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Chapter 35 Members,

A lot has happened since our last meeting this summer at the Ballard Elks. In September, 14 delegates from our Chapter enjoyed a great Convention in Wenatchee. New RPEC officers and District 9 Representatives were elected: President Clair Olivers, Vice-President Maurice Garrott, Secretary Alma-jean Marion, Treasurer Jeff Paulsen, and District Representatives Claude Burfect and Debbie Haigh.

We are working toward our COLA again this coming year with the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) as you will see in this newsletter. It takes a dedicated team to accomplish this, and we appreciate the Chapter 35 members who participate in these committee meetings. Please stay active and make your voice heard along with other RPEC members. It is very important to register for the **Legislative Day/Week** meetings with your state Representatives. This is our opportunity for input into what happens with our pensions. Please sign up and read the information provided in this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you at **Ivar's Salmon House on January 14th**. Please RSVP so we can tell them how many meals to provide.

Happy Holidays, Andrea Torland, Chapter 35 President

**SCPP ADVANCES PLAN 1 COLA BILL TO LEGISLATURE**

Thanks to your advocacy efforts, the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) unanimously approved a proposed bill for the 2025 legislative session that will restore a recurring cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to PERS/TRS 1 retirees! This victory occurred because of RPEC and your advocacy efforts. In 2023, RPEC was successful in inserting language into SB 5350 (ad-hoc

COLA bill) that required the SCPP to study and recommend a funding pathway for a permanent on-going COLA for PERS/TRS 1 retirees. The proposed 2025 bill will provide a one-time 3% COLA with no cap in 2025 with the recurring 3% COLA beginning in 2026. The benefit is structured like that already afforded to those vested in Plans 2/3 with a COLA banking provision.

The state is facing a \$10 billion shortfall in 2025. Therefore, we have been told we will have to fight together for this proposed bill. We will need all members advocating for this proposed bill. Start today by registering for our virtual Legislative Week.

### **2025 VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE WEEK REGISTRATION**

Our virtual Legislative Week dates are **February 3<sup>rd</sup> - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Legislative Week is an opportunity for you to meet with your elected officials, share your story, and explain why it is so important to support retirees. No prior experience is necessary. The dates for our virtual Legislative Week are February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Register at <https://rpecwa.org/2025-rpec-wea-retired-virtual-legislative-week/> . **Registration closes on January 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.** The Council Office will ensure you are well prepared by providing materials and training prior to your meetings. You will also be joined by other public sector retirees from your Legislative District who share the same goals. Reach out to your chapter president or contact **Alissa Brady**, RPEC Project Coordinator, at **(360) 352-8262, ext. 100**, if you have questions or need assistance with registration.

### **RPEC'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2026**

RPEC is your voice for retirement security at federal and state levels. You can learn more about our legislative priorities by reviewing the Legislative Priorities document available at <https://rpecwa.org/Media/Council/RPEC%202025-2026%20Legislative%20Priorities.pdf> .

#### **Upcoming Events**

(Visit [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for a full calendar of Council Office and chapter meetings)

Dec. 10 – Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)

Dec. 12 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)

Dec. 16 – Senior Lobby (10:00 am)

Dec. 23-Jan. 1 – Council Office Closed for the Holidays

Jan. 13 – 2025 Legislative Session begins

Jan. 17 – Weekly Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm) – every Friday during session