



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 37 – Lynnwood Area

Brenda Williams, President
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Meeting Date: Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Our meeting will be hybrid; both in-person and on Zoom.

Computer Login Info:

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 875 2765 8007

Passcode: 108208

Phone Login Info:

Dial: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 875 2765 8007

Phone Passcode: 108208

Meeting Location:

Mountlake Terrace Library

23300 58th Ave W

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

******GUEST SPEAKER******

STATEWIDE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS ADVISOR (SHIBA)

Confused about your medical? The Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program is a free, unbiased, and confidential service offered to you. Let's talk about open enrollment for your medical choices.

WELCOME to all our new members. We would love to meet you at our next meeting. If you are unable to attend, we can also set up a coffee meeting with our President and Vice President – just call us to arrange.

\$50.00 Gift Card??? You have a chance of winning a gift card by attending the meeting. If you need a ride to the meeting, we have volunteers. Just call Bill Dehmer at (206) 313-2845.

Are you a PERS/TRS 1 member? We need your assistance. Just tell us your story. How did a lack of a COLA for so many years impact you and why is a permanent COLA so important to you? We can sit down with you to write your story. Just call Bill or Brenda at the numbers above.

Chapter 37 September 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Officers: Brenda Williams, President, present; Bill Dehmer, Vice President, present; Kathy Chapman, Treasurer, present; Linda McCullough, Secretary, excused. Introductions of members and guests: Cheryl, Carol, Terry, Darlene, Jerry (remotely).

Guest speaker: Hopefully SHIBA in October, Fire Department in November.

Tracking other speaker ideas: State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti, a Verdant speaker, a financial advisor, AFSCME, and Fire Dept & First Aid (such as choking, stroke), Insurance Commissioner (car/home) and Council 2.

District 1 Report: Cheryl reported that there was a Board meeting on August 19. Discussion on Legislative Day and it will probably be done remotely. It seems that by doing it remotely, there is a better chance to meet with our legislators.

PAC made endorsements during these elections.

Reviewed the RPEC state office investments that are needed. The Board decided the investment reserves should be between 30 – 60 percent of the operating budget and it will be at that level after the convention.

News Flash: By 9 am on September 17, 2024, make sure to sign in as PRO in support of an ongoing COLA for PERS/TRS 1.

There is an educational webinar on September 30 at 10 am on the three initiatives which are on the November ballot: 1. Repealing the Capital Gains Tax; 2. Repealing the Long-Term care payment that workers pay; and 3. Repealing the Clean Air Act.

Minutes for Approval: June 6 Meeting Minutes: M by Cathy/S by Darlene/passed

Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported budgets for June, July, and August 2024. June/July/August/ Budget: M/S/passed.

Membership Committee: Darlene reported.

We have 233 members. Discussion about outreach and engaging new members: Kept robocall list updated; Darlene & Barbara call any new members to invite them to the chapter meetings and to meet with the chapter's President or Vice President.

Retention Committee: Made motion to discontinue raffling two gift cards at our chapter luncheons. M/S/passed. Still considering changes to make to our chapter luncheons such as beginning at noon, going to better places to increase socializing, not always have a speaker, collect more input from members.

Old Business:

-We are looking for someone to step up and assist with taking the minutes.

-Chapter 37 budget discussion/vote: Reviewed chapter expenditures and budget for 2024. M/S/passed.

-RPEC 2024 Statewide Convention: Reviewed the Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions that are being voted on at the 2024 Biennial Convention in Wenatchee and received member input.

New Business:

RPEC PAC is distributing approved donations to elected officials that support our issues. We sometimes are offered a seat at some of the fund raisers. If you are interested, please let Brenda know.

Drawing for one gift card: Winner!

Adjourned: 3:10 pm

Chapter 37 newsletter by E-Mail only? Just call us.

Sign up for text alerts: Just text RPEC to 237263
This is great for quick legislative information.

UPDATE FROM THE RPEC OFFICE

The Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP), the joint legislative committee that makes recommendations regarding pensions managed by the state (PERS, TRS, PSERS, SERS), held a hearing on September 17th. At the hearing, the PERS/TRS 1 COLA proposal was discussed and voted on, which passed with a 14 to 1 vote. This means the Committee will bring forward a bill during the 2025 Legislative Session in support of Plan 1. RPEC and WEA-Retired members mobilized, attending the hearing in person with some providing testimony to the Committee.

We are being asked to vote “No” on all the initiatives on the November ballot. The three initiatives would have a negative impact on the state’s budget, which in turn would impact the ability to fund retiree benefits, including the Plan 1 COLA. If you would like to know more, please register to attend the webinar hosted by RPEC on September 30th, at which these initiatives will be discussed in more detail (link on next page).

SEPTEMBER 2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Register on the website to access your benefits from RPEC

If you have not yet registered your profile on the website, you are missing information, news, and engagement opportunities afforded only to RPEC members. Create an account to get full access to our website at <https://rpecwa.org/register/>. If you need help, call the Council Office at 360-352-8262.

Learn about the three ballot initiatives on September 30, 10 AM – Registration Open

Are you interested in learning more about the three ballot initiatives that have been covered in the media? As registered voters, we all have a responsibility to do our homework before casting our votes for the general election. The RPEC Executive Board, the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE), and the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) have all voted unanimously to oppose all three initiatives.

All members are invited to register for a member-only educational webinar on September 30th from 10-11 a.m. via Zoom. Register at: <https://rpecwa.org/ballot-initiatives-educational-webinar/>. **Note:** You will need to be registered on our website to access this link. If you are not yet registered, please see the article above.

Representatives from each of the three No Campaigns will provide brief presentations, followed by a Q&A period for all attendees. Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon will be presenting on behalf of the No Campaign on I-2117.

Upcoming Events*

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

Sept 24-26 – RPEC Biennial Convention, Wenatchee

Sept. 27 – Council Office closed

Sept. 30 – Educational Webinar on Ballot Initiatives (10:00 am)

Oct. 4 – Monthly Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)

Oct. 10 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)

Oct. 15 – Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)

Oct. 17 – Senior Lobby Virtual Fall Conference (9:00 am)

Oct. 24 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)

*Please note that the RPEC Membership Committee and Legislative Committee meetings for the month of October have been cancelled.