



## **Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 39 – Asotin & Garfield Counties**

**Nick Fiore President: (208) 790-2345**

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**Meeting Date: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Meeting Time: Noon**

**Meeting Place: Mama K's**

**Meeting Address: 902 6<sup>th</sup> St, Clarkston, WA 99403**

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Greetings Chapter 39 Members,

Our most recent meeting was held on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at Mama K's in Clarkston at 12 noon. This was the first meeting after Chapter 39's summer recess. (July and August) Chapter 39 will meet again on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Mama K's in Clarkston at 12 noon. The tentative guest speaker will be Asotin County Commissioner Brian Shinn.

Secretary/Treasurer Steve Lee read the minutes from the last meeting in June and gave the financial report, covering June, July, and August for the chapter. The financial report covered the new way of reporting funds to the main council, and since changing financial institutions, we are now gaining interest in our accounts. Both reports were approved by the body.

President, Nick Fiore gave a run down on upcoming webinars that can be found on the organization's web page including one for the Public Employees Benefit Board, (PEBB) for those interested in receiving or changing health care plans. It will provide information about plan options, pharmacy coverage, and premium costs. He reminded members that registration for this webinar closes on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Another item that Nick covered in his presentation is the virtual education program set up by the Retired Public Employee Council (RPEC) to meet with the new director of the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS). During this virtual meeting members of the Retired Public Employee Council will be allowed to pose questions to Kathryn Leathers, the new director, as well as to Seth Miller, Assistant Director of the Members Experience Division. This virtual meeting will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 11 am. To participate in this program members must register on the Retired Public Employees Council webpage. ([rpecwa.org/virtual-member-education-program-with-drs/](http://rpecwa.org/virtual-member-education-program-with-drs/).) Contact the Council office if you need help registering: (360) 352-8262

Coming soon will also be a virtual education program with Tim Smolen from the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors program (SHIBA). You can check the organization's web page for the date.

Our meetings are open to all retirees that receive a Washington pension. We would enjoy meeting you, and you might just see an old friend or two.

Nick Fiore  
President, Chapter 39

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### **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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> to help members understand the differences among the healthcare plans available through Medicare Open Enrollment. Register at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org).

### **Important Dates**

Visit the RPEC website at [www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org) for the full calendar:

- Oct. 10: Legislative Committee (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 16: Virtual Senior Lobby Fall Conference (9:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 17: Executive Board Work Session (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 20: Meet the New DRS Director (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 21: Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 23: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 p.m.)
- Oct 24: Written & Verbal Testimony Educational Webinar (10:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 29: WSARA Annual Convention (9:00--3:00 p.m.)