



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington (RPEC) Chapter 46 May 15, 2024 NEWSLETTER

Join us at Noon
Wednesday May 15th, 2024
Family Pancake House 17521 Redmond Way

Aging and Options for Care Presented by Tibi Botocan



An in-depth look at the needs for care while we age. Simple daily activities can become a real challenge and that's when bad things can happen. What happens if I fall, go to the hospital and a skilled nursing facility after that? Will Medicare cover me, how much and for how long? Can I receive any home health services at home? Should I consider Assisted Living or Adult Family Home?

Attend this presentation to learn about the options for care available in our community, different levels of care, and different settings of living.

Lunch

Order anything from the wide Family Pancake House menu. **Members pay \$10 for lunch, no matter what you order.** Feel free to bring a spouse or recently retired friend. **Guests pay \$15.**

RPEC State Convention: September 24th - 26th in Wenatchee

A reminder that the state convention is held every even year. This offers chapter members an opportunity to mingle with members from other chapters and perhaps see individuals you worked with during your public service career. Delegates are chosen by election at chapter meetings. As May is our last meeting until September, if you're interested, please either contact the President or Vice-President or, better yet, attend the May meeting at which delegates will be chosen. The chapter can send up to 13 members in good standing. The convention registration fee, mileage, lodging, and several meals will be covered. The meeting is at the Wenatchee Convention Center with hotel rooms set aside at the Coast Wenatchee. Visit www.rpecwa.org for further details.

Passing the Gavel

Welcome to our New Officers 2024-2026

Congratulations to chapter members stepping forward to better this chapter in serving all its members. Our past President, Judith Frey, who served as President the last ten years, deserves and is recognized for her outstanding commitment to the chapter. A job well done!

Reflections from Judith



"I enjoyed leading RPEC Chapter 46 these past 10 years. We continue to have a strong group of members that attend our monthly meetings. Covid was a challenge, but we were able to persevere via Zoom. I am proud of finding a great variety of speakers: political candidates and experts in areas of interest to seniors on topics from end-of-life issues to downsizing. Our monthly newsletter was enjoyed by many. We were able to change our name from the Bellevue Chapter to East King County Chapter, reflecting where more of our members live, and changed the term of office from one to two years.

I will miss presiding over this group but family issues call. Well wishes to our new officers and President Warren Warfield."

At the April Chapter Meeting, officers for the next two-year term were elected.

President: Warren Warfield
Vice President: Marianne Wilkins
Secretary: Linnea Mulder
Treasurer: Dennis Montgomery
Board Member #1: Mark Adams
Board Member #2: Arneta Henninger

Board Member #3: Katie Kerfonta
Board Member #4: Annette McCully
Trustee #1: Kevin Whinihan
Trustee #2: Jacqueline Roberts
Trustee #3: Jan Hemingway



Warren Warfield Elected Chapter President

Warren transferred to Chapter 46 last February and accepted the nomination, and subsequent election, as President for the next two years. Warren comes with experience as a chapter officer having been an officer of multiple organizations. As he is new to this chapter, the following is background information on his public service and RPEC careers.

Warren moved to Washington back in 1965 from California when the Washington State Department of Natural Resources offered him a position upon his graduation from college that year. He spent 31 years with DNR. Being in his mid-50's, he then pursued a 14-year career with the Social Security Administration, one of his positions situated in the Bellevue office.

He retired for good in 2010 and joined RPEC as he was concerned about the PERS 1 pension plan's funding. Over the past 14 years he was President of the Puyallup chapter and Vice-President of Chapter 37 – Lynnwood area.

He currently serves as Chairperson of RPEC's Pension Policy Workgroup, whose mission is to assist RPEC leadership in restoring a recurring Plan 1 COLA, which was terminated in 2011. Warren and his wife, Kathy, have been married nearly 58 years with two daughters and twin granddaughters. They reside in the Trilogy area east of Redmond. The chapter welcomes Warren and looks forward to his leadership over the next two years.

Upcoming Events:

May 6: Executive Board Meeting (9:00 am)
May 7: Executive Board Meeting, Strategic Planning (9:00 am)
May 8: Public Service Recognition Week (Heritage Park, Olympia)
May 9: Public Employees Benefits Board (9:00 am)
May 9: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
May 17: Leadership Training Registration Deadline
May 20: Political Action Committee (10:00 am)
May 21: Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)
May 23: Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
May 24: Pension Policy Workgroup (tentative, 10 a.m.)
May 27: Council Office closed, Memorial Day
June 5-6: ARA Western Regional Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
June 7: Legislative Update Call (occurs first Friday of the month at 2:00 pm)
August XX: Chapter Picnic (more details in July)
September 17: Select Committee on Pension Policy (10:00 am)
September 18: Monthly chapter meetings resume.

May 15th Chapter 46 Meeting Agenda

Call to Order: Warren Warfield (President)
Marianne Wilkins (Vice President)
Linnea Mulder (Secretary)
Dennis Montgomery (Treasurer)

Introduction of new members and/or members attending meeting for first time.

Guest Speaker: Tibi Botocan: A Senior Care Advisor: connecting care to the right type of care.

President's Report: Warren Warfield

District Report: Alma-jean Marion, Bill Ziegler, Claude Burfect
Minutes for April's meeting: Linnea Mulder

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Montgomery
Membership: Colleen McGinn

Old Business:

Uniform Medical Plan Classic Medicare Changes – Linnea Mulder

RPEC State Convention: September 24th-26th; Wenatchee

Program Ideas

New Business: Summer Chapter 46 Picnic

Meeting Topics: Informal Discussion: questions, suggestions, adjournment

Concerns, questions, suggestions, contact:

Chapter 46 President:

Warren Warfield wdw330@comcast.net, cell 425-599-6750

Chapter 46 Vice President:

Marianne Wilkins marianne@msn.com, cell 206-799-9177

Retired Public Employees Council of Washington: www.rpecwa.org

May 2024 Executive Director's Report

Extend a warm welcome to newcomers

Each year, RPEC works in tandem with AFSCME Retirees on a mass mailing to retirees who have yet to join RPEC. We are beginning to process the new member applications and expect that new members may be joining your chapter's summertime activities. Extend a warm welcome to new members and help plug them into your local advocacy efforts. In addition, we welcome members to attend the Zoom meetings held this month for RPEC's statewide committees, workgroups, and Executive Board. (See events below. Also see calendar at www.rpecwa.org.)

Get to know your legislators and those running for office

This summer, your chapter will be holding outdoor events and will be scheduling meetings with current state and federal legislators and those who are running for office. If you are new to RPEC or have never taken the opportunity to get involved in our advocacy work, now's your chance! The summertime events and meetings are an ideal time for you to build critical relationships that will help us achieve our legislative priorities (available in PDF form at www.rpecwa.org). If you have never met with a legislator, don't worry. Many members of your chapter have been doing legislative advocacy around RPEC's priorities for years. They will help you and can answer your questions. In retirement, we have opportunities to grow and learn new skills. Many seasoned RPEC members, and our staff at the Council Office, are available to help you gain confidence in communicating with legislators. We need all our members joining our advocacy efforts, so that we can be successful in expanding and preserving your retirement benefits at state and federal levels.

Federal Advocacy

Call to action on the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82): If you have not already done so, please join your fellow RPEC members and AFSCME Retiree chapters nationwide in urging Congress to pass this important piece of legislation, which repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These two provisions have unfairly penalized public service retirees for decades. RPEC's legislative priorities are consistent with

this legislation. AFSCME Retirees has created an [easy form](#) that will send a letter of support for this legislation to members of the Washington state congressional delegation. Learn more at: <https://act.afscme.org/letters/tell-your-representative-repeal-gpo-and-wep>.

Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Approves New Pharmacy Benefit for UMP Classic Medicare

On April 11th, the PEB Board approved a change to the pharmacy benefit for Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare. Beginning in January 2025, the pharmacy benefit will be a PEBB-managed Part D plan. This change is expected to lower premiums by several hundred dollars per month for many retirees. You can read more about the new benefit in RPEC's spring membership newsletter, which members will receive by mail very soon. RPEC will be partnering with the Health Care Authority (HCA) on an extensive member education effort in advance of open enrollment, which is held November 1-30. Visit www.hca.wa.gov for more details.

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

Are you interested in serving as a chapter delegate to RPEC's biennial Convention in September? You do not need to be an officer or chapter committee leader to attend. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as a delegate. If you are interested in being considered for your chapter's delegation, contact your chapter president. Delegates are chosen by election at a chapter meeting. The registration deadline is July 1. If you are selected to represent your chapter, your Convention registration fee, travel, and lodging will be covered by your chapter. Guests may also attend at their own expense. Visit www.rpecwa.org for more details or contact your chapter president.

State Advocacy

The Legislative Update Calls are held monthly through December. The calls are held the first Friday of the month from 2-3 p.m. Details are available at www.rpecwa.org.

Partner Events

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) is hosting a [regional meeting](#) in Las Vegas on Wednesday, June 5 through Thursday, June 6. The \$150 registration fee covers attendance at informational workshops and plenaries, a reception, one lunch and one breakfast. The regional meeting will take place at the Westgate Hotel. ARA has negotiated an \$89 nightly room rate at the host hotel with a special meeting code. More details are available at <https://retiredamericans.org/2024-regionals/>.

AFSCME Retirees will be hosting its annual meeting in Los Angeles at the Biltmore Hotel from Saturday, August 10 through Monday, August 12. The annual meeting aligns with the AFSCME International Convention, which will take place August 12-16. RPEC is entitled to send two Executive Committee officers as delegates. Chapters may send members as guests at the chapter's expense. Guests may attend the International Convention as observers. The annual meeting and Convention call details will be available next month. Save these dates!