



**Retired Public Employees Council of Washington  
Chapter 6 – Everett Area Newsletter  
April 2024**

**Your Voice for Retirement Security**

Working to protect and enhance the pension, Social Security, and health care benefits of public sector retirees in Washington.

**RPEC Chapter 6 Officers - Contact Information**

President:	Christine Lavra	425-252-3397	<a href="mailto:4ce4prof@earthlink.net">4ce4prof@earthlink.net</a>
Vice President:	Renee Peare	425-280-4477	<a href="mailto:rcpeare@frontier.com">rcpeare@frontier.com</a>
Secretary:	Sandy Loveland	425-512-9901	<a href="mailto:sloveland@comcast.net">sloveland@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer:	Jim Brandley	425-337-0884	<a href="mailto:js.brandley@gmail.com">js.brandley@gmail.com</a>

Do you know someone retired in the state retirement system? Tell them about RPEC. You can also receive email reminders for each meeting. Please send an email to:

**RPEC Chapter 6 Secretary** [sloveland@comcast.net](mailto:sloveland@comcast.net)

**May 2024 Meeting**

**April Fugate, Direct Services Supervisor for Snohomish County Human Services, Long-Term Care and Aging** will be here to discuss her work and answer our questions about long-term care and aging services in Snohomish County.

The meeting will be held at **1:00 p.m. on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the PUD Building on 2320 California St, Everett 98201**. This meeting will also be hybrid, so if you wish to attend from the comfort of your home, we will be delighted to see you on the screen in the meeting room.

The Zoom meeting link will be sent in our electronic meeting reminder, but the meeting can be accessed with the following: **Meeting ID: 867 8758 6487; Passcode: 143685**

**April Meeting Highlights and Chapter 6 Elections Results**

Officers, Executive Board Members-at-Large, and Trustees were elected and sworn in.

President - Christine Lavra  
Vice President - Renee Peare

Secretary - Sandy Loveland  
Treasurer - Jim Brandley

**Executive Board Members:**

Leslie Douglas  
Ralph Knudson  
Judith Tabor  
Kathryn Watanabe

**Trustees:**

Leslie Bock  
Mathew Davenhall  
Pam Somers

As our April speaker, District 1 Representative Cheryl Moser gave an overview of the new RPEC WA Strategic Plan created by the Executive Board to guide Council work for the next five years.

## Convention news for Chapter 6

The RPEC Biennial State Convention will be held in **Wenatchee from September 24-26, 2024**. Chapter 6 Convention Delegates will be elected at the May meeting and the registration deadline for Convention is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

***This is your notice for nominations and election of delegates.***

The chapter covers the cost of registration for delegates, as well as up to 2 nights at the hotel; up to \$75 reimbursement for meals; and 50¢ per mile for the upcoming convention. Please see the **Executive Director's Report** below and the [RPEC website](#) for more Convention information.

### Chapter 6 will host a District 1 Meeting, June 21, 2024

Elected officials from across the District will be invited. The meeting will be held in the **Delta Room** at the **Marysville Community Center, 1015 State Ave., Marysville, WA 98270** on **Friday, June 21, 2024, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM**. Lunch will be provided.

### **??ARE YOU RECEIVING YOUR MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER VIA EMAIL??**

First, make sure [sloveland@comcast.net](mailto:sloveland@comcast.net) is not in your spam folder. We send out monthly meeting reminders and, periodically, other important messages via email. If you do not receive our meeting notice, we may not have your correct email address. Please send your email address to [sloveland@comcast.net](mailto:sloveland@comcast.net) and we will update your email.

## e-Newsletter now available

We are now offering a digital version  
of our Chapter Newsletter

By choosing email rather than a mailed  
paper newsletter, you help reduce mailing  
expenses and staff workload. Plus, you can  
get the newsletter and meeting reminders  
faster and in **C-O-L-O-R!**

Let us know how you want to  
receive your monthly newsletter:

**Email   or   Mailed paper**

Please include your name, email  
address and year you joined

**[sloveland@comcast.net](mailto:sloveland@comcast.net)**

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:jane.hewitt@rpecwa.org). Please give her a warm welcome to RPEC!

## **Upcoming Events**

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

- May 3 Legislative Update Call (2:00 p.m.)
- May 6 Executive Board Meeting (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)
- May 7 Executive Board, Strategic Planning (9:00-11:30 a.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