



Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 20 – Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties

Judy DeVoe, President

(360) 261-2780 – judyjod@aol.com

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 15th, 2024
Meeting Time: No-Host Lunch: Noon | Meeting: 1 PM
Meeting Place: Longview Country Club
Meeting Address: 41 Country Club Dr, Longview, WA 98632

Welcome to Spring everyone,

On behalf of President Judy Devoe, I invite you to attend the May meeting of Chapter 20 of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington on May 15th. **This month our speaker is former Longview City Council member Mike Wallin.** We will start with the usual no-host lunch at noon, followed by the meeting and speaker at 1:00 PM. The meeting is at the Longview Country Club, located at 41 Country Club Dr, Longview. The meeting will be hybrid.

Join Zoom
<https://zoom.us/join>
or 253-215-8782

Meeting ID
811 3198 8042

Passcode
263458

Reminder: dessert is on Chapter 20 and there will also be a drawing for \$30.00.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 360-261-1038, or President Judy DeVoe at 360-261-2780.

Maurice Garrott
Secretary, Chapter 20
RPEC Vice President

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!

Upcoming Events

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

- May 17 – Leadership Training Registration Deadline
- May 17 – New Website “Sneak Peak” (1:00 pm)
- 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; 10:00 am)
- May 27 – Council Office closed, Memorial Day
- June 7 – Legislative Update Call (2:00 pm)
- June 10 – Leadership Training Part A (9:30 am)
- June 13 – Public Employees Benefits Board (9:00 am)
- June 13 – Healthcare Workgroup (3:30 pm)
- June 14 – Leadership Training Part B: AFSCME Financial Standards (10:00 am)