



# Retired Public Employees Council Chapter 28 – University of Washington

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023  
**Meeting Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
**Meeting Location:** Claim Jumper Steakhouse & Bar  
**Meeting Address:** 5901 S 180<sup>th</sup> St, Tukwila, WA 98188

Welcome Members & Friends to the Chapter 28 April 2023 Meeting!

## AGENDA

- 11:00 a.m.
  - Arrival – Welcome – Introductions & Announcements (Place Lunch Orders); Chapters covers up to \$20 per member. Members pay for additional amounts, guests & spirits.
- 11:30 a.m.
  - Welcome to Guest Speakers, Dave and Roberta of Union Home Services. Union Home Services is a nationwide real estate benefit for union members, their parents, children, and siblings. Dave will be talking about the benefits of using the Union Home Services real estate benefit which provides a rebate equal to 20% of their assigned realtor's commission.
- 11:45 a.m.
  - Questions & Answers
- 12:00 p.m.
  - Business Meeting: Period February – March 2023
  - Officer Reports (Secretary, Treasurer, President), District 9 Rep.
  - Old Business – Report 2022 Year End Charitable Donations Report
  - New Business:
    - Election of Officers (2-Year Term), Per Articles VII & VIII, Elections, Sec. 1-10, Appendix A, Chapter Constitution and By-Laws, RPEC NO. 28 President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees (4), and Installation of Officers
- 12:45 p.m.
  - Sunshine Report
  - In memory of: Mary Harvey, Daniel Menane, Samuel Tillery
  - New member: Charles Howell (Associate)
  - Meeting Schedule (Summer Break)
- 1:00 p.m.
  - Adjournment

Mary Marbles, President  
Chapter 28, Retired Public Employees Council

Questions: Mary Marbles, 206-295-6231

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## GUEST SPEAKERS:

Roberta and Dave are both longtime union members. Dave's first union experience was with Teamsters, and he retired as an ATU member back in 2007 after 31 years. Roberta was a member of IBEW 77 for 12 years. She served as a Shop Steward and on the contract negotiation team. Unfortunately, she got caught in the first Puget Power lay off and was forced to find a new career. She spent some time with the Washington State Labor Council as a political intern and when that ended moved into the real estate field. Roberta has been a realtor for about 30 years now and personally works in areas from Pierce, King, Snohomish, Kittitas, and Yakima counties. She joined Union Home Services about 18 or 20 years ago. The benefit is available nationwide and is offered to union members, their parents, children, and siblings.



## **MEMBERS IN ACTION:**

On March 18th, **AFSCME Council 28 (WFSE)** hosted their annual Rise Up Conference, at which union members from across the state attended for training, resources, and good food. Representing RPEC on behalf of the members were Ed Rodriguez (Ch 3), Colleen McGinn (Ch 3), and Alma-jean Marion (Ch 28); and representing the RPEC professional team was Jakob Canup, Membership Coordinator. Our goal is to be the choice representation and advocacy organization for union members in retirement.



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## **RPEC Chapter 28 Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2023 – Claim Jumper Steakhouse & Bar**

**President Mary Marbles called the meeting to order @ 11:30 AM**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mary Marbles (President), Alma-jean Marion (Vice-President), Neoma Ramsey (trustee), and Juanita Taylor (Trustee).

**OFFICERS ABSENT:** Kathleen Craig (Secretary), John Hampton (Treasurer), and Benester Fields (trustee).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Aarvig, Mabel Cross, James Bals, Eva Leverett, Rosemary Rogstad, and Aurelia Turner.

**GUESTS:** Mike Pellicciotti (State Treasurer), Adam Johnson (Comms & Public Relations), Bob Rogstad, and Bill Ziegler (CH 35).

**President Mary Marbles** introduced and welcomed the guest speaker, Mike Pellocciotti, Washington's 24th State Treasurer:

- Mr. Pellicciotti spoke about his duties as State Treasurer.
- His duties include managing the State debt of \$22,000,000,000.00.
- Balancing the State Budget.
- Transportation.
- State Banker, Money in Money out, writing the checks.
- Provide financial guard rail, like making sure our pensions are funded.
- He has introduced a Bond, "Washington Future Bond-Baby Bond, to be used for education, to start small business or buy property for children born after next year.
- He states, Washington has AAA credit rating.

**Minutes from October 2022 mtg reviewed moved/seconded/approved.**

### **OFFICER REPORT:**

President Marbles attended Legislative Day on January 30, 2023. They were able to meet at Legislator Tomiko Santos's office with staff member Radigan Lander. It was a good meeting. There are lots of things happening.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

President Marbles reported the details of the Treasurer's report will no longer be passed out to membership due to some fraudulent activity with the bank account. The report will only be read by the Treasurer in the meetings starting February 2023. The report was read by President Marbles.

As of December 31, 2022. Checking account balance was \$ 23,028.39.

**Treasurer's Report moved/seconded/approved.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Mary Marbles asked the Membership to help her to attend the CBTU (Coalition of Black Trade Union) Convention in New Orleans LA, starting May 23-29, 2023. A motion was moved/seconded to pay part of the cost of the trip. After some discussion an amendment to the motion was moved/second/approved to pay the full price of the convention covering registration, hotel, airfare, meals & per diem.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Election is in April. All Positions are open.
- Member MABEL CROSS was presented with a Certificate of Centennial.
- Jim Bals went to Legislative Day, learned Pers I have lost 37% by not having a COLA.

**AREA REP REPORT:**

Vice President Alma-jean Marion wants to know how many members belong to UWRA (University of Washington Retirement Association)? The web site has lots of information and resources for UW retiree seniors and their families. There is a virtual Mtg 2/27/2023. What positive information she can give to the board about Chapter 28? She need Members input for the Newsletter. Chapter newsletters help inform members on the many ways their membership supports them.

**DEFERRED CHRISTMAS**

Seven Members brought and exchanged gifts along with food and clothes items for Mary's Place. Bill Ziegler will take the food and clothes items to Mary's Place.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- John Cherry lost his brother.
- John Hampton is ill.
- Benester Fields is ill.
- Mina Traxler lost her brother-in-law.

**Meeting Adjourned @1:40 PM**

Respectfully recorded by Juanita Taylor, Secretary Pro Tem.

**CHECK OUT RPEC'S MEMBER-ONLY DISCOUNTS!**

By being a member of RPEC, you have access to a variety of discounts and benefits through AFSCME Advantage. AFSCME Advantage is a national union benefit program that RPEC members can utilize for no additional cost. Visit the AFSCME Advantage webpage to start using these benefits today!

Link:  
[www.afscme.org/member-resources/afscme-advantage](http://www.afscme.org/member-resources/afscme-advantage)

**MEMBER ONLY BENEFITS**

# HEALTHCARE DISCOUNTS

From dental, vision and hearing discounts to savings on prescriptions, AFSCME Advantage has you covered.

- 01** Dental
- 02** Prescriptions
- 03** Medical Alert Monitoring
- 04** Vision
- 05** Hear in America
- 06** Union Plus Hearing
- 07** Medical Bill Negotiating

**AFSCME ADVANTAGE**

<https://rpecwa.org/member-only-benefits/>

## April 2023 Executive Director's Report

Dear RPEC Leaders:

April marks another successful whirlwind month for RPEC and its legislative priorities. This is also a big month for member engagement. We need your immediate assistance with an urgent state budget priority (see below).

Time is also running out to register for the April 14<sup>th</sup> virtual Strategic Plan Listening Session, hosted by AFSCME Retiree Council. The virtual listening session is part of a multi-faceted process, used by AFSCME, to help retiree chapters like ours develop strategic plans grounded in member insights and input. Registration is open to all RPEC members and is required to participate. <https://rpecwa.org/strategic-planning-listening-session-registration/>. **Registration closes on April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### **WE NEED YOUR URGENT HELP – Contact These State Legislators by April 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Legislature has begun negotiations on the state's operating budget. While both the House and the Senate intend to provide a one-time COLA for Plan 1 retirees, RPEC favors the language in the Senate budget proposal. Additionally, the Senate's budget funds a study that will make sure retirees have input into the health insurance plans offered by the Public Employees Benefits Board.

A select group of legislators will be leading budget negotiations. Instead of contacting your own legislators, please contact the key negotiators listed below.

Email or call and relay this message to House leaders:

Thank you for supporting a much-needed one-time 3% cost of living adjustment for PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees, which will help retired public servants continue to afford necessities. Retirees prefer the Senate's COLA proposal because it prioritizes the full funding of the pension plans. The Senate proposal also funds the one-time COLA from the state general fund while the House proposal extends the fiscal responsibility for the COLA to future budgets.

Additionally, please consider adopting a budget proviso that allocates \$500,000 to the Health Care Authority to report findings of stakeholder engagements to the Legislature. HCA needs to do a better job listening to and serving seniors. This proviso, which already appears in the Senate's budget proposal, will ensure that happens.

Thank you.

*(First and last name)*

Member of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

House Legislators	Email	Office Phone
Representative Timm Ormsby	<a href="mailto:timm.ormsby@leg.wa.gov">timm.ormsby@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7946
Representative Nicole Macri	<a href="mailto:nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov">nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7826
Representative Mia Gregerson	<a href="mailto:mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov">mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7868
Representative Steve Bergquist	<a href="mailto:steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov">steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7862
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon	<a href="mailto:joe.fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov">joe.fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7952
Representative Drew Stokesbary	<a href="mailto:drew.stokesbary@leg.wa.gov">drew.stokesbary@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7846
Representative Kelly Chambers	<a href="mailto:kelly.chambers@leg.wa.gov">kelly.chambers@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7948
Representative Chris Corry	<a href="mailto:chris.corry@leg.wa.gov">chris.corry@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7810
Representative J.T. Wilcox	<a href="mailto:jt.wilcox@leg.wa.gov">jt.wilcox@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7912

Email or call and relay this message to Senate leaders:

Thank you for supporting a much-needed one-time 3% cost of living adjustment for PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees, which will help retired public servants continue to afford necessities. Retirees prefer the Senate's COLA proposal because the Senate's proposal prioritizes the full funding of the pension plans.

Thank you for including the \$500,000 proviso for the Health Care Authority to report findings of stakeholder engagements to the Legislature. HCA needs to do a better job listening to and serving seniors. This proviso will ensure that happens.

Thank you.

(First and last name)

Member of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

Senate Legislators	Email	Office Phone
Senator Christine Rolfes	<a href="mailto:christine.rolfes@leg.wa.gov">christine.rolfes@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7644
Senator June Robinson	<a href="mailto:june.robinson@leg.wa.gov">june.robinson@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7674
Senator Andy Billig	<a href="mailto:andy.billig@leg.wa.gov">andy.billig@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7604
Senator Lynda Wilson	<a href="mailto:lynda.wilson@leg.wa.gov">lynda.wilson@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7632
Senator Chris Gildon	<a href="mailto:chris.gildon@leg.wa.gov">chris.gildon@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7648
Senator John Braun	<a href="mailto:john.braun@leg.wa.gov">john.braun@leg.wa.gov</a>	(360) 786-7638

Thank you for your speedy assistance. Let's stand in solidarity to ensure RPEC's legislative priorities are included in the Legislature's final budget. If you have questions, please reach out to Emmett Mills at [emmett.mills@rpecwa.org](mailto:emmett.mills@rpecwa.org) or Laurie Weidner at [laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org](mailto:laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org).

### **Background on the Senate and House Budget Proposals**

Two of our key priorities have been included in the Senate budget proposal.

Funding is earmarked to implement [SB 5350](#), which provides a one-time 3% COLA to PERS 1 and TRS 1 retirees capped at \$110 per month. It also includes language to require the Select Committee on Pension Policy to study and recommend a proposal for a recurring annual COLA. RPEC worked tirelessly to create this language and ensure it was retained throughout the legislative session.

The Senate budget proposal also addresses the need for greater accountability for the Health Care Authority (HCA), which selects and administers healthcare plans for many public sector retirees. The budget proposal allocates \$500,000 for use by the HCA to report to the Legislature the findings from the stakeholder engagements (virtual and in-person listening sessions and virtual public forums highlighted in this Monthly Letter) taking place this spring. The proviso specifies that retiree feedback from these engagements will be used to inform policy decisions about the selection of healthcare plan choices and features. Furthermore, the proviso directs HCA to explore the availability of additional government self-insured healthcare plans with benefits that are equal to or greater than those of Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic Medicare but are more affordable. This proviso supports the intent of Substitute Senate Bill 5169, which RPEC initiated, in concert with the Public Employees Benefits Board Stakeholders' Medicare Coalition.

While the House also intends to give a one-time 3% COLA to Plan 1 retirees in 2023, the House would prefer to pay for the COLA at a later date. Because of this, funds are not allocated to pay for the one-time COLA in the House budget proposal.

RPEC, as well as our partner organizations, prefer the language found in the Senate budget proposal, which prioritizes the full funding of the pension plans. We aim to make sure the Senate's proposal moves forward.

Your advocacy for the adoption of the Senate's language will help House fiscal leaders understand how high a priority this is for all public sector retirees. When you reach out, be sure to also cite the need to allocate the funding for HCA, which does not appear in the House's budget. (See above).

**All-member written survey – Please complete the survey and mail it back!**

In April, all RPEC members will receive a written survey (with a postage paid return envelope) via U.S. mail. The survey should arrive in your mailbox on or before April 10<sup>th</sup>. Gleaning your insights and understanding the priorities and needs of our members is the first step in the strategic planning process for the Executive Board. Please take the time to complete the survey when it arrives at your home and mail it back right away, so that your input can be used to help shape the Board's priorities.

**Register Today for the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Virtual and In-person Listening Sessions and virtual public forums – Space is limited!**

All RPEC leaders and members who receive their healthcare benefits from the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) are asked to register today to take part in virtual and in-person listening sessions hosted by HCA. Registration is required. Space is limited.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/news/announcements/register-pebb-medicare-listening-sessions>

Retirees and their spouses or partners who are covered under UMP Classic Medicare, a Kaiser Permanente plan, UHC, or Plans F or G are eligible to participate. The listening sessions and public forums are your opportunity to share insights with HCA staff about your healthcare plan and quality of services you receive from HCA. All virtual and in-person listening sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Each session will be capped at 12 participants. HCA will follow-up with registrants via email and provide the questions, background information, and Zoom log-in information (for the virtual sessions) and/or the location/directions (in person sessions).

Three **in-person listening sessions** are also available – one each in Cheney, Bothell, and Yakima. (The Tumwater session was held March 29<sup>th</sup>). The specific location for the remaining in-person sessions will be posted one week prior to the scheduled date. These sessions are also capped at 12 participants and will be held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/news/announcements/register-pebb-medicare-listening-sessions>

In addition, HCA will also host **virtual public forums**. The virtual public forums will be held on April 26, May 17, and May 24 via Zoom from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Unlike the listening sessions, the public forums will function like a public hearing. Participation will be limited to 30 participants who will each have 3 minutes to speak about whatever issue, challenge, or suggestion they want to convey to HCA staff.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/news/announcements/pebb-medicare-retirees-participate-virtual-public-forum>

If you cannot attend a virtual or in-person listening session, the virtual public forum is another opportunity to share insights about your healthcare plan and the quality of service you receive from HCA. The virtual public forums are also open to those who have already participated in a listening session. You can also use your 3 minutes to offer suggestions to HCA regarding how they can improve communications and service to retirees.

**Interested in Learning More About RPEC? Register to Attend the Two-part Leadership Training Sessions on June 26 & June 30**

All members-at-large who want to learn more about RPEC or who may be interested in serving in a leadership role within their chapter or the Council are welcome to register for the two-part annual Leadership Training , taking place on June 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and June 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Part

1, held on June 26, is designed for those who have been elected to serve as chapter officers or are serving in elected or appointed chapter chair positions. The training will cover everything you need to know about the organization, our mission, the Council Office, how to work with our professional team, legislative affairs, building chapter member engagement and more.

<https://rpecwa.org/2023-leadership-training/>

Part 2, held on June 30<sup>th</sup>, is the AFSCME Financial Standards Code Training. This training session is designed for all chapter officers. The training will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

<https://rpecwa.org/2023-leadership-training/>

### **Blogs & Weekly E-Blast**

Are you receiving the *RPEC Weekly Newsflash*? It is the best way to keep apprised of our weekly news and to learn about our legislative and government affairs priorities. Sign up on the RPEC homepage at

[www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)

### **Upcoming events**

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

**April 6:** HCA Virtual Listening Session

**April 7:** Legislative Update Call

**April 11:** HCA In-person Listening Session, Cheney

**April 12:** HCA In-person Listening Session, Yakima

**April 13:** Healthcare Workgroup

**April 14:** Strategic Planning Listening Session

Legislative Update Call

**April 17:** Senior Lobby

**April 18:** HCA Virtual Listening Session

**April 20:** HCA Virtual Listening Session

**April 21:** Legislative Update Call

**April 24:** Sine Die (end of Legislative Session)

**April 25:** HCA Virtual Listening Session

Membership Committee Meeting

**April 26:** HCA Virtual Public Forum

**April 27:** Healthcare Workgroup

HCA Virtual Public Forum

Best,  
Laurie

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### **CHAPTER 28 OFFICERS**

Mary Marbles, President	(206) 295-6231	<a href="mailto:mmarbles46@icloud.com">mmarbles46@icloud.com</a>
Alma-jean Marion, Vice President	(206) 721-3088	<a href="mailto:alma-jean@comcast.net">alma-jean@comcast.net</a>
Kathleen Craig, Secretary	(206) 714-8574	<a href="mailto:kathleencraig_824@msn.com">kathleencraig_824@msn.com</a>
John Hampton, Treasurer	(206) 218-2485	<a href="mailto:farzight@gmail.com">farzight@gmail.com</a>
George Armour, Board Member At-Large	(206) 434-0918	<a href="mailto:armour_george@yahoo.com">armour_george@yahoo.com</a>
Benester Fields, Trustee	(206) 722-6755	<a href="mailto:bienestar111@yahoo.com">bienestar111@yahoo.com</a>
Juanita Taylor, Trustee	(253) 236-4047	<a href="mailto:missroxy5@yahoo.com">missroxy5@yahoo.com</a>
Neoma Ramsey, Trustee	(253) 854-0107	<a href="mailto:sweetne2004@hotmail.com">sweetne2004@hotmail.com</a>

## RPEC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Toll Free: **1-800-562-6097** – Direct: **360-352-8262**

Executive Director	Laurie Weidner	<a href="mailto:laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org">laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 101
Associate Director	Derek VanSpor	<a href="mailto:derek.vanspor@rpecwa.org">derek.vanspor@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 104
Finance & Operations Specialist	Elisabeth Wittenberg	<a href="mailto:elisabeth.wittenberg@rpecwa.org">elisabeth.wittenberg@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 102
Membership Coordinator	Jakob Canup	<a href="mailto:jakob.canup@rpecwa.org">jakob.canup@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 106
Government Affairs Coordinator	Emmett Mills	<a href="mailto:emmett.mills@rpecwa.org">emmett.mills@rpecwa.org</a>	ext. 103
Administrative Project Coordinator	Alissa Brady	<a href="mailto:alissa.brady@rpecwa.org">alissa.brady@rpecwa.org</a>	Ext. 100

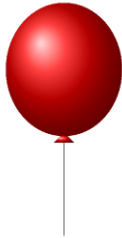
[www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)

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### CHAPTER 28 BIRTHDAYS

#### April

Janet E Pearson  
Leo E Ball  
Joan Mc Daniel  
Aurelia A Turner  
Loretta E Radnich  
Shirley G Jacobs  
Rosemary Rognstad  
Patricia E Simmons  
Alice L Gronski  
Marina S Ferguson  
Marie I Doman  
Trudy F Geissler  
Elizabeth Mulligan  
Candace Plog  
Marie L Hurlbut  
Zheng Chen  
Jean Forster  
Katherine Gordon  
Thomas P. Riley  
Nedra Pautler  
Margaret Frest  
Janet Miller  
Katherine Guiberteaux  
Nancy Healy  
Michael E Purdy



Heechun Huh  
Clarine Dunn  
Celeste R Stubbs  
Jeanne Tagliente-Wolf

#### May

Gloria C Smith  
Barbara Mercer  
Stanley L Goldstein  
Sally A Little  
Gary D Cole  
Sonia C Camero  
Antonio Fontanilla  
Lawrence Gales  
Gene A Washington  
Jane E Debrock  
Anita A. Whitney  
Francis J Zellner  
Ingrid K Pearson  
Amelia C Baluca  
Soraya S Clemans  
John Gofman  
Nancy Kloster  
Juanita R Taylor  
Louis A Rivas  
Betty Garvida



Karen Laemmler  
Maryrose Trubiroha  
Marilyn Dominguez-Aquino

#### June

Helen Sardarov  
Mabel Cross  
Marian Lindell  
Ruth A Handewith  
Joyce N Rowland  
Elaine C Martinez  
Ruth A Henderson  
Judith A Murphy  
Jackie Mc Kenney  
Barbara Gregory  
Mary E. Lovell  
Marilyn Pangilinan  
Ardis M Steggall  
William O'Brien  
Roberta A. Aldrich  
Robert Chase  
Debra Palmquist  
Robert Rhodes  
Kristian Kofoed