

From: Sharon Hoffbeck <sharonhoffbeck@gmail.com>
To: RPEA Members--All
Date: 4 Dec 2016
Subject: Welcome to All New RPEA Members

To All New RPEA Members----**Welcome to RPEA!** And thank you for joining your fellow retirees who are working hard to protect earned, constitutionally protected public employee retirement benefits.

Our normal process when we have a new member join, is to send them a letter welcoming them, giving them some basic information and letting them know that their check wasn't lost in the mail or that their credit card information wasn't floating around in cyberspace unprotected! For those of you who joined sometime after September 15th, that did not happen—and here's why.

On September 15th we mailed a recruitment letter to all retirees who were not already members of RPEA. We expected, and prepared for, a response similar to what we have experienced in the past when doing an all-retiree recruitment--but we were wrong.

On September 16th, new memberships began pouring in through the website, and on September 17th, they started pouring in through the US mail. I've attached a picture of Wanda—RPEA's administrative assistant and only paid employee—everyone else in RPEA's leadership is a volunteer including me—holding the stack of membership applications we'd received that day, and continued to receive on a daily basis for the next several weeks. The woman standing next to Wanda is Cammy Taylor, who is a retiree and works with the RPEA Retiree Benefits Committee.

The process of inputting new members into the database is tedious but necessary, and we had to quickly hire 3 temporary helpers and set up 3 additional work stations to get folks into the database as quickly as possible so we could communicate with you. One of the things we had to do is set aside our practice of sending each new member a Welcome letter as that's another process that is time consuming and was slowing down the inputting part of the process.

We've finally caught up—new memberships are still coming in but at the normal rate—and life is better for RPEA's very dedicated administrative assistant---Wanda. Who, by the way, always has a smile like the one in the photo no matter how stressful things get!

To date, RPEA's enrollment has increased by approximately 3,000 new members, which is unprecedented for an RPEA recruitment.

I have attached a link below to the RPEA website, which has a lot of information concerning RPEA's structure, chapters, and legal efforts. There is also a document with step-by-step instructions about how to file appeals for denied claims. We currently have a Declaratory Relief lawsuit in process concerning the reductions to the Dental/Vision/Audio retiree health plan, and there is a link to the right of the first page of the site that will take you to the court documents that will explain what the lawsuit is about.

<http://www.rpea.apea-aft.org/>

If anyone has questions, please contact me at sharonhoffbeck@gmail.com.

Have a nice Sunday!!

Sharon Hoffbeck

President

Retired Public Employees of Alaska

sharonhoffbeck@gmail.com