



Dear RPEA Members:

We recently promised to keep you better apprised of RPEA Board actions, so I am posting this update as a part of meeting that ongoing commitment.

Please know that the RPEA Executive Board held a special meeting on August 6 to appoint a President for the time being and to discuss the Medical Diminishment lawsuit with RPEA's attorney.

Because the RPEA Bylaws only allow a Regular Member (i.e., an actual public retiree) to hold the office of President and our Executive Vice President is an Associate Member (i.e., spouse of a Regular Member), the Executive Board voted to appoint me, Randall Burns, as President until an election is held. It is important for RPEA to have a valid, designated president who can manage the organization in consort with the Executive Board, and who can fill the unexpected vacancy of the RPEA office manager.

I find myself in this position without previous service on the Board, having just been elected to the position of Communications Director, effective July 1. I have, however, been closely following RPEA activities since last fall (2020) when I was appointed to the board of the Southcentral Region Chapter and the RPEA's Legislative Information Committee, as well as attending most - if not all - of the Executive Board's regular meetings since that time. I agreed to the appointment as President because I care about this organization and, at 74 years old, absolutely understand its importance to public retirees. I am a Regular Member of the RPEA and have many years in state service. In my candidate statement for the Communications Director position, which was provided to the entire membership earlier this year, I very briefly described my over-40-year Alaska work history.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the RPEA's Executive Board is Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 10:15 a.m. on Zoom. We welcome members to attend. The agenda will be posted on the RPEA website at: <https://rpea-ak.org/eboard.html> on or before next Friday, August 13.

There is a place near the beginning of regularly scheduled Executive Board Meetings for member comments (up to 2 minutes each); however, please know that the Board may limit the overall number of member comments depending on the length of its Agenda. Members may also submit written comments to the Board at any time by emailing or mailing comments to the RPEA Office, which are then provided to all members of the Board.

Because the August 17 Executive Board will be held by Zoom only, if you intend to participate, please be sure to enter the Zoom meeting around 10:00 a.m. so that membership can be confirmed prior to the Call to Order at 10:15 a.m. To find the Zoom meeting information, please go to the RPEA Website and select the Executive Board meeting tab; you will find the Zoom meeting information posted there, along with the link and phone dial-in information.

The RPEA is now also looking to immediately fill its Office Manager position in Anchorage. This is a part-time position (20 hours/week) with somewhat flexible hours. If you are interested in learning more about this position or applying, please leave a message for me, Randall Burns, on the RPEA Office phone (907.274.1703).

I know I speak for the Board when I say that we appreciate that these past few weeks have seen organizational disruption and some criticism of the RPEA Board itself. As we stated in our letter to the general membership in late July, we want you to know that the Board understands and is here to promote the mission and objectives of the RPEA and that the Board's focus has been — and always will be — on those principals.

I am writing this on Sunday, August 8; at least here in Anchorage, it is raining heavily for really the first time this summer. And it is very cool today (54 degrees - just 22 degrees above freezing!), so I am hoping that today is not that day that is the harbinger of fall, that day — admittedly usually later in August — when suddenly you step outside and can tell from the change in the air that Nature is starting to prepare for a different season.

Thanks to you all. I hope you and your family and friends are safe, fully vaccinated, and prepared for whatever the world decides to throw our way!

Randall

Randall Burns
President
Retired Public Employees of Alaska

Retired Public Employees of Alaska | PO Box 110650, Anchorage, AK 99511-0650 (907) 274-1703

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