



We Made it: Spring and Daylight Savings Time is Here!

Time Again to Catch You all Up!

Nominations Deadline Fast Approaching:

RPEA Executive Board Seats: The Nominations Committee wants to remind you all that the end of the open nominations period for seats on the RPEA Executive Board is fast approaching. Nominations for the *President*, *Secretary*, and the *Medical Information and Membership Director* positions need to be submitted on or before Monday, March 28, while nominations for the *Executive Vice President's* position need to be submitted on or before April 4.

These positions are for 2-year terms and serve from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. *We encourage regular members in good standing to consider running for these offices! Because of the location of the RPEA office, we also believe the President and Executive Vice President seats are best filled by members living in Southcentral Alaska.* Follow the links below for more information:

https://rpea-ak.org/elections/2022/e-board/2022-02-01_RPEA-Executive-Board-Nominations-Open-Posting.pdf

https://rpea-ak.org/elections/2022/e-board/2022-02-17_RPEA-Executive-Vice-President-Nominations%20Open%20Posting.pdf

Reminder from the RPEA Southcentral Chapter: The SC Chapter is accepting nominations for its chapter board officers through March 28, 2022. Nominations for SC Region Vice-President, SC Chapter Vice-Chair, SC Chapter Secretary, or SC Chapter Treasurer can be sent to Margaret King at rpea.sc.communication@gmail.com. For more information about board officer duties, go to: <https://rpea-ak.org/sc/pdfs/SC-Chapter-Board-Position-Descriptions-7Feb2022.pdf>

Reminder for the RPEA Northern Region Chapter: As you know from previous newsletters, the Northern Region Chapter of the RPEA has been without chapter officers for almost a year now. We would really encourage RPEA members in good standing from the Northern Region to consider seeking nomination to the Chapter Chair and Vice-Chair positions. If only one person applies for a seat, then that person would be automatically appointed. The Northern Region Chapter chair also has a seat on the RPEA Executive Board as one of the three Regional Vice Presidents. Please consider stepping into one of these roles, especially the chapter chair.

Great Response to the Solicitation for Participation on a the RHPAB Subcommittees

The RPEA Executive Board initially received ten (10) responses to our short-notice request for expressions of interest in serving as an RPEA representative on one of two Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board (RHPAB) subcommittees. The RPEA/DRB Settlement Agreement provided that the RPEA would be able to provide the DRB with six names (three for each subcommittee) from which the RHPAB would then select an RPEA member in good standing to serve as a member on the Modernization Subcommittee and its prospective Regulations Subcommittee.

Two respondents subsequently withdrew, leaving the Executive Board with 8 interested members and only 6 slots. The Executive Board met last Friday afternoon (3/18/22) and after a review of the materials submitted by those RPEA members interested, we did select six names to be forwarded to the DRB for possible appointment by the RHPAB to the two subcommittees.

For the Modernization Subcommittee, the Board nominated **Steve DeVries** (Anchorage), **Mauri Long** (HI), and **John Roxburgh** (Juneau), and for the Regulations Subcommittee we nominated **Carl White** (Anchorage), **Lelia Wise** (Anchorage), and **Wendy Woolf** (Indian).

Steve DeVries is a lawyer who worked for the State Attorney General's Office for over 30 years, leaving state service in 2018 as the Director of the Civil Division in the Department of Law's Anchorage office. Mauri Long is also an attorney who early on served as an assistant public defender but ended her career in private practice where her focus included medical malpractice cases. Mauri served on the Bar Association's Board of Governors, including one year as President. John Roxburgh is a Scottish born, Canada-raised computer programmer who worked for the State in Juneau for over 20 years. He served on the ASEA Executive Board and was a Trustee for the ASEA Legal Services Trust Fund.

Carl White has lived and taught mostly in rural Alaska where he served as principal or teacher in many districts, including Nome, Kodiak, King Salmon, and Aniak, ending his career as an assistant superintendent. Fun fact: he also was a KTUU news reporter in Anchorage at one time! Leila Wise worked for DNR doing research and analysis for oil and gas lease sales, but for most of her adult life has been self-employed as a media consultant; she currently also serves as a trustee for Medicaid Trusts. Wendy Woolf is a current RPEA Board member as Southcentral Region Vice-President and Chapter Chair but she is not running for re-election. Wendy has over 30 years state experience, working for DNR and the Mental Health Trust Lands Office, leaving DNR as its Regulations Coordinator for the Division of Oil and Gas; she is presently a self-employed lands consultant.

The Executive Board is excited to present a slate of names of this caliber to the RHPAB for consideration and selection. We are confident that any one of these RPEA members will well represent the interests of Alaska's public retirees. We believe this slate of names

makes a clear statement to the DRB of the RPEA's intent to offer strong, competent, continuing support to the future of public retiree health planning processes.

Our sincerest thanks to all eight of the individuals who submitted their interest.

Joining or Renewing Your Membership On-Line via the RPEA's Website

Unfortunately, we have been having some technology issues on the RPEA website when folks are wanting to renew their membership or join for the first time. **We believe we have fixed those issues now**, so if you gave up trying to renew on-line from our website, I would encourage you to try again now. You can join using PayPal or your own credit card and it will work. The first screen just asks you to input your basic demographic information and then the site takes you to the payment screen. We appreciate your patience! Here's the link:

<https://rpea-ak.org/form-member-app.html>

Information coming later this week on the RPEA's response to DRB's recently announced amendments to the current Health Plan

There have been quite a few questions from members around proposed amendments to the retiree health Plan recently announced by the DRB. We are working on a separate newsletter to provide members with background, but please know, at the outset, that these changes resulted from the Settlement Agreement recently signed between the State and RPEA and reflect proposals put forth by the RPEA during mediation. These proposals have the total support of the RPEA. Look for the RPEA's comments later this week.

Thanks to you all for your support and continued involvement in issues impacting public retirees!

Randall Burns
RPEA President
March 23, 2022

Thank you for your continued support of RPEA.

Randall Burns

RPEA President

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<http://rpea-ak.org>

Greetings, your RPEA Membership is paid through (***no date available***). If you need to renew your membership, ***click here***. If you have recently paid your membership dues, please disregard. Thank you for being an RPEA member!