



RPEA April Update: A Member Survey on Chapters, Election Results, Alaska Constitution Day, 2022 Meeting Dates

Very sad news: we learned today that Judi Slajer, a long-time Alaskan and a well-known figure in local government finance and administration up and down the State, and the RPEA's Treasurer, has passed away. As you may or may not know, Judi was the first woman hired as a borough manager in the State of Alaska. We know that she was well known by many public retirees and RPEA members given her long years of public service in Alaska. We send our deepest condolences to Judi's entire family and her many friends.

RPEA Membership Survey

RPEA is conducting a survey of its members to help us assess the structure and function of RPEA's Chapters. We are seeking input from all our members, both in Alaska and outside Alaska, on how the RPEA can best inform and assist members regarding issues of concern to public employee retirees. Please tell us your thoughts and respond to our survey questions; [click here to take the RPEA Membership Survey](#). The survey will remain open until May 25, 2022.

The RPEA Executive Board (E-Board) wishes to announce the results of the Executive Board elections process for 2022.

During its April 19th Executive Board meeting, the E-Board received and accepted a report from this year's Nominations Committee. That Committee of three RPEA members - Jeff Jesse, chair (SC Chapter), Kim Metcalfe (SE Chapter), and Clark Milne (Northern Chapter) - solicited nominations for a total of five board seats: President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Medical Information Director, and Membership Director. The following RPEA members in good standing applied:

Randall Burns filed for President;
Fred Traber filed for Executive Vice President (to fill the vacant position);
Stephanie Rhoades filed for Secretary;

Delisa Culpepper filed for Medical Information Director; and
Gary Miller filed for Membership Director.

The Nominating Committee met on April 14th, to accept these nominees, and forwarded their names with the following recommendation to the Executive Board:

"The Nominations Committee recommends the RPEA Executive Board declare all five nominees elected, as they are qualified in good standing with dues paid through December 2022. In accordance with RPEA Bylaws, when a candidate is unopposed, no election is required."

As a result, all those who sought election to the board during the 2022 election cycle will begin new terms on July 1, 2022, except for Fred Traber who takes office immediately, as he is filling an unexpired term. The Board also received an elections report from Wendy Woolf, RPEA Southcentral Chapter Chair, indicating that in their 2022 Chapter elections Matt Nolan ran unopposed for the Southcentral Regional Vice President/Chapter Chair; he will join the Executive Board effective July 1, 2022.

In addition, Leila Wise, an RPEA member in good standing and treasurer for the Southcentral Chapter, was appointed to fill the vacant Director of Communications position, effective immediately. She fills a term that expires in June of 2023.

Gary Miller, who ran for the Membership Director, will take office effective July 1 for a two-year term ending in June 30, 2024, when Jeff Goldsmith's term as the current Membership Director ends on June 30, 2022.

The Board also received an elections report from Wendy Woolf, Southcentral Region VP/Chapter Chair, indicating that in their 2022 Chapter elections Matt Nolan ran unopposed for the Southcentral Region Vice-President/Chapter Chair. Matt will join the Executive Board on July 1, 2022.

In summary, as of today, the eleven-member Executive Board now stands with 9 members, as follows:

- **Randall Burns**, President (through June 2024)
- **Fred Traber**, Executive Vice President (through June 2023)
- **Stephanie Rhoades**, Secretary (through June 2024)
- Vacant, Treasurer (term ends June 2023)
- **Brenda Knapp**, SE Region Vice President (through June 2023)
- **Wendy Woolf**, SC Region Vice President (through June 2022)

- **Delisa Culpepper**, Medical Information Director (through June 2024)
- **Cindy Spanyers**, Legislative Director (through June 2023)
- **Leila Wise**, Communications Director (through June 2023)
- **Jeff Goldsmith**, Membership Director (through June 2022)
- Vacant, Northern Region Vice President

Note: Wendy will be replaced by **Matt Nolan** on July 1; Matt will serve through June 2024. Jeff will be replaced by **Gary Miller** on July 1; Gary will serve through June 2024. Jeff Goldsmith will continue as RPEA's representative to the APEA/AFT Employee Political Information Committee (EPIC) along with Ellen Fischer who is our EPIC alternate representative.

Obviously, the Board would love to fill the Northern Region Chapter Chair position with a qualified RPEA member from the Northern Chapter, and we continue to encourage any and all northern region members to consider nominating themselves to serve as the Chapter Chair/Regional Vice President on the RPEA Executive Board. We will work with any willing volunteer to help get northern chapter representation on the Board.

It also goes without saying, with the departure of Wendy Woolf in July, that the Executive Board and the entire RPEA Southcentral Chapter membership will greatly miss the amazing commitment and passion that Wendy has brought to her role as SC Chapter Chair and Regional Vice President on the Board. We cannot imagine how we would have gotten through the past year without her insightful and caring support.

Also at its April meeting, the Board set all meeting dates for the remainder of 2022, both for its regular meetings and for all forthcoming all-membership meetings. The dates and (tentative times) are listed at the bottom of this newsletter. There may be some modest changes to this information, but the [Executive Board Webpage](#) on the [RPEA website](#) will always be updated if we have to diverge from this plan. Meeting dates and times can also be viewed on the [RPEA calendar](#) on our website.

Finally, this Sunday, April 24th, is [Alaska Constitution Day!](#)

The RPEA Executive Board just voted to become a member of the [Defend our Constitution](#), a group that has organized to oppose the call to hold a constitutional convention. That issue will be on the November ballot. You can go to the Defend Our Constitution website at defendakconstitution.com where you will find [FAQs](#) and good information on the history and value of Alaska's highly praised constitution. Click on the links above for more information.

We encourage you to take a look at the information provided on the “Defend our Constitution” website both as it relates to Sunday’s celebration of Alaska’s constitution and for the reasons a call for a convention is a bad idea, especially for public retirees whose pensions and health benefits rely on the constitutional protections granted in Article 12, Section 7: *“Membership in employee retirement systems of the State or its political subdivisions shall constitute a contractual relationship. Accrued benefits of these systems shall not be diminished or impaired.”*

Thanks for your kind attention to this newsletter. Best wishes to all! We hope you all are enjoying the arrival of spring, warmer air, blue skies, and sunshine, and that you are preparing for a great summer, wherever you live and whatever you may have planned!

Randall

Schedule of E-Board Meetings and All-Membership Meetings for the Remainder of 2022

May 17, beginning at 9:30 a.m. (the E-Board will meet for just one hour in regular session then hold a two-hour **BYLAWS work session** after the E-Board meeting ends).

May 25, beginning at 10:00 a.m., an **ALL-MEMBERSHIP CALL** (tentative presentation by the DRB on its reconfigured Website which goes live May 6, a briefing on ranked-choice voting, and updates from the RPEA E-Board; an agenda will be posted on the website).

June 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m. (this will also be a short E-Board meeting combined with a **BYLAWS work session**).

July 19, regular E-Board Meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

No meeting in August

September 20, regular E-Board meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by an **ALL-MEMBERSHIP CALL** (time/presentation/agenda TBA).

October 18, regular E-Board meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

November 15, regular E-Board meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

December 13, regular E-Board meeting, beginning time 10:00 a.m.,

followed by an **ALL-MEMBERSHIP CALL** (time/presentation/agenda TBA).

Thank you for your continued support of RPEA.

Randall Burns

RPEA President

rpea.ak.president@gmail.com

<http://rpea-ak.org>

Wendy, your RPEA Membership is paid through **10/7/2065**. 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!