

RPEA Northern Region Chapter Minutes  
Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 12:00 pm  
Raven Landing Center

Clark Milne convened the meeting at Noon, with 42 people in attendance. (Note: no one recorded any contemporaneous minutes.) Clark again announced that the biennial election of the Northern Region RPEA Chapter officers will take place, by mail, with ballots sent out after the April meeting (if we have more than one nominee for any of the chapter's officer roles). We did get three volunteers to comprise a NR nominating committee to manage the election process, including Charlie Gallagher, Elizabeth Cook and Bill Hao. Note: Clark has announced that he will not stand for re-election as the NR Chair, and Mary Zalar is retiring as Secretary. We have candidates at this point for Vice-Chair and Treasurer positions, but need a new Chair and a Secretary too!

**Featured Speaker:** Mr. Randy Mitchell, the Store Manager at Fred Meyer – West, spoke on Food Security in the AK Interior, and invited the audience to ask questions during his presentation. He grew up in Fairbanks, finished school and worked Outside, but returned to Alaska and has been managing stores in Fairbanks for over 7 years. Randy explained in detail the costs, complications and exigencies of shipping goods regularly to Fairbanks, by road, rail and via twice-weekly barge traffic. There is typically only 3 – 7 days of food on available on the shelves and back-room storage, thus available to purchase, in Fairbanks' stores.

**Chapter Business:**

1. Clark reported on recent RPEA Executive Board meetings
  - a. Judge has not yet ruled on DVA lawsuit, but we are expecting a decision by late April.
  - b. The Diminishment lawsuit (filed in 2018) is still in the midst of Discovery process.
2. Our e-mail "system", Mailman, cratered in late January, thus (regrettably) NO MESSAGES were sent out to RPEA's general membership for the last 5+ weeks. The new statewide membership e-mail system, under the product name "Constant Contact" is finishing the process of installation, and Sharon Hoffbeck will send out a global message to all once it's up and running. (anticipated to be in early March)
3. No Treasurer Report given this month, since Frank Abegg is out of town.
4. No Legislative Committee Report this month.
5. Next month's meeting speaker will be: **Donna Aarhus**, the TVC's Patient Financial Services representative, who will speak on the topic: **Medicare Rules & Realities**.
6. Medical Information Committee, by Karen Milne
  - a. The Division of Retirement and Benefits' had another Tele-Town Hall meeting (the 7<sup>th</sup>) this morning (from 10-11 AM today) which was focused on the State's various health plans, particularly on OptumRX and their IRMA complications. The next Tele-Town Hall is March 21, 10 am, which is just before our March member meeting here at Raven Landing. Archived recordings of all Tele-Town Halls are available online at: [http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/headlines/2018/08/eqwp-tele-town-hall/#.XEId9\\_ZFx3Q](http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/headlines/2018/08/eqwp-tele-town-hall/#.XEId9_ZFx3Q)
  - b. If you have benefit questions, call the Division of Retirement and Benefits or you can write directly to them with questions, at: [drbtownhall@alaska.gov](mailto:drbtownhall@alaska.gov)
  - c. OptumRX (the new Pharmacy TPA, since January) can be called and a representative engaged, at: 1-855-409-6999
  - d. Aetna's Concierge line was cited as well, at: 1-855-784-8646

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.