

NR Chapter Report for Monday 2-8-21 Alaska Northern Region Chapter  
from NR RPEA Chapter Chair Charlie Gallagher

Meeting Summary for Monday, February 8th -Our speaker was Emily Ricci from The Alaska Department of Retirement and Benefits (DRB) with several Department Officials such as Steve Ramos as well as Aetna benefits personnel. The topic is coverage of medical travel.

-The ZOOM meeting was arranged and hosted by NRV Chair Clark Milne. It was agreed the meeting would not be recorded, and only NR RPEA Members and the Executive Board were invited. Questions would be from Members only. The questions were answered, but not recorded. However there are several important points for RPEA.

1. Soon there will be official brochures regarding medical travel available from the DRB.
2. Emergency Travel is usually covered –meaning the auto accident, etc.
3. To be certain, as issues do arise with Medical Travel, contact your Aetna Concierge.
4. Alaska locations can have different preferred providers for “fixed wing” air ambulance.
5. Alaskan Hospitals usually have travel experts on their staff, but to be safe call Aetna.

For over 5 years NR Chapter leaders have had no response to recruiting replacements. Charlie informed the Executive Board on January 26<sup>th</sup> that if no one comes forward by July 1 the Chapter will go into “hibernation”. The NR Chapter accounts will be closed and checkbooks will be returned to the RPEA Office with our final accounting. The files at the NR APEA Office will be closed.

RPEA will still functioning just without an active Northern Region Chapter

--Charlie Gallagher Acting NR RPEA Chapter Chair