

This Was a Virtual Meeting Held Via Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Retired Public Employees Association – Chapter 077  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – 9:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Betsy Kruger.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Betsy Kruger, Vice President; Barbara Evans, Secretary; Joan Palmer, Treasurer; Sharon Salcido, Newsletter Editor & Web Master; Al Raitt, Health Benefits Chair; Mary Kowta, Legislative Chair.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Norman Stump, President; Judy Winter, Sunshine Person; Michael Cassetta, Membership Chair.

**OTHERS:** Roger Klaves, Chapter member.

**MINUTES:** There being no corrections to the minutes of the 12/20/23 meeting, they were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There being no questions, the report will be filed as submitted. The balance as of 1/24/24 was \$3,746.15.

**HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT:** Raitt presented a summary of the health benefits panel discussion during the annual stakeholder meeting held 1/17/24 in Sacramento. There was a review of last year's increase in health insurance premium costs over prior years, due primarily to cost increases by Kaiser and United Health Care. Some costs are moving towards pre-pandemic levels; however, health care costs and pharmaceutical costs are expected to rise. Medical insurance companies will be responsible for monitoring their costs and implementing policies that will lower costs and improve the quality and equity of health care. This will include health care plans qualifying for accreditation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and a member advisory committee comprised of policy holders to provide member-driven oversight.

Kruger reported that her health care costs were \$300 less per month since she arranged her own coverage. Also, the Long-Term Care litigation has been settled.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Kowta referred members to her report in the Newsletter, wherein she reported on the State budget, ballot propositions to appear on the March 5 primary election ballot, needed legislation to correct penalties for drug and property crimes, and a lawsuit filed by the California Rifle & Pistol Association in connection with a new law banning firearms in most public places. In addition, new regulations will be forthcoming that will regulate the composting of food waste.

**NEWSLETTER & WEB SITE:** Salcido reported on the preparation and distribution of the February newsletter and the updating of the web site. She also reviewed new postal regulations that would be implemented by a Gateway Account and would affect the bulk mailing of the Newsletters.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** A report filed by Cassetta noted that current membership of 397 was down from 399. Three members were dropped for failure to renew membership and one new member was added.

**SUNSHINE REPORT:** A report filed by Winter indicated that a get-well card was sent to Yvonne Morton.

**PROGRAM REPORT:** Members were generally satisfied with the lunch meeting arrangements at Nash's Restaurant. Kruger announced that the February 1 meeting would feature William Bosch, President of the Northwest Lineman College, and the March 7 meeting would be CSUC President Perez. Other potential programs would be the local Law School and the CHAT Everhart Village.

**BOARD COMPOSITION:** In an effort to recruit more Board members, Kruger suggested new members be recruited as interns and learn the roles of various Board positions while serving as at-large members, with the possibility of being appointed as a chair of a committee or elected as an officer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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Barbara A. Evans, Secretary