

This Was a Virtual Meeting Held Via Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Retired Public Employees Association – Chapter 077
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 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; Al Raitt, Health Benefits Chair; Mary Kowta, Legislative Chair.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Norman Stump, President; Sharon Salcido, Newsletter Editor & Web Master; Michael Cassetta, Membership Chair; Judy Winter, Sunshine Person.

OTHERS: Abe Baily, RPEA Area II Director; Roger Klaves, Member.

MINUTES: There being no corrections to the minutes of the 9/27/23 meeting, they were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report showed a balance of \$3,822.52 as of 10/25/23. There being no questions, the report will be filed as submitted.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Kowta referred members to her report in the newsletter that gave a status report on various bills signed by the Governor, the COLA for Social Security, and the wars in the Ukraine and in Israel. She mentioned that the California Energy Commission was working on two initiatives to lower gas prices in California.

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT: Raitt reported that CalPERS was working on a 3-year “phase-in-plan” to transfer savings from HMO plans to PPO plans in order to equalize premium payments. With regard to the recent September 18 to October 13 open enrollment period, figures were not yet available as to the number of subscribers who switched plans. Traditionally, about 90% of subscribers stay with the plan they have, and approximately 10% switch plans. In the past several years, migration has tended to be from the PPO to the HMO plan; and were this to continue, the PPO plans would become unable to sustain themselves. In addition, co-pays could be increased for PPO plans. The state is divided into three regions, north, middle and south with costs highest in the north, so each region also needs to be taken into account when setting premiums.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: A membership report from Cassetta indicated that total membership in September was 401, down from 402 in August. There were 2 new members, 2 members were dropped because of CalPERS stopping their dues deductions, and one member was deceased.

AREA II DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Baily stated that he served on a subcommittee of CalPERS and RPEA members that were discussing conflicts of interest and transparency. He questioned why CalPERS health plans cost more than those in the private sector. A recent survey of chapters indicated why some smaller ones were not active and unable to secure members to serve on their boards of directors.

PROGRAM REPORT: Kruger noted that Jim Brobeck, Water Policy Analyst for AquaAlliance would speak on “Defending the Tuscan Aquifer” at the November 1 membership meeting. A screen and projector were needed for the meeting.

MEETING VENUES: Kruger and Salcido will continue seeking alternative venues for membership meetings. Suggestions were made for potential venues.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING: Members agreed to hold their December meeting on December 20 rather than December 27.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Barbara A. Evans, Secretary