



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement:

We are active and retired California public employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and improving our earned retirement, medical, and other benefits. RPEA represents the rank and file retired public employees.

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 – 11:15 A.M.

NASH'S RESTAURANT

1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO

Lunch Cost: \$20 (Plated Lunch)

MENU: An entrée (to be determined) will be accompanied by a small green salad and sourdough bread. A non-alcoholic beverage will be included. Betsy will inform you of the entrée when you make your reservation.

RSVP: Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or Email her at betsybikes@sbcglobal.net

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, March 31

NOTE: Please let Betsy know if you prefer a vegetarian entree when you make your reservation and inform her if you have any dietary restrictions.

SPEAKER:

Janet Brown, Faculty Emeritus
School of Nursing
California State University, Chico



TOPIC:

“Positive Changes at CHAT”

Janet Brown has lived in Chico for over 50 years. She has been a volunteer with Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) for seven years in a variety of roles. Currently she is a member of the CHAT Advisory Council. CHAT is a nonprofit that aims to provide affordable rental housing for people who are without housing. Supportive services are provided. Janet and her husband are huge supporters of CHAT, and she is pleased to talk about their good work at every opportunity. She will provide a brief overview of the CHAT programs and then detail all the great news associated with Everhart Village. Janet will be pleased to answer questions about any of CHAT's other programs.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REMINDER

If you know of anyone who could use a Thinking of You, Get Well, or Sympathy card, please contact Judy Winter, our Sunshine Chair, at 530-518-6492 or catdool2003@yahoo.com or so that she can spread a little sunshine their way.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving on the Board, we welcome you to sit in on a Zoom Board meeting to check it out. The Board meets on the last Wednesday of the month (with a few exceptions) at 9:00 AM. Members are welcome to attend our Zoom Board meetings to listen to the agenda items discussed and to give input. Please contact Al Raitt (aeraitt@msn.com) for the Zoom link if you're interested in Zooming with the Board.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

Greetings Readers,

News flash from the Bee (3/16)! The election is over, but the count goes on for Prop.1, the important piece of legislation promoted by Governor Newsom as part of the fix for mental health and homelessness. It appears that the proposition will pass, but not by the numbers that would affirm general support. The Governor had been scheduled to give the “State of the State” speech on Monday 3/16. It has been postponed, as you readers may be aware. So, that’s it for “old” news!

As if the Governor did not have enough on his mind, he has been served with recall papers (again). His opponents claim he failed at budgeting and gave undocumented persons health care. Most Californians support the Governor, but there is ample criticism of the budget. The recall effort must gather enough signatures in time to put it on the November ballot. Of course, they need to find candidates to run! There is a rumor that they may screen several CPAs (ok, it’s late, and I made that up)!

A Sample of Bills Being Considered by the Lawmakers (Sac Bee, various recent dates)

AB3073 This bill would require the local sanitation agencies to sample wastewater for drug testing. This would enable health departments and law enforcement to note areas of proliferation of drug use and take appropriate action. Counties would pay for the tests.

AB2316 This bill is a follow-up of Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel’s successful bill “to ban Skittles”. Actually, Skittles are legal, but now they are missing a chemical that is harmful. Several dyes and titanium dioxide are found in school lunches and snacks, and these are known to cause health problems; so, they will be the targets of the new bill. No more Fruit Loops and Flamin’ Hot Cheetos unless the makers sub safer chemicals!

AB1780 The practice of legacy college admissions would be banned at California’s private colleges and universities. It was found that up to 14% of admissions in some cases had direct ties to donors or influential alumni.

On March 10 CBS Sacramento announced that State Senator Roger Niello is collaborating with lawmakers in Oregon and Washington to suggest that Daylight Savings Time has seen its day and that we should fall back in November and stay there. No bill yet, but perhaps eventually.....!

Check it Out——Fiduciary——Someone who manages money or property for someone else

There are several types of fiduciaries, but they all have these main duties: care, obedience, and loyalty. If Board members understand and embrace these responsibilities, they can hold their fellow Board members accountable to do the same. The word fiduciary comes from the Latin, fides, meaning faith, trust, and loyalty.

The March issue of *CSU-ERFSA Reporter* has a brief article, based on a Naked Capitalism blog (Yves Smith) entitled "Should CalPERS Fire Everyone and Just Buy Some ETFs?" The article comments on a critique of CalPERS by a CIO of a 1 billion+ fund, Meb Faber. Mr. Faber points out the extreme diversification of the Fund, which comprises more than 100 large endowment funds, among other investments, reduces beneficial performance. As a result, the returns are lower than passively following the market.

Aside from Mr. Faber’s comments, many of our members have been around long enough to recall instances of bad behavior by CalPERS Board members who forgot the meaning of the word fiduciary.

Other Issues

A substantial gain in the stock market in the coming months would benefit the CalPERS Fund, slow inflation, bring greater prosperity to the State, and increase the taxes that benefit the Governor’s budget.

A new vendor, Ssecure, is now perusing our files in search of the deceased. Let us hope for the best! May they rest in peace. No hacking or security lapse!

Should the State take a more profound interest in the actions of the CalPERS Board??

Today it feels like the season has changed, no rain, no wind! **Happy Spring!!**

Mary