

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

MARCH 2022 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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IMPORTANT MEETING UPDATE!

NO MARCH 3 MEETING

There will be no Chapter 077 membership meeting on March 3. This decision was made after reviewing the CDC guidelines and how they apply specifically to our General Membership luncheon meetings. In-person membership meetings will be discontinued until further notice out of an abundance of caution and concern for all chapter members regarding their health and safety. The Board is continuing to review this situation month-to-month; and hopefully, we'll be able to return to face-to-face meetings at the earliest time possible. Please watch for updates in future newsletters and also the rpeachapter77.com website.

MESSAGE FROM ROGER KLAVES

Area II Director (Email written January 31, 2022)

Howdy displaced Paradise Chapter 074 Lunch- bunchers and a few other important people in Area II! Last month I mentioned that Cozy Diner was reopening. They did reopen the restaurant, but the meeting room is still being renovated. It's going to be a bar or lounge, and I'm not sure of meeting space. However, they still have the small meeting room they had before. Let me know if you're interested in attending meetings when it's safe to meet again.

We see that PERS is pretty close to 80 percent funded. They're in the neighborhood of 495-500 billion of investments value. We need to keep in mind that full funding will hopefully occur in the 2040s. That's the plan!

Henry Jones, PERS Administration President, is resigning from the PERS Board effective immediately due to medical issues. Vice President Theresa Taylor will assume presidential duties.

RPEA HQ would really like to have email addresses of all members. Email is the best and quickest way to get information to members.

Newsletter editors are reminded to not use copyrighted or someone else's photos for producing graphics. Use items or photos that are produced or created in house. RPEA recently had to pay a \$350 fee because an editor's background graphic was recognized by an electronic monitoring device. Big Brother is watching and we are constantly being scanned!

We note that social security benefits are being increased 5.9 percent. We're still waiting for word of a COLA from PERS. Don't forget that valentine, guys! *Roger*

2022 RPEA CHAPTER 077 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Norm Stump (President)	893-0767
Betsy Kruger (Vice President)	345-7563
Barbara Evans (Secretary)	342-4783
Joan Palmer (Treasurer)	343-7405
Sharon Salcido (Webmaster & Newsletter Editor)	893-0181
Al Raitt (Health Benefits Chair and Interim Membership Chair)	893-0435
Mary Kowta (Legislative Chair)	342-6759
Lawrie Salvestrin (Sunshine Chair)	519-5223
Judy Winter (Member at Large)	345-6778
Ralph Huntsinger (Past President)	343-3456



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REMINDER

If you know of anyone who could use a *Hello, Thinking of You, Get Well, or Sympathy* card, please email Lawrie Salvestrin (Sunshine Chair) lsalvest@gmail.com so that she can spread a little sunshine their way.

Pandemic or Endemic?

This week marks a significant change in California's public health directives. On the 15th masks will no longer be required in many indoor spaces. The decline in COVID-19 infections and the significantly lower numbers for hospitalization and death indicate that the virus is on the wane in our State. At the same time, various factions are calling for actions to enable business and culture to return to "normal". Masks will continue to be required in K-12 classrooms at least until the end of the month. At that time, the situation will be reviewed. Those of us over 65 may be advised to continue with masks in indoor settings, social distancing, etc. We may develop as senior citizen recluses, but most of us are used to that anyway! Masks will still be required in health care settings for everyone, as well as on public transport.

Later this spring each Medicare enrollee will be able to pick up 8 free COVID home test kits at your pharmacy each month to enable testing before and after possible COVID exposure. It is quick and easy! At present, a little over 70% of Californians are vaccinated. That is good news! The unvaccinated are the main problem, of course.

Legislators at Work

Our lawmakers have been drafting new legislation. The following are under consideration:

- SB 914 and AB 1726 address domestic violence and abuse and relate to homelessness of women and children.
- AB 1993 would require COVID vaccination for employees and independent contractors to remain in effect until CDC deems no longer needed.
- AB 257 intervenes in how restaurants do business, especially "fast food" businesses. Fresno is fighting this one!

Last week the Governor signed SB 113 which has important tax benefits for business.

Housing Problem

The lack of housing in California persists despite SB9, the legislation passed last year which requires that single family lots be considered for an additional 3 dwellings if possible. This has inspired many of the State's 400 municipalities to look for creative ways to circumvent the law. Most startling was Woodside's plan to designate their lovely community as an endangered habitat for mountain lions.

Attorney General Rob Bonta noted that as an egregious ploy to circumvent the law, and Woodside dropped the idea. In Pasadena, the local government looked into ways to extend the City's historic district to preclude the possibility of wide-scale home construction. Perhaps we will not be surprised if the ghost of John Bidwell is summoned to review Chico's planning for additional housing. It may be a long time before the 180,000 units needed are available in the State.

The Governors News

Governor Newsom has his first announced challenger for his position, Assemblyman Brian Dahle of Lassen County. He is not widely known in the southern parts of the State, of course, and that may be part of his charm.

On 2/11 the Governor announced the following distributions:

- \$38 Million grants to combat youth homelessness
- \$312 Million for New Clean California Projects to beautify and revitalize
- \$31 Million for homeless housing in Marin and San Mateo counties
- \$1.9 Million to bolster the State emergency needs

My sources for most of this content are online legislative and governor information, CapRadio news, Sac Bee, SF Chronicle, and ER.

I hope everyone had a few chances to enjoy the warm sunny days we have had. We have daffodils and hyacinths in bloom; a few tulips will bloom soon if the squirrels don't dig them up for a snack. Meanwhile, pray for rain and stay well!

Mary