



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

MARCH 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.

Sharon Salcido, Editor – 530-893-0181 – sharonsalcidofromchico@gmail.com

Matters concerning your address should be directed to Barbara Evans – barbevans37@aol.com – 530-342-4783

RPEA Chapter 077 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6415, Chico, CA 95927-6415

Chapter Website: www.rpeachapter77.com

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 – 11:15 A.M.
NASH'S RESTAURANT
1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO**

Lunch Cost: \$20 (Plated Lunch)

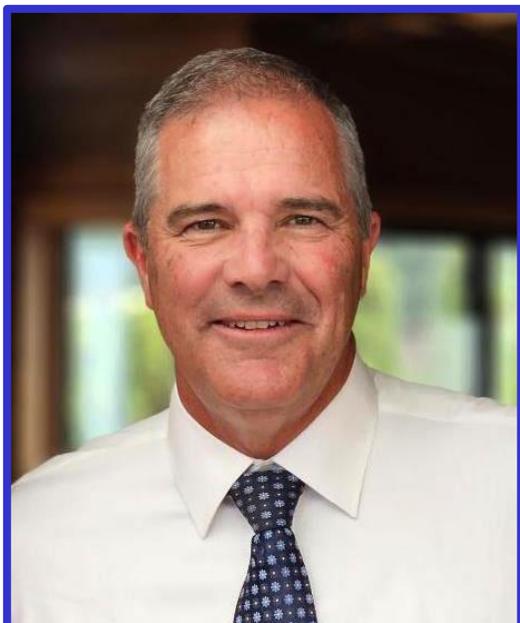
MENU: An entrée (to be determined) will be accompanied by a small green salad and sourdough bread. A non-alcoholic beverage will be included. Betsy will inform you of the entrée when you make your reservation.

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

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, March 3
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:

Dr. Stephen Perez, President
California State University, Chico



TOPIC:

“Connections Beyond Campus: Sharing Our Story; Growing Our Community”

President Perez became Chico State’s 13th President on July 1, 2023, after serving as the University’s Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. As President, he intentionally focuses on building and maintaining strong teams that will work hard every day to support the success of Chico State students, colleagues, and the region.

Prior to coming to Chico State, Perez served as Interim President from January to December 2022 at San Jose State University, where he kept the institution on an upward trajectory during a time of transition. Perez was previously Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Sacramento State. Over his two decades of service to that University, he also served as Associate Professor, Professor, Assistant to the President for Special Projects, Faculty Athletics Representative, Interim Dean for the College of Business Administration, and Interim Provost.

Highlights of his presentation will include:

- A spotlight on what makes Chico State unique and exemplifies our Do and Dare philosophy.
- A snapshot of our community including student demographics, recent accolades, enrollment, and alumni numbers.
- A look at the economic impact of the University on the community.

We are looking forward to hearing President Perez’s interesting presentation!

UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

It is important to keep RPEA updated if you have changed your email, phone number, or have moved. Our Chapter 077 gets the updated mailing list from RPEA Headquarters monthly when sending out the newsletters. To update your contact information, please email:
rpeahq@rpea.com

LEGISLATIVE NEWS – By Mary Kowta

Greetings, Readers! I'm hoping you all are staying dry, and the lights are on!

What is going on in Sacramento? A lot, but are the lawmakers concentrating on the things that the voters want them to fix? Probably not; but, it's not that easy. Take the **homeowner insurance hikes**...the insurance companies want to raise rates now; then the advocacy group, *Consumer Watchdog*, says "Arf No! Let's take time and study the issue." Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo Lara, is caught in the middle of a process that goes on for months. In January, 170 home and auto policy price increases were pending (*SacBee*, 2/12/2024).

California has some of the **highest energy costs** in the U.S. The cost of electricity is 25% higher than the U.S. average. Many users of the State's largest utilities are behind on their payments. Now there is a move to tie bills to household income. A new bill, AB 1999, is in the works, but will not be studied by the energy commission until July. (*SacBee*, 2/13/2024)

We had hoped that the **plastic bag problem** would be solved when California banned "single use" plastic bags, SB270; but that bill was suspended during the pandemic, and the grocers came up with the "heavier multi-use plastic bag". These create the same noxious waste that the thin bags did. So, now the move is to get consumers to use fabric or paper bags; AB2236 and SB1053 aim to solve this problem. But don't fret! You'll have time to crochet your very own stylin' signature bag for use starting January 2026, assuming the bills will pass.

Other Legislative Moves

February 16 was the final day for introducing new bills; 2,124 were brought forward. There are several hundred others, such as placeholder bills.

Retail theft problem: It's not improving! Prop. 47 seems to be the culprit to some. The Governor himself witnessed a "*Grab and go*" at a Target store while shopping. Yet, instead of a re-do of prop.47, he seems to favor other steps to curtail the plague.

A bill to require a human in autonomous trucks is back on the schedule. Recognizing the many accidents of youths on E-bikes, a bill would make it illegal for those 12 and under to ride E-bikes on public streets.

Browsing the Internet

MendoFever is a Mendocino County news source. A letter to the editor by County Sheriff Matt Kendall illustrates how many Californians feel about our lawmakers' failures to deal with opioids and crime. The loss of life in our State caused by opioids is unconscionable. Is it a public health problem, a law enforcement problem, or some combination of many public policy failures? It must stop!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR MARCH LUNCHEON AT NASH'S! GREAT PROGRAM!

Mary