



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

SEPTEMBER 2019 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, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 - 11:15 A. M.

**Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge)
1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico**

MENU

**Salad Bar, Loaded Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes,
Fresh Vegetable Medley, and Fresh Rolls**

NOTE: We have been notified by the Elks that the price for our luncheons will be increased to \$19 beginning 9/1/2019 since food costs are increasing.

SPEAKERS:

**Bikram Kahlon, Senior Traffic Engineer
Brendan Ottoboni, Director of Public Works
(Engineering)**

**Program presenters work at the Department of
Public Works (Engineering) - City of Chico**

TOPIC: “Traffic Issues in Chico”

There will be a PowerPoint presentation including the following topics: Increased traffic after the Camp Fire, pothole issues, pavement management, pavement maintenance, roadway budget, future traffic, and future projects.

J.J. JELINCIC ATTENDING OUR MEETING

J.J. Jelincic will be attending our September 5 meeting to give a short spiel about being a candidate for the CalPERS Board in the upcoming election. RPEA endorses J.J. and sees him as a person who asks pointed questions on issues that affect our pensions. His opponent, Henry Jones, is also qualified, and retirees will be receiving a ballot mailed on August 30 to vote for their choice.

DONATION IN MEMORY OF TANYA RAKESTRAW

A \$100 donation was made on behalf of our Chapter 077 in memory of Tanya Rakestraw who passed away on June 24 after a lengthy illness. Tanya was the Office Manager at RPEA Headquarters, and the Building Fund was very dear to her heart. She took special care of the building and grounds and worked hard to get the favorable contract just signed to paint the building and add enhanced new signs. There were many challenges around buildings issues that Tanya faced while serving as Office Manager. Unfortunately, she will not witness her crowning achievement – the spruced up headquarters building.

www.rpea.com

Check out RPEA’s new website regularly to get RPEA, pension, and health care news. It is fully functioning now!

www.rpeachapter77.com

Also check out our Chapter 077 website regularly to get meeting information, newsletters, and much more!

Open Enrollment for Calendar Year 2020

CalPERS staff recently provided information about the upcoming open enrollment period. It will be from September 9, 2019, to October 4, 2019, and will apply to health plans beginning January 1, 2020. The health plan premium rates were approved by the full CalPERS Board at their June, 19, 2019 meeting and are available online at the CalPERS site. These include both the HMO and the PPO rates for basic State, Public Agency, Schools, and Medicare as well as the Association Plans including the California Highway Patrol and the Police Officers Association. You can find the rate for your current plan online by going to the My CalPERS site (my.calpers.ca.gov) and logging in as a "participant" and then using your user name and password. Starting on the "home" page, click the "Health Benefits Information" and then on the "Plans and Rates" links. "Rates and Employers Contribution" and "Health Plan" information is provided for both calendar years 2019 and 2020, thus allowing a comparison about what coverage each plan offers as well as what the premium rates are for 2019 and what they will be for 2020.

Going back to the "home" page, clicking on the "Health Benefits Information" link and then "Search Health Plans" will allow a comparison of up to three plans at a time; and clicking on the "Open Enrollment" link provides a description of all of the changes which can be made during this time (Sept. 9 to Oct. 4) including changing or cancelling your current health plan and both adding or removing dependents.

For specific information about contracting doctors, hospitals or networks, contact the health plan directly. Doctors participating in specific plan networks will be shown beginning in a 20-mile radius of your location and in increasing 10-mile distances up to 100 miles. If you are looking for a doctor accepting Medicare, it may be necessary to contact the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directly (www.cms.gov).

Notices will be sent by CalPERS to all health plan holders on August 26. Information will again this year be available via a mobile app including plan descriptions, availability by zip code, and provider directories. If telephone contact is necessary, information can be provided by contacting 1-888-CalPERS (1-888-225-7377).

Legislative News

Our legislators have been busy, as usual, after their month break. Local lawmakers Nielsen and Gallagher, accompanied by Rep. LaMalfa, visited Chico for a Town Hall meeting at Manzanita Place to discuss Paradise concerns with residents and concerned community members. Toxic debris, dead trees, and rising insurance premiums were among the topics at the Aug. 12 meeting. Some left the meeting with assurances that progress was being made; others wondered why everything is taking so long. (ER 8/13).

CalPERS News

The average pension for a "full career" retiree in 2016-2017 was \$66,400. At that time, Santa Clara County had the most 6-figure pensions, with 861. Since that time, the numbers with 6-figure pensions continues to grow statewide. (Transparent California) No matter where we are on the scale, we are among the fortunate few retirees who have defined benefit pensions. As of Aug. 15 the PERS fund was at \$374.4 Billion.

CalPERS is currently being urged by a Superior Court judge to settle the major lawsuit over price increases on long-term care policies. Judge William Hightower suggests that a settlement would be better for CalPERS rather than face a jury trial in October. A settlement would involve the State Legislature and the Executive Branch. (SacBee 8/15)

On August 15 CalPERS announced that a new trust fund (CEPTT) will allow public employers to save to fund pension obligations. This was established by SB 1413. For more info see newsroom@calpers.ca.gov.

CalPERS Personnel

Arnold Phillips was bumped up from Acting Managing Director for Global Fixed Income to MID. His performance the past year merited praise from CEO Ben Meng. A new Chief Health Director has been announced by CEO Marcie Frost who states that Donald B. Moulds, Ph.D. "will deliver innovative strategies to address cost, access, and quality." He has been thinking about health care systems a lot; he was formerly associated with Commonwealth Fund, a healthcare "think tank". He also served as an advisor in the Obama administration. His academic studies were in the field of philosophy.