



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
Chico Chapter 077**

**JULY 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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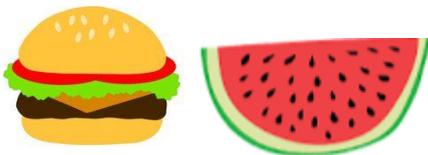
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It's Summertime! We hope you have a fun and relaxing summer and that you will be able to enjoy a wonderful vacation or two before Fall arrives. As usual, there will be no RPEA Chapter 077 meetings in July and August. Our next membership luncheon meeting will be on **Thursday, September 5**. We hope you will plan to attend! We will update you about our upcoming meeting in the newsletter and website!



**CHAPTER 077 PICNIC LUNCHEON**

Our June 6 membership luncheon at Nash's was a picnic theme and the last luncheon before the two-month summer hiatus. This was a complimentary picnic lunch attended by around 26 members and guests. Attendees enjoyed hamburgers, salad, chips, and sliced watermelon. It was a social luncheon with no program, and members enjoyed engaging in conversations with their tablemates. We missed those members unable to attend and look forward to seeing everyone when our membership meetings resume on September 5!

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Mike Cassetta, Membership Chair, reported at the May 29 Board meeting that the current Chapter 077 membership was 385 with four members not renewing and one member being deceased. It is suggested that, whenever possible, members pay dues through a deduction from their retirement checks instead of an annual payment to RPEA. Let's "spread the word" about RPEA and increase our membership!

**HEALTH BENEFITS INFORMATION**

Al Raitt (Health Benefits Chair) no longer includes Health Benefits reports in the monthly newsletter. However, he gives verbal reports during the monthly Zoom Board meetings, and Barbara Evans summarizes them in the Board minutes. If you're interested in reading these Health Benefits reports, you can view them in the Board minutes posted online at [rpeachaper77.com](http://rpeachaper77.com).

**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](mailto:aeraitt@msn.com)) for the Zoom link if you're interested in Zooming with the Board.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

### The Budget and the June 15 Deadline

It is common knowledge that the Legislators must pass the budget by the 15<sup>th</sup>, or their paychecks will be held according to the State constitution. Right? Well, sort of . . . It seems that a judicial ruling over 20 years ago stated that if the Legislature passed an incomplete budget, they would still get paid, so that is the current game plan. The Governor's version has many cuts, and the lawmakers are not accepting many of those cuts; some wish to dip into the "rainy day" fund to save favored programs. Some Legislators, for example, prefer to reduce prison spending and came up with new taxes for businesses to cancel Governor Newsom's cuts. So, it will take a while for the actual budget to be finalized

On June 14th, RPEA lobbyist, Pat Moran, reported to Randall Cheek's Legislative Committee on the budget status and other concerns. Several of us from different chapters were able to listen in on Zoom. Pat talked about "single payer" medical care for all and the unlikelihood it will gain in the Legislature in its present form this year. He mentioned that SB 252 will be under discussion (divestment issue) this month. A new bill, AB 2207, seeks to expand memberships on State boards and to include more older folks.

### WHO INFLUENCES OUR LEGISLATORS??

It is naive to think that our lawmakers are only focused on the needs of their constituents and the general welfare of the State, and they are not all in tune with the message that Governor Newsom wishes to promulgate! So, who are the influencers?

According to Cal Matters (Lynn La, 6/17, online), California labor unions wield considerable power

with regard to legislation that affects their members or infringes on their interests. It is reported that unions donated at least 22 million to lawmakers' funds since 2022, and at least 6 legislators are former union officials or are in some way closely affiliated with organized labor.

### MORE NEWS

Retail Me NOT! Retail theft has caused havoc in many urban areas where large stores have been hit by thieves who exit the stores with full shopping carts. If apprehended with less than \$950 of merchandise, the culprits face only misdemeanor charges, according to Prop.47 which was passed in 2014. A new proposition has qualified for the November ballot to address theft and drug charges, according to CA Secretary of State Shirley Weber. The Governor is not in favor of the proposed measure. Rather, he and some Democrat lawmakers favor tweaks to 47 to avoid fiscal impacts on State and local governments resulting from the new measure. (*Sac Bee* 6/17)

### The Climate Watch

Some experts suggest that El Niño is fading. It is the climate pattern in the tropical Pacific, bringing record-high heat and ample precipitation (think atmospheric rivers). La Niña may follow, bringing drier and cooler conditions. The question is: How does the State prepare? And when will we know? Governor Newsom's strategy is to prepare for a hotter, drier future. No matter what the weather holds for us, the States's full reservoirs may prevent water hardship. (*Sac Bee* 6/16)

Readers, we wish you all a **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!** (I hope to harvest tomatoes by that time. For now, it is only zucchinis!)

*Best wishes!*  
*Mary*