



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

AUGUST 2018 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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Summer Greetings! We hope that you are having an enjoyable summer and staying cool. **Reminder: There will be no RPEA Chapter 77 meeting in August. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 6.** Please mark this date on your calendar, and plan to join us again after our two-month summer break. Check out the upcoming programs below!

2018 UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 6

SPEAKERS: Horst Wolff and Julia Shovein
The speakers will be sharing their experiences of sailing around the world in 7 years.

October 4

League of Women Voters

“Pros and cons of ballot measures to appear on the November ballot”

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

Update: On June 27 the US Supreme Court issued the ruling on the Janus case which eliminates “fair share” fees from non-union members. This may have a negative effect on public sector employees in the future. The support of unions in arbitrations, negotiations, and labor disputes has been important in the quality of life for California workers and retirees.

Good News: CalPERS Reports Preliminary 8.6 Percent Investment Returns for Fiscal Year 2017-18. The financial officers report that returns on investments have been stronger than expected. Assets stand at \$351 billion, and the funded status is 71%.

(7/12/2018 - newsroom@calpers.ca.gov)

For a detailed report on how CalPERS investments support California, please check out “CalPERS for California” on the CalPERS website. Thirty billion dollars have been invested in our State.

On the subject of investments, POLITICO (7/9/18) reports that the Florida state pension fund has invested significant amounts in Russian companies. Maybe that is not surprising since Russians have invested about \$100 million in Trump Florida properties. (Reuters 3/17/2017)

The State Supreme Court has been asked to remove the “Three Californias” measure from the November ballot.

Opponents allege that this proposed measure is, in effect, a revision of the constitution, and therefore requires a two-thirds vote by the Legislature before it can go on the ballot. Incidentally, the last time a state was split was 1863 when Virginia was divided. (7/11/2018 Sac Bee)

The State Legislature is now on recess and is scheduled to reconvene on August 6.

Mary

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt

This article is about the health insurance premiums approved by CalPERS beginning January 1, 2019, and a comment about the recent death of RPEA President George Linn as this relates to the September General Assembly (GA) during which there will be an election for a new RPEA president.

On June 19 of this year CalPERS staff announced the premiums for both the Medicare-related and the non-Medicare (“Basic”) plans. Since many retirees have the Medicare-related plans, these will be addressed first. Figures will be given only for the “2-Party” amounts (not the “Single” or the “Family”) for the 2018 and 2019 years for comparison. For the PPO’s, both PERS Choice and PERS Select will go from \$691.94 to 720.82, a 4.17% increase; and PERS Care will go from \$764.60 to \$789.66, a 3.28% increase. For the HMO’s, Anthem Traditional will go from \$740.68 to \$714.88, a 3.48% decrease; and UnitedHealthcare will go from \$661.52 to \$598.74, a 9.49% decrease. (Premium amounts for the Kaiser CA, and Kaiser Out of State were also provided; however, the policyholder has to reside in a zip code served by these programs, and this does not include anyone in our district branch).

Please feel free to contact me to inquire about premium rates not included in this article; however, remember that, as I indicated in the article for the July newsletter, all of the figures will be provided in the August 27 email from CalPERS announcing the open enrollment period (September 10 through October, 5, 2018). If you would like to obtain the figures prior to that time, I ask that you provide: (1) Whether your plan is an HMO or a PPO; (2) the name of your plan; (3) whether you are inquiring about the Single, 2-Party or the Family rate; and (4) What is your current (2018) monthly premium?

Now a note about George: I spoke with him by telephone regarding an RPEA Health Benefits Committee item about a week before his death. He was in his car with his wife coming home from his most recent treatment. He was alert, easily conversant, and quite aware of the issues we discussed. I regarded it as a very helpful conversation little knowing that it would be my last one with him. We have lost someone who worked tirelessly for RPEA in many ways not the least of which was in the political realm. Over the years he interviewed many politicians, and those videos can be seen by clicking on the RPEA website. Al Darby has very capably taken the reins in the past month. See the May/June 2018 issue of the bi-monthly State RPEA newsletter to read his “Vice President’s Op/Ed” column to get a feel for his “broader view” of RPEA issues. He has attended a number of the Health Benefits Committee meetings in the 11 years that I have been a member, and I have been most impressed by his breath of knowledge and his thoughtful approach to interfacing with CalPERS. My hope is that he will put his hat in the ring and run for President at General Assembly (GA) in September. If this happens, I would strongly encourage a vote for him!

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