



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

## Chico Chapter 077

### AUGUST 2023 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 during the triple-digit temperatures! **Reminder: There will be no RPEA Chapter 077 meeting in August. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 7.** We hope you will plan to attend! We will keep you updated about our upcoming meeting in the newsletter and website!

### REPORT BY ABE BAILY AREA II DIRECTOR

Hello All,

Some things of possible interest:

1. I will definitely **resign my Area II Directorship** at General Assembly 2024 in September of that year. I will actively try to recruit someone in the interim and would be glad to mentor a person before that event and consult afterward.
2. Please pay attention to the call for **recording all volunteer activities** of all members on the form that you can find in your Statewide newsletter, AND then **send them in** and urge your members to send them in for tallying purposes to Headquarters.

3. I am still resolute to advise ALL MEMBERS in the Yreka, Oroville, and Grants Pass (Oregon) chapters of alternatives to their current ways of operating. The development of new leadership for Yreka and Oroville, through efforts by me and HQ, taking over operations at HQ, or abandoning the current chapter with members assigned to the nearest zip code chapter to their mailing address. In the case of Chapter 102 in Grants Pass, the communication would try to elicit whether moving quarterly chapter meetings around the State (combined with other meeting elements) might spur more attendance/participation at the chapter level.
4. Please remember to **include me as an addressee** (email is fine) on all your Chapter Newsletters.
5. Would folks in your Chapters, and/or You, desire to attend an **Area Workshop** which would include presentations on policies and procedures about RPEA and CalPERS by Statewide officers of RPEA, possibly by CalPERS personnel, or Board Members?? **There IS funding** for such a thing NOT from any of your Chapter Budgets. Would any of you be willing to help me set up such an event?? Let me know before the end of August. If such were to happen, it would probably be in September or October and probably would be held in Red Bluff or Redding.

I hope you are having a healthy, happy, and enjoyable summer and will continue to do so!

Abe

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

Greetings Readers,

### **So much news, so little time!**

I expect that many of you are well aware of the cyber hacking of our private information in our CalPERS accounts. It is reported that close to 770,000 accounts may be affected. RPEA Board and members of chapter boards have been sending letters to our Assembly Member and State Senator. One can only hope that these leaders realize how truly deplorable it is that the largest pension fund in the US has been possibly negligent in assuring the safety of our personal information. Please write to your legislators and express your dismay, disgust, and/or outrage. Let their mailboxes overflow with the concerns of their constituents, we retirees, who cannot afford to have our financial lives invaded by organized Cyber criminals pilfering our various accounts.

It appears that the hackers entered the CalPERS system via PBI, a vendor CalPERS contracted with, to track down improper payments made to deceased members. Did CalPERS really need to contract the entire project to an outside vendor???

There will be a CalPERS board meeting July 17-19. An update will be provided. Check your news sources for the latest on that. Meanwhile, monitor your Accounts!

Two CalPERS retirees have filed a lawsuit in SF Federal Court, against PBI, seeking class action status for all California residents whose data was stolen in May.

### **A note on a CalPERS “favorite“ investment category\***

Last week the *Sac Bee* (7/11) printed a *Washington Post* report of a study on the effect of private equity investment in medical practices. The findings indicate that prices increase for medical services when private equity takes over. In some areas, private equity gain control of the market and prices for medical services go up for everyone.

*\*An example; not referring to a CalPERS actual investment*

## Lawmakers are busy preparing for recess; to return on August 14

The final days before the month-long break see a lot of maneuvering of legislation; there is the famous suspense file where bills are cached, either to die or to be revived with adequate funds to make it to the Governor's desk. AB 331, dealing with AI protections for citizens, was quietly extinguished. Over 1200 bills were reviewed. Other bills were still in the process, up to last Friday, including SB14, Child Sex Trafficking bill. This bill was voted down by Democrat committee members on legal grounds. This caused an uproar from Republicans; and after bipartisan discussion, Governor Newsom and the new Assembly Speaker, Robert Rivas, intervened and the bill passed forward. (*Sac Bee* 7/14).

Assembly Member Robert Rivas (D) of Hollister will be an interesting politician to watch. He spent his early years in farmworker housing along the coast. At age 43, he has a wide range of political experience. He was a little aggressive in his efforts to dislodge Anthony Rendon from the Speaker post; he and his team managed the votes and pressed to get Rendon out ASAP.

### **Yes, the Budget was Signed - \$311 B. (*SacBee* 7/12)**

On Monday, July 10, the lawmakers and the Governor were reportedly in a celebratory mood;" smiles and fist bumps" as a last-minute signing of five infrastructure bills that were contentious a few weeks earlier, but Governor Newsom finagled to get additional Infrastructure spending in by dropping his Delta Tunnel plan (Somehow, sometime, someone will revive that; but for now, the SMELT AND THE KITE BOARDERS are safe!).

Readers experiencing extreme heat: Hydrate, Moisturize, and Hydrate some more! Our tomato plants love it; but my cucumber has blossoms, but nary a cucumber! Okay, I'm happy with just tomatoes!

AND HYDRATE, PLEASE DON'T FORGET!

*Mary*