



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

AUGUST 2025 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 77 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6415, Chico, CA 95927-6415

Chapter Website: www.rpeachapter77.com



Summer Greetings! We hope you are enjoying a wonderful 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 4, at 11:15 AM at Nash's Restaurant. We hope you will plan to attend! We will update you about our upcoming meeting in the newsletter and on the website!

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT By Al Raitt

Al's Report given at the June 18 Board Meeting:

Al reported on information from the Stakeholders Meeting on 6/12/2025: The full CalPERS Board has approved the search for a new 3rd-party manager for the Long-Term Care Program. The contract with the current provider ends on 1/1/2028. A Request for Proposals was sent out, and three proposals were received. The contract with OptumRx for pharmacy benefit managers (PMB) ends 12/31/2025, and negotiations have begun for a new PBM. Negotiations continue between CalPERS and the University of California (UC) Health System. That contract is due to end on 7/10/2025. This dispute affects Basic Plans, not Medicare Supplement Plans.

AREA 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Frank

URGENT:

Blue Shield of California Health Contract Negotiations with University of California Health Systems

Blue Shield of California and the University of California (UC) Health System have agreed to extend their contract negotiations through August 9, 2025

The new deadline means all Blue Shield of California members can continue to access UC Health as an in-network provider through August 9.

If a new agreement is not reached by then, Basic members may have to pay out-of-network costs — or need to pay for the entire cost of care — for services at UC Health starting on August 10.

Both Blue Shield and UC Health System have expressed a strong interest in negotiating a new contract prior to Aug. 9, 2025, and are currently engaged in active negotiations. Contract discussions are a standard part of the health care industry.

While the negotiations are ongoing, we want to make you aware of which plans would be impacted and what CalPERS members can expect.

If there's a contract termination, it would affect CalPERS members who are insured by select Blue Shield of California plans and who receive their care through the UC Health System.

Specifically, this would impact Blue Shield of California members who are enrolled in:

- PERS Platinum PPO
- PERS Gold PPO
- Access+ HMO and EPO
- Trio HMO

UPCOMING MEETING SPEAKER:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

JJ JELINCIC

State RPEA Director of Health Benefits

(More information in the September newsletter)

Uncover the Truth. Fund the CalPERS Investigation!

(Margaret Brown, RPEA State President, is organizing this fundraiser.) **Endorsed by Abe Bailly**

In an era when public trust in government institutions is increasingly fragile, transparency and accountability are more essential than ever. Nowhere is this truer than in the management of public pensions. The financial lifeline for millions of retirees who depend on their pensions not only for dignity in retirement but for economic survival. For California's retired public employees, CalPERS (the California Public Employees' Retirement System) is the single most influential entity determining their future.

But over the past decade, a growing chorus of stakeholders, including public employees, retirees, employers, watchdogs, financial experts, taxpayers, and even some legislators, have raised serious concerns about the transparency, governance, and investment practices of CalPERS. Questions have surfaced around its private equity deals, fees, underperformance relative to risk, conflicts of interest, and governance structure. These concerns are too important to ignore.

It's time for the Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA) to step up and act decisively by crowdfunding an independent investigation into CalPERS. This is not just a prudent move, it's a necessary one.

Why an Independent Investigation Is Needed

CalPERS manages over \$500 billion in assets, making it the largest public pension fund in the United States. But with great size comes great complexity and the opportunity for mismanagement and misconduct. Internal oversight remains limited, and the system has been allowed to police itself.

A thorough, independent examination can answer the pressing questions:

- Are CalPERS investment decisions truly in the best interests of beneficiaries?
- Are fees and risks being appropriately disclosed?
- Are conflicts of interest and political influences compromising returns or governance?
- Are beneficiaries, legislators, and taxpayers being misled about the health and sustainability of the pension system?

Why Crowdfunding? Because This Is About Collective Power

RPEA represents a diverse and informed base of active and retired public employees, including beneficiaries and taxpayers, many of whom have long expressed concerns about CalPERS. Crowdfunding this investigation would do more than raise money; it would build a coalition of concerned stakeholders who are demanding answers and reform.

This is not just about auditing numbers; it's about standing up for fiduciary integrity and ensuring that every retiree receives what they were promised and what they earned.

America's Forensic Watchdog for Pensions

If this investigation is to have credibility, depth, and impact, it must be led by someone with an unimpeachable record and deep expertise. That's where Ted Siedle comes in. Ted Siedle is the nation's leading forensic expert on public pension mismanagement and corruption. A former SEC attorney and the founder of Benchmark Financial Services, Siedle has conducted over \$1 trillion in forensic investigations of retirement plans. His work has led to sweeping reforms and recoveries across the country. He co-authored "*Who Stole My Pension?*" with former SEC Commissioner Robert Kiyosaki, a hard-hitting exposé that pulls back the curtain on how pensions are gamed, looted, and endangered by Wall Street and insiders.

Siedle's investigations have delivered real results: settlements, accountability, and restored transparency. He is not a theorist; he is a proven, relentless investigator with an unmatched track record of uncovering hidden fees, conflicts of interest, and violations of fiduciary duty. Put simply: If you want the truth, you want Ted Siedle on the case.

What's at Stake

We are not powerless. A successful crowd-funded investigation sends a message: public employees, retirees, employers, and taxpayers are watching, and they will hold those in power accountable.

RPEA has the history, the membership, and now, the opportunity to lead the charge for transparency, justice, and reform. It's time to act.

Let's make this happen. Let's fund the truth.

Link for GoFundMe donation:
<https://gofund.me/a8de996b>