



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

December 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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CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 – 11:15 A.M.

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

***FUN – FELLOWSHIP – FOOD
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
DRAWINGS***



The annual Christmas party is sponsored by Chapter 077 and the Board of Directors, and there is no charge. Although members aren't charged for lunch, voluntary donations are requested to help offset costs. Board members will provide desserts and gifts for the drawing. The Trinity Accordion Gathering (aka TAG) will provide the music. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with our members in a festive setting. Plan to attend this fun event, and wear your holiday attire. Invite a prospective member(s) to join you for this fun holiday party so they can be introduced to RPEA!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

The first year of the 2019 - 2020 session has ended. A few bills of special interest to public sector retirees have been signed by the governor. SB 496, for example, aims to protect investors from financial abuse. Brokers and investment advisors are now required to report suspected abuse.

SB 228 provides for a master plan on aging, with a “czar” and task force to work with State departments and stakeholders to set priorities and policies concerning California’s aging population. Ten or more bills of interest to older adults will show up in the second session for further alteration. Check your RPEA Newsletter in the months ahead to see reports of Read and Moran, our representatives in Sacramento.

The Social Security COLA provided in January will be 1.6% (about \$24 for the average recipient). That might buy a rather small bag of groceries!

The CSU-ERFSA Reporter for this month has a touching article about a family confronted with kidney failure. It emphasizes the importance of regular check-ups and blood tests. It states that in the U.S. the main cause of kidney disease is diabetes, and a plant-based diet is the best controlling factor.

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By AI Raitt

This month I would like to draw your attention to a program in Chico which provides valuable information to those having questions about services for Older Adults including Medicare. On November 6 of this year Sue and I attended an OLLI-provided class entitled “*Medicare Workshop*”. The sponsoring agency, Passages, is a service of California State University, Chico, and provides community services and resources for older adults and family caregivers in Northern California. These include information about and access to community services, including housing, food and meals, legal help, and low-income programs. The case management portion of their program coordinates the care of people who, because of age, illness or disability, have difficulty arranging and managing services on their own. The goal is to foster independent living in the community. A family caregiver support program provides consultation, training, support groups, and respite care for family caregivers who provide in-home care to frail, older adults and to adults with brain or neurological impairment. Their long-term care ombudsman program helps advocate for, protect the rights of, and preserve the dignity of people living in nursing homes and residential care facilities.

The presenter for the November 6 class was Tatiana Fassieux whom some of you might recall has been the program manager for the Passages HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.) Over the years, Tatiana has made multiple health insurance presentations in Butte County and the surrounding area. She has repeatedly demonstrated a detailed knowledge about the history and current policies and procedures related to the Medicare program. She

reminded those attending the class that HICAP is a Medicare counseling service of Passages and has State registered counselors who can help with issues such as: Understanding Medicare or resolving problems with benefits; finding a Medicare Supplemental insurance or health plan that meets your individual needs; explore long-term care (LTC) options and evaluate LTC policies; compare Part D drug plans and other prescription drug resources; and find out about government programs that reduce medical costs.

Volunteer opportunities through Passages include serving children in schools as a Foster Grandparent and assisting older adults as a Senior Companion and peer counselor. A Passages Connection program provides mental health screening, counseling, peer support, and both community and professional mental health education for adults age 60 and older living in Butte County.

If you have questions or need additional information, Passages can be contacted at: (530) 898-5923 or (800) 822-0109 or at the following web site: www.passagescenter.org. The HICAP portion of Passages can be contacted at (800) 434-0222 or on their web site: www.passagescenter.org/hicap.

