



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

December 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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HOLIDAY PARTY

**FUN – FELLOWSHIP – FOOD
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
GIFT BASKET DRAWING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024
11:15 A.M.**

**NASH'S RESTAURANT
1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO**

NOTE: Will be held in the “Breakfast Room” with entrance on 7th Avenue

MENU: Chicken Piccata

Vegetarian option: Spinach Ravioli
(Accompanied by a small green salad and sourdough bread; non-alcoholic beverage)
(Complimentary Luncheon)

RSVP: Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or
Email her at betsybikes@sbcglobal.net

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Sunday, December 1

NOTE: Please let Betsy know if you prefer a vegetarian entrée or if you have any dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.

Chapter 077 and the Board of Directors sponsor the annual holiday party, which is free. Although members aren't charged for lunch, voluntary donations are appreciated to help offset costs. A delicious plated lunch will be served, and you can invite your spouse, “significant other,” or a prospective member to join you for this fun holiday party.



Join us for a festive holiday event featuring David Vallelunga, a local pastor and multi-instrumentalist, who has entertained groups and gatherings in Chico since 2009. Pastor Dave will perform holiday music using the accordion and foot drums guaranteed to lift your spirits! He now has a digital accordion which sounds like a band with bass, drums, saxes, and great clarinet sounds. So amazing! This event offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Chapter 077 members in a joyful atmosphere. Plan to attend and wear your holiday attire!

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have been unable to create the October and November newsletters due to a serious fall on September 10 while attending the RPEA General Assembly in San Diego. Thanks to Abe Baily and Betsy Kruger for working with Corey Saeteurn at RPEA Headquarters to create an informational flyer to notify everyone about the meetings.

Sharon Salcido

IN LOVING
MEMORY



MARY KOWTA

We were saddened to lose our beloved Mary on September 19 at 88. Mark and their three sons (Patrick, Matthew, and Daniel) are in our thoughts and prayers. Mary was an active member of our Chapter 077 and served as our Legislative Chair for many years. She was a dedicated Board member and always wrote interesting legislative reports for inclusion in the monthly newsletters.

Mary had a fulfilling career at Chico State and served as one of the faculty advisors at the American Language and Culture Institute. In this capacity, she helped to recruit international students from many parts of the world and provided them with wise counsel and guidance once here. She was a light in the lives of all who knew her with her warmth and kindness, and her sense of adventure made her unforgettable to those she encountered. Mary's love for adventure extended beyond travel. She thrived on building connections, hosting memorable dinners, and sharing her love for cooking and gardening. Mary will be remembered for her gentle and well-informed views, love for her family, and her ability to touch the hearts of everyone she met from all walks of life.

We will miss Mary's smiling face at our RPEA meetings, and it will be difficult to fill her shoes by locating another Legislative Chair! Our heartfelt sympathy is with Mark and their three sons.



JIM GREGG

We were saddened that Jim Gregg passed away at home on November 1 at 97. His son, Richard, had been taking care of him and Lyla at home, and Jim had been on Hospice for about a week before his passing. Lyla is doing well except for short-term memory loss.

Jim was a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Chico State from 1959 to 1994 and served as Chair of Political Science and Journalism. He was Graduate Dean, Director of Research, and Associate Vice President from 1971–1977; Director of the Survey Research Center; Director of the Institute for Local Government; and member of the campus and Statewide Academic Senates from 1980-1981. Jim was inducted into the Chico State ERFSA Hall of Honor in 2011.

Jim served as the Chapter 077 Legislative Chair before Mary Kowta and was an active Board member until his health prompted him to step down. He and Lyla previously attended our monthly membership meetings regularly, and it was always a joy to visit with them. Jim will be missed! There will be a private graveside service soon and a Celebration of Life gathering sometime in the new year. An obituary will be published before then that will include service details. We're sending our deepest condolences to Lyla, their four sons, and daughter.