



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 77

February 2017 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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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017 - 11:15 A. M.

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge)

1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico - (Lunch cost: \$15)

SPEAKER: Dolores Mitchell

Retired CSUC Professor of Art History



Dolores will talk about how she resumed her career as a painter after retiring in 2000 as a Professor of Art History at Chico State. Her art is in many local collections including at Lundberg Family Farms in Richvale, Enloe Medical Center, and the Enloe breast care center. In addition to being an active exhibitor in Chico and Sacramento, she gives art lectures to participants at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and at the Chico Art Center. She also contributes art interviews to North State Public Radio's *Weekend Showcase*.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Margaret Ballinger

With our holidays now over and the starting of a new year, let's think about this new year as starting all over for membership. That's right! This is a new year, and we need to do follow-up on increasing our membership. Yes, we have taken in new members, but we have also lost a few due to various reasons. We appreciate the service provided when they were members and participated in our activities; BUT time moves on, and we need to continue to research new members. Also, having more members attend our meetings to meet, renew acquaintances, and to enjoy our programs which are planned for your enlightenment or entertainment. Our Vice President Betsy Kruger is challenged each month to provide a program. That's right, our programs are planned by Betsy from suggestions made by members; and if you do have a suggestion or recommendation, please let Betsy know.

Our January 5 meeting was an "Overview of Enloe Medical Center" and included a discussion by Dr. Peter Magnusson regarding the Cardiovascular Care Center and campaign which has been instituted as the next major project by the Hospital. Jolene Francis reviewed estimated costs for the facility, fund-raising efforts, and added that plans had been submitted to the State.

Let's start off 2017 with your sending or calling me (342-1059) or Sandy Thomas (343-5118) with names of

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Continued)

recent retirees, or those who have been retired for a while, and they will be contacted to see if they are interested in joining. They will be sent copies of our newsletter and benefits available to them as members. Don't forget! First lunch is always FREE. This gives prospective members a chance to check us out and vice versa.

Give some thought to those you know who are qualified, and give Sandy or me a call!

Margaret

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – AL RAITT

As the new year unfolds and people have their first experiences navigating the ins and outs of OptumRx, the CalPERS new pharmacy benefit manager program, several stories have come to light that might be of help to all of us regarding the way this program is working. Initially, the message OptumRx was sending out was: Although there were chain and local pharmacies which people could use for their "short-term" medications (usually 7 - 10 days, for "short-term" conditions), the indication was that the best price (i.e. lowest out-of-pocket expense) might be available at Walgreens pharmacies. It was Walgreens that was identified as the pharmacy to use for 90-day "maintenance" medications, either through their "Fill at the Preferred90 Saver Pharmacy" (where you can fill and pick up your medications at the pharmacy at your convenience) or their "Fill with Home Delivery" service (where a 90-day supply of your long-term medications will be shipped to your home.)

Reports have been made by members who, when contacting one of the other pharmacies, including other "chain" pharmacies (such as Costco, CVS, Kmart, Rite-aid) or "local retail pharmacies" (such as Bidwell Pharmacy, Chico Pharmacy, Raley's, Safeway, and Save Mart Pharmacies) that the out-of-pocket expense for short-term prescriptions might be about the same as that at Walgreens, or perhaps even less, depending on the medication type and dose. So, before filing that short-term prescription, it may be prudent to contact any of the above pharmacies directly (because of convenience, location, or having gone to that pharmacy for a while and would like to continue with them, if possible) and ask about the out-of-pocket expense to you for that particular prescription. Most pharmacies are quite willing to provide this information either by phone or by going into the pharmacy itself.

There is a report of one member having contacted CVS "Specialty Pharmacy" about a renewal and being advised that CVS could no longer provide this service, only to be contacted a few days later by a CVS "Specialty Pharmacy" supervisor and informed that CVS could indeed continue providing renewals for the medication even if the member now had OptumRx as the pharmacy benefit manager.

However, all "long-term maintenance" medication (for 90 days) renewals are only available through Walgreens Pharmacy using the "Fill at the Preferred90 Saver Pharmacy" program or the "Fill with Home Delivery" service.

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