



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
Chico Chapter 077**

**FEBRUARY 2022 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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**IMPORTANT MEETING UPDATE!**  
**NO FEBRUARY 3 MEETING**

There will be no Chapter 077 membership meeting on February 3. This decision was made after reviewing the CDC guidelines and how they apply specifically to our General Membership luncheon meetings. In-person membership meetings will be discontinued until further notice out of an abundance of caution and concern for all chapter members regarding their health and safety. The Board is continuing to review this situation month-to-month; and hopefully, we'll be able to return to face-to-face meetings at the earliest time possible. Please watch for updates in future newsletters and also the [rpeachapter77.com](http://rpeachapter77.com) website.



**General Assembly 2022** is scheduled for September 25-29, 2022 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West Hotel in Sacramento. GA has been rescheduled a few times due to the pandemic and its restrictions. The GA Committee is working to provide our membership with a safe, productive, and entertaining experience. Members are being asked to share their ideas of what should be presented at the workshops that will benefit all chapters and members. The subjects should help chapters become more efficient as well as entertaining. Suggestions may be submitted to the GA Committee in care of: [nrose610@yahoo.com](mailto:nrose610@yahoo.com). Further updates will be provided as they become available.

**MESSAGE FROM ROGER KLAVES**  
**Area II Director (Email written 1/4/2022)**

Season's January Greetings to our displaced folks from Paradise! On the local level, we note that in Paradise, the Cozy Diner is opening back up for business. This will be about the only place available for possible meetings, whenever the opportunity arises. This has been a long time coming. Now, if we can just get past COVID.

A new law now somewhat protects retirees from pension calculation mistakes. Previously, when pensions were calculated incorrectly, the onus was on the retiree to pay back the money when erroneous calculations resulted in the retiree being paid too much money. Now, the entity calculating the pension, such as the municipality, district, county, or state has to repay the money. Simple math or errors in arithmetic don't count.

The December 3 *Sac Bee* says 3 former police chiefs and a police commander in the Bay Area police district of Broadmoor submitted fraudulent time sheets and otherwise used illegal spiking and disability methods to obtain ill gotten monetary gains for about 10 years. Repayment repercussions are pending.

PERS says on its website that COLA information for 2022 will be available "in the Spring."

Long Term Care has been a mess, as far as I'm concerned. Now I have to indicate by January 28 whether I want a refund or stay in the fund and take my chances. I see that AMBIA has a long term plan and I'm waiting to hear from them.

I certainly would appreciate someone who could be an AAD for the northern area of Area II. Let me know if you can help out. Hope you enjoy this winter without too many problems!

*Roger*

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Chico State (OLLI)

OLLI at Chico State offers both new classes and member favorites in the Spring 2022. With nearly 90 virtual and in-person classes and activities this Spring, you can learn for the fun of it, with no required homework, tests, or exams. The Spring '22 schedule can be viewed on the [rpeachapter77.com](http://rpeachapter77.com) website. Click on the "OLLI Classes" tab at the top of the website to view this information. You can also browse the schedule by topic, day of week, and more by clicking on the OLLI website link. Registration for Spring classes begins on January 20, and classes begin on February 7.

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

It has been noted that at least 18 California lawmakers are leaving their jobs. Some are departing at midterm, and others have announced that they do not intend to run in November. Lorena Gonzalez (San Diego) has accepted the prestigious position as leader of the California Labor Federation. Marcus Breton (*Sac Bee* 1/12/2022) has called her one of the most effective legislators of the past decade. She will be missed. Kevin Kiley (Rocklin) plans to run for Congress. Others have various career plans, or maybe they got tired of the commute, and a few are lame ducks because of redistricting.

### The Budget 2022-2023

Governor Newsom has submitted his budget proposal for the fiscal year 2022-2023 to be worked over by the legislature.

The spending plan for the \$286.4 billion continues efforts to address COVID 19, homelessness, climate issues, inequality (or equity, the current catch-word) and safe streets. The funding includes a healthy \$45.7 billion surplus. CalPERS and CalSTRS will both benefit from supplemental payments to their funds. CalPERS can expect an additional \$3.5 billion. State Senator Glazer (Orinda) suggests that the State should start a special pension saving account for the "rainy day" when all the numbers go south. Not a bad idea!

While most of the plan covers spending after July 1, the Governor has asked that some items such as funds (\$2.7 billion) for COVID-19 response be available ASAP.

Many significant issues are being considered by the Governor and the lawmakers. The Republicans have called for a special session on homelessness. They note that the State has spent billions on this issue, but the crisis continues to get worse. The Governor would like to avoid any increase in the gas tax; those who manage our highways and bridges oppose that because the State is apparently behind schedule on fixing some of the

worst examples. Then there is health care.... proponents of single-payer will debate the issue in this session; it does not have a good chance of going anywhere at present. The Governor has a more modest proposal to cover undocumented residents ages 26 to 49 by means of MediCal extension, based on income eligibility. That would take care of over 760,000 residents who are not covered currently, and it is estimated that \$2.2 billion would do the job. The General Fund will increase its allotment for per-pupil spending; and, with other sources, the total comes to \$20,855 per kid, K-12. Wow! That sounds good, but the problem there, perhaps, is equity. What efforts will be made to see that a child in Manteca, Chico, or Alturas has the educational benefits of the child in Orinda or Palo Alto?

All of these issues and many more will be debated in the legislative chambers from now until May when the revisions are finalized. During the summer the budget will be enacted.

The entire budget proposal and summaries of each part can be had at (<https://www.ebudget.ca.gov>). Take a look, but be prepared with a ream of paper if you decide to print. The legislative leaders, Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, agree that the major goal is equity in allocation of resources in this budget process. My sources for these comments, aside from the aforementioned website, are the *Sac Bee*, *SF Chronicle*, *E-R*, *LA Times* website, and *CapRadio*.

### CalPERS

Meanwhile, our satisfaction with the Governor's financial boost for our CalPERS and CalSTRS pension systems and the robust stock market which has yielded 21.3% for CalPERS retirement fund, now 80% funded, is tempered by concerns about CalPERS management and fixation on private equity investing. A recent plan to sell off \$6 billion from its private equity portfolio when it had just committed to increasing private equity from 8% to 13% has alarmed some financial pundits. Aside from the financial ramifications, which are beyond my total comprehension, the fact that the CalPERS Board seems not to have had much input in this whole process is worrisome. If you have an interest in this topic, you may want to check out the blog, *naked capitalism* January 14. You will either be bored or it will set your hair on fire!

Hope you are enjoying these sunny days! The birds in our yard seem very happy. Stay safe and healthy! It is just over a month ago (as I write this) when many of us had a chance to meet briefly at the "Grab 'n Go" or "Dine Inside" holiday lunch. We are hoping we can have some kind of similar event in the Spring if Covid concerns preclude going back to regular membership luncheons. Best wishes, *Mary*