



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

FEBRUARY 2023 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
ANNOUNCEMENT!**
FEBRUARY 2 MEETING CANCELLED

President Norman Stump, with the agreement of the Board, has called for the cancellation of the February 2 Membership meeting of our Chapter 077. The current situation is causing a substantial drain on the budget caused by our Chapter having to guarantee, and pay for, at least 40 lunches, but having a significant lesser number of members show up at the meetings. The Board will be considering alternative venues for the Membership meetings and report back at a future date. The President is asking that members contact any of the Board members if they know other venues we might consider. Thank you for your understanding!

Abe Bailly has proposed Kalico Kitchen (2396 Esplanade). He spoke to the manager, Kende, and we could meet there on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM (instead of 11:30 AM). (He didn't ask if other week days are available.) They close at 3:00 PM, so our meetings would have to end by then. They have adequate parking, and there is a separate meeting room (no extra charge) which can easily seat 25 and could be expanded to 30-40. We would order from the menu (same menu as Cozy Diner owned by the same people), and everyone would pay for their own meals. Breakfast is served all day. They do not have their own audio-visual system, but Abe said that he could donate a screen, and perhaps the chapter could buy its own set of speakers and a microphone with the money we saved by switching locations.

The Board will be meeting again via Zoom on January 25 at 9:00 AM, and we encourage members to "attend" and bring ideas for alternate meeting locations! Al Raitt will provide you with a Zoom link if you're interested in joining us!

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
(OLLI) AT CHICO STATE**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a learning community of 50+ adults comprised of 1,000 + members who have a desire to learn, engage, and build new friendships. Volunteers work together to help create and deliver educational, cultural, and social opportunities – without exams or grades! Faculty members, retired teachers, and members simply passionate about a subject they know well enjoy sharing their expertise with others whose life experience and intelligence enrich the exchange of ideas. With three ways to learn (in the classroom, outdoors, and online), OLLI offers a unique way to explore new topics. Over 90 classes and activities are scheduled for the spring semester. The OLLI links are included on the rpeachapter77.com website. Registration begins on January 19, and classes begin on February 6. Check out the OLLI spring catalog located on the website! Call for additional information: **530-898-6679**.

Explore all that OLLI has to offer
on the website:
olli.csuchico.edu

MEETING VENUE SUGGESTIONS

If you come up with a suggested meeting location, please include the following information:

- Location
- Days and times available
- Parking
- Separate Meeting Room
- Any charge for the meeting room
- Number of people meeting room can accommodate
- Individual menu ordering
- Podium
- Audio-visual system

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

NEWS FLASH : CSU and State Retirees

You (or dependent) may be eligible for reimbursement of part of the Medicare Part B Income Related Monthly Adjustment (IRMAA) premium. This is based on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) as reported on your IRS tax return. You can download the article entitled *Understanding Medicare Part B and IRMAA* In Forms and Publications at www.calpers.ca.gov for the details. You need to consult your IRS tax copy to get the MAGI as well as your Social Security documents (you probably received the latest in November). In 2022 a single retiree with a MAGI of \$ 91,000 could receive a monthly IRMAA reimbursement of \$68. This amount increases for higher MAGIs and, of course, for those who are married and filing jointly. The staff at CalPERS Health Account Management Division is helpful, as is Social Security if you have misplaced the letter sent out in November .It appears that those who apply in 2023 may receive a retroactive payment for the previous year! We urge you not to pass this by if you are eligible!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO

Governor Newsom unveiled the \$297 Billion State budget with a shortfall of about \$22.5 Billion. He managed to keep most of his high-priority programs intact. He did, however, reduce funding for some climate initiatives; that stirred up criticism when the budget was released on January 10. The CEO of California Environmental Voters stated that the short-sighted budget will further compound the climate crisis and inaction will be far worse (*Cal Matters*, 1/10/2023). He found some sectors where he could delay or pare down spending, thereby avoiding dipping into the State's reserves. The Republican legislative leaders called the Governor's plan "not sustainable", but they praised him for not going into the reserves. The majority will support his emphasis on education, health care, and mental illness funding, but the coming weeks will see policymakers revisiting every aspect and every dollar (or should I say billion!) to be spent.

Basically, the Governor sees slow growth, lessening inflation and lessening chance of recession. If even a mild recession should occur, the administration forecasters predict it could lead to up to \$40 Billion revenue losses. Not good! The budget will be finalized in May. Let's watch!

HOMELESSNESS

California leads the US in homelessness. Governor Newsom has designated another \$1 Billion for local governments to continue with efforts. He wants results and accountability. His critics say his own accountability is lacking (*SacBee*, Gohlke, 1/15/2023).

CAMPAIGN CASH

Politicians never hesitate to ask voters for donations. Not shy at all! Ever wonder what happens to the bucks when the election is over? *CalMatters*, Alexei Koseff and Ben Christopher researched that (12/21/2022) Nearly 100 committees are sitting on \$35 Million in unspent funds by office-seekers. Some intend to use the money for future runs or maybe to gain influence or transfer to another hopeful. Bill Lockyer lost a race in 2015, but maintains a million plus for a race for Lt. Governor in 2026! There are rules and regulations that must be observed. After the election, there is a 90-day window to set up a new account; missing that, the funds are called surplus and cannot be used for running for office again, but donors can be repaid and \$\$ can be given to charity or debts repaid. No new cars or even a bicycle!

OTHER ITEMS

We are sorry that our RPEA Legislative Analyst Randall Cheek did not succeed in his efforts to be our retiree rep on the CalPERS Board. He is so well-qualified and is not blind to the shenanigans of the Board. It is a loss for us!

Unfortunately, at this point we do not know when or how we will meet again. Low attendance has curtailed our luncheons! Thinking of you and wishing you the best, dear readers!

Mary