



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
Chico Chapter 77**

**FEBRUARY 2026 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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Chapter Website: [www.rpeachapter77.com](http://www.rpeachapter77.com)

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026  
11:15 AM  
NASH'S RESTAURANT  
1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO**

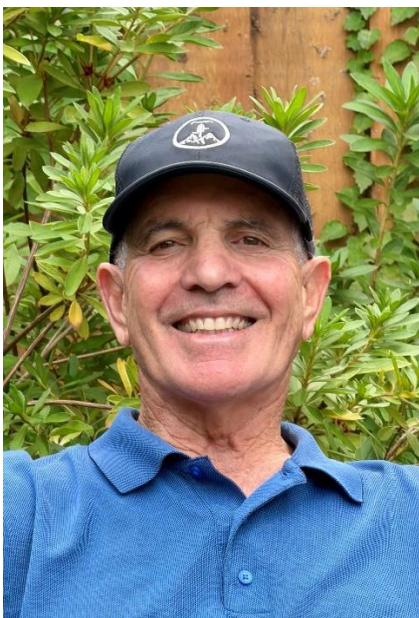
**LUNCH COST:** \$20 (Plated Lunch)

**MENU:** Macaroni and cheese with chicken  
**VEGETARIAN OPTION:** Macaroni and cheese  
**NOTE:** Entrees are accompanied by a side salad, French bread, and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Please let Betsy know your entrée choice when you make your reservation; inform her if you have any dietary restrictions.

**RSVP:** Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or Email her at [betsybikes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:betsybikes@sbcglobal.net)  
**Reservation Deadline: Sunday, February 1**

**PRESENTER:**



**Paul Coots**  
OLLI member and volunteer

**TOPIC:**  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

Paul Coots has been an OLLI member and volunteer for many years. He leads a popular fitness class, for which there is a waitlist every term! Paul values the educational and social aspects of OLLI and has recently become a member of the volunteer leadership team (OLLI Advisory Council) to support membership growth and contribute innovative programming ideas.

OLLI is a community of lifelong learners who work together to help create and deliver educational, cultural, and social opportunities – without exams or grades! Faculty members, retired teachers, and members who are simply passionate about a subject they know well enjoy sharing their expertise with others whose life experience and intelligence enrich the exchange of ideas. OLLI is designed for adults 50 and older and is open to everyone. With three ways to learn: In the classroom, outdoors, and online. OLLI offers a unique way to explore new topics.

The following OLLI member benefits are available to all members:

- Free parking and a discounted lunch option at our main classroom complex at The Social Chico
- Option to request a Chico State library courtesy card
- Subscription to OLLI e-newsletter
- Invitations to all OLLI social meetups
- Access to OLLI USA classes from other participating OLLI programs

**OLLI Website:**  
[oli.csuchico.edu](http://oli.csuchico.edu)

**HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt**  
(Presented at Board and Membership Meetings)

Al Raitt reported that AB278 would amend the Safety Code to require an accurate determination of health care costs made by the State and how much could then be spent on those costs. He further noted that Optum had been notifying some members that medications sent out after December 31 were being recalled since they were sent out past the January 1 date for CVS Caremark to begin as the new Pharmacy Benefit Manager.

**JANUARY 8 MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM**



**Chaplain Ken Malone and Senior Chaplain Ed Hall**

Senior Chaplain Ed Hall from the Butte County Sheriff's Office spoke on the topic of *The Core Principle of "Presence"* which defined his role. His philosophy is centered on being with people during a profound crisis, rather than attempting to provide verbal consolation. There are three chaplains who support deputies and the community in times of crisis. As grief and trauma counselors, chaplains are there to help people through the initial stages of their shock so the grieving and processing can begin. Situations they show up for include shootings, suicides, SWAT related incidents, or any death related incidents. The roles of the chaplains in integrating with duties of the personnel in the Sheriff's Office were explained. Chaplain Ken Malone also attended the meeting, and he and Senior Chaplain Ed Hall answered questions from members of the audience. Hall is pastor of Wynn Memorial Church of God in Christ in Oroville and Malone is the pastor at New Life Church in Oroville



**REMINDER:** The newsletters are posted on the [rpeachapter77.com](http://rpeachapter77.com) website. You can access the membership meeting information online before receiving your newsletter by U.S. mail or via email.



A BIG "Thank You" to Adrianna Cardenas, Member Services Associate at RPEA Headquarters, for printing and mailing our Chapter 77 newsletters! RPEA now provides this wonderful service to the chapters, and we appreciate this excellent service provided!

