



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Chico Chapter 77

July 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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It's Summer Time! We hope that you have a fun and relaxing summer and enjoy a wonderful vacation or two before fall arrives. **Reminder: There will be no RPEA Chapter 77 meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 7.** Please mark this date on your calendar, and plan to join us again after our two-month summer break. We are challenging all of our members to recruit a new member or two before our meetings resume in September!

UPCOMING PROGRAM – PLACE ON CALENDAR!

Thursday, September 7, 2017

SPEAKER: Dr. Gayle Hutchinson, President
California State University, Chico

President Hutchinson will be an excellent speaker to kick off our first program at the end of the summer break. She will give an outstanding presentation that you won't want to miss!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – by Margaret Ballinger

Happily I welcome you to almost summer weather and vacation (what's that?) time. Just kidding! If you only take a one- or two-day driving vacation, it's still a vacation--at least to me. That sounds great especially since I have been hibernating with a fractured rib. I am grateful it is almost healed!

Even if it is summer or vacation time, it's still time to think about new members. This should be uppermost in our minds. We have been moving along at a slow pace, but at least we have been moving and are keeping our membership at an even keel. This is something all other chapters have not been able to do, but we need to INCREASE our membership and must work on it all 12 months of the year whether it is summer, spring, winter, or fall. Right? I know you all agree with this, and it isn't always easy to ask someone if they would like to join. However, if you call me or anyone on the Board with a name, we will be glad to take the initiative and contact them. We are always willing to do that!

Sorry if you missed the picnic, but we now have September to look forward to!

Margaret

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt

During the May 11 and June 15 Stakeholders meeting in Sacramento, CalPERS staff presented proposals that they will be making to the CalPERS full Board during their June 20 meeting regarding medical and pharmacy strategies for 2018. Strategies for “Basic” (non-Medicare) programs are: (1) Expanded VBPD (Value Based Purchasing Design) for use of ASCs (Ambulatory Surgical Centers); (2) Site of Care Management for Medical Pharmacy; & the Castlight PPO Purchasing Tool.

The strategy for Medicare programs is: SilverSneakers. The strategy for both Basic and Medicare programs is: a “Reduce Use of Emergency Room” app.

For expanded VBPD, a comparison of costs for twelve procedures in ambulatory surgical centers and outpatient hospital facilities will be done along with costs of medications infused at home compared to hospital outpatient facilities, ambulatory infusion centers, and at a physician’s office. Castlight is an online program which can be accessed by recipients of care to compare costs for a recommended procedure at different locations.

SilverSneakers is a community fitness program providing for gym memberships and for classes held in parks, community centers, and other venues.

The “Reduce Use of Emergency Room” app allows members to find non-ER care in nearby retail health care clinics, walk-in doctor’s offices, and urgent care centers. As “plan descriptions” arrive for 2018 and subsequent years, look for these benefits to be increasingly included.

Staff also announced that the full CalPERS Board may approve health insurance premium rates for 2018. An RPEA representative requested that these rates be shown along with the current 2017 rates so that a quick comparison could be made. In a non-health related matter, staff reported that 67% of those previously receiving a paper confirmation of the monthly direct deposit opted instead to begin using their “MyCalPERS” online site to confirm the deposit. A paper copy can be made from the online site if desired.

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