



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

JUNE 2024 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

**ANNUAL PICNIC LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 – 11:30 AM
(No charge)
NASH'S RESTAURANT
1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO**

No Program – Enjoy fun and fellowship!



An indoor picnic has been planned for our members and guests, and it is a complimentary event sponsored by Chapter 077. The picnic lunch will include hamburgers with condiments (Veggie burgers for Vegetarians), salad, chips, sliced watermelon, and a non-alcoholic beverage. We hope that all of you will decide to join us for our annual picnic so you can enjoy the camaraderie of the attendees!

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, June 2

RSVP: Betsy Kruger (530) 345-7563) or email her at betsybikes@sbcglobal.net.

It is important to let Betsy know if you are attending and if you would like the vegetarian option so that we can let Nash's know how many hamburgers to prepare.

As a reminder, we don't have membership meetings in July and August, so this will be our "Last Hurrah" until our September 5 meeting.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We need to stay connected now more than ever! Please update RPEA Headquarters if you have changed your Email, phone number, or moved. To update your contact information, please email: rpeahq@rpea.com

RPEA 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly 2024 will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego from September 9-12. Sharon Salcido was voted and approved at the April 24 Board meeting as the delegate for our Chapter 077. This is the biennial meeting of the Association where business is conducted, and attendees have an opportunity to meet members from other chapters. The 2024 GA Planning Committee, consisting of Norma Rose (Chair), Nancy Santos, and Lorne Merkosky, is busy planning this event, and additional GA information will be received in June.

AREA II DIRECTOR POSITION

Abe Baily has served as 2023/2024 Area II Director and has reported that he will be resigning before the General Assembly in September. He has tried to generate interest in getting a replacement. Area II (Inland Empire) includes Chico, Oroville, Redding, and Grants Pass, OR. If any of you are interested in serving in this leadership role, don't hesitate to contact Abe (abaily@csuchico.edu) to find out the role of this position. Abe has done a fantastic job representing us as Area II Director and will leave some big shoes to fill! Congratulations on a job well done, Abe!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

The Governor and the Budget

The news, while not good, was not totally unexpected. Governor Newsom announced his revisions on May 10. He plans to not disrupt the core programs involving healthcare, food, and assistance that many Californians must depend on, while “pausing” expansion of some programs and trimming other programs and investments.

The losers and winners, according to the *Sac Bee* (5/10/24) are:

Losers:

State workers - 10,000 vacant positions will be eliminated, and a 7.95% cut to State operations, in addition to the vacant positions.

Public Health - \$ 52.5 million reduction in budget, plus 300 million in ongoing spending reduction (Hello Covid!) Hope not!

Homelessness issues - \$260 million cut from aid to cities.

Childcare Providers - Childcare for low-income workers took a hit; 81,000 childcare spots will not be available for parents who need work to buy groceries. The freeze may save 1.4 billion over 2 years. (This may devastate many low-income single moms.)

Education - \$510 million in scholarship aid for teachers-to-be from middle-class or lower, families removed. (There’s already a looming shortage of qualified teachers, especially in rural areas.) See the NOTE in the next column for more on public education.

Winners:

Taxpayers - The Governor has resisted any general tax increase, nor does he propose any tax increase for big businesses or wealthy individuals.

State Workers - No furloughs, no layoffs, no wage cuts.

NOTE: ER, 5/18/24 Associated Press - Part of the Governor’s complex budgeting involves shielding public schools from \$8.8 billion in immediate cuts, but CTA president David Goldberg says it will cost districts \$12 billion later. He calls it an unconstitutional maneuver and threatens publicity and a lawsuit, if necessary. Somewhere, a voice is saying “Don’t mess with the teachers union.” This is a complex problem that arises out of the constitution and the ways public education is funded. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has criticized the Governor’s approach.

THE DEFICIT

How much??? Governor Newsom says \$48 B; the nonpartisan LAO says \$55 B.

Many questions arise as one peruses the budget information: Will deficits become the usual occurrence in California? How are things looking for 2025 and 2026? Dan Walters, *Chico ER* 5/16/24, poses that a “structural deficit with a fundamental mismatch of income and outgo” may reoccur.

So, that’s enough on Governor Newsom’s immediate homework problems! He took a little break and traveled to Italy to lend his ideas to a far bigger problem: How the Earth copes with climate change.

Looking forward to our “picnic” luncheon!

Mary