



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

## MARCH 2021 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.*

Sharon Salcido, Editor – 893-0181 – [sharonsalcidofromchico@gmail.com](mailto:sharonsalcidofromchico@gmail.com)

Matters concerning your address should be directed to Barbara Evans – [barbevans37@aol.com](mailto:barbevans37@aol.com) - 342-4783

RPEA Chapter 077 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6415, Chico, CA 95927-6415

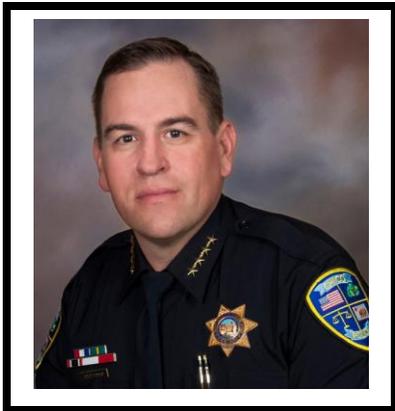
Chapter Website: [www.rpeachapter77.com](http://www.rpeachapter77.com)

### JOIN YOUR CHAPTER 077 MEMBERS FOR A ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING!



**THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 – 11:30 A.M.**

**SPEAKER: Matt Madden**  
Chief of Police, City of Chico



### TOPIC: “Overview of the Direction for Policing in Chico”

**How to join the virtual meeting by Computer or phone:**

**Date:** March 4 - **Time:** 11:30 AM Pacific

**Option 1:** Connect online – [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Click on “Join a Meeting” in the upper right  
**Enter ID:** 595 195 8383 **Passcode:** 990733

**Option 2:**  
Phone, dial +1 669 900 6833  
**Enter Meeting ID:** 595 195 8383  
Then just wait to be connected!

Being on a tablet or computer is better than a phone because you can see the presentation and people’s faces.

### MESSAGE FROM ROGER KLAVES ASSISTANT AREA II DIRECTOR (Written February 1, 2021)

Greetings to our displaced RPEA folks! Paradise continues to rebuild. Quite busy up there, but still a long way to go. You'll remember that Transparent California has tried to make public any and all pensions and the like for all public workers. They also wanted the amounts of disability pensions, too. An appellant court has shot that down because those pensions have to do with medical stuff which is still private. They still may appeal to the California Supreme Court.....

Because PERS Board member Margaret Brown utilized the PERS name and logo during her campaign in 2017 and the PERS' Twitter account thereafter, Board President Henry Jones suspended some of her travel reimbursement in 2019. She then sued the Board in Superior Court. The suit was eventually dismissed, but it cost PERS almost 80,000 bucks to defend the suit. CalPERS has had little to say about the whole affair.....Lest we forget, Valentine’s Day is drawing near, February 14.

*Roger*

### DONATION IN MEMORY OF SANDY THOMAS

The Board voted to donate \$200 on behalf of Chapter 077 to the RPEA Building Maintenance Account in memory of Sandy Thomas who passed away on November 7, 2020.

### STATUS OF FUTURE CHAPTER 077 MEETINGS

Our Chapter 077 will continue with Zoom online meetings through May and will then reassess the situation before safely resuming in-person meetings at Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge).

## HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt

At the February 11, 2021 Stakeholders meeting hosted by CalPERS staff in Sacramento, a COVID-19 update was provided by Dr. Julia Logan who now serves as a medical consultant to CalPERS for health-related matters. The State-wide “positivity rate” had decreased from 14% in mid-January to 4%. This measures the percentage of positive tests found for all of the tests done each day. The World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that 5% is the desired level for a 14-day running average. Anything higher than 5% means that more of the sicker people than usual are being tested, and a lower than 5% result means that a disproportionate number of people with milder cases are being tested. A higher value also means that more people in the general population who do not have symptoms need to be tested, and the lower value means that more people with active symptoms need to be tested. California’s drop from 14% to 4% means, therefore, that the testing effort State-wide is progressing well. Hospital admissions for COVID-19 and the need for ICU beds have also decreased.

In addition to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines which have been approved and are currently provided in two doses, a new vaccine being manufactured by Johnson & Johnson has shown an 85% effectiveness and is provided in a single dose. The J&J vaccine will most likely be available in the US sometime in March. There is at least one other vaccine which may well be approved for use in June or July. The South African viral variant has now been identified in 33 countries. Increasing the vaccination rate will decrease the spread of the variant. In California there are 30 laboratories which are actively testing for the variant. Five million people have now received at least one vaccine dose. California is slated to receive an additional million doses during the week of February 15-19. Kaiser and Blue Shield have been asked to administer the vaccination program State-wide. OptumRX has developed a “call-back” program for obtaining a second dose. 25% of all “no-shows” are for the second dose. The reasons for this have not yet been well studied.

A 70-90% vaccination level of the entire population is required to reach “herd immunity” at which point the rate of viral transmission will begin to significantly decrease. If California maintains the current rate of vaccination, then 50% of the population will have been vaccinated sometime in June. The 70-90% vaccination level would have been reached by July or August, and kids could begin receiving the vaccine in September.

For those who have reached a “post-vaccination period,” which would mean that they are two to three weeks beyond the second vaccination, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) says that it will no longer be necessary for a two-week period of isolation to occur if there is contact with a person subsequently determined to be positive for COVID-19.

The number of annual flu cases had decreased world-wide. This may be due to how being infected with an initial virus can interfere with an infection by a second virus. If this is indeed what is happening, a decrease in the COVID-19 vaccination program may result in a subsequent increase in flu cases around the world, especially in Asian countries. Flu-like symptoms (such as fatigue, headache, chills and fever) tend to occur more often after the second vaccine injection (both with Pfizer and Moderna) than the first. The overall rate for this phenomenon is 25-30% and happens more frequently in those who are less than 65 years of age. (Finally, an advantage for us “older folks” going through this experience)! It’s usually short-lived (24-48 hours, after which it fully resolves); and if it happens, it is a “good thing” because it’s an indication that the immune system is working.

So, overall, the indications are that, as a State-wide population, we’re heading in the right direction; and, if we maintain the current course, we could begin to consider getting “closer to normal” by late summer or fall. In the meantime, everybody do what you can to maximize precipitation this winter. We need all the snow and water we can get!

*Al*

### MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The Minutes of the board and general membership meetings are posted to the [rpeachapter77.com](http://rpeachapter77.com) website for you to review. The general membership meeting minutes are subject to the approval by the members at the following general membership meeting.

### ZOOM CHAPTER 077 BOARD MEETING

JOIN THE RPEA BOARD FOR ITS ZOOM MEETING  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 – 9:00 A.M.**

Contact Al Raitt ([aeraitt@msn.com](mailto:aeraitt@msn.com)) for the link if you’re interested in joining the meeting.