



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

MARCH 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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UPDATE!

IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION

GOOD NEWS! We have a wonderful new venue to try out for our monthly membership luncheon meetings.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 – 11:15 AM

**DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
(SYCAMORE RESTAURANT)**

685 MANZANITA COURT, CHICO

(Formerly Holiday Inn across from Denny's)
Mangrove Ave./Cohasset Rd. offramp off of Hwy. 99

Lunch cost: \$18

Our luncheon meeting will take place inside the beautiful Sycamore Restaurant at the DoubleTree since they are not currently open for lunch. The March 2 luncheon meeting will be a "trial;" and if we get positive feedback from our members, we'll make more permanent arrangements. We need lots of members to attend so that we can get as much feedback as possible before deciding on a permanent meeting location. We will not be having a speaker at the March 2 meeting and will use this opportunity to get feedback from our members on the meeting location and also what programs they propose for the future.

It would be very helpful if our members let us know if they are planning to attend so that we will know how many lunches to order. **Please call Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or email her (betsybikes@sbcglobal.net) to let her know if you will be there.**

WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY



Margaret Ballinger passed away on January 21 at the age of 93. Margaret served as Membership Chair of our Chapter 077 for several years until her health forced her to resign from the Board in 2018. She was a very dedicated member who will be dearly missed!

IN LOVING MEMORY



Kathleen "Kathy" Alexander passed away on January 18 at the age of 86. Kathy attended our meetings regularly and was usually accompanied by her son, Ron. Her husband, Doug, who was also an active member, passed away on June 10, 2019. Both of the Alexander's will be missed!

WARNING!

One of our members received a message from someone impersonating RPEA and sending out a message endorsing "anti-vaxing." This is very concerning, and we want to assure our RPEA members that this message isn't being endorsed by RPEA. Hopefully, other members aren't receiving this bogus message; and if so, please disregard it!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

Legislative News - 2/12/23

There is a lot going on right now! It is hard not to be distracted--horrendous earthquake, unknown flying objects, Super Bowl Sunday, and tax deadline coming up.

Our legislators, however, have put forth recent efforts to help all Californians. Our Assemblyman, James Gallagher, and his team have addressed the high heating bills that are affecting most of us. Governor Newsom pledges to act on this. As for the “middle class” refunds that many have received, the IRS has proclaimed that these need not be included in federal income; the State had exempted these refunds from state taxation. Last month the Governor sent his plan to reduce oil company profit to the lawmakers, holding those companies responsible for the high gas prices in the State a short time ago. Here are a few of many issues that the lawmakers are now studying:

- Revised concealed-carry bill
- Capping insulin costs
- Funding for climate change
- Mental health and homelessness
- Labor code changes
- Online addiction among children
- Tighten nursing home regulations

What Does the Legislature Look Like??

According to *CalMatters* (Jan. 4), this session’s 120 lawmakers are the most diverse so far. There are 50 women, an increased number of Latinos, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, one Muslim, one Sikh, one Native American, and several who identify as multi-ethnic. Fifty six identify as white, and eleven as black. Among the women, at least 18 have young children. Age-wise, the majority of the legislators are in 40s, 50s, and 60s, with a few 30s, and one in the 20s.

Coming to a Supermarket Near You.....Ballot Measures 2024!!

What a deal! Be amazed! See how the democratic process is corrupted! Or is it? It is not too early for interested parties to try to change new laws that they find affect their business model, so they go directly to the voters. The oil industry is backing a referendum to prevent the drilling setback that would prevent drilling near schools and homes. A second measure, sponsored by McDonalds et al., would wipe out the

idea of better wages and conditions for fast food workers. Can the “flavored tobacco” folks with their deep pockets be far behind? The backers of these efforts are glad to pay those hustling your signature \$5 or more per signer. And, speaking of Supermarkets, you may meet girls and moms there with **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES. YEA! YUM! Don’t delay!**

Affordable Housing and CEQA

Our State has two problems concerning housing: a lack of affordable housing and homelessness. These problems are very different. The lack of affordable housing stems in part from population growth in areas that are desirable and jobs are numerous. There are plots of land available; but for the developer, it will be easier to conform to the status quo, single-family homes, rather than to hassle with the local city council six townhomes on the plot. The California Environmental Quality Act basically says: “Don’t mess with the environment; you will make it worse!” CEQA has put the brakes on many projects--some good, some bad. Its main premise is that development poses risks. An opinion article in the *Chronicle* (SFC, Chris Elmendorf, 1/15/23) is enlightening on this topic.

Facts about Homelessness

The uncomfortable truth is that one third of the nation’s homeless live in California. The fastest growing segment of this population is seniors. Of course, many aged into seniorhood, but a large number of newly homeless are in their 50s and 60s, and they did not expect this would happen. Typically, they are not addicted to drugs. More likely, a roommate moved out, and they could not pay rent; or the rent was raised, or medical conditions caused loss of a job, and other resources dried up. According to *CalMatters* (Jan. 4, 2023), from 2017 to 2021 California’s overall senior population increased by 7%, but the numbers of seniors seeking homeless services increased 84% according to the State’s **Homeless Data Integration System**. So.....California has a system and all the stats, but seemingly has faltered in addressing the situation.

CalPERS

The CalPERS Board will meet on the 13th and 14th. Parts of the meeting may be available on YouTube.

Looking forward to a good turnout for our March 2 Meeting at the **DoubleTree!!**

Mary