



## RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

### MAY 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.*

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



THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 – 11:30 A.M

SPEAKER: Reverend Robert Morton

TOPIC: “History/Restoration of Bethel AME Church”



The Chico community worked together to assist in restoring this historic icon building to its original glory. Restoring the bell tower and steeple is a symbol for generations to come of how our community came together to honor our African-American brothers and sisters with this tangible symbol of love. The Bethel AME Church was built in 1867 (oldest church in Chico) and moved twice. It has been at Linden and East Ninth streets since 1956.

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

Date: May 6 - 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 3/29/2021)

Howdy displaced Paradise 074 Lunch-Bunchers! Our Chapter is still suspended. I don't see any activity at the closed Cozy Diner in Paradise. As you know, the people that ran Cozy in town now own and run the Hilltop Restaurant in Magalia. I attended a State Board meeting on Zoom last week. State Board Secretary-Treasurer Marie Reed has retired, so Abe Baily has taken her place. I have taken Abe's place as Area Director here in Area II. These changes will continue until the next General Assembly in September, 2022. I've heard that our Assistant Area Director Ernie Sandoval\* has experienced some rather serious health issues and is in a rehab facility in Anderson. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ernie at this time. Margaret Brown is running again for one of two CalPERS Board seats. The RPEA Board has endorsed her for the position. CalPERS wants to augment investment income by floating loans to entities that might ordinarily have problems obtaining loans from conventional sources. To accomplish this, current law has to be changed. This item is pending in the State Assembly. The RPEA Board is against this idea. Stay safe!  
*Roger*

\*Rosemary Knox received an update on Ernest Sandoval from his son on March 28 indicating that Ernie will soon be moving into Shasta Estates Independent Senior Living Community in Redding (1350 Buenaventura Boulevard, Room 322, Redding 96001). Ernie's direct phone number is: 530-215-3745. He says that his Dad is mentally doing great! Brighten Ernie's day by sending him a greeting or giving him a phone call!

#### LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

Help is on the Way!

On April 14 State Senate President pro Tempore, Toni G. Atkins, along with budget committee chairs, announced the Senate's proposed budget to build a post-pandemic economy with benefits for all. The press release refers to the "Build Back Boldly" proposal and several transformative goals, including aid for small business, early childhood care, and education, addressing issues of homelessness, housing shortage and affordability, expanded

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Continued)

health care, wildfire prevention and resilience, migration of drought. Subcommittee packages include other areas: aging population needs, justice reform, air quality, et al.

Interesting side note about Senate leader, Toni Atkins; she spent her early years in Virginia where her father was a miner and her mom a seamstress. They were without running water for a time, and her childhood dream was to be rich enough to live in a single-wide trailer. She expresses her deep concern about California's housing problems in an article in the *Sac Bee* (4/14/21).

Still looking....

CalPERS is considering more pay for a new CIO, perhaps doubling the rate by adding long-term incentives, based on reaching investment goals over time (*Sacramento Business Journal* 4/14/21). In any case, the selected applicant should be able to afford Sacramento's best housing, if the Kings have not bought it all! CalPERS administration is also studying the best way to deal with miscreants who ignore rules and regulations.

In Court.....

Assemblyman James Gallagher has filed a lawsuit challenging Gov. Newsom for his use of emergency power as the Covid crisis spreads in California. This case, Gallagher and Kiley v. Newsom will be heard in the Third District Court of Appeals in Sacramento on April 20. Assemblyman Gallagher's office can provide a link to the proceedings.

Grocery shopping lately??

Did you feel you were getting less for your \$\$?? The Bureau of Labor and Statistics notes that the consumer price index has risen 2.6% in the past year. Hopefully, the May 1 COLA will ease the pain a bit!

Meanwhile, stay well, don't give up the masks yet, and enjoy early summer blooms!

*Mary*

## HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt

At the April 15, 2021 stakeholders virtual meeting emanating from the CalPERS offices in Sacramento, Dr. Julia Logan, medical consultant, provided her monthly COVID-19 update; and her overall message was that the statistics are moving in the right direction, although there are some worrisome trends which will bear watching. On average, there are about 70K new cases appearing every day in the US. Two hot spots are

Michigan and Texas. Approximately 80% of people 65 years and older have been fully vaccinated. The variant first seen in the UK is now in every US state and is a driving force in the development of new cases. In California about 30% of the entire population has been fully vaccinated. The current vaccination rate for the state is close to 391K per day, and this is the highest rate of any state in the US.

As of this writing (April 17, 2021) the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) have implemented a "pause" in the use of the J&J (Johnson and Johnson) single dose vaccine after a report was published showing that, of the nearly 7.1 million doses administered, 6 people (all female ranging in age from 18 to 48) developed a significant blood clotting disorder from 6 to 13 days after having received the vaccine. Four were successfully treated and survived; 1 was hospitalized and survived; and 1 died. In the study from which these results were obtained, 10 in the placebo group and 15 in the vaccinated group developed this condition. So even some (10) in the group who did not receive the vaccine had this problem, while a somewhat larger number (15) occurred in the vaccinated group. The basic question for the CDC and the FDA to consider is: Will a statistical analysis of the results show that these numbers, out of the 7.1 million doses already given, indicate that there is a "greater-than-usual" chance that someone being vaccinated will experience this problem, or does being vaccinated not increase your chance of having this problem any more than if you were not vaccinated? The answer to this question will determine what "advice" they give about this particular vaccine.

There have always been risks associated with every vaccine, even with the annual "flu shot," so each one of us has to decide for ourselves whether or not the probability for benefit outweighs the risk of side effects. In a sense, this becomes a matter of "weighing the odds," and the decision often includes attitudinal, emotional, political, religious, scientific and "other" elements.

In California the "pause" will not affect the vaccination rate since there are enough doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to maintain current efforts. Supply is keeping pace with demand; however, there is a chance of an over-supply when demand diminishes.

In the meantime, the Governor has announced a plan to lift restrictions for California on June 15 assuming that another "surge or uptick" in cases large enough to threaten the availability of hospital treatment services does not occur.

So, as my father used to say: "Son, tend to store." Meaning: Keep after it until the job is done; and to stay as safe and healthy as possible during this pandemic, stay vigilant.

*Al*