



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

NOVEMBER 2019 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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Chapter Website: www.rpeachapter77.com

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019 - 11:15 A. M.

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge)
1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico
(Lunch Cost: \$16)

MENU

Salad, Honey Glazed Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable Medley, and Fresh Rolls

SPEAKER: Bill Kurnizki, President
Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT)



TOPIC: "CHAT Simplicity Village Tiny Homes"

Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) is a group of highly committed citizens from Chico who are doing their very best to take off the street people who lost everything and do not want to stay there. Their efforts are paying off every single day! They've helped so far over 135 people to re-enter society with confidence and dignity. The mission of CHAT is to ensure that every person in our community has access to housing they can afford. CHAT seeks to help develop housing opportunities and supportive services needed to keep people in housing while nurturing human relationships that will help people help themselves.

MEETING INFORMATION UPDATE

The January membership meeting will be held on January 9 instead of January 2 because of the holidays. Please update your calendars!

2019 RPEA CHAPTER 077 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Norm Stump (President)	893-0767
Betsy Kruger (Vice President)	345-7563
Barbara Evans (Secretary)	342-4783
Joan Palmer (Treasurer)	343-7405
Sharon Salcido (Webmaster & Newsletter Editor)	893-0181
Al Raitt (Health Benefits Chair and Interim Membership Chair)	893-0435
Mary Kowta (Legislative Chair)	342-6759
Lawrie Salvestrin (Sunshine Chair)	519-5223
Craig Praizler (Member at Large)	891-8910
Judy Winter (Member at Large)	345-6778
Ralph Huntsinger (Past President)	343-3456

HENRY JONES WINS

Henry Jones won the Retiree Seat on the CalPERS Board. RPEA will work with Henry, over the next four years, to the best of their ability to increase the security of the pension fund as they have in the past. RPEA will advocate every bit as vigorously, going forward, to ensure that our pensions remain safe and our health benefits are affordable!

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt

With the State Legislature on a break at the time of this writing, it seems appropriate to focus on a non-legislative or policy issue. An example would be a specific group of people who have been impacted by the combination of the devastating Camp fire and what PG&E is choosing to label the “public safety power shutoff” (PSPS). One group would be the people with health conditions who rely on electricity to power medical devices at home--devices that help them stay comfortable or stay alive.

In an October 11, 2019, article published by Bay Area station KQED and appearing in the *Kaiser Health News* (KHN) entitled “*It’s Not Just the Lights; Outages Shut Off Medical Devices at Home,*” examples are provided of patients who need oxygen machines running nonstop to breathe; and when PG&E announced the outages, these folks began calling their in-home services nurses asking what they should do. Emma Baron, a nurse and vice president of quality, education, and compliance at the Hospice East Bay noted that this was not the loss of electricity for six to ten hours they had dealt with before, and they would have to be helping with what could be power outages for possibly five or six days.

Of the 800,000 PG&E customers in California who would be losing power, 29,819 customers with medical needs would be affected. These are households enrolled in the utility’s “medical baseline program” which offers lower energy rates for older and disabled people who need extra power to operate devices such as ventilation, dialysis machines or mechanized wheelchairs.

At a recent family gathering in Durham to celebrate the birthday of a four-year-old grandniece, my nephew’s wife, a supervising nurse at Oroville hospital, said that they had recently been inundated with people from the Oroville area who were coming to the hospital to access electrical power to run their devices.

So, this problem exists in our own community; and if you are aware of someone who might be in need of assistance with obtaining electrical power to run their in-home medical device, You might consider ways to be of help.

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