



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

NOVEMBER 2022 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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022 - 11:15 A. M.
Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge)
1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico
(Lunch Cost: \$18)

SPEAKER:
Amber Abney-Bass
Executive Director
Jesus Center



TOPIC:

“Jesus Center Efforts for Those Experiencing Homelessness in Chico”

Amber Abney-Bass became the new Executive Director of the Jesus Center on January 1, 2022. Its mission is about striving to inspire people to reach their full spiritual, physical, emotional, and vocational wellness. Amber will give an update on the recent significant changes to this organization including taking on the Pallet Shelter Project located off of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. She works with service providers, oversees its main housing program with 50 beds of shelters in 7 transitional houses, works on the vocational training program, and oversees the completion of the Renewal Center Building which focuses specifically on families or couples who are experiencing homelessness. Don't miss this interesting program!

BALLOT/VOTING INFORMATION SITES

LWVC.org - Offers non-partisan PROS/CONS on ballot measures, as well as League of Women Voters of California recommendations on measures with issues that the League has studied and have established positions.

ballotpedia.org - A nonprofit and nonpartisan online digital encyclopedia of American politics and elections. Its goal is to inform people about politics by providing accurate and objective measure information including funds spent.

vote.org – Check voting registration status, get absentee ballot, polling place location, locate a dropbox, and track the status of your ballot.

votersedge.org – Get the facts before you vote. Find in-depth information about what's on your ballot. Get info on candidates and measures and who supports them.

voterguide.sos.ca.gov - A summary of each proposition along with arguments for and against the measure and contact information for the supporters and opponents.



ABE BAILY INSTALLED AS AREA II DIRECTOR

Abe Baily was installed as 2022-2024 Area II Director during the General Assembly held in Sacramento September 26-29, and Ernest Sandoval from Anderson will serve as Assistant Area II Director. Congratulations to Abe and Ernest! We are well represented!!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The California Legislature, now on recess, will return to the Capitol on December 5 to install newly-elected members. At that time, the Governor has requested a special session to discuss gasoline prices. He proposes a windfall tax on oil companies. Assemblyman Gallagher and Vince Fong of the Assembly Budget Committee are opposed. They support suspension of the State gas tax instead. There will be controversy and national attention.

ELECTION TIME

By now you have received your ballot and probably mailed it off. If you are still pondering over the 13 judges, here is the scoop (Courtesy of the *SF Chronicle* 10/16/22). These judges all were appointed by the Governor. After 12 years on the bench, they are required to run for office. The *Chronicle* endorses all 13, noting that not one has received any disciplinary action, and all have avoided errors in ethics and good judgment, even though some decisions did not please everyone. Some voters are finding the Propositions confusing. Consider who supports and who rejects, where the big bucks are coming from; and if still confused, vote no. Don't linger! Get your ballot in the mail ASAP; otherwise, you may accidentally toss it with the recyclables or find that your dog chewed it.

STAY WELL

Two recommendations for most of us: Get the COVID bivalent booster. (It should protect against original COVID 19 and the recent sub-variants, BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron). Ask your doc. Do not forget to get the seasonal flu vaccine too. It has already started to spread misery in some cities in California affecting the very young, as well as older adults, with serious illness. A recent AARP online article has gathered together evidence about just how beneficial a flu shot can be. For example, researchers indicate that flu shots may help offer protection from some cardiac events, strokes, and lung disease events. That makes sense, because flu can be lethal for those who have underlying serious conditions. The researchers also suggest that the flu shot may promote stronger immunity, in general. One large Canadian study suggests that those over 65 who received the flu vaccine had statistically fewer deaths than would have been expected for the age group. Interestingly, of course, there are individuals who are advised not to get the flu shot because of certain conditions or allergies. If in doubt, ask your doctor!

SOCIAL SECURITY 2023

According to the *Sac Bee* (10/14/22), 65 million Californians will receive an 8.7% increase in their monthly checks. Benefits will increase on average of about \$140. There will also be a reduction in the Medicare Part B premium of \$5.20 (\$164.90). This may not help many social security recipients as much as they deserve, especially those who have no other source of income. US Congress is looking into this. Yet, this is the highest boost in about 40 years!

BOOK REVIEW

Nomad Century: How Climate Migration Will Reshape Our World by Gaia Vince. This book was reviewed in the *Chronicle* 8/21/22. It is on my list; I have not read it yet. The reviewer, Anisse Gross, addresses "how climate chaos in the coming century will influence where and how we will live". Vince's thesis is: "Many people will have to move to survive." She sees a vast migration north as the earth get hotter in the next 50 years. She writes of four main catastrophes: fire, heat, drought, and flood. She singles out Duluth, Minnesota as a 'superior' destination for future migrants and contrasts that locale to the currently popular Sun Belt (even after Ian?).

Other reading...capitolweekly.net....the topic: Groundwater!

Wishing you all the best for Halloween and oyster stew for Election Night (an East Coast tradition in the old days)!

Mary

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Our Chapter 077 was looking for a new Board member, and Mike Cassetta stepped up to the plate and expressed interest in joining the Board. Mike retired as Glenn County Director of Health Services and is a long-time RPEA member. Mike was unanimously approved at the October 12 Board meeting, and we're happy that he is joining us in this leadership role. He will be a big asset to the Board. Welcome aboard, Mike!

BUDGET APPROVAL

The proposed 2022-2023 Chapter 077 budget will be presented for approval at the November 3 meeting.