



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 077**

OCTOBER 2018 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

Matters concerning your address should be directed to Barbara Evans – barbevans37@aol.com - 342-4783

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

Chapter Website: www.rpeachapter77.com

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018 - 11:15 A.M.

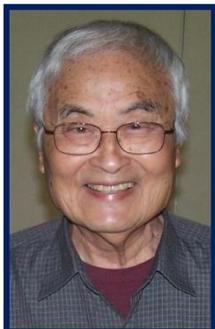
Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge)

1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico - (Lunch cost: \$16)

PROGRAM:

“Pros and Cons of Propositions on November Election Ballot”

PRESENTERS:



MARK KOWTA



MARY KOWTA



BETSY KRUGER

Our own Mark, Mary, and Betsy are presenting pros and cons of the Propositions that appear on the November Election Ballot. Their presentation will be an unbiased discussion—why “Yes” and why “No” regarding the Propositions. All of these speakers are active in the League of Women Voters of Butte County, and Mary and Betsy also serve on the Chapter 077 RPEA Board. Don’t miss this informative program!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

This month the focus will be on preparation for the November 6 election. If possible, try to attend a local candidate forum. There is the possibility to see "up close and personal" how candidates react to submitted questions and to each other.

The League of Women Voters of Butte County presents the following events in Chico:

9/17 Chico City Council Candidates and Chico Unified Trustee Candidates - 6:30, PAC 144, CSU Chico (Harlen Adams Theatre)

9/25 CA State Assembly and Senate Candidates, 6:30pm, PAC 144, CSU Chico

NOTE: Channel 11 will broadcast these forums live.

Those often puzzling ballot propositions will be reviewed at the Oct. 4 luncheon; but if you miss that, there is a presentation on 10/18/18 at the Chico Library, 6:30. One of the best ways to prepare to cast your ballot is to go to <https://votersedge.org/ca> and enter your address. You will see your complete ballot, polling place, and unbiased information about candidates and ballot measures. Another good strategy is to read the newspapers carefully. The editorial staffs usually make their choices known and discuss why. A look at the *ER, News & Review, Sac Bee* and *SF Chronicle* may help your decision process and clarify the "pros and cons".

We will undoubtedly be receiving piles of mail from the candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Gov, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Superintendent of Public Instruction, US Senator, and Congressional Representative. It seems a nuisance, but we are indeed fortunate in many ways!

Mary

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By Al Raitt

This month's article will highlight the advantage of having Chapter members raise questions in the realm of health benefits and the positive outcomes that can happen. The most recent example occurred when I was contacted via email by long-term Chapter member and erstwhile Board member, Nancy Loeffler, regarding an announcement by Enloe Hospital that appeared in the Sunday, September 9, edition of the *Enterprise Record* (page A-3). The announcement read, in part, that the hospital..... "issued contract termination notices to Anthem Blue Cross in order to negotiate the commercial managed care contracts....." and that, if terminated, "the termination would be effective Nov. 1, 2018." Nancy raised concerns about whether or not, were the contracts to be terminated, services could continue to be provided by hospital staff to those having Anthem health insurance; and, if so, under what sort of conditions or circumstances.

During the next two days telephone calls were placed to personnel in three different departments of Enloe Hospital without success. A call was also made to the Passages program. However, staff there was unable to obtain relevant information. A call was also made to the CalPERS "health" site, but that call did not last long when a pre-recorded message stated: "Your wait time is estimated to be between 57 minutes and one hour and 24 minutes." Finally, a customer service representative during a call to the Anthem Blue Cross site stated that the announcement in the newspaper applied only to those who had Anthem as their "primary" insurance plan and that it did not apply to those who had Anthem as a "secondary" to Medicare. This will be a relief to those who have Medicare as their "primary" insurance and Anthem as their "secondary."

For those who have Anthem as their "primary" and would like some information about the specific decisions that need to be made, Nancy provided an electronic version of an article she found pertaining to a similar situation that arose in the Redding area just a year or two ago. I would be happy to "forward" that article to your email address at your request.

This is a poignant example of "people helping others," and we can all be grateful for those amongst us who are willing to pose questions that eventually help all of us! Now, let's get this "fire, smoke and haze-filled summer" behind us and enjoy the fall!

Al

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