



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

## FEBRUARY 2020 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, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 - 11:15 A. M.

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks Lodge)

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

**SPEAKER: Sheriff Kory L. Honea  
Butte County Sheriff**



#### TOPIC:

**“Current Issues Confronting Butte County”**

Sheriff Honea became the 31st Sheriff of Butte County in May 2014. Prior to becoming the Sheriff, Honea served as the Undersheriff for nearly four years. Sheriff Honea began his career with the Butte County Sheriff’s Office in 1993,

when he was hired as a deputy sheriff. Prior to that, Sheriff Honea was employed by the Shasta County Sheriff’s Office. During his law enforcement career Sheriff Honea has held assignments in corrections, patrol, and investigations. In 2000, Sheriff Honea transferred to the District Attorney’s Office as an investigator. While at the District Attorney’s Office, Sheriff Honea promoted through the ranks to become the Chief Investigator in 2008. Sheriff Honea held that position until his return to the Sheriff’s Office as Undersheriff in 2010. The Sheriff’s Office serves all the citizens of Butte County by providing a mix of public safety and public service functions. The Sheriff’s Office provides around-the-clock law enforcement service to every region of the county. Don’t miss this interesting program!

#### LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

On January 6, the State Legislature convened for the start of the second year of the two-year session. We will hear about new bills proposed and bills that did not make the cut last time but are being re-worked.

Governor Newsom has submitted his \$222 B budget, called “big-hearted” by the *Sac Bee* (1/11/2020). His proposal would increase education funding, improve the State health programs, get more of those 4 year-olds away from the TV and into preschool, close a State prison and open a new State park (not simultaneously!), provide loans for small businesses, provide oversight for some businesses with a Dept. Of Cannabis Control, revisit homelessness, and add to the “rainy day” fund. Many other items were addressed, such as a vaping tax, help for animal shelters, wildfire prevention and “hardening “ of older homes in wildfire areas. Now the lawmakers will start the negotiations, and the Governor will submit his revision in May. He and the Legislators will finalize it by June 15, in time for the start of the July 1 new fiscal year.

## Legislative Report (Continued)

### CalPERS news:

The fund's asset managers are involved with environmental concerns and using leverage to pressure polluting companies to decrease carbon emissions. Climate change threatens billions of the fund; CalPERS has disclosed that one-fifth of the fund is vulnerable.

### HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT – By AI Raitt

Would you like to know how much longer you're likely to live? Would you also like to know how others in the State of California are now legally required to treat you between now and then? The State Legislature has returned to the Capitol from its recent holiday hiatus and may well be back at work trying to introduce another 3,033 bills as they did last year. This seems as good a time as any to ponder these two questions. The length of life issue can be approached scientifically, and the other issue legislatively.

An article appeared on January 15, 2020 in an on-line service "MDLinx" and entitled "*Why the US has lower life expectancy than other countries.*" The author, Naveed Saleh, MD, MS, explains that life expectancy in the United States is not particularly a point of pride given that no other nation spends more on healthcare, but had a life expectancy in 2017 of 78.6 years vs 82.3 years in other comparable nations. A National Institute of Health (NIH) study that same year showed that the United States is falling well behind other industrialized countries in terms of longevity. According to the *World Factbook*, a reference resource curated by the CIA, the United States ranks #43 in terms of life expectancy. Reasons given for this, according to the National Research Council, include an under-performing healthcare system and a lack of emphasis on the prevention of diseases. Drops in life expectancy are especially pronounced in US adults aged 50 years and older. On the brighter side, the US excels in cancer screening, 5-year cancer survival, heart attack/stroke survival, and prescription treatment of hypertension and hypercholesterolemia.

Low life expectancy has not always been the status quo in the United States. In 1980, life expectancy in the US was on par with other countries. However, during the ensuing years, the US gained a scant 4.9 years compared with the rise of 7.8 years in other comparable countries. If any of this tickles your fancy enough to use a formula entitled the *Health Life Expectancy Calculator* (HLEC) to estimate how many years you have left, you can go to the Janet and Mark L. Goldenson Center for Actuarial Research at the University of Connecticut site with a link which assesses your health and lifestyle factors to predict the total future years you're expected to live. As Jay Vadiveloo, PhD, CFA, Director notes: "As the saying goes, in the end, it is not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." The formula provides a guess about the number of "healthy years" as well as "unhealthy years" you might have left.

You can access the link at:

[www.apps.goldensoncenter.uconn.edu/HLEC](http://www.apps.goldensoncenter.uconn.edu/HLEC)

With regards to the second topic, I'll refer you to the November/December, 2019, issue of the Statewide RPEA magazine. In the "*Legislative Update*" section penned by our legislative reps Aaron Read and Pat Moran, they provide a report regarding ACR 88, a bill passed in the last legislative session and recognized the month of May 2019 as "*Older Americans Month*" and encouraged all Californians to recognize and treat all older adults with compassion and respect, and to participate in services and activities that contribute to the health, welfare, and happiness of older adults.

So, there you have it! No matter how long you're predicted to live, fellow Californians are now legally required to treat you with compassion and respect. If anyone tries to treat you otherwise, you can now advise them that "It's the law, baby!"

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy New Year (even though part of it may be spent with tongue in cheek)!