



The Camellia
Retired Public Employees' Association
Area VII -Sacramento, California
Chapter 004 Newsletter

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.

Volume 23, Issue 2



Mar/Apr. 2018

RAMBLINGS

Chapter 004 held its biennial election of officers at the February 14 meeting and a new slate of officers is now leading our membership. Wish a warm welcome to our new leaders by planning to attend our annual Spring Luncheon on April 18. Details are inside this issue.

I attended the RPEA Board of Director's meeting on Feb. 5-6, 2018 in Sacramento. I was happy to see one of our members took the time to come join us both days. It would be really great if more of you would attend these meetings when they are held locally...there is a lot to be learned about happenings that affect us as retirees.

An item of interest to members of Chapter 004 is that our own Al Darby has been appointed as Assistant Area Director for Area VII to assist Dennis Cassella in his activities with chapters. Thanks for stepping up, Al, I know that Dennis hasn't been able to make it to our meetings and hopefully you will from time to time show up here... Dennis did get two AAD appointments at the meeting, so he'll have plenty of assistance now.

News that many of you may already know is that Priya

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Mathur has been elected President of the CalPERS Board of Administration, and Rob Feckner was elected Vice President of that board. Speaking at our meeting was Henry Jones, the retiree member on the CalPERS Board of Administration who spoke about the market volatility and its impact on the CalPERS pension funds. The recent slump obviously hurt, but perhaps not too much as he explained since much of the investment of the PERF isn't in stocks. Currently the "CalPERS Buck" is funded by \$0.61 investment returns, \$0.13 from member contributions and \$0.26 from employer contributions. Each employer member has their own fund to pay their retirees' benefits, and of course the largest "bucket" is that of the retired State employees. Members of contract agencies are more apt to feel the pain if employers fail to pay their share of the costs for benefits.



We also had a visit from the newly elected member of the CalPERS Board, Margaret Brown. She is a refreshing voice who appears ready to jump into the fight to protect our benefits and pension. She is asking the hard questions and looking for answers not just for herself but for
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**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, YOUR
USED GREETING CARDS AND/OR
PULL TABS FROM ALUMINUM CANS**

Please bring non-perishable food to donate to the Sacramento Food Bank when you come to any meeting or member Luncheon. Just one can a meeting can make a big difference to a local family. We have successfully donated to the Food Bank every year.

And did you know we can make a difference with items we usually toss away?

Don't toss your used greeting cards! Bring them to the Chapter meeting and I will get them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The Ranch teaches their participants to recycle used greeting cards into a new product to sell in their gift shop. The program assists young people in learning business skills while raising funds for a charity.

Rather than toss those aluminum tabs from soda cans and other products that use them, bring the tabs to the meeting and I will get them to McDonald House, who collects them as a fund-raiser for their programs.

Thank you for your generosity.

Lunch is \$5.00 to members and \$10.00 to guests for all Chapter lunches except
Spring Luncheon and Christmas Luncheon

Members in good standing may attend all meetings. Please reserve your spot. Failure to make a reservation may result in no lunch available and failure to cancel a reservation will result in a \$10.00 charge.

To reserve or cancel, contact **Nadie Savage** at savagelouise1948@gmail.com or call (916) 495-2742 by Thursday before each meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**RPEA CHAP. 004
MEETINGS**

Sacramento, Yolo Areas
Second Wednesday
of each month

Wednesday, Mar. 14, 2018
Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
Casa Gardens Restaurant
2760 Sutterville Rd.

Wednesday, Apr. 18, 2018
SPRING LUNCHEON
Cattlemen's Restaurant
12409 Folsom Blvd, Rancho
Cordova
(see flyer inside)

Wednesday, May 9, 2018
Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
Casa Gardens Restaurant
2760 Sutterville Rd.

RAMBLINGS...

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all the members of CalPERS. We had a lively discussion on the current pharmacy plan offered by OptumRx and were given several examples of problems being felt by members using this PBM. Our Director of Health Benefits, Donna Snodgrass, is looking to have changes made to the way this plan is being operated that will help our members through rough patches.

Pat Moran of Aaron Read and Associates was there to give us an update on current activity in the legislature. He spoke of bills of interest to RPEA members and how they are moving through the houses of our legislature. He told us that Sen. Toni Adkins has been elected President Pro Tem of the Senate and she is the first woman to have held both positions, Pro Tem and Speaker of the Assembly. She resides in San Diego and represents the 39th Senate District.

Director of Membership Rosemary Knox rolled out a new brochure which we will be using to entice new retirees and active, close to retirement active employees, to join RPEA. Rosemary works closely with AMBIA, RPEA's benefit manager, to keep the numbers growing in our quest for new members. In the four years since AMBIA has been working with RPEA, we have gained approximately 4,000 new members, unfortunately we have also lost about 3,000 through death or members just dropping their membership. We must work hard to retain those members by letting them know how important it is to have a large voice with the legislature and with CalPERS. Together we can make changes, but by ourselves, we are barely recognized.

Ron Roseborough of AMBIA spoke about some of the benefits offered by AMBIA and has stated he will be happy to appear at our Chapter meetings to further go over the benefits with the members. I will speak with our Program Chair about contacting Ron for an upcoming meeting. He has a lot of good information for our members.

Our biennial General Assembly is scheduled for Sept. 9-12, 2018 in the City of Orange. We elected delegates from our Chapter to represent us at that meeting. This is an important part of membership in our organization where new leaders are elected and our course of action to protect our benefits and pensions is laid out. Workshops are held which are very informative about offerings of the organization as well as helpful information in leading a local chapter. To those elected to position of delegate, I charge you with attending and gaining as much knowledge as possible to bring back to our members about activities at GA.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be in Sacramento on April 30-May 1. Please plan to attend.

This is my final column as President of Chapter 004. I've enjoyed the experience, and will continue working for our organization in other positions. As Newsletter editor, I'm sure I'll be writing from time to time about on-going events.

ELDER SCAMS

The following was borrowed from the "News Briefs" published by the Sacramento County Retired Employees Association.

This is a portion of the article dealing with Elder Scams and some scams in general. It is estimated that more than \$36 billion dollars per year is lost due to scams. The majority of the losses are from the elderly. **Be vigilant!**

Pets-for-sale Scam

A pet-for-sale scam involves scammers creating a fake website that offers pet adoptions or providing individuals an opportunity to make a donation to a fictitious animal nursery. The website showcases a wide variety of animals that can be adopted at significantly lower than market price. Victims are required to only pay for the insurance and other fees associated with shipping their new pet to their home. The only form of payment accepted is a Moneygram, Western Union or a non-returning money transfer to an overseas bank account. Everyone should avoid paying for a pet by transferring money into another person's bank account.

Collection Agency Scam

Scam artists are well aware that collection agencies have the right to contact individuals who are behind in their monthly bills. They identify themselves as a representative of a fictitious collection agency that is threatening a lawsuit unless the victim settles their current debt issue. Some scam artists support their claims with actual information about the person's bad credit history. This type of scam can go on for a long period of time, as the phone call harassment will continue until the victim breaks down and makes a payment over the phone. A few months later, the same vicious cycle begins once again to acquire more money from a helpless victim.

Working from Home Scam

Every person's dream is working from home on an everyday basis. After all, it's a convenient way to avoid the stresses of commuting back-and-forth from our homes to the workplace. This scam centers around setting up a fictitious website that offers work-at-home positions within the international shipping department. The victim goes through the interview process on instant messenger or email correspondence. Once hired, the company begins to send packages to the new employee's home with explicit instructions on how to inspect the product before shipping it elsewhere. Soon after, communication between the company and employee ceases, as they receive a fictitious paycheck that is greater than time worked. Finally, the employee is able to get in contact with their employer about the overpayment in their paycheck. The company confirms the mistake and tells the employee to send the difference back before depositing the check. Unfortunately, the victim will receive notice that the paycheck has bounced with no recourse to recover the money from their vanished employ-



SPRING LUNCHEON - RPEA CHAPTER 004



OUR SPRING LUNCHEON IS AROUND THE CORNER



Invite family – bring a friend. Come on out and join us. All are welcome.

- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 (3rd Wednesday of the month vs. 2nd Wednesday)
(RSVP by April 10, 2018 to Roxanne Woodward - details below)
- WHERE:** CATTLEMENS
12409 Folsom Boulevard
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 (Hazel Avenue Exit off Highway 50 East)
- TIME:** 11:00 a.m. (no host cocktails & buzz...)
12:00 p.m. (lunch served)
- COST:** \$15.00 per person
- MENU:** Top Sirloin Steak (8 oz. Harris Ranch beef)
Atlantic Salmon (10 oz. grilled fillet)
Chicken Breast (marinated in lemon herb sauce)
Pasta Ravioli (vegetarian ravioli served with a seasonal sauce)

*All selections include a baked potato, all-you-can-eat salad, sourdough bread, ranch style beans, soda, coffee or tea.
Steaks are prepared medium to medium rare. Special requests for rare or well done will be accommodated.*

Please RSVP no later than April 10, 2018. Make check payable to RPEA, Chapter 004. Indicate entrée selection(s) & mail reservation and payment to Roxanne Woodward, 2844 Honeysuckle Way, Sacramento, CA 95826, telephone (916) 388-0230, rwoodward55@comcast.net. Payment must be received prior to the luncheon.

Non-perishable food donations will be collected for a local food bank.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ # RESERVED: _____

PRINTED NAME(S) FOR NAME TAG: _____

MENU SELECTION(S):

Steak: _____ Salmon: _____ Chicken: _____ Pasta: _____





www.rpea.com

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RPEA Headquarters
300 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-6912
or (916) 441-7732

2018-20 CHAPTER 004

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2018-20 Chapter 004

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