



# THE CHAT NEWSLETTER

Retired Public Employees' Association  
Burbank Chapter 026 Area V

*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 retirement, medical, and other benefits.*



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

**Here Comes  
Summer!!**

Those that attended our April meeting enjoyed a tasty Italian lunch from Olive Garden after Moose Pyros led us in the flag salute. Welcome back Moose! Our speaker, Burbank Police Officer Castro, spoke on some of the scams that we need to be knowledgeable about. Seniors are a targeted group for scammers. If you attended, please share the information with your family and friends.

We are planning on having a picnic theme lunch at our next meeting in June from Corner Bakery. Our speaker is the new PERS Board Member, Margaret Brown. This will be your chance to ask questions about what is going on with PERS and to hear her ideas.

I want to thank Bonnie Holcomb for stepping up to fill the Secretary position until the end of the year. This is appreciated more than she will ever know. Nominations for next year will be soon so think about what you might like to do to keep our group active.

Thanks for your continuing support! See the special note below about our upcoming August meeting.

**Sharon Leech, President-Chapter 026**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR AUGUST MEETING:  
Scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2018**

Smarter Senior Forums Presented by Antonia Villasenor of the CA Department of Business Oversight

**YOU ARE INVITED! WE HOPE YOU'LL ATTEND!**

## RPEA CHAPTER 026 LUNCHEON

**When? Noon on Monday, June 25, 2018**

**Where? Joslyn Adult Center  
1301 West Olive Avenue  
Burbank, CA**

**Lunch is free and will be catered!**

**Please RSVP to Sharon Leech by 6/23/018:**

**By Phone – (818)768-5945 or**

**EMAIL – [snrleech2@yahoo.com](mailto:snrleech2@yahoo.com)**



## MEET YOUR RPEA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

Joel Embick, your current Chapter #026 Assistant Treasurer, has been a member of the Burbank RPEA Chapter for 17 years since his retirement in August, 2001. Joel was born in Chicago, Illinois and moved to Burbank when he was grade school. Joel was hired by the City of Burbank on April Fool's Day in 1963. Joel's career spanned some 38 years plus between the Public Works and Public Service Departments when he retired in August, 2001. In his spare time, he has enjoyed motorcycles, drag boats, and antique cars. Joel is also a member of the nostalgic Road Kings Car Club since he did a complete modification of his 1940 Ford coupe in 1990. Joel is generous with his time and always willing to lend a helping hand. Thanks, Joel for your service to RPEA!

**Mary Jo Watkins, Newsletter Editor**

You may be someone who cannot attend luncheon meetings, but you want to support our efforts to protect your pension and health care benefits. If you want more information or want to have an application mailed to you, phone toll free 1-800-443-7732, or email [rpeahq@rpea.com](mailto:rpeahq@rpea.com). For an online application, go to [www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com). Make sure you update any changes to your email or life events with RPEA so we can forward any important information regarding your pension or benefits.

**THE MORE MEMBERS WE HAVE, THE STRONGER OUR INFLUENCE!**

## FEATURED SPEAKER AT YOUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING!



Margaret Brown

We are honored to be able to announce that Margaret Brown, from the CALPERS Board of Administration, will be the speaker at our next meeting on June 25, 2018, at the Joslyn Adult Center in Burbank. She is one of 13 individuals of the PERS Board that help set policy and oversees the administration of retirement and health benefits to its members. She has been newly elected to her position as the All Member Representative. 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 all members of CALPERS. The Board of Chapter #026 is looking forward to her visit. Don't miss it!

## NOTABLE TIDBITS BY RPEA HEADQUARTERS

In April, 2018, Jim Anderson, the current Director of Legislation, announced he would be resigning. Jim had served RPEA in this capacity since 2014. Vice President, Randall Cheek, from Chapter #004 in Sacramento has agreed to complete Jim's term as Director of Legislation. Randall has over 20 years experience working for the California Legislature. He had been appointed by former Governor Gray Davis to be Legislative Liaison for the California Lottery and is the former Legislative Advocate for SEIU Local 1000.

Donna Snodgrass, the Director of Health Benefits for RPEA, noted that she had discovered more than one "OptumRx" contract in our system. The United Health Care contract has different parameters, including a completely different formulary list for drugs for both their Basic and Medicare Advantage PPO plans. Plus, the CMS (Medicare) formulary is a third list. She is currently working with the PERS staff to try and get some consistency between benefit packages. OptumRx has assured RPEA that they will address any future issues and have given us the direct phone number for your representative.

**OPTUMRX-Anthem's PERSCare, PERS Choice, and PERS SELECT Insurance through CALPERS**  
(855)505-8110 Basic Plan (855)505-8106 Medicare

**United Healthcare – Basic HMO Plan (877)359-3714 (888)867-5581 Medicare Advantage PPO Plan**



Retired Public Employees' Assn. Chapter 004  
P O Box 188235  
Sacramento, CA 95818-8235

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Officers

President: Sharon Leech	(818) 768-5945
Vice President: Mary Jo Watkins	(818) 504-9050
Past President: Marge Lauerman	(818) 845-1920
Secretary: Bonnie Holcomb	***
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Asst. Treasurer: Joel Embick	(818) 848-8909
Area Director V: Ellie Knapp	(661) 607-2072

2018 Chapter 026  
Committee Chairs

Legislation: Bill Smith	(818) 842-0641
Membership: (VACANT)	
Sunshine/Newsletter:	
Mary Jo Watkins	(818) 504-9050
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Ken Nichols	(818) 842-3658
Sharon Leech	(818) 768-5945
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