



Retired Public Employees' Association Mission City Chapter #61

May 2018 Newsletter

Program: Dan Racimo-Marketing Director Mission City Federal Credit Union



President's Report.....Bill Wallace

An April 6 meeting of RPEA Peninsula chapter leaders was held to discuss protecting our hard earned pensions. I'll give a summary at the May 8 meeting and, if you'd like to participate in a future meeting, let me know.

California is on the verge of creating a retirement plan for private-sector workers. By providing a pension for California workers, this could reduce some of the negative public opinion on public sector pensions. California director of the Small Business Majority Mark Herbert stated that a poll by his organization and AARP found 2/3 of small business owners in California support a state retirement-savings program. For small companies, the main barriers to offering a retirement plan are cost, administrative complexity, and fiduciary liability under the federal law. "CalSavers solves for all three," he said.

Regarding discussions of CalPERS divesting itself of investments that are viewed as socially negative, CalPERS investment staff states "There is considerable evidence that divesting is an ineffective strategy for achieving social or political goals, since the consequence is generally a mere transfer of ownership of divested assets from one investor to another." It is believed that CalPERS can achieve greater positive social and political goals while being actively engaged as an investor. What do you think? Should CalPERS be petitioned to become more involved in checking the activities of the corporations in which they have investments?

An effort is being made in the State Senate to reduce our annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). Senate Bill 1031 (John Moorlach) would prevent a COLA if unfunded liability is greater than 20%. This would affect all retired public employees. Remember we already paid for our COLA while working.

Senate Bill 1149 (Steve Glazer) will create a 401(k) as an alternative pension for state employees. This is a way to destroy public pensions by reducing the amount that goes into the investment trust fund and ultimately less returns. This will result in a smaller pension for you and me. This is a sneaky way of destroying the pension of those already retired.

While Congress hands a golden egg to the wealthiest, at the expense of the neediest, it tells workers that Social Security, Medicare and pensions are unaffordable. We should not accept Congress' effort to dismantle these prepaid programs on which we depend in our retirement.

Next Meeting

May 8, 2018

11:30am

Hometown Buffet

Moonlite Shopping Center

El Camino/Kiely-Santa Clara

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2018 Meeting Dates

May 8

July 10
(annual picnic)

September 11

November 13

Notice

If you have moved or changed your address for delivery of this newsletter, please send your new address and current e-mail to:

RPEA
Headquarters 300
T. Street
Sacramento, CA
95811-6912

March's Lucky Cash Prize Winners

1st Prize \$50
Larry Monette

2nd Prize \$25
John McGuire

3rd Prize \$25
Chuck Brown

March's Birthday Recipients

Chuck Brown
Carol Buchanan
Arlene Rose
Joe Valenti

The efforts to downgrade CalPERS and our pension will, if successful, destroy our economic power and independence. As individual 401(k) investors, we have no power. CalPERS, with its strength of member numbers, has the ability to fight these attacks and provide a retirement income that sets us free.

Write or call your State Senator and Assemblymember and let them know these are both bad pieces of legislation have the potential of taking money out of retirees' pockets.



Secretary.....Sandy Myers

Speaker was Kris Machnick, former City of Santa Clara Director of Finance and current advocate for research for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. She has established a fundraiser called #8for80. Her goal is to climb 8 ice mountains before she turns 80 in 2019, and to raise \$100,000 each in donations for research for these causes. She talked about what led to her mission and described her efforts so far with a wonderful PowerPoint presentation. Visit her website at: <http://www.krisclimbingforlife.com/category/8-for-80/> or her Facebook page for more info. It's a great cause!

Bill Wallace talked about legislation threatening public employee retirements. One is an effort to bring 401K's into State of California retirement plans, which would weaken the PERS system and could potentially reduce PERS benefits. He reminded all that pension is not a benefit; it was negotiated and paid for by us as employees. We took no increase or less pay to get better retirements. In fact, City of Santa Clara employees paid both employee and employer shares for this retirement until very recently.

Janus vs AFSCME (required membership of employees in union shops) Supreme Court decision is about to be rendered. It's "Divide & Conquer" or "Deletion of Power" for employees. If the decision is against unions, it will mean a big blow to union strength and potentially to many employees.

Bill distributed 2 handouts. 1st - FORUM (Federation of Retired Union Members) Rally & BBQ on Saturday, April 21, 2018 and 2nd - California Alliance Retired American volunteer recruitment.

Reminder that RPEA General Assembly is September 2018 and all are welcome to attend. Interested parties should contact Bill Wallace.

John Peterson volunteered to be the chair for the annual RPEA BBQ. Rick Mauck offered to help.

New member Franz was given \$10 for her free first-time lunch. It is obviously profitable to come to these meetings, although the best part is visiting with friends, old and new...!



Membership Chairperson.....Dave Hanson

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Santa Clara Unified School District retiree and fellow RPEA member, Helen Silveria. Helen was an avid volunteer for many organizations in Santa Clara, including St. Justin's Church, the Senior Advisory Commission and the Santa Clara Women's League. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Lloyd, her family, and her many friends.

Our membership numbers remain about the same, and most new retirees are joining RPEA upon retirement. But some aren't, and some past retirees are not in our group. We need all the members we can get to support our various causes. The best way to increase our membership is for each of us to personally invite retirees we know who are not members to come to a meeting or two. They can see what we offer and why their membership is important to the protection of their hard earned retirements. Please keep this in mind when you're with your non-member friend. Contact Dave Hanson at dhanson6@yahoo.com.



Newsletter Editor.....Robin Burdick

We're up to 55 members who are now receiving RPEA Chapter #61's newsletters by email! If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically rather than by US mail, please alert Newsletter Editor Robin Burdick at robburdick28@gmail.com.



Program Chair.....Rick Mauck

Looking for suggestions and recommendations for interesting, informative speakers for upcoming meetings. Know someone who would like to speak at a Chapter 61 meeting? Contact Rick Mauck at rickmauck@yahoo.com.



Don't forget!!
Every time you attend a meeting,
you have a chance to win some prize money!



Top Prize \$50!

