

*From the President's Desk*

## Taking Stock of 2018: What the Upcoming Year Looks Like for 084

Organizations must remain energetic, optimistic, and committed—the key measures of any group that hopes not simply to survive, but thrive. Thriving in this instance means addressing the bedrock challenges facing RPEA, and assuring that we handle them well. The year 2018 perhaps will bring us the particular challenge of renewed assaults on public employee retirement benefits, an issue that has plagued us in recent years.

RPEA exists to protect these benefits (and as a corollary, health benefits as well). Not too long ago, our pensions seemed secure, beyond attack. But recent government actions—and those of certain individuals who have made public employee pensions their singular target—pose a major threat. The situation has put RPEA on red alert, prompting a strategic response designed to protect our promised pension benefits.

*Promised* is a key word. The so-called California Rule, established by court rulings in 1947, offers public employees the promise that their retirement benefits cannot be diminished (unless replaced by similar benefits). That rule is being challenged in a legal action coming before the State Supreme Court. Government now argues that it should have the right to reduce benefits based on financial circumstances which, in its view, recommend redress.

I now borrow a few words from a newspaper article by Ben Valdepena, president of the California School Employees Association, who observed that “critics repeat the falsehood that (pensions) cost too much and that these costs are ‘crowding out’ the ability of governments to deliver services. In fact, pension costs are cyclical and there is no evidence of substantial crowd out.

“The reality is that pensions are a core reason governments are able to deliver services at all, as they are a benefit that keeps teachers in classrooms, fire fighters on the fire lines and police officers patrolling the streets.” Not to mention the dozens of other services public employees provide faithfully and well.

Chapter 084 has welcomed a significant influx of new members in recent months, an indication of their interest in the work of RPEA. It is my hope that we can look to some of those who recently joined to assist us with the chapter’s responsibilities, particularly in the arena where the pension issues are being debated. We specifically need a legislative chairperson—someone who tracks the situation and alerts the chapter board to possible actions which the chapter may need to take—**Roberta Christensen**

## New Chapter Officers Installed At Chapter’s December Meeting

Chapter 084 installed new officers at the December meeting that also featured the collection of gifts for children and young people, which were later turned over to the fire department for Christmas-time distribution. Officers were installed by Bob Wilson, a former State President of RPEA. Leading the chapter in 2018 will be:

<i>Roberta Christensen</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>916 983-9502</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Gloria Kalthoff</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>916 723-2908</i>
<i>Alfredo Gomez</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>916 726-0848</i>
<i>Helen Field</i>	<i>Past-President</i>	<i>916 783-0325</i>
<i>Marty Martinez</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>916 425-7699</i>
<i>Ray Aguilar</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>916 771-5021</i>
<i>Maria Sumner</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>916 849-8599</i>

### Committee Chairs:

<i>Marilyn Cain</i>	<i>Reservations</i>	<i>916 434-6369</i>
<i>Maria Sumner</i>	<i>Sunshine</i>	<i>916 849-8599</i>
<i>Helen Field</i>	<i>Circulation</i>	<i>916 783-0325</i>
<i>Kent Milton</i>	<i>Editor</i>	<i>916 532-4096</i>

The legislative and membership committees are without leaders at the moment, positions which need to be filled because of their importance. As noted by President Roberta in her adjoining column, the legislative position maintains the critical connection between the chapter and what’s happening in the areas of government and legislation. If you are interested in fulfilling this important post, or that of vice-president or membership chair, contact President Roberta.

## And the Beat Goes On

*Chapter 084 has begun the process of transitioning delivery of the newsletter from a printed version to an electronic one. A number of members have already chosen electronic; we’re gradually making what we hope will be the shift of every member. If you haven’t signed on yet, contact the newsletter editor at barbjuly20@gmail.com and advise him of your e-mail address—he will transfer you to electronic delivery.*

## Wish Them Happy Birthday

Celebrating birthdays as we begin the New Year:  
**January:** Robert Sydom, Michael Garabedian, Beverly Klein, Patricia Safford, Marilyn Cain, Irene Stoltz.  
**February:** Cora Victa, Janice Silliman, Benjamin Aguilar, Al Safford, Ursula Rooney, Doris Baldwin

## And, Mark Your Calendar

Chapter meetings during calendar 2018 will be February 22, April 26, June 28, August 23, October 25, and December 6, the annual Christmas party.

RPEA Chapter 084  
1168 Rand Way  
Roseville, CA 95678

*Return Service requested*

### *RPEA-Roseville Chapter 084*

The Next Chapter Luncheon--10:45 a.m. February 22

Where: Sierra Regency, 1015 Madden Lane, Roseville 95661

The Menu--Your choice of:

Chicken Parmesan and Sautéed Vegetables or  
Spinach Florentine Ravioli

Reservations a Must--Call Marilyn Cain (916) 434-6369 or Helen Field (916 783-0325) with your menu selection no later than Monday, February 19. **(If you make a reservation and find you can't attend, please cancel with Marilyn or Helen because the chapter must pay for every reservation).**

*(Luncheon cost \$10 for members (please bring correct change or a check), \$12 for associates, \$14 for guests)*

## The February 22 Program

The State Department of Motor Vehicles created a senior ombudsman program to assist older drivers with problems they experience in sorting through the intricacies of the bureaucracy. The ombudsman solves problems--quickly and efficiently. But the ombudsman has lots of tips for senior drivers as well. Attend the February 22 luncheon and get both--valuable suggestions about your driving, and information that makes dealing with DMV a lot easier.