

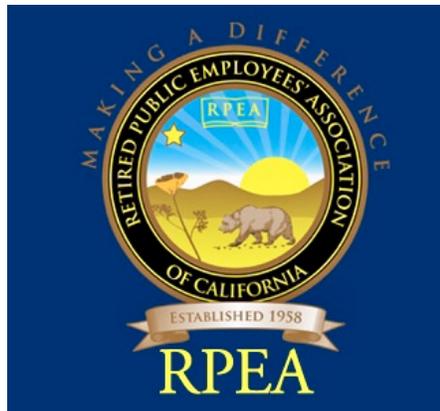
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~~~~ RETIREWIRE ~~~~

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☀️ **Happy Summer 2018** ☀️

**RPEA Chapter 096 Lunch Meeting Friday July 13, 2018  
@ NOON  
Le Peep 2125 Louisiana Blvd. NE ABQ, NM 87110**



🎂 *Happy Summer Birthdays* 🎂 :

*Linda Boylan, Barbara Desilets, Esther Duran, Minnie Johnson, Rebecca Mayeaux, William Norton, John Richter, Connie Roberts, Mary Schlegel, Kathy Sullivan, Larry Sullivan, Guadalupe Tellez*

**Retired Public Employees' Association (RPEA)**  
**Chapter 096 General Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2018**

Present: Larry Sullivan, Martha Hoyt, Lucy Lopez, Evelyn McGarry, Barbara Desilets, Kat Sullivan, Ben Gillespie, Richard Dick, Ruth Johnson

- APD representative was a “no show”
- Sharon Bruce resigned from our chapter board due to family & travel commitments
- RPEA did mass mailing of member applications; our chapter membership is 103
- July 2018 chapter lunch meeting attendees meals paid by our chapter
- 2018 RPEA General Assembly in September 2018: Larry will attend as our area director; Lucy will attend as our chapter delegate with voting privileges; Ruth volunteered as our chapter alternate delegate with no voting privileges; Larry & Lucy's expenses paid by RPEA headquarters; Ruth's expenses reimbursed by our chapter (\$1000 approximately)
- Required by RPEA to host Area IX workshop (in 2020); further discussion at GA meeting
- Chapter funds inquiry; Larry explained approximately \$80/month received from RPEA
- There is a limited RPEA membership (associate) for those still working (age 50+)
- Lucy asked what is cost of having meetings at Le Peep with each member paying a portion of their meal in comparison to paying room rental at JCC/Los Volcanes; further discussion at July 2018 lunch meeting; JCC room lease ends October 2018
- Current chapter bank account balance is \$3605.00
- The next chapter 096 general meeting will on October 12, 2018 @ 1 pm at the JCC on Wyoming Blvd in ABQ

Respectfully submitted by Evelyn McGarry on 6/27/2018

**LARRY'S CORNER**

Our chapter meeting will be at Le Peep in the Kimo Room in back. I look forward to our meal at Le Peep on July 13, 2018. NOON is our meeting time this quarter.

I can shout over everyone's munching, so we'll still have a membership meeting. Show up late and we'll have eaten all the food!

I attended the RPEA Board of Directors Meeting on April 30 & May 1, 2018. We endorsed Jason Perez for the CalPERS Board of Directors election later this year. Jason is president of the Corona Police Officers' Association. Corona is in California's Central Valley.

Most of the CalPERS Board Members are appointed by the honchos. Even if we elect everyone we want, we still would not have a majority on the CalPERS Board. Always vote for retiree friendly candidates.

The RPEA Board also decided to require chapter treasurers to share the actual bank statement with their membership. Three chapters have had treasurers with gambling habits in the last year.

Chapter 096 already has this covered. The Bank of Albuquerque sends our chapter statement to me, president, and I forward it to our treasurer, Lucy Lopez. By the time our treasurer's report has been presented, multiple chapter officers have actually seen our bank statement.

I also make a copy of the bank statement, so the chapter president and the chapter treasurer in 096 have copies of the latest bank statement.

I continue to be a very active Area Director. I will be in Chapter 101 Phoenix, Arizona this month, June. Next month, July, Kathy and I will attend meetings in Prescott, Arizona 098 and Tucson, Arizona 103. We will also be at Le Peep on July 13.

General Assembly 2018 should be great from our chapter point-of-view. Our treasurer, Lucy Lopez, is our delegate. Member Ruth Johnson has volunteered to be our Alternate Delegate. She'll be reimbursed through our chapter treasury. Lucy and I will get reimbursed by RPEA headquarters.

Our chapter can only have one vote, however. Having three New Mexicans at the conclave can only help our chapter, our state and, hopefully, Area IX.

There are three court cases in the California courts regarding retirement. None of them directly affect pensions of our active membership. RPEA always watches court cases about public retirees to make sure the decision supports the California rule. The California rule is that no pension or benefit can be taken away without something of equal value replacing it. With the bankruptcies in the cities of Stockton and San Bernardino, we've seen that political actors short change public employees and then claim poverty.

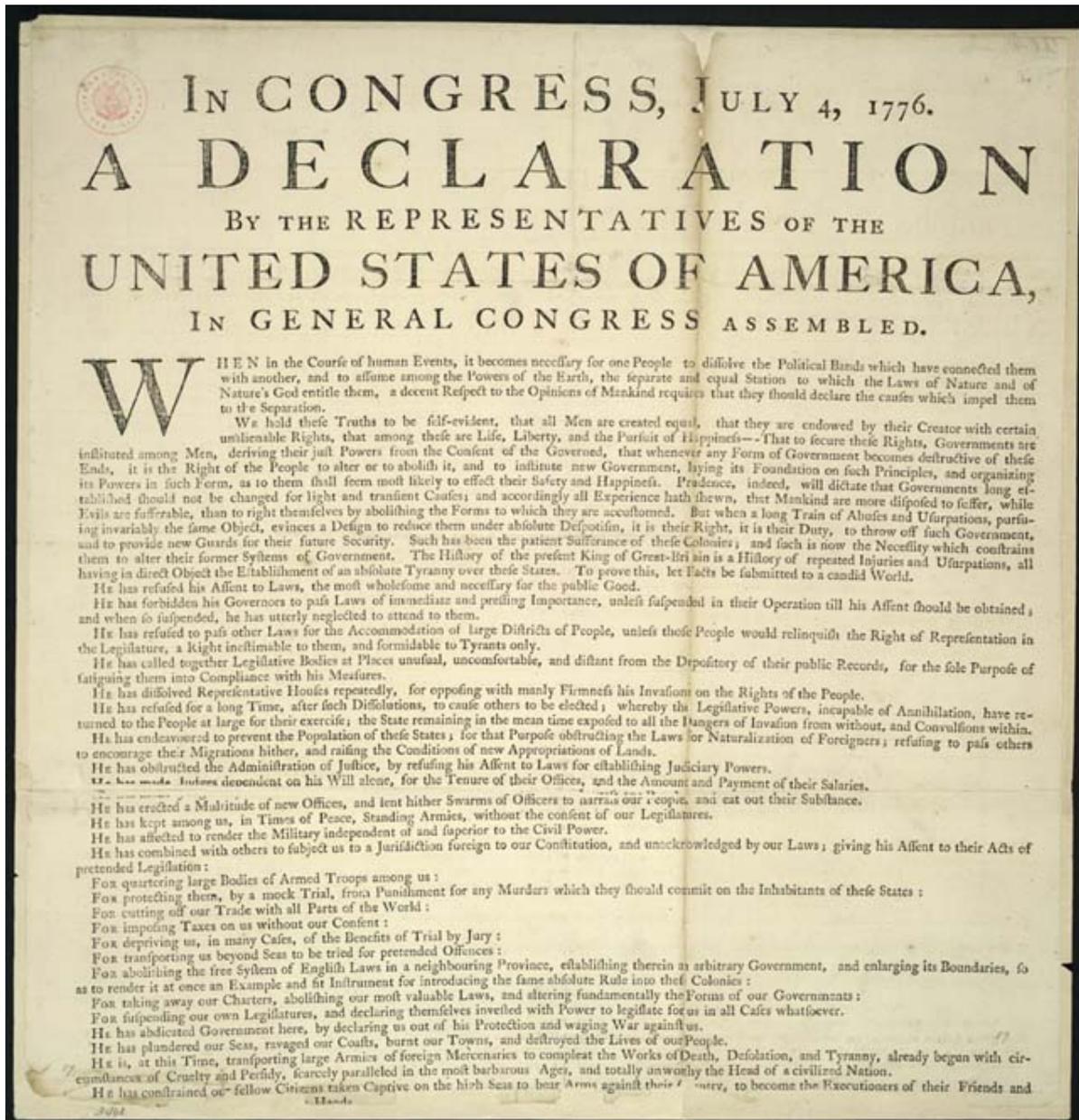
Public pensions can be reduced if the financial hardship is great enough and REAL and if PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ARE NOT SHOULDERING THE BURDENS OF OTHER CONSTITUENCIES!

RPEA recently sent out over 60,000 membership applications to prospective new members. Headquarters continues to receive new applications. Every chapter in Area IX except 096 has gotten new members!

We had a great chapter meeting in April, although the APD didn't show and did not contact anyone from our group. So much for public safety.

I look forward to seeing you at the general membership meeting. You are always welcome at a chapter board meeting.

🇺🇸 🎊 Happy Independence Day 🎊 🇺🇸



Your participation is always welcome and encouraged. If you would like to contribute to the RETIREWIRE newsletter please contact your newsletter editor, Evelyn McGarry, at [mcgarrye2004@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgarrye2004@yahoo.com)

## Did You Know?

- ~Tarantula Hawk Wasp: Schmidt Sting Pain Index: 4 out of 4!
- ~Anatomy of a deciduous tree: taproot, trunk and crown
- ~Waterloo Gasoline Traction Co. built a tractor in 1914.

## **You're Retired, So Now What?**

- Oasis ABQ - Summer 2018 classes
- OLLI @ UNM Summer 2018 classes
- Albuquerque Little Theatre: "Pride & Prejudice" in August 2018
- Popejoy Hall: "Wicked" in October 2018
- Los Alamos Science Fest: July 11-15, 2018

## **Area IX Director's Report**

I attended the RPEA Board of Directors Meeting in Sacramento, California, April 30-May 1, 2018 at the Sacramento Hilton South Natomas.

RPEA's recent appearance at the CalPERS Board Meeting delivering a vote of No Confidence in Optum RX got us a packed house for the beginning of our board meeting.

The chief operating officer of Optum RX and 13 other representatives from the drug benefit management company were on hand to address the company's many failings in the rollout of their contract with CalPERS.

Representatives from California State Retirees (California State Employees Association, retiree group) were also in attendance.

CSR has noted the many "shortcomings" in Optum RX's first year managing the CalPERS drug benefit plans.

If Optum RX takes concrete steps to address their issues, it was a good session. If they continue to have problems, some life threatening for our membership, then the session was "A hand full of gimme and a mouth full of much obliged" as my late mom would say.

The recent mass mailing from RPEA has produced new members in Area IX Chapters 097, 098, 099, 101, and 103. We assume this is the first wave from the mailing and we hope for more new members.

A MASA mailing is being done by AMBIA currently for non-RPEA members of the Los Alamos Retirees group. MASA is their air ambulance service, a benefit not offered to CalPERS or UC Retirement System members.

We're still having problems getting all chapter reports to headquarters on time. The RPEA Board voted to withhold dues to chapters that have failed to send chapter reports on a timely basis.

Send me, the Area Director, a copy of your chapter's reports. If I don't get a copy, I will assume that headquarters didn't also.

JASON PEREZ, President of the Corona Police Officers Association (Central Valley), and a friend of Margaret Brown, RPEA's CalPERS Board Member, was at the meeting stumping for votes.

Your RPEA Board of Directors endorsed Jason Perez for the CalPERS Board of Directors. Most of the CalPERS Board members are not selected by popular election, they are appointed. Unless you can say, with a straight face, "I love Jerry

Brown and Arnold Schwarzenegger" then you need to vote for retiree friendly CalPERS board members.

The change in bylaws for Chapter 098 was approved.

The last date to submit items for this year's GA is 6/11/18.

I attended the Chapter 097 meeting on April 20, 2018 and asked the membership to donate the \$1,000 or so we need to have a one-day area workshop following the 2020 GA. They didn't say yes, but they didn't say no. Thanx 097! We'll talk more about this at this year's GA.

There are three court cases regarding retirees currently in the California court system. All three of these involve issues for future retirees but if the court cuts pension funding it might affect us.

Chapters in Area IX are hereby ordered to present a copy of the bank statement when giving a Chapter meeting or board a financial report. Unfortunately, some problem gamblers have become treasurers and now we have to be more transparent. I HATE that honest people have to change their behavior because of the actions of the not-so-honest.

Thank you for your service.

Larry Sullivan

***Note to Southern New Mexico members: if you would like to meet with your chapter board members for a lunch group meeting in the Las Cruces area please contact Larry Sullivan at [houseofspirit@earthlink](mailto:houseofspirit@earthlink).***

**Your RPEA Chapter 096 Board Members:**

Larry Sullivan: President, Lou Silva: V-P, Evelyn McGarry: Secretary & Newsletter Editor, Lucy Lopez: Treasurer

**Next RPEA Chapter 096 Meeting:  
October 12, 2018 at 1 pm @ JCC on Wyoming Blvd in ABQ**