



## **Sagebrush 99**

### **The Newsletter of Las Vegas Valley, Nevada Retired Public Employees Association of California**

#### **Announces:**

**Membership Meeting and Luncheon  
Thursday, January 17, 2019  
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM  
Los Prados Golf Community and Country Club  
5150 Los Prados Circle  
Las Vegas, NV 89130**

**Our Speaker: TBD**

**RSVP to Marlene Baker (702) 269-1304  
or [mbaker7400@aol.com](mailto:mbaker7400@aol.com) by -1/10/18  
Board meeting at 10:30 a.m.**

#### **President's Message By Marlene Baker**

Hi Everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 17, 2019. Lunch is provided at a cost to our member guests of \$10. The difference in actual cost is paid by the chapter. Please RSVP to me by January 10<sup>th</sup> and leave a message if I am not home when you call. We will be ordering off the menu this month. We are hoping to get as our

speaker an officer from RPEA's headquarters. Larry Sullivan, the current Area IX Director will be in attendance as well.

It is with a heavy heart that I report that our immediate past Chapter President and Area IX Director for several years, Cleave Govan, passed away on December 11 after a long illness. However, Cleave attended our last few meetings and had offered to write an article for us on his experiences with

Medicare and the health system. Unfortunately, he never had the opportunity to write the article. In addition, at our November meeting, staff at Los Prados advised us that another former Chapter President who served several terms in that position, Chuck Logan, passed away a few months ago. We will miss both of them and remember their contributions to our Chapter and Cleave's contribution to RPEA as a whole.

We had slightly better attendance at our last meeting. I would appreciate any ideas and input from you on possible speakers at future meetings or if you have something interesting to speak on at a future meeting. We need to be informed and proactive about issues facing our pensions, Social Security and Medicare entitlements. With the loss of two of our Board members, we need more people on the Board. If you are interested in being an active part of the chapter, please let me know. It doesn't take much time, only a few hours every few months, as we usually have a short meeting prior to our lunch meeting and we only meet a few times a year. There will be no March meeting this year as I will be out of town then.

#### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Please mark your calendars now for our future meeting dates:

January 17, 2019

May 16, 2019

September ?

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The balance in our Chapter 99 Bank Account on October 31, 2018 was

\$1,377.14. The November 30, 2018 balance was \$1,558.78. The November deposit from RPEA dues was \$280.25. Expenses for the November luncheon were \$84.61 and a service fee of \$14.00. The cost of mailing and supplies for this newsletter has not been included.

#### **WHAT IS RPEA**

RPEA is a non-profit association of retirees and active employees who are members of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). Our mission is important:

- RPEA represents all public employees - classified schools, public agencies, and state.
- RPEA is liaison between retirees and CalPERS.
- RPEA is a mutual protective association for all beneficiaries of CalPERS.
- RPEA fights to maintain our current pension and health care benefits and improve these benefits every year.
- RPEA has local chapters in your area - attend meetings to stay informed and hear interesting speakers.

RPEA protects the interests of retirees at the state level to ensure your retirement remains secure. We retain a professional lobbyist who represents our interests before the Governor, Legislators and CalPERS Board. We also have access to a federal lobbyist who keeps us informed on federal retiree issues.

RPEA continues an active and ongoing relationship with CalPERS by serving on their Advisory Committee concerning CalPERS plans and proposals. We also

monitor every CalPERS committee and frequently testify at these meetings on behalf of our members.

While we encourage participation in one of our many chapters, most of our members participate by reading RPEA's bi-monthly newsletter, giving us feedback on their needs, and enrolling in one or more of our "members only" insurance programs.

At \$5.00 per month, RPEA is a bargain hard to resist. We need you and you need us — to support our fight to protect our pensions and benefits.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

#### **WHO'S WHO SAGEBRUSH CHAPTER 99**

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Please notify RPEA headquarters of  
any changes to address or status**

#### **RIDES**

There are many members in the area who would like to carpool to our meetings. Please let us know if you need a ride or if you can offer transportation. Call Marlene at (702) 269-1304.

#### **DUES RENEWALS**

If you don't have automatic payment of your dues, please renew your dues. RPEA has been very active in informing the public and the legislative community about issues affecting our pensions and benefits.

If you discard our newsletter in the trash, please shred it as there are email addresses and telephone numbers listed in it. Our directors are volunteers and we don't want unnecessary solicitations coming our way because of publication of those numbers.

#### **FRAUD**

Telemarketing fraud is a multibillion dollar business in the United States. These are some of the scams to look out for. **Cold calls.** Operators may obtain your number from telephone directories or mailing lists. Operators will call and say that you have qualified for a trip or prize that you know nothing about. They may ask for

money to pay for insurance or shipping of a prize that you never receive. **Direct mail.** You may receive a letter or postcard in the mail saying you have won a prize. The instructions tell you to respond to the promoter with personal information. This personal information can then be used to commit identity theft. **Broadcast or print.** You may place a call in response to a television, newspaper, or magazine advertisement. Just because you initiated the call, don't be any less cautious about buying or investing on the phone. Remember, fraudulent telemarketers will almost always offer either free or low cost prize or travel packages. They could represent themselves as investment groups, charities, recovery scams, or foreign lotteries. They often target the elderly who are usually more trusting of individuals. For more information on how to protect yourself or to report telephone scam, follow link [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

#### INFORMATION SENT BY OUR OFFICERS IN SACRAMENTO

Harvey Robinson, Director of Health Benefits informs us that 1.4 million CalPERS health benefit subscribers will have their premiums increased by only 1.16% in 2019, the lowest in 21 years. Social Security recipients will receive a 2.8% increase for 2019. The CalPERS long-term care lawsuit with respect to premium increases has a June 10, 2019 trial date set in Los Angeles. If the suit is successful, CalPERS will have to double premiums. CalPERS is claiming

no responsibility for creating the program and its marketing implications.

Although a self-funded vision care program for public agency members was enacted into law several years ago, no provision for start up costs were provided and the program has been dormant. It is the hope of RPEA to work with the new legislature to find a way to implement the program. Lastly, Governor Brown signed into law the Patient Right to Know Act which requires physicians to inform patients when regulators put them on probation for harming those in their care.

Rosemary Knox stated in the November December 2018 issue of RPEA;s publication to members: "In 2019 we will have a new Governor and new players in the legislature. Therefore, it is important for all of us to get involved and participate in what happens in the arena of public pensions."