



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER

Chapter # 106, San Benito County Area III Volume 1 Issue 3  
September/October 2017

## Greetings

Margie Riopel

Hello Fellow Retirees. I hope you are in good health and enjoying your summer with family and friends. We also would like to send wishes of good health and speedy recovery to those experiencing challenges this year.

The meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> was well received. Jim Anderson, Director of Legislation, was our speaker at the meeting. Thank you Jim Anderson, for joining us.

Our next Chapter Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017. We hope you will join us. The agenda and details will be sent out in the next few weeks. **The meeting location has changed. It will be held at Valley Pizzeria, 551 McCray Street in Hollister.** My apologies are extended to those members who were not informed about the change prior to the last meeting.



**Make plans to attend and bring a guest to our Chapter Board Meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 11:30 am at Valley Pizzeria, 551 McCray Street in Hollister.**

**CalPERS Election** – You should have received a ballot for the election in the mail or an email. There are two seats on the CalPERS Board up for this election. The RPEA has endorsed **Mike Flaherman** and outgoing CalPERS Board Member **Margaret Brown**. Both are supportive of retiree pensions and health benefits. **The voting deadline is October 2, 2017**

## Membership Committee Report

Cindy Silva

Our August 2017 Roster has risen to 46 members. Thank you to those who have been spreading the word about our chapter. We encourage you to attend meetings. Invite friends, either Retirees or active employees to join us and participate. If you want to have a voice about your pension and benefits, we are stronger together. Come to the next meeting on **Thursday, November 2, 2017**

Help me welcome **Lynda Cartwright**, who has joined our chapter from Nampa, Idaho. We hope she will join us for a meeting, if Lynda finds herself in our county.

**For those of you whom have not become a member yet, Join. What are you waiting for?** For more information about becoming a member, contact Cindy Silva, Membership Committee Chair or check out the RPEA website at [www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com). Annual membership is \$60.00.

## Treasurer Report

Catherine Shaw

At the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, our guest speaker, Jim Anderson, graciously donated a \$25 See's Candy Gift Card as part of our Investment Opportunity which was awarded to Linda Breslauer. Denise Thome donated a lovely bottle of Pietra Santa Pinot Noir which was claimed by Margie Riopel – she purchased extra “opportunities” and the investment paid off. And since Pietra Santa is sadly gone, she did indeed get a good return on her investment. Catherine Shaw donated a potted plant which was claimed by Laura Schipper. She volunteered to donate the next investment opportunity for the November 2nd meeting – thank you Laura. One free opportunity with purchase of lunch, additional opportunities available at \$1 or 6 for \$5. The current checking account balance is \$941.94.

## Secretary Report

Denise Thome

### **July 11, 2017- General Membership Meeting**

- President Riopel reported that county negotiations had already begun. It was suggested that retirees have representation at the negotiations for unrepresented, SEIU and MEG retirees.

### **September 7, 2017 – Board & General Meeting**

- Approved amendment to Chapter by-laws regarding chapter dues for associate members only.
- Vice-President Marshall reported that the new health insurance premium rates were out and there was an overall increase of about 4.6% across the board. She stated that she was invited and then uninvited to the County Health Committee meeting which was being dissolved. She didn't know how they were going to do that since it was in the Personnel Rules. SEIU had filed a cease and desist order that Ms. Marshall could not represent all retirees.
- Ms. DaRoza noted that the county received the new health insurance rates from CSAC in June and did not send them out until August after being cc'ed on a letter to CSAC about the new rates.
- Jim Anderson, Legislative Director of RPEA, spoke to the group regarding different pending legislation affecting retirees, such as, single care payer health insurance, repealing the Windfall Offset as well as public pension matters. He further explained that the California Rule, which states if they cut benefits on one end they need to increase on the other end, was before the Court of Appeals.
- Mr. Anderson stated that bills and legislation that RPEA were watching were in a chart in the RPEA magazine.

## Legislative Report

Mandy Rose



After a very informative meeting with the California RPEA Legislative Chair, I'm sure most of you are up to date on the bills that RPEA is supporting and which ones survived the just concluded Legislative Session, as well as which ones became two-year bills.

There is some other news you may want to be aware of on several fronts: First, two more now defunct public entities failed to pay the full PERS retirement on behalf of its employees. As a direct result of this Trinity County Waterworks NO.1 and Niland Sanitary District join Loyalton and East San Gabriel Valley Health Consortium with the distinction that these former employees are now seeing their retirement benefits reduced. These actions remain a cautionary tale for us all to keep a vigilant eye on the County of San Benito to ensure they continue to pay down the unfunded PERS liability.

Second, in case you haven't heard, CalPers investments did markedly well last year: 11.2%. Great news when prior years returns since the Recession of 2008 had been around 1-3%. Again, great news but CalPers has miles to go to make up for all those lean years, so unfortunately although this is something to celebrate the party doesn't last long. Third, on its second try, our neighbor to the North, the City of San Jose voters passed a Pension Reform Measure in November of 2016. Keep in mind these reforms affect current and future employees, NOT retirees. The major components of this measure which will likely be brought forward in other jurisdictions include:

- a) Voter approval for any retirement benefit, pensions and healthcare
- b) New employees subject to a reformed package of benefits including the elimination of the defined benefit plan
- c) Retirement contributions fixed
- d) No retroactive benefit enhancements

And finally, our Statemates down in San Diego won a State Supreme Court ruling on 'citizen initiatives for local taxes'. A 'supra' majority (2/3) is no longer required for local tax measures—a simple majority will do. What this may mean for local tax measures across the State is in all likelihood more will be on the ballot. It is assumed that labor unions will be 'assisting' local governments in this endeavor, thereby creating a perceived if not real conflict of interest when contracts are up for negotiation, while labor unions may assist to protect their members from the incessant outcry of pensions bankrupting government services.

## Health Benefits Report

Elsie Marshall

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I was invited to the Health Benefits Committee meeting and then after I confirmed my attendance, I was uninvited! I do not understand why and when I inquired with HR and the committee why I was uninvited, I never received a response! It was very troubling, but just another way the County is keeping pertinent information from retirees.

You should have received a flyer from the County regarding Open Enrollment, but the flyer did not give us a lot of information. **Open Enrollment this year is from October 2 through October 20, 2017. If you are waiving coverage, you must complete a new form.** This is for retirees who are on a separate plan through a new employer or on a spouse's plan. If you do not wish to change your plan or add dependents, there are no forms to complete. You can find forms on the County website at [www.cosb.us](http://www.cosb.us) - on the front page, and on the right-hand side under "Quicklinks" click on **2018 Health Care Open Enrollment**.

You will also find the 2018 Health Care premiums and the contributions by the County on the website. The County contributions have not changed, but unfortunately the premiums have increased substantially.

**If you have any questions about Open Enrollment, call the Human Resources Department of the County at 831-636-4000 and ask for Steve Coffee.**

**General Membership Meetings:** General Membership Meetings are held quarterly in the months of March, June, September and December, on the first Thursday of the Month at 11:30 am at Valley Pizzeria, 551 McCray Street in Hollister.

**Chapter Board Meetings:** The Chapter Board of Directors and Committee Chairs meet during the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. Those meetings will be scheduled on the same date, time and location as the General Meetings. Members are welcomed.

### Chapter Board of Directors

President: Margie Riopel [mmriopel@aol.com](mailto:mmriopel@aol.com)

(831)801-8306

Vice President: Elsie Marshall [elsie.marshall@yahoo.com](mailto:elsie.marshall@yahoo.com)

(831)801-6995

Secretary: Denise Thome [thomehome32@yahoo.com](mailto:thomehome32@yahoo.com)

(831)801-4757

Treasurer: Catherine Shaw [catshaws@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catshaws@sbcglobal.net)

(408)804-2404

### Chapter Committee Chairs

Membership Committee Chairs: Cindy Silva [acsilva49@att.net](mailto:acsilva49@att.net)

(831) 801-0320, or Lillian Pereira [lcp333@hotmail.com](mailto:lcp333@hotmail.com)

Legislative Committee Chair: Mandy Rose

[normandyannrose@gmail.com](mailto:normandyannrose@gmail.com), (831)801-1254

Health Benefit Committee Chair: Elsie Marshall

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Newsletter Editor :Margie Riopel.....September 20, 2017