



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Chico Chapter 77

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

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 our earned retirement, medical, and other benefits. RPEA represents the rank and file of retired public employees.

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 – 11:15 AM
NASH’S RESTAURANT
1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO

LUNCH COST: \$20 (Plated Lunch)

MENU: Hot Turkey Sandwich with mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce

VEGGIE OPTION: Loaded mashed potatoes with broccoli and cheese

NOTE: Entrees are accompanied by a non-alcoholic beverage.

RSVP: Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or
Email her: betsybikes@sbcglobal.net
Reservation Deadline: Sunday, November 1
NOTE: Please let Betsy know your entrée choice and any dietary restrictions when making your reservation.

PROGRAM:
“Chico State Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry”

SPEAKER:



Katie Daywalker
Basic Needs Coordinator at Chico State

The Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry is open to Chico State students and staff *facing food insecurity*. The Pantry strives to provide a wide assortment of nutritious, student-friendly food products. It specializes in distributing local, farm-direct, organic produce and foods. The Pantry also provides hygiene and kitchen items like toothbrushes, tampons, condoms, baby products, kitchenware, and soap. Annually, the Pantry distributes more than 60 tons of food to more than 4,000 students. Currently, about half of the shelf-stable food is strategically purchased through food banks and wholesale channels. The remaining food is donated through the Chico Food Project, annual food drives, food rescue, and direct donations.

Board Officers Election

Nomination of officers will take place at the November 5 membership meeting. At this time, the Nomination Slate is:

President:	Lee August, Nominee
Vice President:	Betsy Kruger (Incumbent)
Secretary:	No Nominees*
Treasurer:	Joan Palmer (Incumbent)

* NOTE: We must have a secretary, and we encourage all of you to think about volunteering to serve in this leadership role. We hope someone will step up and agree to be nominated for this important office!

All positions are open to nominations from the floor. The elected officers will assume duties on January 1, 2027.

AREA 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By John Frank

I would like to thank all Chapters in Area 2 for sending your delegates to the General Assembly in San Jose. They represented your Chapters very well, and we will be providing an overview of the Assembly at our meetings in November and December.

RPEA President Margaret Brown asked Kathy and me to do a workshop on recruitment and retention at the General Assembly. When we were in the process of preparing the material for this workshop, it became clear to me how important it is to have a Chapter Recruitment Officer/Chairman for each chapter--someone who can lead Chapter recruitment activities and changes with the State Office and Kathy and me. This is extremely important to enhance our membership and develop a plan for members to move into Officer positions in each Chapter. Therefore, I have asked Kathy, my Assistant Director, to assume the position of Coordinator for Chapter Recruitment of Membership Officer/chairmen for each Chapter.

On a different subject, as you know from my previous newsletters, I have opposed providing our CalPERS CEO, Ms. Marcie Frost, a pay increase based on meeting the minimum standard of 150% of her base salary. My opposition was not successful! The CalPERS Board of Administrators granted her a 4% base salary increase, which moved her base salary to around \$628,160 and gave her an incentive or "bonus" of \$942,240, plus a payment to her retirement account of \$40,000 and around \$10,500 in health benefits for a total of \$1,620,740. Not bad for my favorite high school graduate! CalPERS also set aside 52.7 million dollars of your money for other incentive plans or "Bonuses" for other CalPERS Executives. At the same time, you received a 2% increase in your retirement benefits

CalPERS stated that they set up a phone line for calls if individuals wanted to support or oppose the pay and incentive plan or "bonuses"; however, many of our members informed me that the line would ring four times and disconnect. I experienced the same! My plan for next year's Incentive Plan "Bonus" Award is to attend in person and deliver 1000 letters opposing the lavish pay increase the Board of Administrators is giving away.

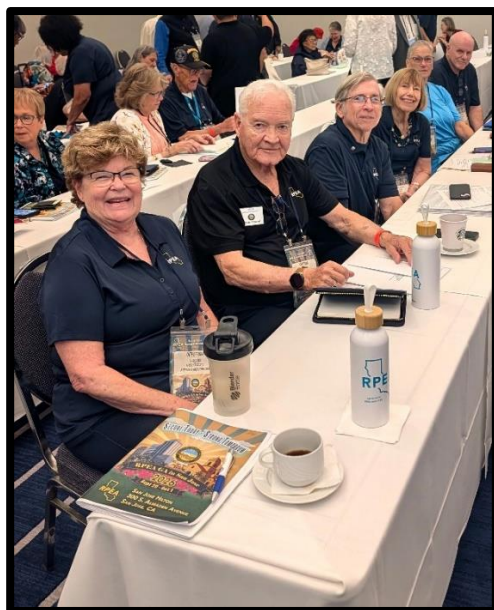
I want to challenge all other Area Directors to meet my 1000-letter goal! My members will support my letter-writing program; will your Chapters support you?

John

2026 RPEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RPEA delegates met at the San Jose Hilton from September 29 through October 1 for its 2026 General Assembly (GA). New Board members were elected, and resolutions were debated, with five adopted. In addition, there were workshops held on a variety of topics that helped members with issues such as meeting with legislators, addressing fraud, and private equity. Thanks to the wonderful 2026 GA Planning Chair, Nelly Van Lommel, the keynote speakers were Dr. Steve Cousins and Dr. Michelle Baldonado from Stanford's robotics department. They discussed their research and how robots can assist older adults and people with disabilities. Nelly's fresh ideas made the GA engaging and fun! There was lots of creativity and special touches displayed throughout the event. In addition to fabulous keynote speakers, there were fitness workshops, Caribbean Night festivities, dancing, and karaoke. Sadly, health reasons prevented Nelly from attending, and she was deeply missed.

Reports on General Assembly will be given by John & Kathy Frank and Sharon Salcido at the November 5 General Membership meeting. GA highlights are included in the recently published October RPEA magazine. Some of you may have received an emailed digital copy if you opted for digital magazines instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail.



Area 2 General Assembly attendees

Kathy Frank (Area 2 Assistant Director), John Frank (Area 2 Director), Jim Hirsch (Delegate/Redding), Sharon Salcido (Delegate/Chico), Pat Stevens (Delegate/Oroville), and Marc Mitchell (Delegate/Grants Pass)