RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Clara County Chapter 031 Newsletter

Volume 61 #06
November/December 2026

An Association of CalPERS Annuitants committed to the goal of helping all public employees maintain their physical and economic health during retirement

NEXT EVENT -

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026
11:15 am at Three Flames Restaurant
1547 Meridian, San Jose, CA 98125
The Door opens at 11:15 am and lunch is served at 11:30 am. Please check the flyer enclosed in this newsletter, or check at the back of the last issue of the newsletter on the website.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER

We will enjoy a great buffet luncheon consisting of fresh or roasted vegetable tray, mixed green salad, vegetarian lasagna, herb roasted potatoes, oven roasted roast turkey, creamy turkey gravy, grilled fresh salmon with lemon-dill sauce, bread, butter, coffee and water. After the wonderful lunch we will have an ornament exchange. If you do not want to participate, that is just fine. If you do, please bring a wrapped ornament valued at $20 or less. We tried it last year and it was a great success. After that we will have the drawing for door prizes. This will be a good opportunity to visit with our fellow members. Hope to see you there!



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Following are the name of our new members – Carolea Nuttall and Nicole Jorgensen.

Welcome!

***IN MEMORIAM*:** Our deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of Lynda Bayford (Member since 1999), Michael Bernal (Member since 2001), Marisol Clough (Member since 2011), David Elliott (Member since 2004), Andrew Newman (Member since 2020), and Alicia Trinidad (Member since 2011).

They will truly be missed.



Marianne Damon, RPEA Chapter 031 Historian

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Delegation & Event Overview

Delegates from all RPEA chapters gathered in downtown San Jose at the Hilton Hotel for our biennial General Assembly. Our delegation was comprised of **Connie Cravalho**, **Marianne Damon**, **Algis & Joanne Rudinskas**, and **Rachel Subega**. Chapter President **Rosemary Knox** attended in her capacity as Immediate Past President of RPEA.

Our delegation convened with neighboring Area 3 chapters for highly productive policy sessions. Attendees enjoyed a Caribbean-style buffet dinner accompanied by a steel-drum band, participating in resolution workshops, fitness sessions, and a key presentation on applied robotics by Stanford University professors. The final day concluded with formal voting on organizational resolutions and the election of state officers.

VOTING OUTCOMES ON RESOLUTIONS

1 Distribution &Notice Requirements

PASSED AS AMENDED

Proposal: Change resolution notice period from 60 to 30 days and update distribution methods.

Outcome: Amended to retain the 60-day advance notice requirement and updated distribution wording to "mailed and/or emailed."

2. Budget Amendments & Expenditures Support

PASSED AS AMENDED

Proposal: Grant Board authority to approve budget amendments exceeding adopted limits.

Outcome: Board may approve emergency spending up to $25,000 per incident (reported to GA delegates). Expenditures exceeding $25,000 require a delegate vote.

3. Membership Dues & Chapter Support

PASSED

Proposal: Increase monthly dues from $5 to $7 ($60 to $84 annually), allocating 20% directly back to local chapters (first increase since 2016).

Outcome: Passed by majority vote after discussion regarding rising operational costs across 21,000 paying members.

4. GA Interval & Officer Terms

FAILED

Proposal: Shift GA interval and officer terms from 2years to 3 years to reduce organizational expenses.

Outcome: Widely opposed by delegates speaking on the floor; resolution failed.

5. Elections & Service Requirements

PASSED

Proposal: Limit active members to running for one state office at a time while allowing dual state/chapter roles.

Outcome: Prevents costly special re-elections caused when candidates win multiple offices and must relinquish one.

NEWLY ELECTED STATEOFFICERS

President: **Margaret Brown**
Vice-President: **Al Darby**
Secretary / Treasurer: **Cathy Jeppson**
Dir. of Health Benefits: **David Van Der Griff**
Dir. of Legislation: **Randall Cheek**
Dir. of Membership: **Elean Yuasa**
Dir. of Public Relations: **Dev Berge**

The newly elected officers were officially sworn in by Immediate Past President Rosemary Knox to conclude the Assembly. Delegates agreed this was democracy inaction: messy and exasperating at times, yet exhilarating and always driven by compromise and progress.

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD & MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

From the Board Meeting: October 21

- Treasurer: our balance is $27,325. The 2026-27 budget was reviewed and approved by the Board and will be presented for membership vote at the next meeting.
- As a cost-saving measure we decided to no longer give a donation to the RPEA Building Fund for each member who has passed. We will still send sympathy cards.
- We agreed to decrease the membership meeting door prize gift cards from ten to five; the amount will remain at $25.
- We agreed to pursue an opportunity to have Headquarters print and send our newsletter. They would still bill us for bulk rate postage, but this would be a huge cost savings for printing, estimated at $15,000 per year.
- We agreed to pay for our own meals when we meet at a restaurant for Board meetings.
- Sue Farr has announced her resignation, effective at the end of the year. We reviewed her responsibilities. Connie Jiminez volunteered to take over Sunshine and combine it with her Hospitality duties.
- It is time to form our Volunteer of the Year Award Committee; we will ask for member participation.

From the Membership Meeting: October 28

- All of the above items were discussed. The budget was passed by the membership.
- Our speaker was Rhonda Schmidt, Employee Benefits Manager. Her sessions are always popular, and the attendance was 65. Her handouts will be attached to the e-Newsletter. Of interest, she shared that the County has 12,000 retirees and 25,000 active employees. There are about 500 retirements per year.
- Our next event is our Holiday Lunch at Three Flames. We will again have an ornament exchange: bring one (wrapped), get one!

SPEAKERS SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2027

Meeting date January 27, 2027
Speaker - Keri Landrum/M.S. Gerontology
Subject – Next Steps for Seniors
Meeting date April 28, 2027
Speaker - Vanessa Souza, LCSW, Senior Manager, Community Engagement Alzheimer's Association, N. California and N. Nevada Chapter
Subject – Alzheimer's Disease
Meeting date July 28, 2027
Speaker – David Dahle, FBI Special Agent
Subject – Elder Fraud
Meeting date October 27, 2027
Speaker – Rhonda Schmidt, Benefit Director
Subject – Open enrollment for our health benefits

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