



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



**General Assembly
approaching fast!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As promised, RPEA held the May 2nd and 3rd RPEA Board Meeting in Southern California. This was the Board's first road trip after a two-year hiatus as a group to meet and enjoy the camaraderie of our southern chapters since "Covid." "Orange, California" you did not disappoint us!

Rosmary Knox
RPEA President

Continued on page 2



President's
Message

Page 2

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Al Darby
RPEA Vice President

Continued on page 3



Vice President's
Report

Page 3

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

These past few months, RPEA's Legislative Action Organization (LAO) Committee has been meeting regularly not only to discuss opposing or supporting certain legislation, but also to recommend endorsing candidates for the ballot.

Randall Cheek
RPEA Director of Legislation

Continued on page 5



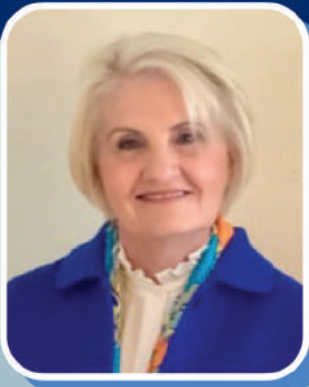
Health Benefits
Update

Page 4

Legislative Analysis

Pages 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by ROSEMARY KNOX



Rosemary Knox
RPEA PRESIDENT



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As promised, RPEA held the May 2nd and 3rd RPEA Board Meeting in Southern California. This was the Board's first road trip after a two-year hiatus as a group to meet and enjoy the camaraderie of our southern chapters since Covid. "Orange, California" you did not disappoint us!



RPEA Board - May 2022 Meeting

The Board had a full agenda to discuss, and welcomed those attending and Zooming in. We are now enjoying what I call an "awakening moment" to sit together and share stories of how one survived the pandemic to as simply enjoying a meal together.

Most importantly, discussing issues of importance such as the upcoming CalPERS Board Elections for the Retiree seat. Randall Cheek, RPEA Legislative Director has taken the challenge and is the RPEA endorsed candidate for the retiree CalPERS Board seat. Please share the good news at your chapter meetings and support our endorsed candidate. Many of you know Randy as our Legislative Director who keeps us up to date with Legislative issues within the Newsletter. This is our opportunity to elect someone who shares our values. Ballots for the election should be received for voting starting August 26th with the opportunity to vote either online, by telephone, or by paper ballot. The deadline for ballots to be received is September 26th, with the results announced on September 27, 2022.

The Area Directors (AD's) have taken on the challenge of updating the Area Directors' Handbook, along with the current Chapter Handbook. We look forward to input from our Chapter leaders

for assistance. Another project that gained momentum during our meeting was to develop a strategic plan for recruitment of new members. Our association is not alone with declining membership, many other associations are feeling the same loss of members due to the 2-year hiatus during Covid. Headquarters has made a commitment to assist chapters with employee fairs and events being held in your community.

An update on the Long-Term Care Lawsuit, is outlined in the Health Benefits Director's article with the latest information and a link to the Plaintiffs attorneys' website for further information regarding this issue. It does not look to be a happy ending for over 100,000 CalPERS long-term care policy holders who are represented in the class action lawsuit.



Chapter #023 Modesto Vintage Chapter

The ad hoc Committee re Expert CalPERS Issues, continues to monitor CalPERS penchant for private equity and has taken our concern to the Legislature over this issue.

General Assembly! The General Assembly (GA) team and headquarters staff is working diligently to provide a memorable event this year in Sacramento! The dates for GA, September 26th through the 29th. Preliminary information has already been sent to the Chapter leadership to identify delegates and to ask for volunteers to serve on various committees. The team looks forward to members volunteering to be on a committee and/or just help out!

Rosemary Knox
RPEA President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by AL DARBY



Our Board meeting in Orange illuminated some shortcomings that exist in our current membership status which has fallen in numbers over the past two years. This probably can

be attributed to chapter inactivity due to COVID. A strong and comprehensive program was outlined at the Area Directors meeting and a committee was chosen among Area Directors and Assistant Area Directors to develop and implement this chapter-oriented membership recruitment plan. The biggest challenge is identifying prospective new members in the many outreach events that occur and using blind mailings to prospects that AMBIA has in its RPEA prospect list. This mailing would go to the zip codes within participating chapter boundaries – these mailings would feature RPEA advocacy efforts and undoubtedly an AMBIA product or two.

Another issue that received some serious attention is chapter participation and commitment to supporting statewide RPEA Board positions and policies. When the state Board, for example, endorses a candidate for CalPERS Board or any other elective position, chapters have an obligation under the RPEA Bylaws to support that person in all of the ways RPEA can help that person win. Invariably, the RPEA Board has endorsed a candidate because there is strong belief that that person shares RPEA values and interests, to a greater degree than his or her opponents and will work more vigorously to preserve and enhance our pensions and health care at CalPERS. Other candidates must not be invited to chapter meetings and must not be supported in any other way after the State Board has made its endorsement. Obviously, individual RPEA members certainly have a right to support whoever they like but the individual may not represent their choice as an RPEA supported candidate. Efforts are underway, by Area Directors, to bring a program to fruition to reinforce this message. Now that our Director of Legislation, Randy Cheek, has been certified as a candidate for the retiree seat on the CalPERS Board, we expect to see full support for his election by all of our chapters, RPEA Board members, and staff.

In the investment arena we find that some of our fellow CalPERS retiree associations are beginning to become activists in CalPERS affairs. CSU retired professors just recently made a formal request for an investigation into the

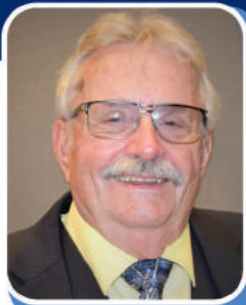
CalPERS Long Term Care (LTC) plan to determine its future and steps taken along the way that brought it to the current class action lawsuit. They are seeking some reasonable solution to making members whole and/or some alternative to reduced benefits or much higher premiums. I'm certain that the recent activism by RPEA against CalPERS in Board meetings and in the state legislature has motivated other retiree associations to become more willing to go public with their concerns.

Beyond this, we see other pensions becoming more aware of the pitfalls related to increasing private equity (PE) activity that carries more risk and exorbitant fees and fraudulent activity while underperforming more traditional investment returns. The valuations they place on their holdings are often inaccurate and tend to overstate their worth. RPEA continues to fight CalPERS in the legislature over the secret loan program in which CalPERS could lend to companies and individuals whose creditworthiness is very questionable – persons and companies whom banks would not offer loans. The Ohio teachers retiree group just exposed a private equity indiscretion that was almost covered up by the teachers union. We must closely watch the policies of the new CIO at CalPERS to be certain that private equity adventures are sound and not vulnerable to PE manipulations that benefit the general partner (GP) and shortchange the limited partners. One PE GP had to give up some ill-gotten gains to a pension fund recently.

On a positive note, we see more and more chapters beginning to meet with live meetings. With COVID still a factor but producing far fewer serious cases, it would appear that meeting in large rooms with some space between folks (and they are vaccinated and fully boosted) members should be pretty safe in that type of space. With chapter treasuries bigger than usual after little or no activities due to COVID, why not fully pay for lunches and invite some prospective new members to join you at your meetings. We really need to restart chapter level recruiting in whatever forms it took before COVID.

Al Darby
RPEA Vice President

HEALTH BENEFITS UPDATE - by JJ JELINCIC



May-June Health Director Report

In 2021 Covid was the third leading cause of death in the United States. As this is being written Covid cases, hospitalizations and deaths

are all rising. We may be done with Covid but it is not done with us.

Mask and vaccine mandates are going to the wayside. It is ironic that many of the same people who are saying that we have made enough progress that mandates are not needed are the same people fighting to keep Title 42 restrictions on immigration. We are either in a Covid crisis or we are not. Everyone must decide what risk they are willing to take and what inconvenience they will accept to protect their own health and the health of those they love.

We all want to return to normal. I get it, even if I'm not sure what "normal" means. This virus has surprised us time and time again. As my father used to say, "They call it the practice of medicine for a reason. They are going to keep practicing until they get it right." I urge you all to get vaccinated and boosted. Many of those we associate with are older and have weaker immune systems. Many are immunocompromised. Many of us have grandchildren who are unvaccinated and we could be infecting them even if we have no symptoms.

You have a right to risk your own health. I urge you to avoid risking other's health. I have a nephew who is a very strong Trumpite. He is unvaccinated, refuses to wear a mask even when he is around people he knows are immunocompromised. No one from the government is going to tell him what to do. He is also an airline pilot. I hope that anti-government attitude is not applied to air traffic control.

We are retired public employees. We worked for the government at various levels. We all know governments are not perfect. At the same time, we know government has an obligation to look out for the common good.

CalPERS Board

CalPERS will have no committee or Board meeting in May. It is part of the program to have the Board meet less so it doesn't interfere with staff as much. Historically, May is when the Board reviewed preliminary health insurance rates with final adoption in June. This was so employers had

the cost information in time to adopt their own budgets before the beginning of the new fiscal year. This year the schedule is preliminary rates in June and adoption in July. This is the second year of implementation of subsidies for high-cost plans and surcharges for low-cost plans. Somehow staff and the Board feel subsidizing plans with less cost controls and charging more for plans with greater cost controls will limit overall costs. Go figure.

The new regulations are Parent/Child Relationships and the definition of "limited duration" are still pending. As this is being written the proposed regulations have not been submitted for public comment or filed with the Office of Administrative Law.

Long-Term Care Lawsuit

The proposed settlement fell apart. The two sides are in negotiations in an attempt to reach a new settlement. If they are unable to do so, the case will be set for trial. For now, no settlement means no return of premium for those in the class willing to give up their policy.

CalPERS walked away because less than 90% of the policy holders were prepared to surrender their coverage.

CalPERS is not going to provide much information to the members in this case. Even two business days before the Board was informed that CalPERS was walking away from the settlement the staff refused to even disclose when a decision would be made. The best source of information remains the Plaintiff attorneys' website (<https://www.calpersltcclassaction.com>)

About Your Long-Term Care Policy

Many policies have a Benefit Increase Option which allows the policyholder to periodically increase the daily benefit (at additional cost). Because that is a contractual obligation CalPERS is continuing to offer it. If you are eligible, you will be (or have been) contacted by mail. You should be aware that if you chose not to exercise that option a second time the option will not be there in the future. The LTC administrator can tell you if you had declined in the past.

Good luck. Stay healthy.

JJ Jelincic

Director of Health Benefits



These past few months, RPEA's Legislative Action Organization (LAO) Committee has been meeting regularly not only to discuss opposing or supporting certain legislation, but also to recommend endorsing candidates for the ballot.

The process for endorsing has been to meet in person, or lately on Zoom, with those seeking election to the Assembly, State Senate or CalPERS Board.

Generally, a candidate seeks our endorsement by contacting the Committee. We set up an interview on a convenient date for both the candidate and members of RPEA's Legislative Committee.

Some of the candidates seeking our endorsement are known personally by members of our committee. Regardless, every candidate is questioned on their commitment to protecting our pensions, improving benefits for retirees, and also promoting better care for retirees.

The full RPEA Board must vote to approve Committee recommendations. Over the past few years, the committee has recommended endorsing dozens of candidates for election. Our track record of endorsed candidates has been good as about 80% get elected. Of course, we do not seek quid pro quo once they are elected but elected officials do genuinely consider our positions when we contact them about issues.

Once endorsed, RPEA's Legislative Political Action Committee or PAC and Independent Expenditure (IE) committees can and does give monies to candidates' campaigns. RPEA'S LAO PAC is considered a large PAC and is limited as to how much RPEA can give a candidate's campaign. The contribution limit is not based on the size of the organization but on how much a member of the organization donates in one year. If the PAC receives over \$200 from just one member it is considered a large PAC.

With this in mind, the RPEA Board recently voted to create a small contributor committee, accepting donations equal or less than \$200 a year per donor. This will allow us to donate almost double what a large PAC can donate.

An independent expenditure committee is not limited by donation amounts or what it can spend on a campaign,

however the candidate the IE committee helps cannot have any involvement with the IE committee and is not allowed to coordinate in any way. For example an IE can do mailers, phone banking and lawn signs for a candidate; but it must be done without the candidate's involvement. This is why, in national campaigns, you will see various groups promoting or opposing candidates, with the disclaimer "...not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee."

As many of you may know, I am the RPEA endorsed candidate for the CalPERS Board retiree seat. I began considering a run after some of our RPEA members encouraged me. Until recently, I was the RPEA Legislative Chair and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on CalPERS chaired by David Soares. Even though I am still on the Legislative and CalPERS ad hoc committees, I did step back from being Chair of the LAO/IE Committee. I do not want to have any conflicts of interest with the Committee. It was because of what I learned while working with these two committees that I was compelled to run.

I believe CalPERS must become more transparent in its dealings. CalPERS has nearly a half a trillion dollars in investments. It is the largest public pension system in the United States, if not the world. CalPERS is also the second largest purchaser of healthcare in the country. Only Medicare is larger. This is our pension and our healthcare. I believe CalPERS can do better and retirees deserve someone who will stand up for them and protect their pensions and work to lower healthcare costs. I need your help to win and I hope I can count on you.

I appreciate your support and look forward to serving you on the CalPERS Board.

Happy trails until we meet again.

Randall Cheek

RPEA Director of Legislation



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR UPDATE - by LORAN VETTER



It is time to blossom and grow! During the pandemic, many of us lost contact with each other. Personally, I have never been in a position where I have been “locked down”. The whole situation was frightening to say the least. We weathered the storm and yet we grieve for those who did not. Still a new day has dawned and it has ushered in a new awakening among our members. Our common sense and the vaccines and boosters available can mitigate the effects of COVID for most people. Unfortunately, as we see in the daily reports, we are not yet and may never be completely finished with COVID, but if we continue to use some precautions, it is safe to move around. Chapters are coming together and meeting face to face for the first time in many months. I attended one such meeting yesterday in Chapter 023 in Modesto and the joy I saw in members greeting each other was profound. That leads me to the point I am trying to make. It is time for all of us to greet our Chapter brothers and sisters and to begin recruiting new members to make our Chapters stronger. Talk to your eligible friends, neighbors, and family members. Our strength is in our numbers and as we grow, so does our power and our ability to safeguard our pensions for

ourselves and those who will come after us. With a stable and solid membership, we are able to fight off attempts to change the structure of our defined benefits and medical plans. We have political clout and we are a power base.

We need to use our political clout to support candidates who are friends of retirees both in the state legislature and on the CalPERS Board. Right now we are supporting one of our own members, Randall Cheek. Randall is a candidate for the open CalPERS seat designated for a retiree. The ballots will be out on August 26, 2022 and need to be received by CalPERS no later than September 26, 2022. Please don't put your ballot on a pile for later. Often, like tomorrow, later never comes. Take a moment to fill it out and get it into the mail. Randall will represent us on the CalPERS Board and has the expertise to do so effectively. We need someone strong, skilled, and ready to ask the important questions about decisions being made that affect our pensions and benefits.

Loran Vetter

Director of Membership

Chapter #063 Roadrunners Chapter meeting at Heritage Palms Clubhouse on May 13, 2022 (30 attendees)



Wendy Allaire President of Chapter speaks to members



Chapter members enjoying program and lunch



Guest speaker Maureen Perry, Communications Director for the Coachella Valley Water District presenting the history and conservation of water in the Coachella Valley.



Meeting held at Heritage Palms in Indio



PUBLIC RELATIONS - by SCOTT MCGOOKIN

Greetings Fellow RPEA Retirees,

It is hard to believe that we are embarking on summer and soon we will start counting the days remaining in calendar year

2022. The past couple of years have been challenging for everyone. Without a doubt we've experienced too much.

I extend my deepest sympathies and wishes of peace and comfort to the many families who have lost a loved one from COVID-19. On Tuesday, May 17th Deidre McPhillips of CNN wrote "More than one million people have now died of Covid-19 in the US since the pandemic's start, according to data from Johns Hopkins University -- a reminder the pandemic is not over ..."

If you are like me many of these persons have been from our inner-circles. Family, friends, associates, co-workers - some of which were fellow retirees. These losses have been difficult on each of us emotionally and physically.

Shauna Nieguest, Christian author, says "everyone I talk to right now is talking about burnout, about exhaustion, about a deeper-than-just-tired sort of fatigue. It's very real. What we've all been carrying for the last few years is too much—too much uncertainty, too much loss, too much change. At the same time, while we're limping forward, life is speeding up: all the things that didn't happen in person for 2+ years are happening now—weddings, graduations, class trips, family gatherings, work events."

Personally I am comforted by state, local and national public health experts repeatedly telling the public that each of us needs to do our best to protect each other and those in danger of experiencing severe illness or death from the virus. Thankfully, with the many tools at our disposal, we can enjoy gathering with friends and family and participating in the activities we love while reducing unnecessary risk by masking indoors, testing when exposed, ill or gathering, and staying up to date on vaccinations.

It was energizing for me when in early May the RPEA board met in-person in Orange, California. It was restoring to finally be able to assemble together,

discuss business matters of the Association, break bread, laugh and enjoy the company of each other.

At the May board meeting I reported that I continue to connect with fellow RPEA retirees and prospective public employee retirees thru this bi-monthly newsletter, our RPEA website (www.rpea.com) and social media communications. It's a privilege to work with our RPEA Board, Office Staff and contract service providers to post and/or publish communication and news/announcements to the RPEA website or other media/communication as needed and approved. As an organization the RPEA is now brainstorming and working to optimize our website traffic with keywords and Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and developing enhancements to our social media presence including on Facebook & Instagram. Please like and follow us the next time you visit Facebook and share articles or announcements you like with your friends especially your retiree friends!

I would really like to hear more from you – the Member! As an RPEA member are there any particular topics or stories that you would like to see covered in this newsletter? Our board members contribute excellent articles focused on their board function yet I realize there may be other topics that you would like us to include periodically. For instance, would you like the newsletter to address topics such as the economy; retirement planning; travel and leisure? Please feel welcome to email me your ideas at editor@rpea.com.

It's my mission that our newsletter, website and social media provide you with communication and resources that keep you informed about issues that protect and enhance all the retirement and health benefits you currently receive (or entitled to receive upon retirement); provide post-retirement education regarding retirement income and personal well-being; keep you informed of beneficial legislation and aware of detrimental legislation. Please feel welcome to email me your ideas at editor@rpea.com.

Scott McGookin

Director of Public Relations



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Blue Shield Medicare (PPO) offers nationwide, comprehensive medical and prescription drug coverage. This new plan gives you access to care from in-network and out-of-network providers across the country.



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We are dedicated to making retirement a simple transition for you. Our goal is to make you feel supported and confident during each step of your health care journey so you can retire stress-free and travel easy too.

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-  \$0 copayments for 24/7 virtual care
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-  \$80 allowance for over-the-counter items, such as allergy medicines, pain relievers, and more
-  Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) from LifeStation®

To learn more about how Blue Shield Medicare (PPO) is the right health plan for you, visit www.blueshieldca.com/calpers.

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LEGISLATIVE TRACKING



Aaron Read

By Aaron Read and Pat Moran of Aaron Read & Associates

Governor Gavin Newsom released the May Revision or May Revise to his proposed 2022-23 state budget on May 13th. The May Revision included \$300.6 billion in spending (\$227 billion General Fund) with a jaw

dropping \$97 billion surplus (far higher than the \$76 billion estimate in January) and reserves of \$37 billion. Roughly half of the surplus is required by law to be spent on education. That leaves “only” roughly \$49 billion in discretionary money, and the governor wants to reserve 99% of that for one-time spending: \$18.1 billion to provide financial relief for Californians buffeted by inflation, plus \$37 billion for infrastructure investments, including \$5.6 billion for education facility upgrades, and an extra \$2.3 billion for the ongoing fight against COVID-19.

Below is a summary:

State Spending

- Total state spending – \$300.6 billion (\$14.2 billion more than the January Budget)
\$227.4 billion General Fund, \$68.9 billion special funds, \$4.4 billion bond funds

Budget Reserves – Total \$37.1 billion

- Rainy Day Fund – \$23.3 billion (up from \$20.9 billion at the January Governor’s Budget).
- Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties - \$3.4 billion.
- Public School System Stabilization Account - \$9.5 billion.
- Safety Net Reserve - \$900 million

The highlight of the Governor’s proposed May Revise is his \$18.1 billion inflation relief package to “get money into the pockets of Californians.” Governor Newsom’s inflation relief package includes:

- **\$11.5 Billion for Tax Refunds to Help Address Inflation.** As the entire country faces increasing costs due to inflation, Governor Newsom proposed getting \$400 checks to every eligible registered vehicle owner, capped at two checks per individual.
- **\$2.7 Billion for Emergency Rental Assistance.** Governor Newsom is proposing significant state funds for qualified low-income tenants who requested rental assistance before March 31, helping these Californians get the support they need.
- **\$1.4 Billion to Help Californians Pay Past-Due Utility Bills.** As Californians continue to face difficulties

in paying for utility bills, this investment expands upon last year’s utility relief program to continue this vital support – \$1.2 billion for electricity bills and \$200 million for water bills.

• **\$933 Million for Hospital and Nursing Home Staff.** Providing up to \$1,500 to hospital and skilled nursing facility workers who have been delivering care to the most acute patients during the COVID-19 pandemic and saved thousands of lives.

• **\$750 Million for Free Public Transit.** Governor Newsom is proposing incentive grants to provide three months of free public transportation for communities throughout the state.

• **\$304 Million to Make Health Coverage More Affordable for Middle-Class Families.** This extends health insurance premium assistance under Covered California for families of four earning up to \$166,500 annually, upwards of 700,000 Californians.

• **\$439 Million to Pause the Diesel Sales Tax.** Bringing relief to the commercial sector and drivers, Governor Newsom is proposing a 12-month pause in the sales tax rate for diesel fuel that would provide upwards of \$439 million in relief.

• **\$157 Million to Waive Child Care Fees for Low-Income Families.** Making state-subsidized preschool and child care more affordable, benefitting 40,000 low-income California families with savings of up to \$595 per month.

Additionally, **California’s minimum wage is projected to increase to \$15.50 per hour** for all workers on January 1, 2023. The accelerated increase is required by a provision in the state’s existing minimum wage law when inflation exceeds 7 percent.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

• **Collective Bargaining** - The May Revision increases employee compensation by \$217.6 million in 2022-23 (\$132.2 million General Fund) and \$143.0 million ongoing (\$70.5 million General Fund) to reflect updated estimates to the dental and vision premium rates, changes to enrollment in health and dental plans, updated employment information for salary increases and other post-employment benefit contributions,



Pat Moran

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

telework stipends, and Division of Juvenile Justice recruitment and retention differentials.

- **The May Revision** also reflects a decrease of \$329 million General Fund in 2022- 23 for retiree health and dental benefits reflecting lower-than-expected retirements and updated enrollment information. The Administration is currently in negotiations with six bargaining units representing attorneys and administrative law judges, firefighters, engineers, scientists, stationary engineers, and psychiatric technicians, whose contracts or side letter agreements are expired or will expire in Summer 2022.

- **State Contributions to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)** - The Governor's Budget assumed that the state will contribute \$8.4 billion (\$4.8 billion General Fund) in 2022-23 to pay for state employee pension benefits (including CSU employees).

- **CalPERS Unfunded Liability** - The May Revision estimates \$2.9 billion in one-time Proposition 2 debt repayment funding in 2022-23 to further reduce the unfunded liabilities of the CalPERS state plans. Any supplemental payment made toward the state's CalPERS unfunded liability is estimated to result in a minimum long-term gross savings ratio of 2:1.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Below is a list of bills of interest to RPEA:

SPONSOR

SB 1168 (Cortese, D-Campbell) – The Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) creates the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to provide defined benefits to members of the system based on final compensation, credited service, and age at retirement, subject to certain variations. PERS is administered by its board of administration. Existing law, upon the death of a member after retirement and while receiving a retirement allowance from PERS, pays \$500 to the person's beneficiary, unless otherwise provided. This bill would require the board to determine the average benefit paid under various PERS provisions upon the death of a member, as provided, and would require the board, beginning on July 1, 2023, to increase the \$500 beneficiary payment described above annually in a specified amount until the beneficiary payment reaches the average benefit paid, as calculated by the board. SB 1168 passed the Senate and is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee. RPEA is the sponsor.

SUPPORT

AB 323 (Katra, D-San Jose) – The Long-Term Care, Health, Safety, and Security Act of 1973 defines a class "A" violation as a violation that the department determines presents either (1) imminent danger that death or serious harm to the patients or residents of the long-term health care facility would result therefrom, or (2) substantial probability that death or serious physical harm to patients or residents of the long-term health care facility would result therefrom. The act defines a class "AA" violation as a class "A" violation that the department determines to have been a direct proximate cause of death of a patient or resident of the facility. The act defines a class "B" violation as a violation that the department determines has a direct or immediate relationship to the health, safety, or security of long-term health care facility patients or residents, other than class "AA" or "A" violations. Class "B" violations are also, unless otherwise determined by the department to be a class "A" violation, any violation of a patient's rights as set forth in specified regulations that is determined by the department to cause, or under circumstances likely to cause, significant humiliation, indignity, anxiety, or other emotional trauma to a patient. The act requires the department to prove specific elements to enforce a citation for a class "AA" violation, including the element that death resulted from an occurrence of a nature that the regulation was designed to prevent. This bill would redefine a class "AA" violation as a class "A" violation that the department determines to have been a substantial factor, as described, in the death of a resident of a long-term health care facility. The bill would increase the civil penalties for a class "A," "AA," or "B" violation by a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility, as specified. The bill would delete numerous references to the "patients" of a long-term health care facility. AB 323 was chaptered on October 4, 2021. RPEA was in support.

AB 636 (Maienschein, D-San Diego) – Current law makes specified reports, including reports of known or suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult, confidential. Current law requires information relevant to the incident of elder or dependent adult abuse to be given to specified investigators, including investigators from an adult protective services agency, a local law enforcement agency, and the probate court. This bill would also authorize information relevant to the incident of elder or dependent adult abuse to be given to a federal law enforcement agency, under certain circumstances, for the sole purpose of investigating a financial crime committed against the elder or dependent adult and would authorize the information to be given to a local code enforcement

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

agency for the sole purpose of investigating an unlicensed care facility where the health and safety of an elder or dependent adult resident is at risk. AB 636 was chaptered on October 7, 2021. RPEA was in support.

AB 1684 (Voepel, R-Santee) – Current law requires the California Department of Aging to make efforts to increase public awareness about areas of importance to California's older individuals, their families, and other caregivers. Current law requires the department to establish an Aging Information and Education Fund, from funds made available pursuant to the annual Budget Act, to implement public awareness of various issues, including at least medication management, elder abuse prevention, and a toll-free line for linkage to local service networks. This bill would require the department to implement a public awareness campaign, as specified, to reduce stigma and raise public awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia in order to promote early detection and accurate diagnosis. AB 1684 passed the Assembly Aging & Long-term Care Committee and is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. RPEA is in support.

AB 1720 (Holden) – The State Department of Social Services regulates the licensure and operation of various types of facilities, including community care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, residential facilities for the elderly, and child daycare centers. Current law requires the department to obtain a criminal history record for all applicants for licenses for these facilities and specified individuals connected with these facilities, including employees, volunteers, and officers. Current law prohibits persons with certain criminal convictions from obtaining a license and further prohibits these specified individuals from being present in these facilities before obtaining either a criminal record clearance or a criminal record exemption from the department. Current law prohibits persons with certain criminal convictions from registering as a home care aide unless the person receives a criminal record clearance or a criminal record exemption. This bill would require the department to establish a process to grant a simplified criminal record exemption to an applicant for a license or special permit to operate or manage these facilities and the specified individuals connected with these facilities, if certain criteria is met. AB 1720 passed the Assembly Human Services Committee and was placed on suspense in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. For background, any bill that has a fiscal cost of \$150,000 or more automatically goes to suspense. All suspense items having a separate hearing to be further analyzed. RPEA is in support.

AB 1907 (Bauer-Kahan, D-San Ramon) – Current law requires the State Department of Public Health to conduct annual inspections, without notice, of long-term health care facilities, except those facilities that have not had serious violations within the previous 12 months, and in any case to inspect every facility at least once every 2 years. Current law further requires the department to vary the cycle for conducting these inspections to reduce their predictability. Current law requires inspections and investigations of long-term health care facilities that are certified by the federal Medicare Program or the Medicaid program to determine compliance with federal standards and California statutes and regulations to the extent that state statutes and regulations provide greater protection to residents, or are more precise than federal standards. Current federal law requires nursing facilities certified to participate in those federal programs to be subject to a standard survey by the state, conducted without prior notice to the facility, at least every 15 months, as prescribed. This bill would extend the maximum period between inspections of a long-term health care facility from 2 years to 30 months. AB 1907 passed the Assembly and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Health Committee. RPEA is in support.

AB 2546 (Nazarian, D-Van Nuys) – This bill would enact the Resident-Designated Support Persons Act for purposes of residents of long-term care facilities, defined to include skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities, among other specified health facilities, and to include residential care facilities for the elderly. Under the bill, each long-term care resident would have the right to in-person, onsite access to a minimum of 2 designated support persons during any public health emergency, as defined, in which residents' visitation rights are curtailed by a state or local order. The bill would grant the designated support person certain rights to access the facility to visit the resident. Under the bill, a resident's right to visitation by designated support persons would include the right to leave the facility on outings, so long as reasonable infection control precautions are taken, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. AB 2546 passed the Assembly Aging & Long-term Care Committee and was placed on suspense in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. RPEA is in support.

SB 850 (Laird, D-Santa Cruz) – The Public Employees' Retirement Law, requires the payment of death benefits to beneficiaries of members and, under certain conditions, the payment of special death benefits. These special death benefits are payable to the surviving spouse and children of certain member categories, among them peace officer and

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

safety member categories, whose deaths are determined to be industrial. Current law requires an additional percentage of the special death benefit to be paid to the spouses of members who are killed in the performance of their duties, or who die as a result of an accident or an injury caused by external violence or physical force during the performance of their duties, for each of the members' children, as specified, for the lifetime of the surviving spouse. This bill, for the purpose of the additional percentage of the special death benefit described above, would require that payment be made to the person having custody of the member's child or children, if the member does not have a surviving spouse but otherwise meets the specified requirements, or if the surviving spouse dies before each child of the member has died, married, or reached 22 years of age. SB 850 passed the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee and was placed on suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee. RPEA is in support.

OPPOSE

AB 2782 (Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage) – The Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA), which is administered by the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System, governs the funding and provision of postemployment health care benefits for eligible retired public employees and their families. PEMHCA prohibits employees, annuitants, and family members who become eligible to enroll on or after January 1, 1985, in Part A and Part B of Medicare from being enrolled

in a basic health benefit plan. Current provides that if the employee, annuitant, or family member is enrolled in Part A and Part B of Medicare, they may enroll in a Medicare health benefit plan. This bill would prohibit a person who enters into service with the state or any agency, department, authority, or instrumentality of the state or a contracting agency subject to PEMHCA, on or after January 1, 2023, from being reimbursed for, or receiving, any subsidy for health care expenses or coverage after retirement from service, if that the person is eligible to enroll in Part A and Part B of Medicare. AB 2782 was sent to the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee; however, it was never set for hearing and ultimately failed to meet the deadline. Therefore, it is dead. RPEA was opposed.

SB 1173 (Gonzalez, D-Long Beach) – This bill would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company, as defined. The bill would require the boards to liquidate investments in a fossil fuel company on or before July 1, 2027. The bill would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board's fiduciary responsibilities established in the California Constitution. SB 1173 passed the Public Employment and Retirement Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee and was placed on suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee. RPEA is opposed.

Chapter #044 meeting at Golden Corral in Ontario on April 13, 2022 (26 attendees). Guest-speaker was Renato de Moraes, Outreach Coordinator, Council on Aging – Southern California



L to R: Steven Lacey; Martha Hebert; Renato de Moraes;
Alice Alexandre



May 2022 RPEA Board Meeting in Orange, California (Southern CA).



Chapter #009 (Surf City Santa Cruz Chapter) in-person meeting on April 5, 2022



President Bob Culbertson giving a report to meeting attendees



Chapter #009 plans to now have in-person meetings every other month

DELEGATES TO THE 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

With General Assembly just around the corner, September 26 to September 29, some of you who have been selected as a Delegate may be wondering what is the role and responsibility of a Delegate!

WHAT IS A DELEGATE?

Delegate is the title of a person elected to represent and to serve the interest of an organization, a person designated to act for or represent another or others. In RPEA, the Delegates act as the governing body of the Association and are the representatives of our Chapters who have the authority to make changes to our Bylaws. Most of our Delegates come from our Chapters. Also included as Delegates are Board members, Assistant Area Directors, and Past Presidents. Each Delegate has one vote.

WHAT IS THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DELEGATE?

RPEA's Delegates are a vital link in the Association's governance structure. Delegates provide policy direction for the Association, elect officers, and ensure that the Association reflects the interests of its members. During the General Assembly sessions, it is the Delegate's responsibility to carefully evaluate the viewpoints expressed on each subject matter such as RESOLUTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION AND THEN VOTE. After the General Assembly the Delegate is responsible for reporting back to the Chapter members.

Chapter Representation – (Bylaws)

(A) Each chapter holding a charter is entitled to at least one delegate. Each chapter is accorded

representation to the General Assembly on the basis of one delegate for every 300 Active, Affiliate, and State Associate Members in good standing in the chapter. (Excerpt from RPEA Bylaws)

(B) Each chapter shall elect or select its delegate(s) prior to General Assembly in time for its secretary to certify the new delegate(s) to Headquarters as soon as possible but no later than 90 days prior to General Assembly.

(C) Each delegate shall serve until a successor has been elected or selected by the chapter and certified to Headquarters.

(D) In order to vote, delegates should be certified to Headquarters no later than 90 days preceding the biennial General Assembly.

(E) Subsequent vacancies can be filled as soon as practicable.

Delegates make difficult decisions and sometimes feel overwhelmed. As a delegate you may feel that deep authentic conversation is not always easy, yet you have committed to engage in discussing the passing or rejection of membership guideline resolutions.

Soon those elected/selected as Delegates will receive information from Headquarters outlining General Assembly 2022 Delegate/Alternate Responsibilities.

Congratulations on accepting the responsibility of representing RPEA and your Chapter at the General Assembly as a Delegate or Alternate. Speaking for the entire State Board of Directors, we look forward to meeting and welcoming you!

STAY CONNECTED

RPEA MEMBERS!

WE NEED TO STAY CONNECTED NOW MORE THAN EVER!
PLEASE UPDATE US IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR
E-MAIL OR PHONE NUMBER OR HAVE MOVED.

TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE
EMAIL RPEAHQ@RPEA.COM



YouTube



General Assembly Is Almost Here!

General Assembly 2022 is scheduled for September 26 to September 29, 2022 at:

Hilton Sacramento Arden West

2200 Harvard Street

Sacramento, CA 95815

The Board of Directors is scheduled to arrive on Sunday, September 25, the day before GA, to prepare for the Board meeting that is held prior to the opening session.

On Monday morning there will be registration for delegates and alternate delegates until the opening session which starts at 2:00 p.m.

RPEA typically has a General Assembly every two years. This body of delegates designated by their chapters are the “governing body” of our organization. As such, it is in the hands of the delegates to vote on new or any changes in our Bylaws and to discuss or debate any new business. This is a serious responsibility and can be very rewarding knowing you have an influence on the operations of RPEA. As a delegate or alternate, you have the opportunity to meet other members of RPEA from all parts of California and some of the surrounding States. Many new friendships have started this way!

The GA committee has planned a Candidate Reception and a Delegate Reception with hot food. These are a “no cost” for all to attend. On Tuesday, September 27 there is a Banquet which is free to all delegates. However, there will be a charge for others who may wish to attend. We have secured entertainment for the evening of the Banquet and hope people will enjoy the music and dancing!

If you are not a delegate or alternate, please think about volunteering. You may contact Nancy Santos at nancyjamm@aol.com or Norma Rose at nrose610@yahoo.com if you have any questions or suggestions.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LATEST UPDATE

**The deadline for Delegates and
Alternative Delegates
submission as been changed to June 28th.**



BENEFITS STILL FIT?

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from **RPEACA & AMBA**:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long Term Care & Home Health Care Insurance
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Cancer, Heart & Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurances
- Medicare Solutions
- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance
- Annuity
- Start Hearing, Inc.
- Hospital Stay Coverage
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

Learn More: **1-877-556-4582**

myambabenefits.info/rpeaca

RPEA of CA - Retired Public Employees' Association
of California



CA LIC #0196562

Savvy Senior

Best Senior Travel Discounts in 2022

Dear Savvy Senior,

What are some of the best travel discounts available to seniors? My husband and I are about to retire and are interested in traveling more but live on a tight budget.

Frugal Travelers

Dear Frugal,

There are literally hundreds of different travel-related discounts available to older travelers that can add up to save you hundreds of dollars on your next trip. To qualify, you'll need to meet the age requirement, which varies by business. Some discounts may be available as soon as you turn 50, but most don't kick in until you turn 55, 60, 62 or 65. Here's a rundown of top travel discounts, along with some extra tips to help you save.

Ways to Save

The first thing to know is that most businesses don't advertise them, but many give senior discounts just for the asking, so don't be shy.

You also need to be aware that when it comes to senior travel bargains, the "senior discount," if available, may not always be the best deal. Hotels, resorts, airlines and cruise lines, for example, offer advanced bookings along with special deals and promotions from time to time that may be a lower rate than what the senior discount is. Before you book, always ask about the lowest possible rate and the best deal available.

Another way you can save is to be flexible when you travel. Last minute travel deals can offer huge savings, as does traveling during off-season or off-peak times, and avoiding holidays.

Club memberships can also garner you a wide variety of travel bargains. AARP, for example has dozens of travel discounts available on hotels, rental cars, cruises, vacation packages and more – see [AARP.org/benefits-discounts](https://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts). The American Automobile Association ([AAA.com](https://www.aaa.com)) is another membership club that provides some great travel discounts to members at any age.

Types of Discounts

Here are some of the best senior travel discounts available in 2022.

Airline: British Airways offers AARP members \$65 off economy travel and \$200 off business club travel. American, Delta and United also offer senior fares to passengers 65 and older in certain markets but are extremely limited. And JetBlue offers 5 percent discounts for retired military and veterans that are enrolled in Veterans Advantage.

Train: Amtrak provides a 10 percent discount to travelers 65-plus, and a 10 percent discount to passengers over age 60 on cross-border services operated jointly by Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada.

Rental Car: Avis and Budget provide AARP members up to 30 percent off at participating locations. Hertz offers up to 20 off to 50-plus travelers. And Thrifty and Sixt provides 5 percent off to those 50 and older.

Hotels: Certain hotel chains offer discounted rates for seniors usually ranging between 10 and 15 percent off but may vary by location. Some popular hotels that offer these discounts include Best Western, Choice Hotels, Hyatt, IHG Hotels, Marriott, Omni Hotels & Resorts, Red Roof and Wyndham Hotels.

Restaurants: Many restaurant chains offer senior discounts ranging from free drinks, to senior menus, to discounts off your total order, but they may only be available on certain days of the week or at certain locations. Some popular options include Applebee's, Denny's, IHOP, Chili's, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery and McDonalds.

Cruises: Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise lines offer discount rates to cruisers 55 and over on select cruises. And Grand European Travel offers AARP members up to \$100 savings per person on river cruises. Call before booking to inquire.

Entertainment and Attractions: Most museums, zoos, aquariums, movie theaters, public golf courses and even ski slopes provide reduced admission to seniors over 60 or 65. And for those 62 or older, one of the best deals available is the America the Beautiful Senior Pass (\$20 for an annual senior pass, or \$80 for a lifetime pass) which provides admittance to more than 2,000 national parks and recreation sites.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Savvy Senior

Specialized Moving Services That Help Seniors Downsize and Relocate

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend any businesses or services that specialize in helping seniors downsize and relocate? I need to find some help moving my mother from her four-bedroom home – where she's lived for nearly 50 years – to an apartment near me.

Overwhelmed Daughter

Dear Overwhelmed,

The process of downsizing and moving to a new home is a big job for anyone, but it can be especially overwhelming for seniors who are moving from a long-time residence filled with decade's worth of stuff and a lifetime of memories. Fortunately, there's a specialized service available today that can help make your mom's move a lot easier for her, and for you.

Senior Move Manager

To help your mom get packed up and moved into her new home, you should consider hiring a "senior move manager." These are trained organizers (they are not moving companies) who assist older people with the challenges of relocating and can minimize the stress of this major transition by doing most of the work for you.

A senior move manager can help your mom pare down her belongings, decide what to take and what to dispose of, recommend charities for donations and help sell her unwanted items. They can even create a customized floor plan of her new home so your mom can visualize where her belongings will fit.

Senior move managers can also get estimates from moving companies, oversee the movers, arrange the move date, supervise the packing and unpacking and help set up her new home, have the house cleaned and just about anything you need related to her move.

If you want to do some of the work yourself, you can pick and choose only the services you want. For example, you may only want a move manager's help with downsizing and selling excess furniture and

unwanted belongings but plan on doing the actual packing and moving yourself.

The cost of working with a senior move manager will vary depending on where you live, the services you want and size of the move, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$60 and \$125 per hour or more, not including the cost of movers.

How to Find One

To locate a senior move manager in your area, visit the National Association of Senior Move Managers website at NASMM.org or call 877-606-2766. The NASMM is a trade association with an accreditation program that requires its members to abide by a strict code of ethics that ensures integrity. They currently have around 1,000 members across the U.S.

You can also search at Caring Transitions (CaringTransitions.com), which is the largest senior relocation and transition services franchised company in the U.S. They currently have nearly 200 franchises throughout the country.

But, before you hire one, be sure you ask for references from previous clients and check them, and check with the Better Business Bureau too. Also find out how many moves they have actually managed and get a written list of services and fees. And make sure they're insured and bonded.

If you can't find a senior move manager in your area, another option is to hire a certified professional organizer who specializes in downsizing and relocating. To find one, check the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals, which has a searchable database on its website at NAPO.net.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Joining RPEA Helps Us Support YOUR Retirement Security

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Membership Application



Have a scanner app
on your smart phone?

Visit our website:
www.rpea.com

Join online!



Why Join RPEA?

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.

Every RPEA member receives a bi-monthly statewide newsletter with general information as well as legislative and health care updates.

Members also gain access to numerous member-only benefits including dental and vision plans and a wide array of merchant discount programs. For only \$5.00 a month you get even more back in benefit savings!

Become a Member in Three Easy Steps!

STEP 1: Tell Us About Yourself

Your Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____
☐ M ☐ F
Spouse Name: _____ ☐ M ☐ F Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____
Is your spouse an additional applicant? ☐ Y ☐ N
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Email: _____
Retired From: _____ Retirement Date: _____
RPEA Chapter Number or Name if Known: _____
Referred By: _____

STEP 2: Select One Membership Type

- ☐ Retiree (CalPERS Annuitant) ☐ Beneficiary (Beneficiary of a CalPERS retiree)
☐ Affiliate (Still working for a Public Agency) ☐ Associate Member (Supporter of RPEA's goals)

STEP 3: Select One Payment Method

☐ **Option 1: MONTHLY CALPERS DEDUCTION:** I authorize the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to deduct for each applicant on this form \$5.00 per month from my retirement allowance until revoked by me in writing. **Only available if one applicant is receiving a CalPERS retirement payment.**

Signature Social Security Number or CalPERS ID + Last 4 of SSN

☐ **Option 2: CHECK OR MONEY ORDER:** As payment for the first year's dues, I have attached a check or money order for \$60.00 (\$30.00 for affiliate membership) for each applicant on this form. I will be billed annually for subsequent renewals.

☐ **Option 3: CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:** As payment for the first year's dues, I authorize \$60.00 for each applicant on this form (\$30.00 for affiliate membership) to be charged on my credit card. I will be billed annually for subsequent renewals.
Card Number: □□□□-□□□□-□□□□-□□□□ (MasterCard or Visa only)
Expiration Date: □□/□□ CVV/CVC: (3 Digit code on the back of card) □□□

Signature

RPEA/October/2017

THANK YOU for Joining RPEA!

RPEA
Headquarters Office:
(800-443-7732)

Return your completed application to:
RPEA • 300 T Street • Sacramento, CA 95811-6912



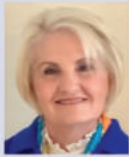


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**Thank you to our RPEA Volunteer
Board of Directors for their dedication
and service to all of our members.**

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