



The Camellia  
Retired Public Employees' Association  
Area VII - Sacramento, California  
Chapter 004 Newsletter

*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.*

Volume 29, Issue 1



Jan./Feb. 2024

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - Roxanne Woodward**

Hello All –

We had a great turnout at Cattlemen's for our holiday luncheon with nearly 70 people in attendance. During December I enjoyed reaching out to numerous individuals and sent some holiday greetings via e-mail. It feels good to stay in touch. Give it a try, reach out, pick up the phone, and give someone a call. I do hope that you had an enjoyable holiday season.

With our elections behind us and our officers sworn in, we are eager to move forward. A major focus for our chapter this year will be on membership, both recruitment and retention. While our committee consists of 5 hard working individuals, we cannot do it alone. We are asking that you continue to reach out to people you meet and/or tell them about RPEA, what we do for them, and why they should join our organization. Take a few applications home from one of our meetings and/or print a few from headquarters website at: <http://www.rpea.com>, have them available, and engage with those individual. If you hear of an event where we might be able to set up a table, please let us know. Other exciting membership news may be found on page 3 of this newsletter. RPEA has been around a long time, and is a non-profit organization. We were founded in 1958 and it is the only statewide organization representing all retired and active CalPERS members. Our mission statement is printed at the top of this newsletter. The more members we have, the bigger our voices. You know the adage, there is strength in numbers, and that is so true.

The imminent closure of Aviator's Restaurant has us scrambling to seek a more permanent meeting location. As many of you know, Sacramento County is not renewing the restaurant lease which expires at the end of January. However, we understand that the current operator will continue on a month-to-month basis, at least for the next few months. While we will be meeting at Vincennes in February, we hope to be back at Aviator's in March. Aviator's has been serving the community for nearly 25 years. On a more positive note, we recently met at Mimi's Café on Alta Arden. They were able to accommodate our group. Both the food and the service were good so that is a very promising prospect.

For those that receive a Social Security benefit, most will be seeing a 3.2% benefit increase effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. A new year also means possible tax and health plan premium changes to your benefits. Your January payroll warrant will reflect any changes for your insurance benefits. As tax season is upon us, you should be receiving your 1099-R or W-2 tax form from CalPERS by the end of January. If you opted to go paperless, you will receive an email when your tax form

is available. You may also log into your CalPERS account at <http://www.calpers.ca.gov>

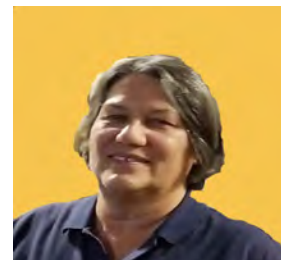
AARP Tax-Aide is providing online methods for the preparation of taxes – at no cost. AARP can connect you with a volunteer to assist you or they can connect you with self-filing software to prepare and file your own tax returns. For more information visit: <https://taxaideqa.aarp.org>

In his release on January 10, 2024, the Governor proposes spending a total of \$291.5 billion in the upcoming fiscal year (2024-25). This amount consists of \$208.7 billion from the General Fund alone. The Legislature will be busy in the coming months with hearings and wranglings leading up to the April and May budget revision processes. If you are interested, copious budget information may be found online at the following websites:

Legislative Analyst's Office at: <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4819>

Department of Finance website at: <http://www.dof.ca.gov>

As always, I look forward to seeing you and wish you all the very best in the coming year.



**Happy  
Valentine's  
DAY**

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone, although that date was celebrated a few weeks ago, the good wishes are still relevant. I hope you all enjoyed a happy holiday season.

Sorry to mention that Chapter 004 still hasn't found a permanent home for our meetings. Our favorite haunt, Aviator's Restaurant has announced that they will be closing, so our officers are searching for a place we will be able to meet and enjoy a breakfast or luncheon while conducting our meetings. Any suggestions are appreciated, so please contact our President, Roxanne Woodward or our Special Events Chairperson, Sheryl Zazzi if you know of a spot that will fit our needs.

There will be a meeting of our statewide Board of Directors in January (I hope this gets out before that meeting) on January 22-23, 2024 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings to see what our organization is planning or has completed. We also encourage everyone to attend the monthly CalPERS meetings, generally during the third week of the month. Information about these meetings can be found on the CalPERS website at [www.CalPERS.ca.gov](http://www.CalPERS.ca.gov) or on the RPEA website at [www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com).

In this issue there is a new column welcoming new members to Chapter 004. We are really excited about this and hope to encourage these members to attend our meetings and participate in our activities. Speaking of activities, our Special Events Chairperson is seeking fun things for us to do as a Chapter. Having searched through the old minutes I did find that members of Chapter 004 had a lot of activity going on as a new organization. There were trips to locations far and wide although mostly within California, and that is something our Board is exploring. Are you up for a ride on a train through the mountains for instance? The Snow Train to Reno is one of the activities being researched as to dates and cost. These days cost is a serious consideration, both for members and for the Chapter. Another activity that might be on our agenda is a trip to Crocker Museum, or perhaps the new SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity. The Aerospace Museum is another local attraction...we are up for ideas.

Also in this issue are fliers for our Spring Luncheon and for our February meeting at Vince's Restaurant. Please join us at either or both of these events...you'll enjoy the camaraderie and information dining with friends.

Our membership is declining and our Membership Committee will be presenting ideas to make changes to that. Please attend the April meeting to hear those ideas.



## SCENES FROM THE 2023 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



From left: Diane Buffington, Program & Membership Chair & Johnnie Young-Craig, Sunshine Chair

From left: Dr. Chuck Wisely & Keith Umamoto



From left: Chapter Pres. Roxanne Woodward; Area VII Director Ken Brown and new member Al Lara



Longtime member Les Robison enjoying the party



From left: Christie Hordyk & Lucy Gutierrez





## NEW COLUMN – NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome all new members by including their names in this new feature we hope to incorporate as a regular item in our newsletter. Since this is the first such column and I have names from the past 3 months, here's our first "Welcome to Chapter 004" listing:

### OCTOBER

JAIME, ARTHUR  
MACRAE, DOUGLAS  
FONG, LAURA  
COLBERT, PAMELA  
CORY, NANCY  
SHUE, BONITA  
FALGOUST, LINDA

### NOVEMBER

FRANCE, CARLITA  
VELOSO, ELIZABETH  
VILLALOBOS, GLORIA & THOMAS  
ROGERS, LESTER  
HELLE, MICHAEL  
FLORES, EUGENE

### DECEMBER

RABANG, JOAN  
HATHAWA, PENNY  
LARA, ALBERT  
PALKKI, KEVIN  
ZENS, CINDY

We'd love to see you at a meeting, please watch for the email notification of our regular meetings. If you haven't included your email address on your application, please contact our Headquarters office to have it included on our membership roster.

We will have a welcome gift for you when you attend your first Chapter meeting. Our next General Membership meeting will be on February 14 at Vince's Restaurant in West Sacramento. See the flier in this issue of our newsletter for information.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Recognizing the long-term, decreasing membership of RPEA and Chapter 004, and the importance of a large, growing membership to support RPEA programs, the Membership Committee met on January 10, 2024, to consider a membership recruitment drive to increase RPEA and Chapter 004 membership. The committee agreed to conduct a competitive recruitment campaign that rewards individuals and teams for each new member; prizes will be given to the top individual and team recruiters, during yet-to-be-determined time periods, e.g., six months. We expect the details to be available at the April 10 General Membership Meeting. Electronic copies of the approved recruitment plan will be sent to members upon request.

*Submitted by Membership Committee*

## The Renaissance Society:

The Renaissance Society at Sacramento State University offers opportunities for participatory lifelong learning and community engagement for older adults. Our learning opportunities include seminars and other programs on widely varied subjects proposed and presented by our members.

**The Spring 2024 Semester!** The Renaissance Society is happy to announce the arrival of our Spring catalog and **the beginning of registration** for the Spring program: seminars, presentations, and shared interest groups both for *Fridays on Campus* at Sac State and on ZOOM.

**Spring Catalog and Schedules-at-Glance:** The Spring 2024 Catalog (available in January) comes in three versions: A flipbook, a PDF, and Schedule-at-a-Glance PDF. You can find them all **on the Renaissance website** (<https://tinyurl.com/RSCatalogs>). There are hundreds of programs offered between February and May for your pleasure!

**Program Registration:** *Online program registration opened in January!* When you are ready to sign up, the link is (<https://tinyurl.com/RenSignup>). You can sign up for as many programs as you would like to, as long as the dates and times do not conflict. After you register, you should receive a confirmation email from the registration system with a list of all your programs. **The email contains the Zoom links and room assignments for all of your events; put it in a place where you can find it** (perhaps a special folder on your desktop or in your email program). **Do this as soon as you register!!!** Your leader also will email you closer to the class time with all of the information you need and a Zoom link reminder (if available).

**IMPORTANT: The online registration site makes it easy for you to enroll.** There is a **helpful guide** to registration if you need it at <https://tinyurl.com/RSRegGuide>.

**Memberships:** If you signed up for RS membership last summer, you do **NOT** have to sign up again now! Your \$100 membership is good until next summer. But if you have friends who might be interested in joining, please direct them to the **Membership webpage** (<https://tinyurl.com/RS-MemberHelp>) and encourage them to join in on the fun for the Spring Semester.

If you were a previously a member and did not renew last summer, you can sign up for a \$60 spring-only membership now. Check out the details at <https://tinyurl.com/RSMemberHelp> (where you can find a paper form if you don't want to use a credit card) or go directly to (<https://tinyurl.com/RenSignup>). If you were previously a member, use the left membership tab on the website and click "Sign Me In." Fill in your last name and member ID number and your credit card information. Don't sign in twice or you will be charged twice. If you have forgotten or mislaid your membership number, you can look it up at the online registration site with your name and zip code. If you are new, use the sign-in on the right.

Questions or comments please contact **Debbie Martinez**, Membership, Diversity and Community Engagement Committee chairperson at [debralyn78@pacbell.net](mailto:debralyn78@pacbell.net) or phone **(916) 802-6530**.

*Submitted by Dr. Chuck Wisely*



## **SPRING LUNCHEON - RPEA CHAPTER 004**

**OUR SPRING LUNCHEON IS AROUND THE CORNER**

Invite family – bring a friend. Come on out and join us. All are welcome.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024

RSVP by April 3, 2024, to Sheryl Zazzi- details below

**WHERE:** CATTLEMENS

12409 Folsom Boulevard

Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 (Hazel Avenue Exit off Highway 50 East)

**TIME:** 11:00 a.m. (no host cocktails & social...)

12:00 p.m. (lunch served)

**COST:** \$15.00 per member - \$20.00 for guests

**MENU:** Top Sirloin Steak (*aged to perfection*)

Atlantic Salmon (*broiled thick cut boneless filet*)

Chicken Breast (*marinated in our teriyaki sauce or in our herbs & spices sauce*)

Pasta Ravioli (*vegetarian ravioli served with a seasonal sauce*)

**SPEAKER:** To Be Announced

*All selections include a baked potato, all-you-can-eat salad, sourdough bread, ranch style beans, soda, coffee, or tea.  
Steaks are prepared medium to medium rare. Special requests for rare or well done will be accommodated.*

Please **RSVP no later than April 3, 2024**. Make check payable to **RPEA, Chapter 004**. Indicate entrée selection(s) & **mail reservation and payment** to Sheryl Zazzi, 1709 Lakewood, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone (916) 607-8282, [redhatzaz@gmail.com](mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com). Payment must be received prior to the luncheon.

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Non-perishable food donations will be collected for a local food bank.

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ # RESERVED: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED NAME(S) FOR NAME TAG: \_\_\_\_\_

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MENU SELECTION(S):

Steak: \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta: \_\_\_\_\_

# **RPEA CHAPTER 004 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024 VINCE'S RESTAURANT**



**840 Harbor Blvd.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Phone (916) 371-6395  
*Vinceswestsac.com***

**Note: The meeting time is 11:00 a.m. as that is when the restaurant opens. Please arrive promptly so that you may get checked in.**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.**

## **MENU CHOICES:**

- \*Veal Parmigiana**
- \*Special Steak Sandwich**
- \*Italian Chicken Sandwich**
- \*Baked Lasagna**

***Lunch Includes \*Salad \*Hot Bread and Butter \*Coffee or Iced Tea  
(Gluten free pasta and vegetarian pasta available upon request)***

## **Reservation Required**

**Cost is: \$00 Members and \$15.00 - Guests**

**Please RSVP to our Reservation Chairperson, Sheryl Zazzi no later than February 9, 2024 and provide your menu selection. You may reach Sheryl via email at [redhatzaz@gmail.com](mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com) or text to (916) 607-8282. Make checks payable to RPEA, Chapter 004.**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS****RPEA CHAP. 004**

Sacramento, Yolo Areas  
Second Wednesday  
of each month.

Feb. 14, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

**General Membership Meeting**

Vince's Restaurant  
(See Flier on page 5)

Mar. 13, 2024

**Board of Directors' Meeting**

Aviator's Restaurant  
6151 Freepoint Blvd.

April 10, 2024

**SPRING LUNCHEON**

Cattlemens' Restaurant  
(See Flier on page 4)

**NOW THAT IN-PERSON MEETINGS  
HAVE RESUMED**

Lunch is **Free** to members and now **\$15.00** to guests for all  
Chapter luncheons except

**Spring Luncheon and****Holiday Luncheon**

Members may attend all meetings.

Please reserve your spot.

**Failure to make a reservation may result in no lunch  
available and failure to appear and not cancel a  
reservation will result in a charge.**

To reserve or cancel  
contact **Sheryl Zazzi** at  
[redhatzaz@gmail.com](mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com) or text (916) 607-8282  
by the Wednesday before each meeting.

**NOTICE!!!**

If you discard or recycle 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 publi-  
cation of those numbers.

**A WORD ABOUT HEALTH BENEFITS**

Health benefits are super important to all retirees. The past  
couple of years, we have been given information of works  
(and words) from our California Legislators regarding health  
care issues, benefits – and money connected to the subject.  
Our RPEA organization works hard to keep us informed  
of 'what's happening' in the health field. I hope you are re-  
ceiving the RPEA mailings; if not, please let me know ([jj2x-101water@att.net](mailto:jj2x-101water@att.net)) and I'll try hard to set things straight!

Now for a little fun:

Valentine's Day is such a special time, so let's look at some  
treats you might enjoy making for a special someone, small  
children, or even yourself! And these can certainly be en-  
joyed anytime, not just Valentine's Day!!!

**Cinnamon Cherry Cobbler**

YIELD: 8 servings

1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling (can sometimes find at  
the Dollar Tree)

1 tube (12.4 ounces) refrigerated cinnamon rolls with icing.  
Preheat oven to 375°. Spread pie filling into a greased 8-in.  
square baking dish. Separate cinnamon rolls; reserve icing.  
Place rolls in baking dish, cinnamon side up. Bake 15-20  
minutes or until rolls are golden and filling is bubbly. Spread  
icing over rolls. Serve warm.

**Spiced Apple Cider**

8 cups apple juice

3-4 whole cinnamon sticks

1 teaspoon whole allspice

1 teaspoon whole cloves

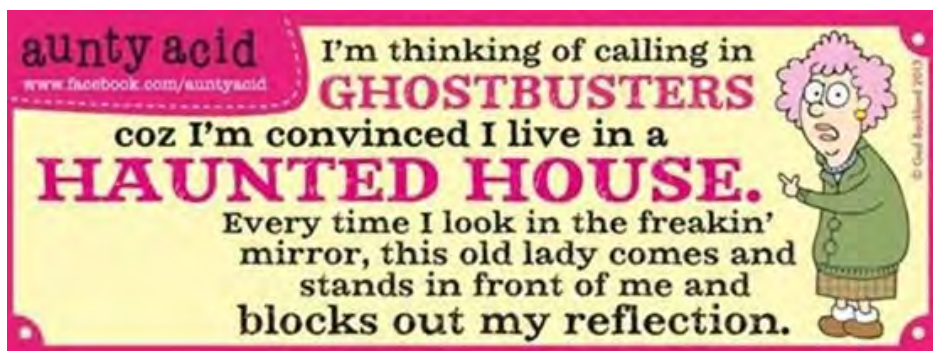
1/8 teaspoon salt

1 orange, cut into slices

Pour everything into a crockpot and put orange slices on top.  
Cover and cook on low for 2 - 4 hours. The longer it simmers,  
the stronger the flavors will be. Strain the spices before serv-  
ing. Cool and refrigerate any leftovers. [If desired, you can  
make this apple cider in a large pot on the stovetop. Bring it  
to a boil over medium heat. Cover and let it simmer for 20  
minutes.]

Hope you enjoy! Please stay warm, stay safe, and be sure to  
come to our annual RPEA Spring Lunch in /April!

Submitted by: Health Benefits  
Chair for Chapter 004: Judi  
Johnson [916-531-2432]





*A Bit of Humor to  
Brighten  
Your Day!*

Once you lick the  
frosting off a *cupcake*  
it becomes a muffin....  
and muffins are  
*healthy*.  
You're welcome 😊



[www.jewelsartcreation.com](http://www.jewelsartcreation.com)

**Relationship Tip For Men: When a  
woman says, "Correct me if I'm  
wrong but..." DON'T DO IT!! IT'S A  
TRAP!! Do NOT, I repeat, do NOT  
correct that woman!!!**

“The most *memorable*  
people in life will be  
the *friends* who loved  
you even when you  
weren't very *lovable*.”

[www.Luvreels.com](http://www.Luvreels.com)





[www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com)

**Retired Public Employees' Assn. Chapter 004**  
**P O Box 188235**  
**Sacramento, CA 95818-8235**

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TAKE THE 100% LOCAL PLEDGE  
SHOP Local  
STAND With Small Businesses  
SUPPORT Those Who Employ Our  
Neighbors  
We Will Come Back From This Together!

### **I COULD HAVE BEEN AN E-MAIL!**

Save your Chapter mailing costs and receive me in color!  
Contact [marie.reed@comcast.net](mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net)

#### **2023-25 CHAPTER 004**

##### **OFFICERS**

President Roxanne Woodward	(916) 388-0230
<a href="mailto:rwoodward55@comcast.net">rwoodward55@comcast.net</a>	
Vice President Randall Cheek	(916) 541-8988
<a href="mailto:rccheek1947@att.net">rccheek1947@att.net</a>	
Past President Marie Reed	(916) 428-2090
<a href="mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net">marie.reed@comcast.net</a>	
Secretary/Treasurer Marie Reed	(916) 428-2090
<a href="mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net">marie.reed@comcast.net</a>	
Area VII Director Ken Brown	(530) 647-2168
<a href="mailto:moosenmarno13@gmail.com">moosenmarno13@gmail.com</a>	
Asst. Area VII Director C.T. Weber	(916) 320-9186
<a href="mailto:ctwebervoters@att.net">ctwebervoters@att.net</a>	

#### **NOTICE!!**

If you have moved or changed your address for  
delivery of this newsletter, please notify:

**RPEA Headquarters**  
**300 T Street**  
**Sacramento, CA 95811-6912**  
**or (916) 441-7732**

#### **2023-25 Chapter 004**

##### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Health Benefits Judi Johnson	(916) 531-2432
<a href="mailto:jj2x101water@att.net">jj2x101water@att.net</a>	
Legislation Randall Cheek	(916) 541-8988
<a href="mailto:rccheek1947@att.net">rccheek1947@att.net</a>	
Membership Diane Buffington	(916) 452-9097
<a href="mailto:diane-buffington@att.net">diane-buffington@att.net</a>	
Program Director Diane Buffington	(916) 452-9097
<a href="mailto:diane-buffington@att.net">diane-buffington@att.net</a>	
Newsletter Marie Reed	(916) 428-2090
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Special Events Sheryl Zazzi	(916) 607-8282
<a href="mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com">redhatzaz@gmail.com</a>	
Reservations Sheryl Zazzi	(916) 607-8282
<a href="mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com">redhatzaz@gmail.com</a>	
Sunshine Johnnie Young-Craig	(916) 395-2618
<a href="mailto:jyclady1@gmail.com">jyclady1@gmail.com</a>	