



## RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



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# President's Report



**Al Darby**

**RPEA PRESIDENT**



# RPEA

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*By RPEA President Al Darby*

**W**e finally have the first of several decisions to be handed down from the State Supreme Court related to the "California Rule" which can affect public pension benefits. In this first case, they upheld the 2012 law terminating this extra benefit known as "Airtime." This was not unexpected, but the California Rule was not affected. If future court decisions court do weaken the California Rule, this can have far-reaching implications for active employees and potential implications for retirees. It is our hope that the court will not significantly alter prior rulings and keep the California Rule intact; retirees could lose COLA and Purchase Power Protection benefits. The low unemployment rate we are experiencing now is causing private sector jobs to be handsomely compensated at the expense of public sector jobs that cannot compete with these non-public jobs that offer better pay and other incentives (bonuses, stock options, and other perks). Our pensions must be maintained at current levels to continue to attract quality candidates to public sector jobs.

I'm pleased to report that we have added a video conferencing capability to our arsenal of technological aides to enhance our communications with Board members, committee members and the entire membership if they would like to observe committee and Board meetings. This new addition to RPEA communication systems will allow committees to meet with their members in remote locations, and it also enables observers (any member) with a camera-equipped laptop to watch, listen in and

comment on the subject at hand. Meetings held in the RPEA Headquarters Office will have enhanced capabilities in terms of higher quality video and presentation capabilities e.g. a large screen is installed with the capability of showing Powerpoint presentations that can be projected from remote locations by outside presenters. Hundreds of members could view these meetings, and remote members who wish to comment would be shown on the screen when commenting. AMBIA has been instrumental in developing this capability for RPEA.

Our new website, also an AMBIA-assisted project, is in the late-stages of development. We expect beta testing to be completed in the next few months. This new website will be a state-of-the-art package that will satisfy most and hopefully all of our wishes related to flexibility of content and design of the site. Almost all facets of maintenance and content will be under RPEA control, which is a big improvement over our current website. It has been ten years since the current website was created; many technological advances have ensued. We will see the new technology in this new website. Lately, we have been adding more news content to the existing website. This will accelerate with the new website and employ more sophisticated media such as video.

At the recent RPEA Board meeting we heard from JJ Jelincic and Margaret Brown, a former CalPERS Board member and a serving CalPERS Board member, respectively. JJ is running for the retiree seat on the Board and brings a wealth of

***Continued on page 3***



# President's Report (cont'd.)

## *Continued from page 2*

experience to the job. He was a long-term investment manager at CalPERS and has served two terms on the CalPERS Board. Margaret and JJ both spoke in opposition to the CalPERS Direct public equity (PE) investment plan. They cite the lack of transparency and cost of the two semi-autonomous general partners that reside in the plan. They believe in-house control is better suited for and a more prudent approach to any form of private equity investment. Transparency and accountability are more certainly achieved with in-house staff engaging in private equity investments.

Several new initiatives by RPEA are under way in 2019. The RPEA Board has approved measures proposed by myself and other statewide leaders to identify a use for the vacant lot we own next to our Headquarters Office building, get an updated solar carport cost analysis, expand our investment policy to permit a small allocation for public equity (stock) holdings, review our PR program, review our insurance coverage, upgrade the Headquarters building paint scheme and anti-graffiti defense plus enhanced exterior signage.

At the February 11 Board meeting, our Board agreed to continue our CARA membership. This is a

California Coalition that augments our mission at the state and national level. CARA is a positive force in Washington, D.C. related to Social Security, Medicare, public pension matters, and other issues related to seniors. The Board decided to discontinue RPEA's participation City Employees Association (CEA) due to poor results in recruiting these folks into our Affiliate member program. Also, the Board authorized the Association President to permit members of any chapter who were affected by the wildfires, floods or other disasters in the past years to receive a one-year refund of their RPEA dues when confirmed by their Chapter leadership and the Area Director. In another action, the Board approved the granting of chapter funds from wealthier chapters to chapters that are in financial distress if the members of the donating chapter approve the transfer of funds.

We continue to watch events at CalPERS and the legislature to oppose actions that negatively affect public employee pensions and health care. Our Directors of Legislation, Health Benefits and our lobbyists are constantly evaluating CalPERS proposals and bills in the legislature to determine the position RPEA should take to support or oppose these issues as they arise.

## COLA UPDATE

In your May retirement warrant, most of you will notice a Cost-Of-Living-Allowance (COLA) amount of 2%. This is the standard allowance for retired members of CalPERS. However, if you retired between 2005 and 2015 you will receive 2.44%. Those of you retired in 2016 or 2017 will receive 2%. The COLA benefit amount changes from time to time but the standard 2% still prevails for most members.

For those who are entitled to the 3% provision (retired in 1979 or earlier) you will receive 3%. Members who retired under the 3% provision after 1979 will receive 2.44%.

Some members are entitled to the 4% provision. If you retired in 1965 you get a 3.55% COLA. Those who retired in 1966 -1969 you get 4%. If you retired in 1970 – 1971, you will receive 2.44%. Retired in 1972, you get 2.77%. Retired in 1973-2017, you get 2.44%.

Under the 5% provision: if you retired in 2017 or earlier, you get 2.44%. If you retired in 2018, you do not receive a COLA increase in 2019.



# Health Benefits Update



*By Harvey Robinson, Director of Health Benefits*



Employees Retirement System (CalPERS):

Sanchez vs. CalPERS. Recently at the CalPERS offsite in Rohnert Park in closed session you received a briefing on the lawsuit Sanchez vs. CalPERS. The following is designed to bring additional edification as to this lawsuit. As a 29-year CalPERS employee I was employed with CalPERS Office of Long-Term Care between October 1995 through my retirement on September 13, 2001. In that employment and as a retired annuitant I made over 100 CalPERS long term care presentations.

The PERL will indicate, in part, that the CalPERS Board is responsible for approving marketing material. In the marketing material was an outline of coverage (OOC). In the OOC was a graph showing a horizontal line over a progressive time line. Under this graph was a statement that 'Premiums are designed to remain level'.

CalPERS staff has indicted that should the plaintiffs succeed in their suit any award will be come from increased premiums. The attorney for some 126,000 class action members found this response ludicrous. In an associated matter, the plan's initial actuary Towers-Perrin paid \$65 to each of the plaintiffs.

What has occurred here for many CalPERS members, in addition to the conviction of a previous CEO, is a breach of trust with CalPERS. Thank you.

In addition, I indicated:

*Request for carrier assistance. RPEA requests the Board direct the health carriers to provide additional counseling assistance to its members that were impacted by the Camp Fires and other recent California fires. In the Camp Fire almost 14,000 residences and over 500 businesses were destroyed. We appreciate the efforts that CalPERS has extended to its members in this matter, but due to the nature of the matter many are suffering from PTSD and require additional assistance. Thank you*

Additional assistance for those needing long-term care assistance. Senator Richard Pan, who is also a doctor from Sacramento, and Assembly member Ash Karla representing San Jose have introduced SB 512. This bill is the first step toward building a new program to finance long-term services and supports (LTSS) for California's working and middle class families. This bill will provide a framework with a managed cash benefit.

This bill was developed in concert with the California Aging and Disability Alliance (CADA), an alliance RPEA hopes to become a part of. The Benefit is designed to be available to families who earn too much to qualify for Medi-Cal and that program's LTSS, but who earn too little to afford long-term care insurance or to pay out of pocket for LTS services. (Much of the preceding information was derived from a press release discussing this bill).

After my testimony on the Camp Fire, insurance carrier Anthem has agreed to donate \$2 million to provide medical assistance to the town of Paradise.



## Remember:

- We sell See's Candy Certificates all year long.
- Each certificate represents the equivalent of a 1 lb. box of See's Candy.
- As an RPEA member, you may order:

**By mail:** Send a note explaining your order, along with your check for the number of certificates you want to: RPEA, 300 T Street, Sacramento, CA, 95811

**By phone:** Use your **Visa** or **Mastercard**. Just call the Headquarters Office at 800-443-7732 to place your order

**Online:** Use your Visa or Mastercard in the RPEA Store at [www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com)  
**Current Price (as of February 1, 2018):** \$17.50 each by mail



# RPEA Legislative Update



*By Randall Cheek, Director of Legislation*

**T**he legislative session is off and running. I recently testified before a Joint Informational Hearing of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee (Chaired by Senator Jerry Hill D-San Mateo) and the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee (Chaired by Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez D-Pomona). Although I think my testimony was quite riveting (which I will get to later), more riveting was what CalPERS CEO Marcie Frost and CalSTRS CEO Eric Stern had to say.

Frost and Ben Meng the new Chief Investment Officer gave a brief description of CalPERS, the largest public employee pension system, second largest healthcare system (U.S. Medicare is first), etc. Of interest is they said that CalPERS is 71% funded and moving closer to 100%. Meng noted efforts to increase investment returns to reach the 100% goal. He said it will take a few months to look at certain options. The CalPERS pension buck is 61cent investment, 26 cents from employers and 13 cents from CalPERS members.

Stern of CalSTRS (the California State Teachers Retirement System) gave the same history and is also around 70% funded. He pointed out that nearly 90% of the cost of investments is the fees paid to outside investment firms which only bring in around 20% of the funds. He said CalSTRS is looking to bring more investing in-house to cut costs. This comes as Frost is pushing a plan to set up a way to invest over one billion dollars in private equity with an outside entity that will not have any oversight.

I was asked to testify on behalf of RPEA, the only retirees group invited. This shows our growing influence in the legislature. I told the committees of RPEA's goal of protecting and improving the three-legged stool of retirement—CalPERS, Social Security and Savings. I noted that RPEA attends the CalPERS Board meetings and other meetings to make sure retirees have a voice at the table when it comes to benefits. We do this for ALL public employees who receive a CalPERS pension. RPEA's goal is to make sure that everyone can retire with dignity.

The Legislative Committee will meet soon to discuss endorsements of candidates and to make our recommendations to our Board. In the last two years every candidate that we supported, CalPERS and the legislature have won. RPEA's influence has grown, and we are being sought out for our endorsements and support.

This year CalPERS will be holding the election for the retiree's seat on the Board. The Legislative Committee will meet with

current President of the CalPERS Board and retiree representative, Henry Jones, and former Board member and CalPERS Investment Officer, J. J. Jellincic. J. J. is running to replace Jones on the Board. At this time, we are unaware of any other candidates for the Board seat.

We have also been asked to consider two candidates for the State Senate—Former Assemblyman John Laird who is running for Senate District 17, and Santa Clara Board of Supervisor Dave Cortese, whose father is former Assemblyman Dominic Cortese and who is running for State Senate 15. Both are supporters of protecting pensions and are running in open seats. If you know of any candidates worthy of RPEA support, please contact me or someone on the Legislative Committee.

The Legislative Committee will discuss RPEA's initiatives to increase the death benefit which is currently at \$2,000, re-instating the rural health care equity program which helped those in areas without HMOs and asking the CalPERS Board to offer vision care to local government retirees who do not have a plan. The latter was authorized many years ago by the legislature but never implemented. In addition, the Committee will analyze new legislation affecting retirees.

In all we have a busy schedule this spring. The Committee appreciates any input from our members and welcomes you to attend or listen in on the Committee's meetings.

Please have a wonderful spring.



*Dave Cortese addresses the RPEA Board of Directors at the February 2019 meeting.*



# Legislative Update



*By Aaron Read and Pat Moran of Aaron Read & Associates*

## **PENSION LAWSUIT**

On March 4, 2019, the California Supreme Court issued their opinion in CAL FIRE vs CalPERS.

The lawsuit challenged the portion of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) that eliminated the ability of state employees to buy up to five years of additional service credit known as "airtime."

While the court upheld the portion of PEPRA that took away a member's ability to purchase the service credit, it **DID NOT** impact the California Rule, which is a good thing. As you know, the California Rule is a series of state court decisions ruling that a pension offered on the date of hire becomes a vested right, protected by contract law, that can only be cut if offset by a new benefit of comparable value.

The California Supreme Court concluded that the ability to purchase airtime was not a constitutionally vested pension benefit protected by the contract clause.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The 2019-20 Legislative Session is underway. To date, there have been 1,932 Assembly Bills and 858 Senate Bills, for a total of 2,790 introduced bills. Although the deadline to introduce bills has passed (it was February 22nd), many bills were introduced as spot bills with placeholder language that will later be amended. We will continue to monitor these bills and update you on anything that is of potential interest to RPEA. In the meantime, below is a list of bills that RPEA is tracking:

### **Support**

**AB 33 (Bonta, D-Alameda)** – This bill would prohibit the boards of PERS and STRS from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a private prison company. It would require the boards to liquidate investments in private prison companies on or before July 1, 2020, and would require the boards, in making a determination to liquidate investments, to constructively engage with private prison companies to establish whether the companies are transitioning their business models to another industry.

**AB 367 (Flora, R-Ripon)** – Current law prohibits the State Department of Social Services from authorizing individuals who have been convicted of certain crimes from working or otherwise being present at a community care facility, a residential care facility for

persons with a chronic, life-threatening illness, a residential care facility for the elderly, or a child daycare facility. This bill would enumerate additional crimes that prohibit the department from authorizing an individual from working or otherwise being present at these facilities, including, among other crimes, the willful and unlawful use of personal identifying information.

**AB 447 (Patterson, R-Fresno)** – Department of Social Services is required to investigate the criminal record of certain individuals who provide services to the residents and clients of a community care facility, a residential care facility for persons with chronic life-threatening illness, a residential care facility for the elderly, or a child daycare facility. Violations of the licensing requirements for these different types of care facilities are crimes. This bill would expand who is required to comply with the requirement for obtaining a criminal record clearance by including individuals who are otherwise associated at the facility and would expand a requirement for the department to maintain criminal record clearances of individuals in its active files.

**AB 462 (Rodriguez, D-Pomona)** – This bill would provide that all sick leave acquired by a school member from all employers subject to PERL within 4 months of separation may be credited as service credit when specified conditions are met.

**AB 797 (Grayson, D-Concord)** – This bill would expand the category of mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse to include the officers and employees of a business licensed under the Money Transmission Act.

**SB 228 (Jackson, D-Santa Barbara)** – This bill would require the Governor to appoint an Aging Czar and a 15-member Aging Task Force to work with representatives from impacted state departments and with stakeholders to identify the policies and priorities that need to be implemented in California to prepare for the aging of its population and to develop a master plan for aging. The bill would require the master plan to address how the state should accomplish specified goals, including expanding access to coordinated, integrated systems of care. The bill would also require the Aging Task Force to solicit input from stakeholders and gather information on the impact of California's aging population.

**SB 364 (Stone, R-La Quinta)** – The California Constitution generally limits ad valorem taxes on real



# Legislative Update



property to 1% of the full cash value of that property and provides that the full cash value base may be adjusted each year by the inflationary rate not to exceed 2% for any given year. Current property tax law implementing this constitutional authority provides that the taxable value of real property is the lesser of its base year value compounded annually by an inflation factor not to exceed 2%, as provided, or its full cash value. Current property tax law also provides that the taxable value of a manufactured home is the lesser of its base year value compounded annually by an inflation factor not to exceed 2% or its full cash value. This bill, for any assessment year commencing on or after January 1, 2020, would provide that the inflation factor shall not apply to the principal place of residence, including a manufactured home, of a qualified veteran, as defined, who is 65 years of age or older on the lien date, was honorably discharged from military service, and meets specified requirements.

**SB 512 (Pan, D-Sacramento)** – This bill would establish the California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Board (LTSS Board), to be composed of 9 specified members, including, among others, the Treasurer as chair, the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency as vice chair, and 3 members to be appointed by the Governor. The bill would require the LTSS Board to manage and

invest revenue deposited in the California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Trust Fund (LTSS Trust), which the bill would create in the State treasury, to, upon appropriation, finance long-term services and supports for eligible individuals.

**SJR 3 (Wilk, R-Santa Clarita)** – This bill would request the Congress of the United States to enact, and the President to sign, legislation that would repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act.

## Oppose

**SB 341 (Morrell, R-Rancho Cucamonga)** – This bill would require the PERS Board to report a calculation of liabilities based on a discount rate equal to the yield on a 10-year United States Treasury note in the year prior to the report. The bill would require the STRS Board to provide a description of the discount rate the board uses for reporting liabilities, a calculation of liabilities based on a discount rate that is 2% below the long-term rate of return assumed by the board, and a calculation of liabilities based on a discount rate equal to the yield on a 10-year United States Treasury note in the year prior to the report.





# RPEA Board Endorses JJ Jelincic for the Retiree Seat



*By Al Darby, President*

**O**n March 14, the RPEA Legislative Committee interviewed both candidates, Henry

Jones, the current holder of the seat, and JJ Jelincic to make their recommendation to the RPEA Board. On March 22, the RPEA Board accepted the committee recommendation and voted to endorse JJ Jelincic for the retiree seat on the CalPERS Board.

They chose JJ based on his statements and record that indicates a keen interest in sound investment policies and CalPERS Board actions that are in the best interest of CalPERS members. His 30-year career at CalPERS, 25 years as an investment officer, and eight years on the CalPERS Board uniquely qualifies him for this position.

I have attended almost all of the CalPERS Board meetings and many CalPERS Committee meetings over the past five years. It has become clear to me that JJ has been almost alone in asking probing questions about recommendations from the CalPERS staff and consultants who make presentations to CalPERS.

Many times, JJ would make a motion to initiate debate on an issue at a CalPERS Committee or Board meeting but failed to get second to his motion so serious examinations of proposals never happened. The current Board make-up strongly suggests that important matters will get a closer look and potentially lead to better performance in the investment arena – a very necessary exercise. If elected, JJ adds to the Board an astute member, from whom we can expect transparency, accountability and better-informed decisions. He would join with Margaret Brown and Jason Perez, recent RPEA-endorsed Board members, who delve into CalPERS matters with equally inquisitive zeal.

In his many years as a CSEA Officer and later as a CalPERS Board member, JJ is well-known to many in the CalPERS community of members and staff. He has always been available to talk with anyone about any issue they present. I have attended many RPEA Board meetings and General Assembly's at which JJ is almost always present and freely comments on CalPERS matters. His vast knowledge of CalPERS history, investments and governance practices provides insights into his ability to raise important questions about all-things CalPERS is about.

As many of you may know, a significant part of the

retiree leadership from many retiree organizations meet Tuesday morning of the CalPERS Board week. JJ unlike the incumbent would come and meet with us each month to answer questions and hear our concerns. I believe that my comments above accurately describe JJ's qualifications. While he can be a bit acerbic at times, he usually reserves that for truly undeserved accusations that have come from persons who would prefer to stifle debate on some controversial matters that the CalPERS Board is deliberating. His actions on the Board, at times, could be construed as contrarian but usually he is only trying to make a point or spur debate.

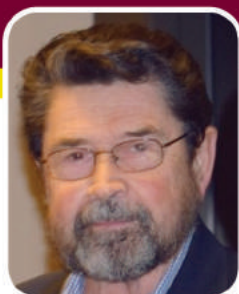
In short, JJ is an outstanding candidate for this position. His opponent is well-qualified but lacks the breadth of experience and knowledge in actual investing to move the needle at CalPERS to a better financial condition for members. Please help circulate his nomination petition and vote for JJ Jelincic.



*JJ Jelincic addresses the RPEA Board*



# Supreme Court Decision Regarding the "California Rule"



*By Al Darby, President*

**T**he long-awaited State Supreme Court decision that threatened the "California Rule" has been issued, and the court has held that the rule is still intact. This rule has been in place since the 1950's and has always held that pension benefits that exist in the contract between a public employer and CalPERS at the time an employee is hired cannot be altered in such a way that reduces the value of that person's pension at retirement. This court ruling did permit "perks" (special benefits awarded by the state legislature but not "vested rights") or special benefits bestowed by the legislature to be withdrawn by the legislature.

The case before the court was that of "Airtime," a special benefit awarded by the legislature in 2003 to

CalFire and other safety employees to augment their pension allowance, was determined by the court to be a perk and thereby not a vested right. This was a benefit that the employee had funded on his/her own and not an employer funded benefit, but the court still found this to be a perk that could be lawfully terminated in the 2012 pension reform act.

Fortunately, the California Rule was left intact by this decision which means that contracted benefits between CalPERS and public employers that exist when a person is hired must be maintained; and, if altered, the value of the altered benefit must be of equal value in the replacement benefit. The 2012 pension reform act (PEPRA) reduced benefits for new hires on or after 1/1/2013 but did not alter contracted benefits for existing employees (referred to as "classic employees").

## Did You Know?



*By Harvey Robinson, Director of Health Benefits*

*So, you think you know who your beneficiary(ies) are for retiree lump sum benefits? Maybe you do,*

- (1) to your spouse*
- (2) or if none, to your surviving children, share and share alike,*
- (3) or if none, to your estate*

*and maybe you don't!*

When you retired you designated a beneficiary or beneficiaries for the retired member lump sum death benefit. This beneficiary may have predeceased you or may have had a statutory revoking event after you filed your initial or subsequent beneficiary designation. Examples of revoking events are a final decree of divorce or marriage. Should you take no action, the benefit will go to your new spouse. If you want the same initial beneficiary to receive this benefit, you must file a new beneficiary designation. Apart from a revoking event if one or more of your beneficiaries have predeceased you, and in order to provide timely payment to those who remain, the surviving beneficiary will have to provide death certificates of those who have passed. If there is no effective beneficiary designation on file at the time of your death (say, due to death of your beneficiary or a revoking event), the benefit will be payable in the following sequence:

If the preceding is the case, CalPERS will need documentation before payment can be made, e.g., a marriage certificate or a birth certificate as the case may be. If you elected an Option 1 plan at retirement, any remaining contribution balance payable would be based on the preceding information. Please contact CalPERS at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) or 888-225-7377 to find out how to file a new designation.



You can also download a copy of CalPERS Pub 98, What You Need to Know about Changing your Beneficiary or Monthly Benefit After Retirement at <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/forms-publications/changing-beneficiary-after-retirement.pdf>.



# Membership Update



*By David Soares, Director of Membership*

**T**his space is usually reserved for Bill Wallace's insights about why RPEA membership is so important to California retirees, but Bill

is currently confronting a health issue that he feels will take away from his ability to spend time as your Director of Membership. My name is David Soares, and the RPEA Board of Directors has made an emergency appointment so that I can fill in for Bill as Director of Membership as he deals with what is hopefully a passing health concern. I retired from Santa Clara County at the end of 2016 after serving for 32 years as a prosecutor. I also served for 12 elected terms on the executive board of the Government Attorneys Association, the bargaining unit representing the county's approximately 300 prosecutors and public defenders. I'm still a licensed attorney, although I'm no longer representing clients.

At our February meeting, the RPEA Board voted to bring new member outreach into our Sacramento Headquarters Office, where automated mailings can be generated by our highly-skilled staff. We're hoping that this process will be more efficient than putting the work on each Chapter, with more consistent messaging. This will also allow us to leverage the increased staffing that AMBA is providing in California in their continuing effort to grow the excellent benefits programs that they provide to our members.

One of the reasons that the RPEA Board shoulder-tapped me for this job is that I've been very active in expressing concerns about governance and investment problems at CalPERS, the State agency that administers most of our pensions. As many of you know, the 2002-2008 CEO of CalPERS was sentenced in May of 2016 to four-and-a-half years in federal prison for forging fraudulent documents while CEO and taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in kick-backs. This investigation dates all the way back to 2009, and many of us fear that it has

triggered a brain-drain at the agency, as well as creating a culture of secrecy that didn't previously exist at CalPERS. We learned in January that CalPERS is reporting a loss of 3.8 percent in calendar year 2018, and now claims a funding-level that has dropped below 66 percent.

These developments are precisely why California retirees need RPEA. Our Board members attend every CalPERS Board meeting and speak in Public Comment. RPEA was instrumental in recently electing two outside challengers to the CalPERS Board—RPEA-member and retired Garden Grove USD facilities director Margaret Brown, and Corona POA President Jason Perez. Our Legislative Director Randall Cheek recently testified before the Joint Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement, and our Legislative Committee is considering proposing legislation to clarify the duty of the CalPERS Board to avoid speculative and non-transparent investment strategies.

I hope that you share this with your friends and former colleagues in public service. Your RPEA membership is more valuable than ever!



*President Darby swears in David Soares as Director of Membership*

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AL DARBY RE FREE MEMBERSHIPS FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

Members of your chapter that you have identified as victims of wildfires, floods or any other natural disaster in any state we serve with chapters are eligible for dues relief for one year. A victim is defined as a member who suffered loss of home, car or was seriously injured. Those who qualify will be reimbursed for one year of membership (\$60) in the form of a check from Headquarters. Please send the **name, chapter number and address of each individuals, their loss or injury and the natural disaster that**

**qualifies them for this dues holiday** to your Area Director for pre-approval and submission to President Darby.

The Association President can forgive dues for members in special cases. The RPEA Board considers these disasters qualifying events.

Al Darby  
President



## Spotlight on Chapter 030 – AUBURN

*By Joan Gates, President*



*First row, left to right: Stillman Gates, Marilyn Baker, Shirley Klasey, Joan Gates, Lorenzo Rios and Wanda Adams Second Row, left to right: Bob Baker, Joanne Snow, Mickey Vernon, Cathy Capps, Dan Sedgley, Diane Dickinson Friz Albrecht, Glen Kramer and Tom Klasey*

We were pleased to have Editor and Director of Public Relations, Lorenzo Rios join with us to celebrate our chapter's 50th anniversary with the RPEA organization. Thank you, again, Lorenzo for all your effort, coming from southern California to help us celebrate. Lorenzo also came to introduce himself to our chapter and bring us up to date on his program to get out and meet as many chapters as possible and get to know more about their programs and activities. Although our attendance was small due to the weather, we enjoyed the camaraderie, memories and stories of past activities and people who contributed to our chapter's many successes.

Shirley Klasey, Chapter Historian, brought albums of pictures and various items of past activities for us to look at. She did an excellent job of sorting through all the memorabilia. Each member present got a token of our appreciation—an RPEA lapel pin. Cake and coffee were served.

## February Board of Directors Meeting

*Area Director V,  
Ellie Knapp;  
Area Director  
VI, Jim  
Anderson*



*RPEA Attorney,  
Jason Jasmine;  
President Darby*



*Assistant Area  
Director IV,  
Sharon Deos;  
Area Director  
IV, Al Fillon*



*Assistant Area Director I,  
Margaret Brown*

*RPEA CPA,  
Lori Wattleit  
from Campbell  
Taylor & Co.*



*Chapter 015 – RIVERSIDE Vice President, Wes Stonebreaker, conducted an Area Director/Assistant Area Director Training Session*



## Anja Baucom Joins RPEA, Northern Cal Members Reap the Benefits

We're excited to welcome Anja Baucom to the RPEA family! Anja is an expert with AMBIA in Texas since 2012, she will now meet the supplemental insurance demands of RPEA members in Northern California.

In addition to working directly with individuals, Anja is available to offer presentations at chapter meetings to help members take advantage of the AMBIA benefits. Anja is friendly, knowledgeable, and a great listener, sensitive to each member's unique needs and circumstances.

She'd be happy to assist you with Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, Long-Term Care, Cancer/Heart/Stroke Insurance, Accident Insurance, Hearing Benefits and Dining & Travel Discounts. Questions? Call 1-800-258-7041.

If you have the good fortune of meeting Anja, please give her a warm RPEA welcome!



Anja Baucom, AMBIA Agent; Al Darby, RPEA President; Robert Lee, AMBIA AVP



# AMBIA

ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS & INSURANCE AGENCY

## Ahoy Matey!

The past year has been a bit trying for many of us due to wild fires and weather conditions. The RPEA Board of Directors is considering sponsoring a Princess cruise to the Mexican Riviera to bring our members together and would like to know your interest in such a cruise.

**SHIP:** Royal Princess  
**DATE:** October 26-November 2, 2019  
**PORTS:** Leave San Pedro on 10/26/19  
10/27/19 @ Sea  
10/28/19 Day in Cabo San Lucas  
10/29/19 Day in Mazatlán  
10/30/19 Puerto Vallarta  
10/31-11/1 @ Sea  
11/2/19 Home



Prices for this cruise will depend on when you book your stateroom, the type of stateroom and the number of people in your stateroom. The going rate at time of booking and any special promotions will be applicable. If you are interested in joining us on this cruise, please contact Ellie Knapp at 661-607-2072 no later than July 15, 2019. This is interest only at this time so DO NOT book before we formally announce whether or not we will be sponsoring this cruise.



# Message from the Editor



*By Lorenzo Rios, Director of Public Relations*

At our Board meeting on February I got to meet most of our Directors, Area Directors and some of their Assistant Area Directors. We exchanged ideas about our organization. I also got invited by Wanda Adams President of Chapter 030 – AUBURN and was invited to celebrate their 50th Anniversary on February 25th. I went to their celebration and received a very warm welcome from their members. One of my many goals is to visit chapters whenever my schedule permits. Again, thank you chapter 030 for your invitation.



*Lorenzo at the mic during the February Board of Directors meeting.*

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# A Great Choice for Good Health



## CalPERS retirees:

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8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

🌐 Or go to [kp.org/calpers](https://kp.org/calpers)

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- **Silver&Fit®**  
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Healthy  
Aging Program
- **Optional Dental  
Coverage for  
Public Agency  
Retirees**

\*Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system.

Kaiser Permanente is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal. You must reside in the Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan service area in which you enroll.

*This is a paid advertisement.*



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

Join online!



## 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**



### 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!





**Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA)**  
**300 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95811-6912**  
**Toll Free: (800) 443-7732 Phone: (916) 441-7732 Fax: (916) 441-7413**  
**Website: www.rpea.com**  
**Facebook www.facebook.com/RPEACalifornia • Twitter @rpea\_ca**

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### ROSTER OF 2018/2020 VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	TITLE	HOME ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Al Darby</b> 8AM – 9PM	President	8968 Panamint Court Elk Grove, CA 95624	925 788 6068	NONE	aldarby9@hotmail.com
<b>Rosemary Knox</b> ANYTIME	Vice President	2215 Ladymuir Court San Jose, CA 95131	408 926 6664	NONE	rknox@sbcglobal.net
<b>Marie Reed</b> 8AM – 7PM	Secretary/Treasurer	6796 Pocket Road Sacramento, CA 95831	916 428 2090	NONE	marie.reed@comcast.net
<b>Ted Rose</b> 9AM – 5PM	Immediate Past President	2894 San Minete Dr. Livermore, CA 94550	925 292 9017	NONE	seniorsmokey@yahoo.com
<b>Harvey Robinson</b> ANY TIME	Dir. Health Benefits	1277 Ridgeway Dr. Sacramento, CA 95822	916 202 4871	NONE	hrobin6766@sbcglobal.net
<b>David Soares</b> 9AM – 6PM	Dir. of Membership	849 Almar Ave., Ste. C-415 Santa Cruz, CA 95060	(831) 419-4415	NONE	davidsoares@pacbell.net
<b>Lorenzo Rios</b> ANY TIME	Dir. Public Relations	1302 N. Alameda Ave. Azusa, CA 91702	626 825 1422	NONE	lorenzorios026@gmail.com
<b>Randall Cheek</b> ANY TIME	Dir. Legislation	5201 Adelaide Way Carmichael, CA 95608	916 541 8988 (H)	NONE	rccheek1947@att.net
<b>Paul Tamboury</b> 8AM – 9PM	Area Director I	465 Stony Point Road, #130 Santa Rosa, CA 95401	707 573 1566	707 577 8827	pault@rpea32.org
<b>Abe Bailly</b> 9AM – 9PM	Area Director II	1073 San Ramon Dr. Chico, CA 95973	530 680 7883	NONE	abailly@csuchico.edu
<b>Bob Van Etten</b> ANY TIME	Area Director III	4401 Clovewood Lane Pleasanton, CA 94588	925 846-6563	NONE	bobvanetten@comcast.net
<b>Al Fillon</b> 8AM – 5PM (M-F)	Area Director IV	2300 El Portal Dr., Unit 43 Bakersfield, CA 93309	661-619-6181	NONE	akfintl@msn.com
<b>Ellen Knapp</b> ANYTIME	Area Director V	28319 N. Azurite Pl. Valencia, CA 91354	661 607 2072 (C)	NONE	eknapp@roadrunner.com
<b>Jim Anderson</b>	Area Director VI	578 Via La Paloma Riverside, CA 92507	951 212 8281 (C)	NONE	waynesix@aol.com
<b>Dennis Cassella</b> 8AM – 5PM	Area Director VII	205 Cypress Hill Dr. Grass Valley, CA 95945	530 272 2130	SAME (CALL FIRST)	ncdennisc@aol.com
<b>Kathleen Collins</b> ANY TIME	Area Director VIII	11865 Susan Ave. Downey, CA 90241	562-884-8891	NONE	kcespresso@hotmail.com
<b>Larry Sullivan</b> ANYTIME	Area Director IX	1602 Sunset Gardens Rd. Albuquerque, NM 87105	505 242 4981	SAME (CALL FIRST)	houseofspirit@earthlink.net

### HEADQUARTERS OFFICE STAFF

Tanya Rakestraw	Office Manager	300 T Street			tanya@rpea.com
Radana Lee	Accts. Payable Clerk	Sacramento, CA 95811	800 443 7732	916 441 7413	radana@rpea.com
Corey Saeteurn	Systems Administrator	8:00AM – 4:00PM	916 441 7732		corey@rpea.com
Teena Stone	Mem. Svcs. Secretary				teenastone@rpea.com