

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

2023



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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jo Paulson IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



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RPEA NEWSLETTER

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"Opinions expressed in articles are those of the writer and not necessarily those of RPEA." Send suggestions and comments to RPEA Headquarters, Attention: Scott McGookin, Editor.

> Send change of address to: **RPEA HEADQUARTERS** 300 T Street Sacramento, CA 95811

Attention: Change of Address









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RPEA REMEMBERS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING PUBLIC RETIREES

As we look back to 1958 when a small. concerned coalition of state retirees came up with the idea to actively represent California retirees and then expand that to all public retirees in the CalPERS system, we thank and honor the many volunteers who stepped up to support that effort by generously donating their time, effort and expertise to the Retired Public Employees' Association of California. They started what has become a highly influential organization that lobbies for retiree rights at CalPERS and the State Legislature. We have had the benefit of strong, effective leadership by 27 Presidents, culminating with the recent, Past President Ted Rose, who was an inspiration for this article.

RPEA was the first advocacy group to represent all public employee retirees ---State, Schools and Local Agencies - with representation at regular meetings of retiree members from the State, Schools and Universities, Firefighters, Law Enforcement, Counties, Cities and Special Districts.

In unity there is strength, and RPEA followed this philosophy to greatly improve the lives of its members, especially as they relate to pensions and health benefits. In

creating many chapters across California, as well as in four other western states. RPEA has been educating its members about the political forces opposed to their well-being as well as providing social activities for its members for 65 years.

Membership has fluctuated from a high of 41,000 to below our current 24,000, however, our membership is on the rise thanks to new leadership who bring new ideas and the use of new technology.

The number of chapters has also fluctuated and currently we have 67 active and hard-working chapters. Aging and demographics have played a big part in these changes. Surprisingly, new chapters come up occasionally bringing new leadership styles and new ideas.

RPEA's Headquarters Office staff grew from a single person to a maximum of five personnel, now reduced to four thanks to the efficiency of office improvements and better use of technology.

But, the key to our success Is the spirit of volunteerism in our chapters, in the field and on our Board of Directors.

HAPPY 65th BIRTHDAY, RPEA!

To Paulson

Immediate Past President



CELEBRATING RPEA'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY



Rosemary Knox

In recognition of 65 years of successful RPEA History

> By Rosemary Knox, President Memories

RPEA PRESIDENT As we try to remember from years past the activities that created the RPEA, I had the opportunity to locate a few old documents to share with you. In the mid-1950s a group of retired employees met and concluded that they should form an organization to represent them separately from active employees.

They recruited a large group of like-minded retires, and after tremendous preparation, filed Articles of Incorporation on September 15, 1958, under the name of Retired State Government Employees' Association of California (RSGEA).

In the mid 1960's the RSGEA expanded membership Eligibility to include Classified School and Public Agency retirees. In July 1969, RSGEA filed an amendment to the Article of Incorporation changing its name to the Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA).

During the last fifty years, RPEA grew to 101 chapters in California and four adjacent states. As Jo Paulson, Past President writes in her article we now have 67 chapters with most of our members living in California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

RPEA has been true to its mission of protecting and enhancing pensions and benefits and educating our members about legislation and changes at CalPERS that may affect them. We have sponsored, co-sponsored, or supported numerous legislative bills that would help us meet our goals and opposed legislation that would threaten or hurt us.

The signers of the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation on July 1969

- J. Fred Halterman President
- Charles V. Gay Secretary/Treasurer

Names of the First Officers and Board members who signed

Articles of Incorporation of September 15, 1958

- E. Raymond Cato President
- · Joseph J. Gallagher Vice President
- Charles R. Ryan Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members: Willem H. Lugg, Mollie L. Johnson, Clarence C. Warden, W.W. Fasset, Gertrude Larimer and Frank B. Durkee

The Emblem of the RPEA Serving those who served the people





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Have you ever wondered how RPEA created our Emblem? Looking back into the history of RPEA I came across information that shared how our Emblem was created!

The first Emblem was created in 1958. The initials and banner appear in the Association colors of blue and gold. The sunset and evening star carry the theme of retirement, shining bright with hope and serenity. The star measures the passage of time in grace, dignity, and fulfillment. The rays of the setting sun depict the seven ages of man.

The mountain range signifies protection and guardianship of loyalty given and received. The alert and aggressive bear seeks to promote a campaign for the welfare, and obtainment of retirement benefits that are properly deserved.

The Golden poppy, the State Flower, represents a bright promise dedicated to a better retirement for all members.

Happy 65th Birthday, RPEA!



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT/OpEd - by AL DARBY



n important RPEA Area Workshop was conducted by Area VI on April 27 in Banning, California. This was the first of what could be regional Area meetings where multiple Areas get together to broaden the knowledge

of chapter leaders in organizing their chapters, getting key positions filled, conducting interesting and fulfilling chapter meetings, and recruiting new members through chapter efforts of various kinds and some that expand our repertoire of recruiting methods. These meetings should help to renew the knowledge of long-term chapter leaders and help newer leaders become familiar with RPEA practices and policies. With COVID mostly behind us now, all chapters should be functioning, at least quarterly, with face-to-face meetings in suitable venues with good food and a meeting area that promotes good communication to conduct chapter business and allows speakers to be clearly heard.

At this meeting, I imparted some basic principles about chapter meetings that promote new member comfort with the other members and ways to get new members engaged in chapter leadership after they feel connected to the chapter. In addition, I spoke about the activities of statewide officers who administer the association and conducts its mission-oriented work at CalPERS and the state legislature. I explained RPEA's relationship with our lobbyist firm and the long-term work they have done for RPEA since 1978. The importance of our bi-monthly statewide newsletter was expressed by Scott McGookin, our Director of Public Relations. This tool was recently highlighted in a letter from a member as one of our most valuable communication vehicles - the member stated that he learned about our lobbying efforts for members at CalPERS and the legislature by reading the RPEA newsletter.

At CalPERS, the proposed Long Term Care class action lawsuit settlement is currently receiving opt-in or opt-out responses from affected policy holders. After June 6, the members of the class will learn the results related to whether enough members opted-out to cause the settlement to be rejected. If rejected, the lawsuit goes back to court to negotiate another settlement solution or it goes to trial. By the time you read this, we will have the results. For current information, go to the website: calpersItcclassaction.com/Home/FAQ#faq18

In the CalPERS investment arena, the new Chief Investment Officer (CIO), Nicole Musicco, continues her efforts to find private equity (PE) solutions to the lagging stock market return on investments. She speaks about more in-house identification and management of PE opportunities and the broadened view of PE investing that includes higher-risk

loans, distressed bank investments, co-investing with PE general partners, real estate acquisition, and venture capital investing in late-stage start-up development to mention a few PE objectives.

With Federal Reserve interest rate increases now waning, inflation falling back, and the economy remaining near full employment, we must hope that the stock market will rebound and become robust again to lift our pension fund balance (PERF) to new heights and a much higher level of worth. We saw a large run-up of stock market value in 2021-2022 that helped to keep our PERF value in a safe range. Stock-owning by the general public is growing and stock market opportunities remain a popular form of investing that will grow even more with a strong economy and reasonable interest rates - a condition that could return soon.

The RPEA CalPERS Experts Committee, and our legislative committee continues to carefully monitor CalPERS' investment and health care initiatives and speak out about potential shortcomings in proposed plans. We also continue to watch the risky loan plan to keep secrecy out of that program that CalPERS has sought to do twice since 2020. A renewed issue at CalPERS is investing in companies that are high-profile Environmental, Social, and Governmental (ESG) entities. The problem is whether too much emphasis is placed on these companies to the exclusion of those companies that may not be ESG candidates but are important to CalPERS for return on investment. We will continue to watch this debate as it heats up.







HEALTH BENEFITS - by JOANNE HOLLENDER



alPERS Health Plan Open Enrollment for Calendar Year

The CalPERS Health Plan Open Enrollment (OE) period is conducted annually in the Fall. The 2023 Open Enrollment dates are September 18 -October 13. Changes made during OE

take effect January 1, 2024. The CalPERS website will provide an on-line guide, Open Enrollment for Retirees: A Step-by-Step Guide, and guide for Active members. Retirees will be able to compare health plans using new health plan search enhancements and make health plan changes on-line. In addition to a list of doctors for basic plans, a new feature will offer a list of doctors accepting Medicare. CalPERS has responded to RPEA's requests to offer this feature to retirees.

CalPERS Health Plan Premiums for 2024

CalPERS has been negotiating health plan premiums for 2024. June 21st is the release date for preliminary premiums for Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) and Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans to Stakeholders. The premiums are subject to the final premiums to be recommended by the Pension and Health Benefits Committee (PHBC) and adopted by the CalPERS Board of Administration in July.

Post- Pandemic COVID-19 Coverage for CalPERS Health Plan Members (Retirees & Actives)

The federal public health emergency for COVID-19 ended on May 11, 2023. CalPERS member costs, coverage, and access for testing and treatment may change depending on whether members are in a CalPERS Basic or Medicare plan, in an HMO, EPO, or PPO plan, or seeking services inside or outside California.

Note: All CalPERS members should consult with their health plans and providers to understand how the end of the federal public health emergency affects their particular benefit options.

Basic Plan Members

For Basic plan members, California law adds six months to the end of federal COVID-19 public health emergency requirements, so those residing in California are entitled to continuing coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatment (in or out-of-network) with no prior authorization or cost to members until November 11, 2023.

After November 11, 2023, access to COVID-19-related services will continue but cost-sharing may apply. Cost sharing is the share of health insurance costs that members pay out of their own pocket. It includes copays, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not premiums or costs for non-covered services.

Medicare Plan Members

For Medicare plan members, cost sharing may apply for some COVID-19 related services after May 11, 2023.

Out-of-State Members

For Kaiser members outside California, providers are subject to federal rules. After May 11, 2023, they will no longer be required to cover COVID-19 tests, treatment, or vaccines obtained out-of-network.

Clinical Diagnostic COVID-19 Tests Conducted by Licensed Providers

Basic HMO and PPO plans after November 11, 2023:

- No member cost share for in-network services
- · Cost-sharing will apply for services received out-of-network

Medicare Advantage plans after May 11, 2023:

 No cost for the test itself, but cost-sharing may apply for the doctor's visit

Medicare Supplement plans after May 11, 2023:

· No cost for the test or doctor's visit

At-Home COVID-19 Tests

The federal government will continue to provide free at-home tests while supplies last. Visit covidtests.gov to order free COVID-19 antigen self-tests delivered to your home.

Using CalPERS health benefits, at-home COVID-19 tests purchased outside CalPERS preferred pharmacies will be reimbursed up to \$12 per test by completing and submitting a claim form to OptumRx, Kaiser, or Blue Shield directly:

- CalPERS members enrolled in any Basic health plan, except Kaiser and Blue Shield, can use the Optum Store or OptumRx in-network preferred pharmacies such as Rite Aid, Sam's Club, and Walmart.
- Kaiser Permanente and Blue Shield will provide tests through their standard pharmacy procedures. Visit Kaiser and Blue Shield for this information.

Basic HMO and PPO plans after November 11, 2023:

- No member cost share for tests obtained from in-network providers
- Health plans to pay or reimburse for eight at-home tests per month (Ask your health plan for details.)
- Cost-sharing will apply for tests obtained out-of-network

Medicare Advantage and Supplement plans after May 11, 2023:

- No member cost share for tests obtained from in-network providers
- Health plans to pay or reimburse for eight at-home tests per month (Ask your health plan for details.)
- Cost-sharing will apply for tests obtained out-of-network

Outpatient COVID-19 Treatment in California (e.g., Paxlovid)

Basic HMO and PPO plans after November 11, 2023:

- · No member cost share for in-network services
- Cost-sharing will apply for services received out-of-network

Medicare Advantage plans after May 11, 2023:

 No cost for the test itself, but cost-sharing may apply for the doctor's visit

Medicare Supplement plans after May 11, 2023:

· No cost for the test or doctor's visit

COVID-19 Vaccines & Boosters

All CalPERS members will continue to have access to COVID-19 vaccines and boosters at no cost under preventive benefits.

Joanne Hollander

Member, Health Benefits Committee



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR UPDATE - by ELENA YUASA



ear RPEA members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we enter the busy months of May and June, I am excited to share some updates on our progress and initiatives.

Firstly, I am thrilled to announce

that we are developing new partnerships to increase our membership and reach out to more retirees and active employees who can benefit from our services. Our new partnership approach will provide valuable opportunities to connect with potential members and share the benefits of joining RPEA.

Secondly, as we continue to emerge from the pandemic, our efforts to recalibrate how we conduct ourselves socially are ongoing. RPEA chapters have been re-energizing their commitment to our goals, doing good work together by assisting members, disseminating vital pension information, and providing updates regarding bills or health benefits. I am proud to see the dedication and commitment of our current chapter leaders and the support of our members to continue meeting the goals of RPEA for the benefit of those without a voice.

We attended the Anaheim CalPERS Educational Event in March and successfully recruited new members. Attendees expressed interest in learning more about our organization and the benefits of joining RPEA. Dan Heredia and Mary Ellen Bowman from Chapter 64 did a fantastic job representing RPEA.

In April, I had the opportunity to mentor a new volunteer, Reina Soto, who is now the Membership Chair for Chapter 1. Her efforts in sharing information about RPEA with her co-workers resulted in recruiting two new members. Congratulations to Reina and her team!

I am excited to visit the Sonoma and Mother Lode chapters this month to speak about RPEA's advocacy work and encourage the retention and recruitment of members.

On April 27th, Area Director VI Nelly Van Lommel kicked off this year's first Area Director's VI Workshop. Attendees were pleased with the event, and Nelly is available to assist others in setting up similar workshops upon request.

On May 6th, Area Director VIII Kathy Collins and Chapter 64 President Tracy Jones attended the 6th Senior Annual Expo Fest in Long Beach to represent RPEA. They enjoyed the interaction with potential members while representing RPEA at that event.

Lastly, I want to emphasize how volunteering for RPEA can positively impact your life. Volunteering helps protect our pensions and health benefits and can also increase physical activity, create critical social connections, and promote positive health outcomes. I urge all members to consider taking leadership positions and volunteering for our organization. You can make a big difference and help us protect our pensions and health benefits.

I look forward to sharing more exciting news with you soon. If you have any questions or want to contact me, please email me at rpeahq@rpea.com Thank you for your continued support.



Past President Chapter 64 and Elena Yuasa First day at the CalPERS Educational Event.





Second day at the CalPERS Education Event: Dan Heredia, Mary Ellen Bowman, and Elena Yuasa



Chapter 1 Team at Work. Elena Yuasa and Reina Soto





Is your current Medicare health plan still right for you?

New for 2023! Kaiser Permanente has more Medicare health plan options for CalPERS retirees to choose from, with the addition of Summit.

- Care from the comfort of home when you schedule a phone appointment with a Kaiser Permanente doctor.¹
- Your choice of great Kaiser Permanente doctors and a wide range of specialists. And all of our available doctors welcome Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan members.

2023 benefit highlights



Rides to and from your doctor visits at no cost²



Meals delivered to your home after a hospital stay at no cost³



Quarterly Over-the-Counter (OTC)
Health and Wellness Benefit

To learn more call us toll-free: **1-855-717-9598** (TTY **711**), 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



1. When appropriate and available. 2. If you have a medical emergency, call 911. 3. Meal service is for 4 weeks and is available only once per benefit year immediately following an inpatient stay at a hospital or nursing facility. 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.

Please recycle. 943153456_RPEA October 2022



LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS - by RANDALL CHEEK



RPEA is supporting Senate Joint Resolution 1 by Senator Cortese which asks 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. For years congress has introduced such legislation.

This year congress has introduced HR 82 the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 authored by Congressman Graves of Louisiana and is co-authored by 263 other congress members. On the U.S. Senate side Senator Brown of Ohio has also introduced a similar bill with 43 Senators co-authoring his bill.

So what are the issues? I know I have written about them before but it does not hurt to repeat them. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which was enacted in 1983 and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) which Congress enacted in 1977.

WEP and GPO primarily affect those public employees and families of public employees who worked for agencies that do not get Social Security such as school teachers and some public safety agencies. However some of these public employees may have worked two jobs or previous jobs that did pay for social security. These public employees and their families are unfairly denied benefits under WEP and GPO.

There is a WEP formula that the Social Security Administration (SSA) uses to determine what benefits those affected will receive called the average indexed monthly earnings (AIME), which SSA calculates by averaging a worker's highest (wage-growth-adjusted) 35 years of covered earnings. To determine a beneficiary's primary insurance amount (PIA)—the monthly benefit that a worker receives if they elect to start receiving benefits at their full retirement age—SSA applies a progressive benefit formula to a beneficiary's AIME. This formula includes two "bend points" at which the marginal replacement rate for earnings (also known as the PIA factor) changes.

In 2023, the bend points are \$1,115 and \$6,721, with the PIA replacing:

90% of AIME up to \$1,115;

32% of AIME between \$1,115 and \$6,721; and

15% of AIME above \$6,721.

Thus WEP reduces the 90% replacement rate (for the first \$1,115 of AIME) based on an affected worker's years of covered employment.

Under GPO a spouse receives up to 50% of the covered worker's Social Security benefits, and a widow(er) receives up to 100%.

We have tried for years to get the repeal of the Social Security offsets the WEP and the CPO. A California resolution only encourages but you are the real power when you can contact your member in congress and ask for their support. You can do so by contacting both or either Senator Diane Feinstein or Senator Alex Padilla.

The Honorable (Name) United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

To find out your House of Representative member is go to house.Gov and find my representative in upper right corner.

The Honorable (Name) U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

HR 82 is supported by Democrats, Republicans and Independents. Last year we came close. Perhaps with everyone pushing to get it done it can happen. Your voice is important.

Long Term Care

A formal notice explaining the settlement has been mailed. It explains why it's in the best interests of the class, and class members' options. A date for final approval is set for July 26.

If you are a class member and have questions regarding the settlement you can call 1 (866) 217-8056.

As always happy trails till we meet again.

Randall Cheek

RPEA Director of Legislation



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Aaron Read

Gov. Gavin Newsom released a \$306.5 billion budget with a growing shortall he will need to address while also maintaining social safety net programs and other policy priorities. The May Revision estimates the budget deficit has grown to nearly \$32 billion (up from \$22.5 billion

estimate in January). That is about \$10 billion more than predicted in January. It is difficult to say if the deficit will grow (and by how much) beyond the \$32 billion as the impacts of a pending federal debt impasse, rising interest rates, and delayed tax receipts from an extended tax deadline have yet to be felt.

The January budget proposed a number of proposals to cover the deficit, including about \$9.6 billion in spending cuts that hit some of the state's ambitious climate programs and other policy areas. The May Revision includes roughly another \$1 billion in spending reductions. Some of it comes from clawing back unspent money in various programs, including those designed to provide tax refunds and help people with their utility bills.

The remainder of the deficit will be closed by shifting expenses, taking some money from the state's safety net reserve and borrowing.

The general categories of the Governor's budget-balancing proposals include:

- Spending reductions: \$6.7 billion (including \$1.1 billion of new proposals and revised lower spending estimates for some programs)
- Trigger cuts: \$3.9 billion
- Delayed spending: \$8.1 billion (including \$695 million of new proposals)
- Shifts from the General Fund to other state funds: \$7.5 billion (including \$3.3 billion of new proposals, such as a \$1.1 billion shift from cash to a "climate bond" for climate-related investments)
- Borrowing and revenues: \$4.9 billion (including \$2.5 billion more budget relief from the Governor's managed care organization tax proposal and \$1.2 billion in additional borrowing from special funds)
- Reserves: \$450 million withdrawal from the Safety Net Reserve.

Per usual, the governor's revised spending plan opens what is expected to be an intense month of negotiations with the Legislature. Legislative Democrats have floated their own ideas for fixing the budget. Senate Democrats in April released "Protect Our Progress," a plan that proposed a tax cut for small businesses and a hike for the biggest corporations doing business in the state, including Coca Cola and Walmart.

The plan would raise billions of dollars every year, but the

Governor quickly expressed his disapproval. He said he would not support more ongoing spending or tax hikes.

The negotiations may be even more intense this time around as it is the first time the Governor and most lawmakers have had to confront a fiscal shortfall.



Pat Moran

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California Public Employees' Retirement System

- Decreases state contributions to CalPERS by \$1.7 million in 2023-24. The May Revision notes that the decrease is a result of CalPERS' adjustment to the state's contribution rates, driven by the progression of existing amortization and the application of supplemental pension payments in 2021-22 and 2022-23. The January budget allocated \$8.5 billion for the statutorily required annual state contributions to CalPERS for state pension costs.
- Estimates \$1.7 billion in one-time Proposition 2 debt repayment funding in 2023- 24 to reduce unfunded liabilities of the CalPERS

The 100/90 retiree healthcare formula is unchanged

Here's a timeline of California's annual budget adoption process:

- January: The governor submits a proposed spending plan to the Legislature by a constitutional deadline of Jan. 10. Here's what Newsom originally proposed.
- May: The governor refines the budget proposal using clearer revenue numbers provided by the Department of Finance. This is known as the "May Revise."
- June: Lawmakers have until June 15 to pass a budget. The spending plan is generally spread out across multiple bills, including "trailer bills," or smaller appropriations that can be passed after the June 15 deadline. The governor must sign a budget by June 30.



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LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

JUNE 2. 2023

NAMES THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP		CURRENT	RPEA
BILL NUMBER & AUTHOR	LEGISLATIVE INTENT	STATUS	POSITION
AB 48 (Aguiar-Curry D) Nursing Facility Resident Informed Consent Protection Act of 2023.	Summary: Current law provides for the licensure and regulation of health facilities, including skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities, by the State Department of Public Health. Current law requires skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities to have written policies regarding the rights of patients. This bill would add to these rights the right of every resident to receive the information that is material to an individual's informed consent decision concerning whether to accept or refuse the administration of psychotherapeutic drugs, as specified. This bill would also add the right to be free from psychotherapeutic drugs used for the purpose of resident discipline, convenience, or chemical restraint, except in an emergency that threatens to cause immediate injury to the resident or others. This bill would make the prescriber responsible for disclosing the material information relating to psychotherapeutic drugs to the resident and obtaining their informed consent, as defined.	Introduced: 12/5/2022 Last Amend: 3/16/2023 Status: 5/31/2023 Referred to Committee on Health and JUD Location: 5/31/2023-S Health	S
AB 751 (Schiavo D) Elder abuse.	Summary: Current law requires every local law enforcement agency to, when the agency next undertakes the policy revision process, revise or include specified information about the elements of elder abuse crimes in the portion of its policy manual relating to elder and dependent adult abuse, if that policy manual exists. Current law requires a municipal police department or county sheriffs' department that adopts or revises a policy regarding elder and dependent adult abuse or senior and disability victimization on or after April 13, 2021, to include specified provisions regarding procedures for investigating elder abuse in that policy. This bill would clarify that a department that complied or complies with the requirements above regarding including specified information about the elements of elder abuse crimes in their policy manuals on or after April 13, 2021, is required to include the specified provisions regarding procedures for investigating elder abuse in their policy.	Introduced: 2/13/2023 Last Amend: 3/16/2023 Status: 5/3/2023- Referred to Com. On PUB S. Calendar: 6/6/2023 8:30 a.m 1021 O Street, Rm 2200 SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY, WAHAB, AISHA, Chair	S ₂
(Alvarez D) Long-term care: family councils.	Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Public Health to license and regulate skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and intermediate care facilities (ICFs). Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to license and regulate residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFEs). Current law prohibits those facilities from prohibiting the formation of a family council, which is a meeting of family members, friends, or representatives of 2 or more residents to confer in private without facility staff. Current law prohibits those facilities from willfully interfering with the formation, maintenance, or promotion of a family council, as specified. This bill would remove willfulness as a condition of that prohibition and would make changes to the definition and scope of prohibited interference.	Introduced: 2/15/2023 Status: 5/31/2023- In Senate Read First Time to Com. on RLS for assignment Location: 5/ 5/31/2023-S RLS	S ₂

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

AB 1246	Summary: Current law permits a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) who retires on or	Introduced: 2/16/2023	
(Nguyen, Stephanie D) Public Employees' Retirement System optional settlements.	before December 31, 2017, to elect from among several optional settlements for the purpose of structuring the member's retirement allowance. Current law prohibits a member who elects to receive specified optional settlements from changing the member's optional settlement and designated beneficiary after election of an optional settlement unless a specified event occurs, including the death of a beneficiary who predeceased the member, a dissolution of marriage or a legal separation in which the judgment dividing the community property awards the total interest in the retirement system to the retired member, or in an annulment of marriage in which the court confirms the annulment. This bill would extend the ability of a retiree to change their designated beneficiary to include naming a new spouse following a retiree's divorce and subsequent remarriage. The bill would allow a retiree's new spouse to receive the retiree's postdivorce retirement settlement benefits.	Last Amend: 3/16/2023 Status: 5/24/2023 Referred to Com. On L., P.E. & R Location: 5/24/2023 -S L., P.E. & R	CO-SPONSOR
AB 1410	Summary: The Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act establishes the Office of the State Long-Term Care	Introduced: 2/17/2023	S ₁
(Ta R) Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman: advisory council.	Ombudsman, under the direction of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, in the California Department of Aging. Current law requires the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to ensure that residents have regular and timely access to the services provided through the office. Current law requires the department to establish an 11-member advisory council for the office to provide advice and consultation to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Director of the California Department of Aging on issues affecting the provision of ombudsman services, including the review of proposed policy changes to the operation of the program, and to make recommendations, within 30 days, as appropriate. Current law requires the department to notify the advisory council at least 30 days before designating a new organization or agency as an approved organization. This bill would instead require the department to establish a 13-member advisory council. The bill would extend the timeframe for the advisory council to consult with and make recommendations to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the director from 30 days to 45 days.	Status: 4/28/2023- Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was AGING & L.T.C. on 3/9/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024) Location: 4/ 28/2023 A. 2 YEAR.	
(Caballero D) Senior housing: tax credits.	Summary: Current law, enacted to implement a specified low-income housing tax credit established by federal law, requires the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee to annually determine and allocate the state ceiling in accordance with those provisions and in conformity with federal law. Current law authorizes the committee to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations for the allocation of housing credits. Current law requires that specified amounts of the low-income housing tax credits be set aside for allocation to rural areas, small developments, and farmworker housing, as specified. This bill would require the committee to revise its regulations to increase the housing type goal for senior developments to 20 percent.	Introduced: 12/5/2022 Last Amend: 4/18/2023 Status: 5/18/2023-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (May 18). Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Location: 5/18/2023-S. THIRD READING Calendar: 5/22/2023 #195 SENATE SENATE BILLS- THIRD READING FILE	S ₂

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

SB 278 (Dodd D) Elder abuse.	Summary: Current law defines financial abuse for those purposes of the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act and provides that it occurs when, among other instances, a person or entity takes, secretes, appropriates, obtains, or retains, or assists in taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining, real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult for a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both. Current law requires a person or entity to be deemed to have taken, secreted, appropriated, obtained, or retained property for a wrongful use if, among other things, the person or entity takes the property and the person or entity knew or should have known that the conduct is likely to be harmful to the elder or dependent adult. Current law requires the court to award specified costs if a defendant is found liable for financial abuse, as specified. This bill would add to the definition of "financial abuse" knowingly aiding and abetting in the taking secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult for a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both. The bill also defines "assists" for those purposes.	Introduced: 2/1/2023 Last Amend: 5/16/2023 Status: 5/17/2023-S. Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Location: 5/17/2023-S. THIRD READING Calendar: 5/22/2023 #189 SENATE SENATE BILLS- THIRD READING FILE	S ₂
(Cortese D) Social Security Act: repeal of benefit reductions.	Summary: 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. This bill contains other related provisions.	Introduced: 12/5/2022 Last Amend: 4/12/2023 Status: 5/26/2023 Senate amendments concurred in (Ayes 37, Noes O, ordered to engrossing and enrolling (Enrolled text released 5/30/2023 Location: Enrollment	S ₁

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POSITIONS: The following categories are used in your legislative summary reports:

SPONSOR - This is a sponsored or co-sponsored bill.

SUPPORT 1 (S1) — This is the highest priority support bill. We send a letter of support to the author, a letter of support to committee members considering the bill and undertake full lobbying to assure passage of the bill. We also closely monitor all amendments and constantly reevaluate our position.

SUPPORT 2 (S2) - This level of support is moderate. A letter is sent to the author and committee considering the bill, but there is usually less lobbying or testifying before committee. We also closely monitor all amendments and constantly reevaluate our position.

SUPPORT 3 (S3) - This is the lowest level of support. A letter of support is sent to the author. We closely monitor the bill for amendments.

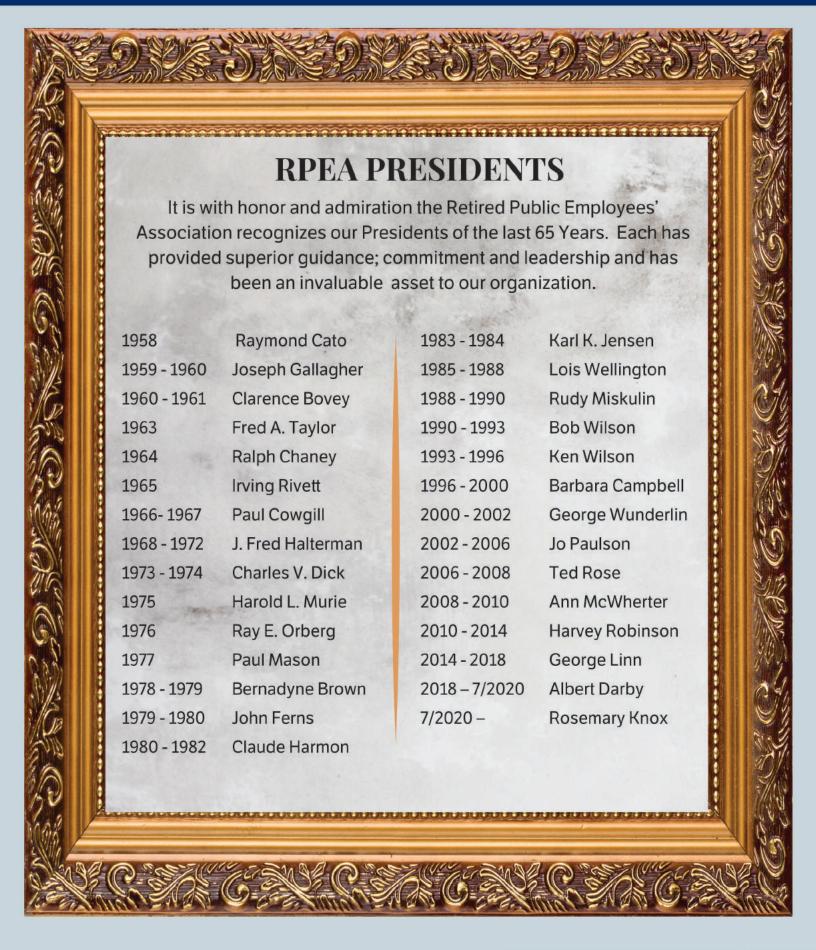
OPPOSE (0) – Only those bills which are judged to be detrimental are given an oppose position. Such bills require aggressive opposition lobbying, often accompanied by efforts to gain amendments, in an effort to make the bill acceptable to RPEA, and therefore to remove our opposition.

WATCH 1 (W1) – This is a bill of more than casual interest. We actively monitor such bills and often communicate with the author, the author's staff, the legislative committee members and staff. We frequently seek clarifying amendments to bills in this category.

WATCH 2 (W2) - This is a bill of interest or concern on which we keep close tabs. It appears in the summary report.

? - This is a bill that will show up in our screening from time to time. It is important that we discuss the bill so that we are able to remove the question mark by either deleting the bill or by assigning one of the above positions.

RPEA PRESIDENT'S



Chapter Recognition

Chapter 044- POMONA

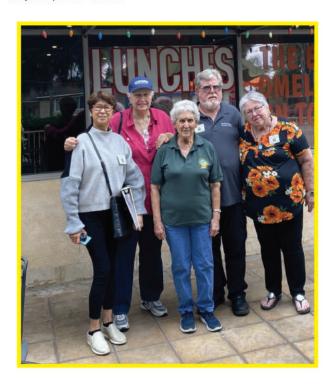
At a recent meeting of Chapter 044 located in the Pomona / Ontario area, chapter member Scott Jones, who retired in 2006 from the City of Claremont Engineering Department asked for a moment to make a brief announcement. What Scott had to say took only a minute ... but it is really worth sharing with the full membership of our Association.

Specifically, Scott recognized the volunteer time and effort that the Chapter 044 Board puts into planning and organizing their chapter meetings, publishing the chapter newsleter and a variety of other activities for the benefit of members of the chapter. Scott recognized the Program and Telephone Tree Commitee Chair- Dorothy Lacey; Chapter Secretary Violeta "Vi" Comia; Chapter Vice President and Sunshine Commitee Chair- Alice Alexandre; Chapter President, Membership and Publicity Chair Steven Lacey; and Chapter Treasurer, Legislative Chairperson and Immediate Past Chapter President Shirley Wofford.

Then Scott presented a Chick Fil-A gift card to each of the five volunteer officers/committee chairs in appreciation of their volunteerism to Chapter 044.

Thank you Scott for your generous praise to the volunteer leaders of your Chapter 044. What a great way to recognize the leadership and service of your chapter leaders at the conclusion of an outstanding chapter meeting.

RPEA Chapter 044 meets at 12:00 noon on the second Wednesday of even numbered months at the Golden Corral Buffet in Ontario, California. For more information call Steven Lacey, Area Director at (909) 210-2022.





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RPEA of CA - Retired Public Employees' Association of California



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Chapter 004 Enjoying the Beautiful Outdoors with an outdoor meeting!



Surf City Chapter Meeting



Afterglow gathering at the 2022 General Assembly in Sacramento!



The Early Days - Getting the Hang of Zoom Meetings!



RPEA President Rosemary Knox & Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Jeppson at a CalPER's Board Meeting



Tucson, Arizona - Chapter 103



RPEA Legislative Director Randy Cheek visiting a Southern California Chapter!



Chapter 078 Nevada County Chapter Holiday Meeting



The dedicated RPEA Headquarters Staff!



General Assembly 2022 after dinner dancing!

VOLUNTEERISM - LORAN VETTER



Sixty five years of Service and Caring

Today as I looked out the window at a beautiful day, I was, as always, filled with the quiet joy that comes from knowing it is the right place and the right time. In 1958, the

time of our incorporation, I don't think any of us could foresee the multifaceted organization we have become. Since the beginning, we have been in the forefront of the fight to maintain and expand on the retirement benefits our members receive. This organization (Retired Public Employees Association/RPEA) is unique in its membership requirements. Anyone wanting to become an active member of the organization must receive a CalPERS check for retirement or be the spouse or partner of someone who received a check. There are actually a total of 4 membership levels. In addition to Active and Beneficiary Members, we welcome those who are still employed in a CalPERS position and they may join as Affiliates. The other two classifications, State Associate, and Chapter Associate Members support the values of RPEA and join to express that support. As an Associate, there is no specific industry or classification you must meet; you just need to support the principles of RPEA. The variety of members leads to a greater understanding of the needs of all retirees. It all goes back to the idea of caring and service.

Our members, whatever classification of membership they embrace, are often volunteers who can make a difference in someone's life. Volunteering has been found to increase social interaction on many levels. That social interaction is a key ingredient to ending loneliness in seniors and supporting mental health. This is true whether you are giving a service or receiving a service. It generates human

contact which can be life giving. The other benefits of volunteering are found in the contributions it makes to our city, county, and/or state to secure a reasonable lifestyle for residents.

Volunteer time donated is used to gauge public interest in a program, as a match for grants, and often leads to increased employment in an area. The increased employment generates tax income and increased spending. As you have often read in my articles, there is another important reason to volunteer and report your time.

Your volunteer time has tremendous value to the state and to your community. It is an opportunity to start telling a new positive story about public employment retirees. It is time to change the myth of overpaid and underworked public employees who reap a retirement benefit they do not deserve. Our retirement is something we worked hard for and was part of our employment packages and no one has the right to take it away. Join with me and other RPEA members and send in your hours. Together we can change the trend and restore the level of respect that the rest of the state once had for their Public Servants.

Happy Anniversary RPEA!

As always, I will end with a Quote from Erma Bombeck: "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."

Lovan Vetter
Community Involvement Chair

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







RPEA BLOG





VOLUNTEERISM HOURS TRACKING FORM

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (Volunteers for Public Service)

In counting volunteer hours, include any of the following:

- Meals on Wheels or other Nutrition Programs
- · Care Car or other transportation services for neighbors, family, friends, voters
- Hospital, blood bank, nursing home, child care volunteer
- Visiting or caring for ill or handicapped in your home or away, errands, telephone calls, shopping, yard work, mail, etc.
- Library assistance, Volunteer tutoring at the library, school, or assistance in the Classroom
- Teaching English, as a second language, to children and adults who are non-English speaking.
- · Assistance with IRS, SNAP, Utility Discount on the basis of income or medical exemption forms
- Interaction and assistance with youth activities including, but not limited to, after school programs, girls and boys clubs, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts museum volunteer
- Community Service organizations such as: Rotary, Elks, Lions Clubs, community theater, fairs, community activities such as street fairs, county fairs, political campaigns
- Religious activities: Choir, Sunday school teaching, Church nursery oversight, Vestry, Helping Hands, preparing and serving food, music, Church Commissions, distribution of literature, and helping in service
- Charity work or assistance programs for the Homeless, Battered Women, Abused Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)
- · Helping with food distribution, bazaars, craft fairs
- Helping with grandchildren and other family members who need assistance while a parent is employed



RPEA-CA Gives Back

Volunteer organizations include (but not limited to): Hospitals, Law Enforcement, Churches, Unpaid Caregiving, Community Services, Meals on Wheels, Elks, etc.

Name of Volunteer:	Date:	
Chapter:	Area:	
State Residing:		
Name of Organization Volunteered:	Hours Donated:	Frequency:
		□ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Annually □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Annually
Rev. 10/18/21		□ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Annually □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Annually

AREA WORKSHOP

By Ne Area Scott Comm Meeti

By Nelly van Lommel, Area Director Area VI and Scott McGookin Chair; Ad-hoc Committee for Area Regional Meetings

In late April 2023 Area Director for Area VI, Nelly van Lommel, conducted a workshop for officers and volunteers from chapters within Area VI (the Riverside; San Bernardino; Hemet/San Jacinto; Indio; Victorville/Hesperia area). Nelly was mentored by Area Director Bill Wallace in planning for this workshop.

The workshop was held at the Sun Lakes Country Club in Banning, California. This was an excellent place to hold this Area VI meeting. The room which we occupied was comfortable and very accommodating for a group of our size and the facility had plenty of parking.

Lunch was served buffet style, with facility staff plating the meals for attendees. The lunch was excellent and the facility staff was friendly and very helpful.

The purpose of RPEA conducting this workshop was to share information that chapter leaders would benefit from in order to address and concerns as identified for Area VI in a 2022 survey of chapter officers conducted by the Area Directors.

The focus of this Area VI workshop was on the topic of Public Relations. Area Director Nelly van Lommel facilitated the workshop - introducing each presenter prior to their speaking.

Presenters were:

- Yvonne Walker, CalPERS Board Director who holds the retiree seat;
- · Al Darby, Vice President of RPEA spoke on several related



Attendees at workshop

public relations topics;

- Scott McGookin, Statewide RPEA Public Relations Director offered handouts and information on public relations, membership building and how to submit articles for the RPEA newsletter; and
- Wes Stonebreaker, Past President of the Riverside Chapter, spoke on public relations and also some of the history of his past responsibilities with RPEA and how they still relate today in recruiting new members and making members feel welcome at the chapter level.

Each presentation was informative and relevant to the audience. There was a microphone and there was no difficulty in the audience hearing the presenters. Each presenter addressed questions very well.

When an Area/Regional Leadership Training opportunity comes to your geographical area, make it a point to attend. This was an educational event with a healthy dose of much needed in-person camaraderie!



Scott McGookin State Director of Public Relations



Yvonne Walker – CalPERS Board Nelly van Lommel AD VI



Al Darby Vice President of RPEA



Wes Stonebreaker
Past President Riverside chapter



Joining RPEA Helps Us Support YOUR Retirement Security

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'



association of California

☐ Retiree (CalPERS Annuitant)

Affiliate (Still working for a Public Agency)

☐ Beneficiary (Beneficiary of a CalPERS retiree)

☐ Associate Member (Supporter of RPEA's goals)



Visit our website:





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!

RPEA Headquarters Office: (800-443-7732)

in Three Easy Steps!

STEP 1: Tell Us A	About Yourself
Your Name:	Date of Birth / /
Spouse Name:	M _ F Date of Birth / /
Is your spouse an additional applicant? □Y □N	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Phone: ()	
Retired From:	Retirement Date:
RPEA Chapter Number or Name if Known:	
Referred By:	
STEP 2: Select One	Membership Type

STEP 3: Select One Payment Method

□ Option 1: MONTHLY CALPERS DEDUCTION: I authorize the California Public Employees Retirement

	System (CalPERS) to deduct for each a until revoked by me in writing. Only ava	oplicant on this form \$5.00 per month from my retirement allowance illable 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 OF money order for \$60.00 (\$30.00 for affiliannually for subsequent renewals.	RDER: As payment for the first year's dues, I have attached a check of ate membership) for each applicant on this form. I will be billed
_	Option 3: CREDIT CARD AUTHOR each applicant on this form (\$30.00 for annually for subsequent renewals.	RIZATION: As payment for the first year's dues, I authorize \$60.00 for affiliate membership) to be charged on my credit card. I will be billed
Car	rd Number:	MasterCard or Visa only)
Exp	iration Date:	V/CVC: (3 Digit code on the back of card)
	-	Signature

RPEA/October/2017

THANK YOU for Joining RPEAL

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