



## RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

**OPIOID  
EPIDEMIC**



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# President's Report



**Al Darby**

**RPEA PRESIDENT**



# RPEA

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## **RPEA NEWSLETTER**

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*By RPEA President Al Darby*

**W**ith the State Supreme Court still deliberating the four remaining public pension cases it chose to review, the attention of RPEA has been drawn to issues at CalPERS that could have a major impact on the future performance of return on investments (ROI) of the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF). I have mentioned in previous articles the debate within CalPERS and with stakeholders regarding the wisdom of creating outside General Partner entities. In reality, the proposed two "general partner" (GP) private equity entities for which CalPERS would provide generous funding for administration and staffing, would be independent from the CalPERS Board. CalPERS only has funding as its control mechanism over the general partners. This is considered by CalPERS staff to be the best way to limit transparency and guarantee that expert private equity professionals can be hired to identify viable companies that can be bought at the right price. One of the GP entities will seek start-up companies with products in late-stage development that have venture capital potential while the other GP would seek existing companies with strong fundamentals. CalPERS would be the lone limited partner (LP); a positive condition if the LP exploits it. The concern here is whether the CalPERS private equity unit could hire these same private equity experts and do this work in-house—a less costly approach with much greater accountability and transparency—and the CalPERS Board would have complete oversight.

In late April, the new RPEA website was launched. It is a thing of beauty that encompasses all of the functions of the previous website and adds new features that make digital marketing more amenable to membership application processing and electronic payment processes. AMBIA can now employ email, social media and other internet marketing programs that drive new members to our website to join—a less costly marketing strategy that can reach more retirees. Content can be manipulated more readily and RPEA staff can do much more of this work. All of this is part of the AMBIA program designed to aid them and their endorsing associations to function more efficiently in an environment that frees us all from physical check handling and other paper-related office transactions. The website can contain chapter webpages and links to chapter websites that currently exist or new ones when created.

The election for the retiree seat on the CalPERS Board will be coming up in September. The RPEA Board endorsed JJ Jelincic for this position based on his vast experience as a CalPERS investment officer for 20 years and his eight years on the CalPERS Board between 2009 and 2017. He is about as well qualified as anyone could be to fill this position. RPEA has supported two other elected Board members who now reside on the Board both of whom share JJ's concern that our pension fund receives good stewardship that is manifested by serving the interests of members through prudent investment practices. In April, many of us have worked to get the signatures JJ needs to qualify for the ballot. I thank you for your efforts here.

Development of the video conferencing capability is almost complete and we plan to showcase it in connection with the next RPEA Board meeting on June 3 and 4. When appropriate, instructions about connecting with your laptop/desktop computer (must be equipped with a camera and microphone—most modern laptops are so equipped) will be published to chapter leaders for their use and dissemination to their chapter members. As is often the case with state-of-the-art technology there are limitations and glitches that occur—some we can't control due to internet (broadband) speeds and connections plus hardware limitations of individual equipment. We will do what we can to minimize problems, but our resources are limited and cannot solve all issues. Some RPEA committee meetings have already employed this technology with only minor issues such as slight feedback coming to light. After gaining experience with the system, problems will largely disappear.

A number of other initiatives are under consideration by the Board not the least of which is the vacant lot the association owns next door to our Headquarters building. The Board will receive an update on potential development of the property in June. Our Headquarters building is in need of a paint job and new signage. The Board will get a proposal to accomplish this at the June meeting. Some changes in insurance coverage will be discussed as well. A recommendation on a carport solar panel facility for the Headquarters parking lot is expected to be presented. A discussion about forming a 501C 3 (RPEA charitable foundation) will be considered at this meeting. A decision about investing association reserve funds is expected at this meeting. Many other important issues from the various committees will be debated and acted upon by the Board in June. Stay tuned.



# Know your CalPERS Board Members

*By Rosemary Knox, Vice President*

## CalPERS Mission Statement

Provide responsible and efficient stewardship of the System to deliver promised retirement and health benefits, while promoting wellness and retirement security for members and beneficiaries.

**CalPERS has \$337 billion in assets and is overseen by a 13-member board of administration, who are entrusted with the fiduciary responsibility of the trust. Having attended several and the most recent CalPERS Board meetings, I felt it important to share the following information with the RPEA family. It is incumbent on all of us whether retired or a currently working public employee to keep appraised of the direction, investments, viability and management of CalPERS for the security of our pension!**

This Board along with the Chief Investment Officer, Ben Meng, and the CEO Marcie Frost, are responsible for generating investment returns that can sustain the pension fund. Over the past decade, this has been a difficult task due to market volatility. They are now pinning their hopes on new private equity ventures to regain pension fund value and move toward 100% funded status.

## Six Elected Members

- ☐ Two elected by and from all CalPERS members
- ☐ One elected by and from all active state members
- ☐ One elected by and from all active CalPERS school members
- ☐ One elected by and from all active CalPERS public agency members (employed by contracting public agencies)
- ☐ One elected by and from retired members of CalPERS

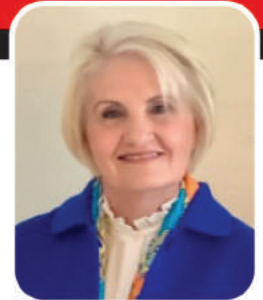
## Three Appointed Members

- ☐ Two appointed by the Governor – an elected official of a local government and an official of a life insurer
- ☐ One public representative appointed jointly by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee

## Four Ex Officio Members

- ☐ The State Treasurer
- ☐ The State Controller
- ☐ The Director of the California Department of Human Resources
- ☐ A representative of the State Personnel Board

The Board's responsibilities include setting employer contribution rates, determining investment asset allocations, providing actuarial valuations, and much more. However, the board does not have the authority to add, change, or delete benefits without the concurrence of the legislature.



**Henry Jones**

President,  
Retired Member  
Representative



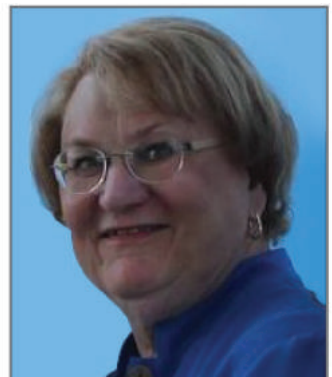
**Theresa Taylor**

Vice President,  
State Member  
Representative



**Margaret Brown**

All Member  
Representative



**Lisa Middleton**

Governor Appointee, Local  
Government  
Elected Official

**(Continued on next page)**



# Know your CalPERS Board Members



**David Miller**

All Member  
Representative



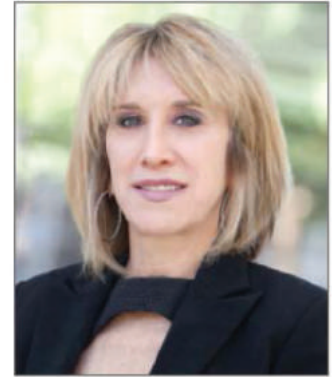
**Eraina Ortega**

Ex Officio Member,  
California  
Department of Human  
Resources



**Rob Feckner**

School Member



**Dana Hollinger**

Governor Appointee



**Fiona Ma**

Ex Officio Member,  
California



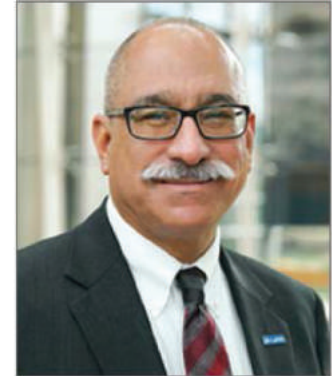
**Jason Perez**

Public Agency  
Member Representative



**Mona Pasquil Rogers**

Ex Officio Member, State  
Personnel Board  
Representative



**Ramón Rubalcava**

Public Representative,  
Appointed jointly by the  
Senate Rules Committee  
and Speaker of the  
Assembly



**Betty Yee**

Ex Officio Member, California  
State Controller

## Message from the Editor

*By Lorenzo Rios, Director of Public Relations*



First, I extend my apologies to Auburn Chapter 030 President, Joan Gates, who invited me to their 50th Anniversary celebration. I have had the opportunity to visit some Area VIII chapters in the last couple of months—Chapter 002 – MID CITIES and Chapter 040 – ORANGE COUNTY—along with Chapter 090 – WEST COVINA and Chapter 044 – POMONA, both in Area V. I look forward to visiting more chapters in the future and developing good relations with my “local” chapters.



# Health Benefits Update



*By Harvey Robinson, Director of Health Benefits*

**I**s there a LIFT Program in your future? At the April 2019 CalPERS Board meeting the Board approved a LIFT Program for eligible CalPERS Long Term Care members (CalPERS Pension and Health Committee item 6c). The program is designed to minimize falls and fractures. To be eligible you must be a program member over age 75 not in claim and reside in California. Part of the volunteer program includes a comprehensive in home falls risk and home safety evaluation by specially trained nurses. I am a former conservator and part-time caregiver of a CalPERS LTC member who would have benefited from this program. She slipped on a throw rug in her pantry, fell and broke her hip and was wheelchair-bound for nine years at a cost to the Program of over \$600,000. At the full Board I testified that this program should be made available to all CalPERS members. The CalPERS LTC program will make available the rollout of the Program soon.

RPEA is working to reactivate the former rural health subsidy, due to the budget surplus. It may be coming back to life soon, not in a specific numbered bill but as part of the budget process. Stay tuned.

The CalPERS Health Benefits branch has requested that all member concerns be sent directly to Stakeholder Relations, i.e., [David.Teykaerts@calpers.ca.gov](mailto:David.Teykaerts@calpers.ca.gov). The intent is that CalPERS can address the immediate

concern and maintain better control of issues. I would appreciate when you do send an e-mail message on an issue that I receive a cc. My address is [hrobin6766@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hrobin6766@sbcglobal.net).

At the May Board meeting staff will be asking the Board to approve using the Preferred Provider organization (PPO) reserves to reduce 2020 PERSCare premiums. The 2020 health premiums will be heard at the June CALPERS Board meeting, and we plan to include the 2020 premiums in our next issue of this newsletter.

The week prior to each CalPERS Board meeting there is a CalPERS Stakeholder meeting where CalPERS advises stakeholders, such as RPEA, of the upcoming Board agenda. After the May stakeholder meeting there was a presentation about what mental/behavioral health services are available from Kaiser, Anthem Blue

Cross, United Health Care and Blue Shield. We hope to have their slide presentations on our website shortly.

At the May 2019 CalPERS Health Benefits Committee meeting the Committee indicated that CalPERS health insurance premiums are expected to go up 7.2% on average next year with premiums for specific plans increasing as much as 24%. On May 15 the CalPERS Board agreed to raise premiums after agreeing to spend \$44M in reserves to limit premium increases for a popular PPO plan with rich benefits called PERSCare.

Policy holders may switch plans during open enrollment from September 9 through October 4.



*What do you think of RPEA's new website ([www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com))?*

*We'd love your feedback!*

*Send your comments to the Editor via e-mail to*

*[lorenzorios026@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzorios026@gmail.com).*



# Legislative Update



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

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Legislature is in the first year of a two-year session and is well under way. RPEA has been actively involved in supporting and opposing legislation.

Below is a list of some of those bills:

### **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 33 was set for a hearing in the Assembly Public, Employment and Retirement Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author. The deadline has passed for the bill to be heard in committee; therefore, it has been made a two-year bill and will be dealt with next year. RPEA is in support.

**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 367 was set for a hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee but the hearing was postponed. The deadline has passed for the bill to be heard in committee; therefore, it has been made a two-year bill and will be dealt with next year. RPEA is in support.

**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 447 passed out of the Assembly and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Human Services Committee. RPEA is in support.

**AB 462 (Rodriguez, D-Pomona)** – This bill, in its original form, would have provided that all sick leave acquired by a school member from all employers subject to PERL within four months of separation may be credited as service credit when specified

conditions are met. The bill was amended on March 26th and now changes to the provisions defining a county peace officer and prescribing the disability allowance for a state miscellaneous member upon industrial disability retirement. RPEA was in support of the previous bill but is no longer engaged.

**AB 797 (Grayson, D-Concord)** – This bill, in its original form, would have expanded the category of mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse to include the officers and employees of a business licensed under the Money Transmission Act. The bill was amended on March 26th and now requires a business that is licensed under the Money Transmission Act whose primary business function is transmitting money, that operates out of a physical storefront or location and that does not engage in other transactions, to provide notice to customers who are 65 years of age or older making the customer aware that fraud has been committed in recent years by means of money transmittals. AB 797 was set for a hearing in the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee but the hearing was postponed. The deadline has passed for the bill to be heard in committee; therefore, it has been made a two-year bill and will be dealt with next year. RPEA was in support of the original version and remains in support of the bill, as amended.

**ACR 88 (Reyes, D-Grand Terrace)** – This bill was just introduced and recognizes the month of May 2019 as Older Americans Month and would encourage all Californians to recognize and treat all older adults with compassion and respect, and to participate in services and activities that contribute to the health, welfare, and happiness of older adults. RPEA is in support.

**SB 228 (Jackson, D-Santa Barbara)** – This bill relates to a Master Plan on Aging. It was amended slightly, but requires the governor to appoint an Aging Czar and a 13-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 228 passed the Senate Human Services Committee and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee. RPEA is in support.

**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. SB 512 passed the Senate Human Services



# Legislative Update



Committee and the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee. RPEA is in support.

**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. The bill passed the Senate and is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly. RPEA is in support.

## 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. SB 341 failed passage in the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee but was granted reconsideration. Since the deadline has passed for the bill to be heard in committee, it has been made a two-year bill and will be dealt with next year. RPEA is opposed.

## BUDGET

Governor Gavin Newsom released his May budget revision, referred to as the “May Revise”. The May Revise is an annual ritual that takes into account April tax receipts, updated spending figures and the latest economic forecasts. It kicks off a month of negotiations leading up to the Legislature’s June 15th deadline for passing a budget bill.

Below is an initial review of the May Revise proposal that relates to RPEA. Further analysis will be available as the budget process moves forward. With the release of the May revision, the Assembly and Senate will quickly turn towards finalizing a version of the budget over the next two weeks.

### Single Payer

Governor Newsom’s administration wants to divert \$5 million approved last year to establish the Council on Health Care Delivery Systems and direct it toward the single-payer commission sought by the new governor.

Newsom’s proposed “Healthy California for All Commission,” faces its first legislative review Thursday morning in a Senate Budget and Fiscal Review subcommittee.

The California Health and Human Services Agency has requested onetime spending of \$5 million through a spring finance letter – a formal request to change the governor’s proposed budget that was submitted to budget committees.

If approved through the budget, the new commission would be required to submit two reports to the Legislature and governor — one in July 2020 that would analyze the existing health care

delivery system and provide options on initial steps California could take to transition toward a single-payer financing system. It would also be required to include options for expanding coverage and potential funding sources.

The deadline for a second report, due by February 2021, would require a deeper analysis of how California could achieve single-payer and how a new system would be structured. It would discuss possible tax increases and measures to control rising health care costs.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon is on record opposing the proposal.

### State Retirement Contributions

The May Revision includes the following adjustments for retirement contributions:

- Includes an increase of \$3.5 million (\$8.8 million General Fund increase and a \$5.3 million Other Fund decrease) for the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) relative to the Governor’s Budget. The increase is a result of CalPERS’ adjustment to the state’s contribution rates, which is due primarily to the normal progression of the existing amortization and smoothing policy, a reduction in the discount rate from 7.25 percent to 7.00 percent, and increases in payroll.

### General Government

The May Revise projects \$3.2 billion in additional revenues and proposes \$2.8 billion in increased 2019-20 General Fund spending above the January budget proposal. While the May Revise reflects recent strong revenue performance by the State, it also reduces the expected growth in future years. As a result, the May Revise has more one-time spending and less ongoing expenditures in future years than the January 10th proposal.

While the May revision projects short-term revenues \$3.2 billion higher than the January budget plan, the governor said most of the increased revenues are constitutionally obligated to reserves, debt repayment and schools. As a consequence, the \$21.5 billion budget surplus remains relatively unchanged. So, the governor, following in his predecessor’s footsteps, set aside almost half of the additional money for paying down debts and building reserves. This will undoubtedly result in a showdown with legislators as they look to augment funding in areas they feel need additional revenues.

There are notable exceptions that allows for some new ideas and expansions. The proposal includes additional investment in developmental services, early education, disaster preparedness, healthcare and school workforce, and homelessness programs. The proposal expands the Earned Income Tax Credit proposal and eliminates the sales tax on diapers and menstruation products. The May Revise proposes a spending plan for the Cannabis revenue from Prop. 64 and related policy proposals. It also includes proposals to offer a second year of free tuition for community college students and to expand Medi-Cal, the state’s healthcare coverage for the poor, to undocumented young adults.



# RPEA Legislative Update



*By Randall Cheek, Director of Legislation*

**A**s some of you may know RPEA's Board endorsed JJ Jelincic for the CalPERS Retiree seat over the incumbent, Henry Jones, who has been in the seat for several years. The Board endorsed JJ upon the recommendation of RPEA's Legislative Committee which is currently made up of seven members plus President Al Darby. The decision to endorse JJ was not made lightly. We interviewed both Henry Jones and Jelincic in person and separately for over an hour each. The Committee meeting, which was open to anyone who wanted to attend in person or over the phone, decided that the better candidate to represent retirees was JJ. We made that decision because we felt Jones aligns himself more with CalPERS management than stakeholders. JJ is a former CalPERS investment officer and a former CalPERS Board member.

The Committee also endorsed State Senate candidates John Laird for the 17th Senate District and Dave Cortese for the 15th Senate District. Both candidates interviewed with RPEA.

RPEA strongly supports the resolution. SJR 3, which currently has four co-authors, requests that Congress enact legislation for the President to sign which repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) from the Social Security Act. This bill does not eliminate either but asks Congress to do so. It looks as if this will be headed to the Governor's desk. RPEA did send a letter of support.

For more information on GPO and WEP, please refer to my update in the November/December issue of the RPEA newsletter.

The good news regarding GPO and WEP, which were implemented with Social Security reform in 1983, is that Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL-13) has introduced this year the bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 (H.R. 141). This act would repeal the GPO and WEP. It is designed to help increase and restore Social Security benefits paid to public service employees (and

their spouses) who spent the majority (but not all) of their careers working for employers who did not participate in Social Security. There have been other bills in the past that tried to eliminate WEP and GPO, but they did not get far. Some believe that this bill may have the same fate, however the other good news is this bill has 162 cosponsors. Many of the cosponsors are from California. They include: Representatives Harley Rouda, Katie Hill, Jerry McNerney, John Garamendi, Julia Brownley, Anna Eshoo, Mark Takano, Pete Aguilar, Linda Sanchez, Eric Swalwell, Salud Carbajal, Duncan Hunter, Timmy Panetta, Paul Ruiz, Grace Napolitano, Ken Calvert, Norma Torres, Alan Löwenthal, Gil Cisneros, Jared Huffman, Jackie Speier, Mike Levin, Judy Chu, Mark DeSaulnier, Susan Davis, Ami Bera, Scott Peters, Mike Thompson, Brad Sherman, Jim Costa, TJ Cox, Ro Khanna, Zoe Lofgren, Adam Schiff, Ted Lieu, and Barbara Lee. If you did not see your representative on the list, contact them and encourage them to support the legislation, and thank those who did.

It is easy to contact your national or state representatives. Go on line to the U. S. Congress, California State

Assembly or California State Senate to find out who your representative maybe. Sites have links to type in your zip code to make sure you can contact your representative. I suggest you write, call or FAX them. E-mail messages seem to get lost in the crowd.

Have a good summer.





# Membership Update



*By David Soares, Director of Membership*

**T** As we enter the second half of 2019, your RPEA membership is more valuable than ever. The Membership Committee is working on creating more ways for members to use technology to stay in touch. We're also fine-tuning a process to improve recruitment and outreach to new retirees in partnership with AMBIA and our Headquarters Office in Sacramento.

One of the most critical tasks that we face is educating members and prospective members about the current threats to our pension benefits, and engaging with the new administration in Sacramento to protect them. CalPERS has been in turmoil for several years, with a former Chief Executive Officer currently imprisoned for defrauding the fund and serious questions being asked about the qualifications of the current Chief Executive.

A new Chief Investment Officer, Ben Meng, came on board at CalPERS in January of this year. He has been reporting serious problems with funding levels and investment performance, as well as challenges with hiring qualified staff to assist him in turning the fund around. CalPERS has been spending hundreds of millions of dollars on outside consultants and investment strategies that used to be handled in-house, stripping money from returns that should be going to

supporting benefits and reducing contributions. The new Governor and the new State Treasurer have already shown their willingness to "change course" away from high-fee, high-risk, gambles and to return CalPERS to the steady course that it had followed in past decades. RPEA board members regularly attend CalPERS board meetings, and RPEA has been active in electing new board members to replace some who have shown themselves to be complacent about facing up to these problems.

The California Supreme Court recently affirmed the "California Rule" protecting pensions as vested contract rights while setting aside "airtime" in the CalFire case. However, there are several cases pending that may limit the scope of which pension rights are contractual and which may be set aside like "airtime" was. Our lawyers and consultants are working with the litigants in these cases to make sure that benefits that we depend on, such

as COLA's and Purchasing Power Protection, remain viable.

RPEA members present a shining example of what a caring, compassionate, and law-abiding society looks like. You should all be proud of this organization — you are why it's so important to reach out to new retirees, so that they may continue this great tradition of dedication to California.

As I meet with members throughout the state, I continue to be impressed by the spirit of fellowship among retired public employees. They are just as dedicated to good citizenship in retirement as they were during their decades of public service.



#### 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



# June Board Meeting Photos

*Enjoy these photos from the June 2019 Board of Directors meeting.  
Audience member attendees—your presence was needed and appreciated!*



*Assistant Area Director VIII,  
Estela Merkosky; RPEA President Al Darby*



*Immediate Past President Ted Rose  
and RPEA Vice President, Rosemary Knox*



*Returning Director of Membership,  
Bill Wallace, is sworn back into office  
by President Darby*



*Legislative Committee Member,  
David Soares, at the mic*



*Area Director IV, Al Fillon and  
Chapter 033 – SAN BERNARDINO  
Secretary, Patsy Hollis*



*Area Director IX, Larry Sullivan and  
Assistant Area Director IX, Lucy Lopez*



*RPEA Legislative Advocate Pat Moran*



*Assistant Area Director V, Bob Seigler*



## Happy Retirement to James “Jim” Mc Christians!



*Jim and Ellie Knapp, Area Director V*

On April 15th fourteen members and guests of the San Fernando Valley Chapter 016, gathered at the Gold Medal Buffet & Grill to pay tribute to their retiring Chapter President, Jim McChristians. After 19 years of being the president of Chapter 016, 13 years of being an Assistant Area Director and 15 years on the Statewide Budget Committee, Jim has finally decided to retire. Vice President Sigrid Ramos will be taking over the reigns until their October election. A beautiful glass plaque was also presented by Treasurer, Ralph Delgado.

RPEA wishes Jim the happiest and healthiest of retirements and thanks him for all his years of service.



*Chapter 016 VP, Sigrid Ramos; Jim and Chapter 016 Secretary, Ralph Delgado*

## Happy 100th Birthday to Clint Paulson!



Former RPEA State Director of Membership, Clint Paulson, will celebrate his 100th birthday on June 9. Clint joined RPEA in February of 1990. Aside from State Director of Membership, the list of his service to our Association is too long to include here.

Best wishes on your 100th birthday, along with our never-ending gratitude, Clint!





# JJ Jelincic

for CalPERS



## **Your Vote, Your Voice – A Candidate for The Members**

JJ Jelincic has spent his entire career defending CalPERS members' values: from fighting against the anti-pension zealots of the world to always working to strengthen CalPERS members' pensions, healthcare and the right to know what is going on with their money. He has been a fearless advocate and determined fighter on behalf of CalPERS members.

**JJ finally retired – is a proud retired member of CalPERS – and is seeking your endorsement and vote to rejoin the CalPERS Board in the Retired Member Seat, continuing his advocacy on behalf of all CalPERS members.**

Retirees deserve a leader who will address present day and future day challenges faced by CalPERS. Retirees deserve a leader who will take opportunities and turn them into real solutions, protecting the longevity of retirees' pensions. As an active CalPERS employee, JJ's career as an investment officer, President of CSEA and CalPERS Board member spanned over 33 years; working to maximize investments, protect pensions and benefits, and hold big companies and insurance carriers accountable. JJ has fought in the trenches for public employees and retirees for years. He has served two terms on the CalPERS Board in a Member-at-Large seat.

**With your support and your vote, you can help JJ continue focusing on the needs of all retirees by:**

- Safeguarding retirement benefits
- Demanding CalPERS' commitment to transparency and accountability
- Controlling health care costs along with sustaining the quality delivery of health services
- Fighting attacks on public pensions to provide secure future for pension recipients
- Improving service and responsiveness to all members

**There is only one way we all win – and that is TOGETHER**

### 2019 ENDORSEMENTS

**Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA)**

**California State Retirees (CSR)**

California Statewide Law Enforcement Association - FOP Lodge #77 (CSLEA)

Southern California Alliance of Law Enforcement (SCALE) • CAL FIRE, Local 2881 (IAFF)

For more information visit [www.jjforcalpers.org](http://www.jjforcalpers.org) or contact JJ directly at (916) 304-5550

Paid for by JJ Jelincic for CalPERS - 2019 Committee ID # 1399968





## Did You Know?



*By Lorenzo Rios, Director of Public Relations*

A report came from the Social Security Board of Trustees that released their annual report on the financial health of the program. They found that social security is even stronger than last year and can cover all payouts and expenses until 2035, a full year later than projected in 2018. But there are critics that say that social security will be bankrupt after 2035.

What you did not see in newspapers or on TV news is that the 2019 Trustee report projects social security's cumulative surplus to

be \$2.9 trillion and can be fully funded until 2035; 93% funded for the next 25 years; 87% funded over the next 50 years, and 84% funded over the next 75 years. So, be aware of what you read or hear on the news. Make sure you know all the truth of the reports.



Some in Congress say to invest in the stock market for a better return, but I just have one question. Social security has been around for over 80 years. Show me when it lost money or went bankrupt.

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- **The only Medicare health plan in California** rated 5 out of 5 stars, 8 years in a row – 2012-2019\*.

To learn more and find out how to enroll through CalPERS,  
call a knowledgeable sales specialist toll free:

☎ **1-877-619-7752**      ☎ Or go to [kp.org/calpers](http://kp.org/calpers)  
(TTY 711) 7 days a week,  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Benefit Highlights for 2019

- **Silver&Fit®**  
Exercise and  
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!



### Why Join RPEA?

RPEA protects the interests of retirees at the state level to ensure your retirement remains secure. We retain a professional lobbyist who represents our interests before the Governor, Legislators and CalPERS Board. We also have access to a federal lobbyist who keeps us informed on federal retiree issues.

RPEA continues an active and ongoing relationship with CalPERS by serving on their Advisory Committee concerning CalPERS plans and proposals. We also monitor every CalPERS committee and frequently testify at these meetings on behalf of our members.

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

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

## Become a Member in Three Easy Steps!

### STEP 1: Tell Us About Yourself

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

### STEP 2: Select One Membership Type

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

### STEP 3: Select One Payment Method

- ☐ **Option 1: MONTHLY CALPERS DEDUCTION:** I authorize the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to deduct for each applicant on this form \$5.00 per month from my retirement allowance until revoked by me in writing. **Only available if one applicant is receiving a CalPERS retirement payment.**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Social Security Number or CalPERS ID + Last 4 of SSN
- ☐ **Option 2: CHECK OR MONEY ORDER:** As payment for the first year's dues, I have attached a check or money order for \$60.00 (\$30.00 for affiliate membership) for each applicant on this form. I will be billed annually for subsequent renewals.
- ☐ **Option 3: CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:** As payment for the first year's dues, I authorize \$60.00 for each applicant on this form (\$30.00 for affiliate membership) to be charged on my credit card. I will be billed annually for subsequent renewals.  
Card Number:     -     -     (MasterCard or Visa only)  
Expiration Date:   /   CVV/CVC: (3 Digit code on the back of card)     
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

RPEA/October/2017

## THANK YOU for Joining RPEA!

**RPEA**  
**Headquarters Office:**  
**(800-443-7732)**

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







**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](http://www.rpea.com)**  
**Facebook [www.facebook.com/RPEACalifornia](http://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><br>8AM – 9PM        | President                | 8968 Panamint Court<br>Elk Grove, CA 95624           | 925 788 6068     | NONE                 | aldarby9@hotmail.com        |
| <b>Rosemary Knox</b><br>ANYTIME     | Vice President           | 2215 Ladymuir Court<br>San Jose, CA 95131            | 408 926 6664     | NONE                 | rknox@sbcglobal.net         |
| <b>Marie Reed</b><br>8AM – 7PM      | Secretary/Treasurer      | 6796 Pocket Road<br>Sacramento, CA 95831             | 916 428 2090     | NONE                 | marie.reed@comcast.net      |
| <b>Ted Rose</b><br>9AM – 5PM        | Immediate Past President | 2894 San Minete Dr.<br>Livermore, CA 94550           | 925 292 9017     | NONE                 | seniorsmokey@yahoo.com      |
| <b>Harvey Robinson</b><br>ANY TIME  | Dir. Health Benefits     | 1277 Ridgeway Dr.<br>Sacramento, CA 95822            | 916 202 4871     | NONE                 | hrobin6766@sbcglobal.net    |
| <b>David Soares</b><br>9AM – 6PM    | Dir. of Membership       | 849 Almar Ave., Ste. C-415<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060   | (831) 419-4415   | NONE                 | davidsoares@pacbell.net     |
| <b>Lorenzo Rios</b><br>ANY TIME     | Dir. Public Relations    | 1302 N. Alameda Ave.<br>Azusa, CA 91702              | 626 825 1422     | NONE                 | lorenzorios026@gmail.com    |
| <b>Randall Cheek</b><br>ANY TIME    | Dir. Legislation         | 5201 Adelaide Way<br>Carmichael, CA 95608            | 916 541 8988 (H) | NONE                 | rchek1947@att.net           |
| <b>Paul Tamboury</b><br>8AM – 9PM   | Area Director I          | 465 Stony Point Road, #130<br>Santa Rosa, CA 95401   | 707 573 1566     | 707 577 8827         | pault@rpea32.org            |
| <b>Abe Bailly</b><br>9AM – 9PM      | Area Director II         | 1073 San Ramon Dr.<br>Chico, CA 95973                | 530 680 7883     | NONE                 | abailly@csuchico.edu        |
| <b>Bob Van Effen</b><br>ANY TIME    | Area Director III        | 4401 Clovewood Lane<br>Pleasanton, CA 94588          | 925 846-6563     | NONE                 | bobvanetten@comcast.net     |
| <b>Al Fillon</b><br>8AM – 5PM (M-F) | Area Director IV         | 2300 El Portal Dr., Unit 43<br>Bakersfield, CA 93309 | 661-619-6181     | NONE                 | akfintl@msn.com             |
| <b>Ellen Knapp</b><br>ANYTIME       | Area Director V          | 28319 N. Azurite Pl.<br>Valencia, CA 91354           | 661 607 2072 (C) | NONE                 | eknapp@roadrunner.com       |
| <b>Jim Anderson</b>                 | Area Director VI         | 578 Via La Paloma<br>Riverside, CA 92507             | 951 212 8281 (C) | NONE                 | waynesix@aol.com            |
| <b>Dennis Cassella</b><br>8AM – 5PM | Area Director VII        | 205 Cypress Hill Dr.<br>Grass Valley, CA 95945       | 530 272 2130     | SAME<br>(CALL FIRST) | ncdennisc@aol.com           |
| <b>Kathleen Collins</b><br>ANY TIME | Area Director VIII       | 11865 Susan Ave.<br>Downey, CA 90241                 | 562-884-8891     | NONE                 | kcespresso@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Larry Sullivan</b><br>ANYTIME    | Area Director IX         | 1602 Sunset Gardens Rd.<br>Albuquerque, NM 87105     | 505 242 4981     | SAME<br>(CALL FIRST) | houseofspirit@earthlink.net |

### HEADQUARTERS OFFICE STAFF

Tanya Rakestraw  
 Radtana Lee  
 Corey Saeteurn  
 Teena Stone

Office Manager  
 Accts. Payable Clerk  
 Systems Administrator  
 Mem. Svcs. Secretary

300 T Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95811  
 8:00AM – 4:00PM

800 443 7732  
 916 441 7732

916 441 7413

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 teenastone@rpea.com