



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

BREAK THROUGH THE HEALTH INSURANCE MAZE

STATE SENATORS LARA AND ATKINS INTRODUCED SB 562 A UNIVERSAL SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE BILL

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President's Report



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RPEA NEWSLETTER

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A Message From President George Linn

I express my thanks to all chapters. The membership report for the first quarter ended in January indicates that all regions have new members. However, there is still work to do. There are members that do not pay their dues and those who become deceased. These members need to be replaced with new members. We have a Membership Committee that provides excellent recruitment materials. You may remember my challenge to the chapters to obtain more new members than AMBIA does.

The California political season has cycles. Currently new elected legislators have joined the existing legislators working at the Capitol in Sacramento. Do you know your elected representatives, and have you visited their field offices? We need to introduce our organization to the new members and renew friendships with those that remained in office. If you need help with addresses, our Headquarters Office can assist you.

Those of you who attended General Assembly heard me speak several times about the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In brief, a CPI is the cost to live in the area covered by the index. Annually the current index is compared with the prior period to arrive at the change. In law CalPERS uses a CPI (U. S. Urban) index which had not provided an increase for several years because of the economy in these communities. At the same time, several California CPI's have provided increases. It is the CPI increase that is applied to the negotiated Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). Without a CPI increase there is no COLA. This is a work in progress and requires a change in the law.

Several members of the Board are continually and actively working and testifying at CalPERS Committee and Board meetings on

issues important to retirees. This past month was no exception...

At the recent March CalPERS Board meeting, several efforts were made by RPEA officers to attain modifications to policies that committees were proposing or have adopted, but could be altered through committee or Board actions. At the Pension & Health Benefits Committee meeting, Jim Anderson, RPEA Director of Legislation, appealed to the Committee to reconsider the Combination Family policy to somehow relax the current rigid policy of requiring these families (one member in Medicare and others under age 65) to be in a single health plan when splitting the health plans would be much more advantageous for combination families. The committee agreed to re-examine this issue.

RPEA Vice President Al Darby explained to this committee that discontinuing the mailing of CalPERS Remittance Advices (check stubs that display income and deductions) would result in many seniors' losing their connection to CalPERS and their ability to examine the Advice (check stub) for correctness. This is because retirees must "opt-in" to continue to receive the remittance advice notices by mail. The committee and staff will review the program to determine if the \$1 million cost savings vs. the inconvenience is worth it.

At the Full Board meeting, Al Darby spoke to the issue of early notice to retirees and employees of public agencies that default on their CalPERS obligations. Early warning of default will enable CalPERS members who are in danger of severe cuts to their pensions to lobby the defaulting agency to correct the problem. If appealing to the agency leadership fails to get the agency to pay the arrearages, these people could then get legal assistance for possible legal action. This needs to happen sooner than later.

Vice President's Op/Ed

By Al Darby, Vice President



At times, I like to delve into other aspects of the organization and talk about important endeavors we are engaged in to further our mission and enlighten our members about efforts to achieve our goals. There are many obscure initiatives that are ongoing that most RPEA members would not be aware of without some mention in this newsletter. I shall attempt to illuminate here some of that background work that goes on without much notice from members.

For example, we are currently seeking a website builder who can deliver a state-of-the-art product that will catch the eye of newly-retired or near-retirement folks who are almost all computer-savvy due to the presence of computers in almost all public service jobs nowadays. Many of these people shop, get news, play games, do personal banking, etc., on their computer at home. Smart phones and tablet computers are owned by a very large number of members, and they constantly use these devices. RPEA must offer them a modern-day website that demonstrates that we are a vital entity that works on their behalf to protect their retirement interests. This website must be adapted to computers, phones and tablet devices and offer all forms of media (text, graphics, video streaming, etc.) and be flexible enough to accommodate innovations in future web capability. Most importantly, it must have the capability to be easily updated by RPEA office personnel to keep current material on the website.

A strategic plan for RPEA was developed three years ago. It was implemented about two years ago and contained, in part, chapter actions that would advance the mission of the association. Some chapters sprung into action to fulfill their obligations and recruited new members through various recruiting campaigns and community service efforts.

Another focus of the Strategic Planning Committee is coordination with AMBIA to maximize their results in recruiting for RPEA. The best way for AMBIA's efforts to pay off with as many new members as

possible is for us to regularly inform AMBIA of changes at RPEA (e.g. RPEA dues increase, changes in RPEA eligibility, AMBIA support at conferences, marketing material, expedite adding new members from AMBIA to our system, etc.).

We are becoming more astute at messaging CalPERS committees and the Board of Administration. As we become more vocal in our public comments at CalPERS with arguments that express broad knowledge and sound proposals, we get their attention more often and actually see motions in the committees and the Board that reflect our position on issues. We don't always win the day, but we do see our influence resulting in actions more amenable to our positions.

I can assure you that all other Directors are very busy protecting your pension and health care at CalPERS and in the legislature. For example, RPEA's quest for CalPERS to use the California Urban Consumer Price Index to calculate COLA each year is being pursued. We are watching legislation that affects Workers Compensation and its effects on our members who may have future medical expenses from work injuries and other implications in the law. The Combo Family issue (one member in Medicare and dependents under 65 who need different insurers to best serve their needs).

A Lobby Day in one form or another is planned for 2017 with the support of our lobbyist, Aaron Read & Associates, whose 40 years of experience in Sacramento is invaluable. Aaron does great work behind the scenes and often achieves our objectives in many different ways.

As you can see, many elements make up the work our leaders and members do to advance our causes and protect our retirement benefits. We all spend a lot of time at this important work, and we see positive results more and more often.

"The strategic plan was updated at a recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee. Member retention was a major focus—too many members fail to renew, and personal efforts to retain them are lacking in many cases."

RPEA Health Benefits Update



By Donna Snodgrass, Director of Health Benefits

My mind and soul tell me that I am still a very active and agile 20 year-old, able to catch fly balls in center field, line drives to first base, or tag the runner out at home plate from a cannon ball thrown by the third baseman. My mind can still hit the ball over the head of the opposing center fielder for a triple base hit (...because I'm a girl and they didn't expect it!) I played in a co-ed softball league for several years, and I enjoyed it tremendously.

However, my body now tells me a completely different story. My muscles, eyesight, coordination and immune system need more monitoring these days. The last couple of years I have had two friends in the hospital with pneumonia. It started out as "just a cold with a little cough." That "little cough" didn't go away and hung around for over a week. They insisted it was just the flu and they would "get better" in a day or so.

Please don't put off seeing your doctor if you catch a cold that lasts more than 4 days, especially if you have a fever. As we add years to ourselves, those flu-like symptoms are becoming more difficult to overcome and fight off. When in our 20's, we could easily deal with these yearly colds and flu. Now, not so much. Listen to your body. Please, take care of yourself.

OptumRx

If you are covered by Anthem Blue Cross, Health Net, Sharp or UnitedHealthcare, you should have received your new pharmacy benefit ID cards.

If you have NOT received your card, CONTACT OptumRX IMMEDIATELY at (855) 505-8110. If your medical benefits are provided by Anthem, you should have two (2) cards—one for medical and one for pharmacy. Apparently, there is an issue with the trademarked logo, and Anthem is unable to provide a single-use card.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q: (This question came to us from an affiliate member! This is great news because it proves that our affiliate membership has an active interest in RPEA!)

I have been watching and hearing in the news that action is being taken to privatize Medicare and Social Security. Even though I don't qualify now, I am very concerned about losing the benefits I have paid for during my career. I understand that RPEA has a lobbyist, will they be working to stop this on

behalf of RPEA?

A: Yes and no. RPEA retains one of the best lobbying firms in California. They we actively lobby the California legislators regarding issues concerning benefits we receive from our employers inside this state, but do not lobby at the federal level. However, RPEA is also a member of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA). CARA is a statewide nonprofit organization that unites retired workers and community groups to win social and economic justice, full civil rights, and a better, more secure future for ourselves, our families and future generations. CARA is the official state affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans nationwide, www.retiredamericans.org. AARP is also actively fighting this action.

WHAT IS YOUR CALPERS ID?

Each CalPERS member is assigned a unique 10-digit identifier, which is referred to as the CalPERS Identification Number, or CalPERS ID.

You can use your CalPERS ID as an alternative to your Social Security number when conducting any CalPERS business. This number will always remain the same no matter your employment or retirement status.

It may be safer to use this number while conducting business concerning your retirement or CalPERS health care benefits.

If you don't already know your CalPERS ID number, call: (888) CalPERS (888-225-7377) and speak with a customer service representative.

Q: And now let's put the "Should I carry my Medicare card with me at all times?" question to rest.

A: This came from Steven D. Erickson in Yreka. I loved his phone call. His solution to the ID problem at the moment was to cut the SSN from the Medicare card! Yes, there is a hole and he mentioned an article he remembered reading concerning this issue. So, I did some research and found this information on the CMS website"

CMS.gov

Medicare Social Security Number Removal Initiative

What's the Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)?

(continued on next page)

RPEA Health Benefits Update

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 requires us to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards.

Q: When does the SSNRI start?

A: By April 2019, we'll send Medicare cards with a new number to all people with Medicare.

Q: Why's this initiative important?

A: When we replace the SSN on all Medicare cards, we can better protect:

- ☐ Private health care and financial information
- ☐ Federal health care benefit and service payments

Q: What's next with the SSNRI?

A: We're updating our systems and will reach out soon to

help you get ready for the new Medicare cards.

NOTE: I would like to give a special thank you to the members of Chapter 030 – AUBURN, and especially Dan Sedgley, for their help and input at the chapter meeting in February. They discovered that the SSN on the Medicare card is not necessarily that of the card holder! It is the SSN of the ACCOUNT holder, i.e., it could be the spouse's SSN!

Health Benefits Legislation

Balance Billing (Assembly Bill 72) Beginning July 1, 2017: Health plan contracts and insurance policies are prohibited from charging enrollees more than the in-network cost-sharing amount when they receive covered service from a non-contracting health professional at an in-network health facility for non-emergency services and care.

Watch your hospital/clinic charges carefully. Contact CalPERS if you feel you have been overcharged for the services of a doctor for treatment while visiting an in-service medical facility.

Healthy Hearing Starts with RPEA's Hearing Benefits

As a RPEA member, you and your family are eligible for American Hearing Benefits (AHB). This free hearing benefits program gives you access to free hearing consultations and discounts on hearing aids through our nationwide network of hearing professionals.

One call activates your benefits. Then you and your family can begin enjoying all the advantages this **FREE** program provides!

American Hearing Benefits even has a hearing solution that streams calls directly from your iPhone® to your hearing aid. The breakthrough hearing aids are engineered to connect directly to the iPhone®, iPad®, and iPod touch® via the easy-to-use TruLink Hearing Control app. Stream calls and music easily into your hearing aids!

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Legislative Update



Aaron Read and Pat Moran of Aaron Read & Associates

As of this writing, there are 1,788 Assembly Bills and 888 Senate Bills, for a total of 2,676 bills introduced thus far. A majority of them are spot bills, but will be amended soon. A spot bill is essentially a placeholder that was introduced in order to meet the bill introduction deadline, which in this case was February 17th. This allows more time for the author, sponsor and potential opposition to work out any issues and fully vet the language. The bill is then amended; however, it cannot be done until a minimum of 30 days after the bill has been introduced.

As of February 17th, 2,495 bills had been introduced, which is about 200 more than normal for the first half of the two-year session. This is likely due, in part, to the increase in the amount of bills an Assembly member is allowed to carry. In the past, both the Senate and Assembly were limited to 40 bills per two-year session. This year, the Assembly increased their limit to 50. The Senate remains the same.

By way of comparison:

- ☐ In 2016, 1,993 bills had been introduced as of the deadline;
- ☐ In 2015, 2,297 bills had been introduced as of the deadline;
- ☐ In 2014, 1,930 had been introduced as of the deadline; and
- ☐ In 2013, 2,256 bills had been introduced as of the deadline.

Below is a list of bills that RPEA has taken a position on thus far:

Support

AB 275 (Wood, D-Healdsburg) – This bill would expand the notice and planning requirements that

a long-term health care facility provides before any change in the status of the license or in the operation of the facility that results in its inability to care for its residents. The bill would require a facility to provide 60 days' notice to the affected residents or their guardians and 60-day written notice to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The bill would modify who may perform the required assessments of the affected residents.
RPEA is in support.

AB 315 (Wood) – This bill would require pharmacy benefit managers, as defined, and designated pharmacy benefits manager representatives to be licensed by the California State Board of Pharmacy, as prescribed, and would establish qualifications for the designated pharmacy benefits manager representative license. The bill would prescribe the duties of the designated pharmacy benefits manager representative, as specified. The bill would also require pharmacy benefit managers to make specified disclosures to the board on an annual basis, as specified.
RPEA is in support.

AB 444 (Ting, D-San Francisco) – The Medical Waste Management Act, among other things, authorizes a local agency to approve, as part of a medical waste management program, a location as a point of consolidation for the collection of home-generated sharps waste, which, after collection, is transported and treated as medical waste. The act requires sharps containers at a home-generated sharps consolidation point that are ready for disposal to not be held more than 7 days, except as provided. This bill would extend the time period that sharps containers at a home-generated sharps consolidation point may be held from 7 to 14 days.
RPEA is in support.

SB 294 (Hernandez, D-Azusa) – This bill would

Legislative Update



authorize a licensed hospice to provide palliative care services, as defined, for any person in need of those services as determined by the physician and surgeon in charge of the care of a patient, and would authorize these services to be provided concurrently with curative treatment to a person who does not have a terminal prognosis or who has not elected to receive hospice services only by licensed and certified hospices. *RPEA is in support.*

Oppose

The following bills were introduced by former Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach, a Republican from Costa Mesa, and would negatively impact retirement benefits. Moorlach not only collects more than \$100,000 per year as a legislator, but also an \$80,000 pension from the Orange County Board of Supervisors. He is a member of the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee and has opposed anything related to public employees.

SB 32 – This bill would create the Citizens' Pension Oversight Committee to serve in an advisory role to the Teachers' Retirement Board and the Board of Administration of PERS. The bill would require the committee, on or before January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, to review the actual pension costs and obligations of PERS and STRS and report on these costs and obligations to the public. *RPEA is opposed.*

SCA 8 – This bill would permit a government employer to reduce retirement benefits that are based on work not yet performed by an employee regardless of the date that the employee was first hired, notwithstanding other provisions of the California Constitution or any other law. The measure would prohibit it from being interpreted to permit the reduction of retirement benefits that a public employee has earned based on work that has been performed, as specified. The

measure would define government employer and retirement benefits for the purposes of its provisions. Essentially, this bill changes an employee's retirement mid-career. *RPEA is opposed.*

SCA 10 – This bill would prohibit a government employer from providing public employees any retirement benefit increase until that increase is approved by a 2/3 vote of the electorate of the applicable jurisdiction and that vote is certified. The measure would define retirement benefit to mean any postemployment benefit and would define benefit increase as any change that increases the value of an employee's retirement benefit. The measure would define a government employer to include, among others, the state and any of its subdivisions, cities, counties, school districts, special districts, the Regents of the University of California, and the California State University. *RPEA is opposed.*

Stay tuned for more information as bills are amended and new positions are added.



RPEA Legislative Update



By Jim Anderson, Director of Legislation

The new legislative session began in December 2016, and the final date for introducing new bills for consideration was February 17, 2017. Assembly members introduced 1,708 bills and Senators introduced 808 for a total of 2,516. In addition, there were a number of resolutions introduced in both houses. Both the legislature and the RPEA Legislative Committee have their work cut out during this legislative session.

The RPEA Legislative Committee is actively following eleven bills at this time. These bills are included in the Tracking Chart on the following page, and are current as of March 17. Several of these bills were added after the Legislative Committee met and are on the WATCH list until the Committee members have reviewed and made their recommendations. *(NOTE: Any bill on the WATCH list dealing with health care issues will be reviewed by the Health Benefits Committee before communicating a specific RPEA position to the author of the bill.)*

Although there have been a large number of bills introduced, at this early time most do not contain sufficient information to make a judgment on their significance to RPEA members. Generally, the bills introduced at this early stage contain only a title and an indication that the author "intends to flesh out the legislation" by the time the bill is scheduled for a committee hearing. We assume that these "SPOT BILLS" will remain in the general area indicated when introduced. No hearings will be held for 30 days following introduction, so significant changes will be expected during the next month.

As usual, we are following bills that fit into the Legislative Priority established by the RPEA Board of Directors. These are generally those bills that will affect the benefits of retired public employees, the CalPERS administration and those that might directly impact the quality of the lives of our members. So far this year, there are several bills that deal with long term care, drug prices and elder abuse. However, there are four bills introduced by Senator Moorlach of Orange County that would impact the benefits of public employees,

RPEA supported many of these reforms as being appropriate to remove abuses to the system. What more

modifications to PEPR that Senator Moorlach has in mind were not spelled out in SB 32, but were discussed in a press release, which will not become law. Based upon the press release, we are generally OPPOSED to this legislation.

Senator Moorlach has also proposed to change the formula for calculating the health benefits for retired state employees. At the present time, retired employees receive 100% of the premium cost, and their dependents pay 90% of the premium cost of the average of the four largest health plans contracted by CalPERS. His proposed legislation (SB 454) would change the 100/90 formula to an 80/80 formula.

In addition, Senator Moorlach has proposed two resolutions that would change the State Constitution. SCA 8 would allow a public agency to reduce pension benefits "for work not yet performed." This would change the defined benefit plan now in effect whereby a worker can predict that if they work a full term, the benefits promised will not be cut during their tenure. If this would pass, it would be placed on the ballot for a vote in the next general election. RPEA OPPOSES this action by Senator Moorlach.

He has also introduced SCA 10 as a proposed Constitutional Amendment. This would require that any increase

in benefits would be effective only upon a 2/3 vote of the people in the jurisdiction. This is the same nonsense that was proposed last year by the Reed/DeMaio initiatives. They were withdrawn because of negative public opinion. We would expect SCA 10 to have the same fate, and RPEA OPPOSES this bill.

Assemblyman Allen has introduced a bill (AB 1311) that would add two additional members to the CalPERS Board. These two additional members would be appointed by the Governor. The addition would markedly tilt the CalPERS Board away from those elected by the members of CalPERS and make the Board much more politically directed. The RPEA Legislative Committee has not taken a position on this legislation, but is expected to OPPOSE it when it gets to committee. If passed, this change would not become effective until ratified by a vote of the people in 2018.

STAY TUNED TO THIS STATION

RPEA Legislative Position & Tracking Chart



RPEA LEGISLATIVE TRACKING & POSITION State and Federal Legislation - 2017 - 2018

March 17, 2017

BILL NUMBER & AUTHOR	LEGISLATIVE INTENT	CURRENT STATUS	RPEA POSITION
AB 275 (Wood) Introduced 2-1-17 Long Term Care Notice of Lack of Care	This bill would expand the notice and planning requirements that a long-term health care facility provides before any change in the status of the license or in the operation of the facility that results in its inability to care for its patients. The bill would require a facility to provide 90 days' notice to the affected patients or their guardians and 90-day written notice to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The bill would modify who may perform the required assessments of the affected residents.	Assembly Health Committee	S₂
AB 315 (Wood) Introduced 2-10-17 Pharmacy Benefit Management	This bill would require pharmacy benefit managers and designated pharmacy benefits manager representatives to be licensed by the California State Board of Pharmacy and would establish qualifications for the designated pharmacy benefits manager representative license	Assembly Business and professions Committee	S₃
AB 444 (Ting) Introduced 2-13-17 Medical Sharps	This bill would extend the time period that sharps containers at a home-generated sharps consolidation point may be held from 7 to 14 days.	Assembly Environment and Toxic materials	S₃
AB 1310 (Allen) Introduced 2-17-17 Unfunded Liability notice	This bill would require the retirement board of a public retirement system, as defined, to disclose the unfunded liability and healthcare debt of the system on each member statement provided to members of the system.	Assembly Public employment and retirement comm.	O
AB 1311 (Allen) Introduced 2-17-17 Add two members to the CalPERS Board of Directors	This bill would revise the composition of the CalPERS board by adding 2 persons, appointed at the pleasure of the Governor, who represent the public, have financial expertise, and are not interested in the system. The operation of the change contingent on voter approval of a Constitutional Amendment at the June 5, 2018 , statewide primary election.	Assembly Public employment and retirement comm.	O
SB 17 (Hernandez) Introduced 12-5-16 Drug Price Increase Notice	This bill would require public and private purchasers of health care and health care coverage be given advance notice of price increases for the costs of prescription drugs.	Senate Rules	S₂
SB 32 (Moorlach) Introduced 12-5-16 Changes to PEPPA	This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to resume the public employee pension reform begun in the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013. (SPOT BILL)	Senate Public Employment and retirement	O
SB 294 (Hernandez) Introduced 2-9-17 Hospice and palliative Care	This bill would additionally authorize a licensed hospice to provide palliative care services for any person in need of those services as determined by the physician and surgeon in charge of the care of a patient, and would authorize these services to be provided concurrently with curative treatment to a person who does not have a terminal prognosis or who has not elected to receive hospice services only by licensed and certified hospices.	Senate Health committee	S₂
SB 454 (Moorlach) Introduced 2-16-17 Changes Health Care coverage from 100/90 to 80/80 of 4 largest plans	State employees who are first employed and become members of the retirement system on or after January 1, 2018, would limit the employer contribution for annuitants to 80% of the weighted average of the health benefit plan premiums for an active employee enrolled for self-alone, during the benefit year to which the formula is applied, for the 4 health benefit plans with the largest state civil service enrollment. The bill would similarly limit the employer contribution for an enrolled family member of an annuitant to 80% of the weighted average.	Senate Public Employee and Retirement Comm.	O
SCA 8 (Moorlach) Introduced 2-15-17 Constitutional Amendment allowing reduction in retirement benefits for work not yet performed.	This measure would permit a government employer to reduce retirement benefits that are based on work not yet performed by an employee regardless of the date that the employee was first hired	Senate Public employment and constitutional amend	O
SCA 10 (Moorlach) Introduced 2-15-17 Constitutional Amendment to require a vote to change public employee benefits	This measure would prohibit a government employer from providing public employees any retirement benefit increase until <u>that increase is approved by a 2/3 vote of the electorate</u> of the applicable jurisdiction and that vote is certified. would define a government employer to include, the state and any subdivisions,	Senate Public employment and constitutional amendment	O

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

SPONSOR – Sponsored or co-sponsored bill.

SUPPORT 1 (S1) – Highest priority support bill.

SUPPORT 2 (S2) – Moderate support.

SUPPORT 3 (S3) – Lowest level of support.

OPPOSE (O) – Judged to be detrimental.

WATCH 1 (W1) – Of more than casual interest.

WATCH 2 (W2) – Of interest or concern.

? – Will show up in our screening from time to time.

Looking Forward!

By Wes Stonebreaker, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

Planning goes forward with continued focus on three major goals—Recruitment, Retention and Visibility—and with increased attention to Communication and Advocacy. On March 1, Strategic Planning Committee members Rosemary Knox, Carl Matthews, Wes Stonebreaker (Chair), Paul Tamboury and Pamela Tull, along with Headquarters Office Manager, Tanya Rakestraw, and chapter representatives Herb Bolton (Chapter 056-BORDER), Mary Ann Trygg (Chapter 078-NEVADA President) and Linda Stonebreaker (member of Chapters 015-RIVERSIDE, 033-SAN BERNARDINO and 048-HEMET) met to begin planning for the 2017-2019 extension of the RPEA Strategic Plan. Committee member, Dennis Cassella (Interim Area Director VII) was unable to attend.

Looking ahead, expect to see a statewide Membership Recruitment Contest, newly-developed prospective member lists for each chapter, a fresh RPEA website design, additional chapter resources, and continued outreach to CalPERS contract agencies.

Most importantly, we will be doing all we can to ensure two-way communication between chapter leaders and the State Board and Headquarters staff. To begin, each chapter's Strategic Planning contact person will soon be receiving a survey so we can get a snapshot of what chapters are doing and so we can gather new ideas to incorporate into the plan.



Linda Stonebreaker, Herb Bolton and Strategic Planning Committee Chair, Wes Stonebreaker



Herb Bolton, Paul Tamboury, Carl Matthews, Pamela Tull, Wes Stonebreaker, Linda Stonebreaker and Mary Ann Trypp

Women's History Month

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 thru Friday, March 31, 2017

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."



Message from the Editor



C.T. Weber, Director of Public Relations

According to California Budget Bites, members of the U. S. House of Representatives are working on a proposal that “would reduce access to affordable health care coverage while providing massive tax breaks for the wealthy.” As a result, I mentioned in the last issue that there was renewed interest in a single payer health care system in California. I was asked how we would pay for it. My answer was that the money comes from the same places that it comes from now, only instead of the money going to a hundred insurance companies, it would go to the state. People would go the doctor, the clinic and the hospital of their choice and after verification of the medical care provided the state would pay the bills. Without the overhead costs and profits of the insurance industry, we would be able to save billions of dollars. For example, On February 23, I attended a rally of hundreds of activists which was called to support the Healthy California Act SB 562 (Lara and Atkins) at the State Capitol in Sacramento. The RPEA Board will review the bill when it is submitted to determine the position we will take, either in support or not.

Since becoming the RPEA Director of Public Relations, three newsletters have been printed and mailed to our

members. This is their main source of information about what we are doing to preserve their defined benefits pensions, enhance and grow their healthcare, and prevent the privatizing of Social Security. Our magazine-style newsletter covers legislation that our members need to know about.

The Public Relations Committee met to discuss several issues that need our immediate attention. The most important issue was our website. It is felt that we need a new website with full login capability and a new provider who will be responsive to our needs. We think that the project is long overdue and that we should have a totally new design and not piecemeal it. Headquarters staff needs to be able to make day to day modifications to the site, possibly using WordPress.

Another issue was the newsletter. Finally, we talked about what we want from Marketplace Communications. It was felt that there is a need for press and other media releases to start getting our message to the world. The anti-pension articles published in newspapers around the state can be turned into positive actions like organizing a “letters to the editor” campaign and writing op/ed pieces for various newspapers. As I have been told, a good offense is a good defense.

“Medicare is a single payer system, and its overhead costs are 5% to 7%, whereas, the overhead costs under the current private health insurance programs are 25% to 35%”



What is Earth Day?

Ever wondered how Earth Day started? This observance arose from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues.

In 1970, San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. McConnell chose the spring equinox (March 21, 1970) and Nelson chose April 22.

Millions of people participated, and today Earth Day continues to be widely celebrated with events on both dates.

The most common practice of celebration is to plant new trees for Earth Day.

February Board of Directors Meeting



*Interim Area Director VII, Dennis Cassella;
Area Director VIII, Kathleen Collins*



Director of Public Relations, C. T. Weber



Vice President Al Darby



*Director of Legislation, Jim Anderson and
Aaron Read of Aaron Read & Associates*



*Kelly Boyles and Stephen Rodriguez of
Marketplace Communications*



*Area Director I, Paul Tamboury, and
Past President Ann McWherter*



*Michael Flaherman,
Candidate for CalPERS Board of Administration*



*Jim Anderson and Donna Snodgrass,
Director of Health Benefits*



Past President Harvey Robinson



*Bylaws Committee Chair,
Ernest Sandoval*



*Susan Lowry, AMBIA Regional
Director of Association Relations*



*Natalie Myers of
Campbell Taylor & Co.*



*General Assembly Planning
Committee Chair, Julie Van Etten*

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Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Email: _____
Retired From: _____ Retirement Date: _____
RPEA Chapter Number or Name if Known: _____
Referred By: _____ Bimonthly Newsletter

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.
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Card Number: - - -
Expiration Date: / CVV/CVC: (3 Digit code on the back of card)

Signature

RPEA/January/2017

THANK YOU for Joining RPEA!

RPEA
Headquarters Office:
(800-443-7732)

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



Why Join RPEA?

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

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

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

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



Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA)
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Toll Free: (800) 443-7732 Phone: (916) 441-7732 Fax: (916) 441-7413
Website: www.rpea.com
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ROSTER OF 2016/2018 VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	TITLE	HOME ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL ADDRESS
George Linn ANY TIME	President	53 Aquavista Way San Francisco, CA 94131	415 999 3538	415 821 6539	gmlinn@aol.com president@rpea.com
Al Darby 8AM – 9PM	Vice President	8968 Panamint Court Elk Grove, CA 95624	925 788 6068	NONE	aldarby9@hotmail.com
Marie Reed 8AM – 7PM	Secretary/Treasurer	6796 Pocket Road Sacramento, CA 95831	916 428 2090	NONE	marie.reed@comcast.net
Ann McWherter 8AM - 8PM	Immediate Past President	9589 Lakepoint Dr., #413 Elk Grove, CA 95758	916 716-3343	NONE	annmcwherter@gmail.com
Donna Snodgrass ANY TIME	Dir. Health Benefits	10345 Walnut Grove Court Yuccaipa, CA 92399	909 790 0133	NONE	Donnasnodgrass55@gmail.com
Rosemary Knox ANYTIME	Dir. Membership	2215 Ladymuir Court San Jose, CA 95131	408 926 6664	NONE	rknox@sbcglobal.net
C. T. Weber 10AM – 9PM	Dir. Public Relations	1403 Las Padres Way Sacramento, CA 95831	916-422-5395 (H) 916-320-9186 (C)	NONE	ctwebervoters@att.net
Jim Anderson ANYTIME	Dir. Legislation	578 Via Paloma Riverside, CA 92507	951 212 8281 (C)	951 686 7261	waynesix@aol.com
Paul Tamboury 8AM – 9PM	Area Director I	465 Stony Point Road, #130 Santa Rosa, CA 95401	707 573 1566	707 577 8827	pault@rpea32.org
George Otterbeck 8AM – 5PM	Area Director II	4180 Meander Dr. Redding, CA 96001	530 243 5543 (H) 530 356 3602 (C)	NONE	origsnoopy1@gmail.com
Bob Van Effen ANY TIME	Area Director III	4401 Clovewood Lane Pleasanton, CA 94588	925 846-6563	NONE	bobvanetten@comcast.net
Bill Houk ANY TIME	Area Director IV	PO BOX 1530 Oakdale, CA 95361	209 606 5779 (C)	NONE	sixteenthb@aol.com
Ellen Knapp ANYTIME	Area Director V	23034 Cuervo Dr. Valencia, CA 91354	661 607 2072	NONE	eknapp@roadrunner.com
Wes Stonebreaker ANY TIME	Area Director VI	1060 Country Club Dr. Riverside, CA 92506	951 784 1060	951 781-3960	lindaandwes@aol.com
Dennis Cassella 8AM – 5PM	Area Director VII (Interim)	205 Cypress Hill Dr. Grass Valley, CA 95945	530 272 2130	SAME (CALL FIRST)	d.cassella@sbcglobal.net
Kathleen Collins ANY TIME	Area Director VIII	11865 Susan Avenue Downey, CA 90241	562-884-8891	NONE	kcespresso@hotmail.com
Larry Sullivan ANYTIME	Area Director IX	1602 Sunset Gardens Rd. Albuquerque, NM 87105	505 242 4981	SAME (CALL FIRST)	houseofspirit@earthlink.net

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Teena Stone	Mem. Svcs. Secretary				teena@rpea.com