



Sagebrush 99

The Newsletter of Las Vegas Valley, Nevada Retired Public Employees Association of California

Announces:

**Membership Meeting and Luncheon
Thursday, November 16, 2017
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Los Prados Golf Community and Country Club
5150 Los Prados Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89130**

**Our Speaker: Barbara Duckett,
Public Affairs Specialist,
Social Security Administration**

**RSVP to Jean Putney (702) 898-1888
or jeanputney@cox.net by -11/9/16
Board meeting at 10:00 a.m.**

President's Message By Marlene Baker

Hi Everyone! I was elected by the Board to serve as your new President due to the illness of Cleave Govan. I promise to do my best to serve the needs of our members. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 16, 2017. Lunch is provided at a cost to our member guests of \$8. This is our holiday luncheon. The difference in actual cost is paid by the chapter. **It is imperative that**

you RSVP to Jean Putney by November 9 in order to reserve a meal for you. Let Jean know whether you want a turkey dinner or salmon for lunch. Dessert will also be included.

Our speaker will be Barbara Duckett, Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration. She was booked with us a year ago for this meeting, and she will address current issues of interest to us.

We have been told that our former President and Treasurer, Cleave Govan, is too ill to serve as an officer of our chapter. He has devoted many years as an officer of this chapter and was a former Area IX Director for several years as well. We all wish him a better health. He is in our thoughts and prayers.

AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Larry Sullivan

I attended the RPEA Board of Directors Meeting in Orange, California, September 24-26, 2017 at the Hilton Doubletree. The hotel will be the site of the RPEA 2018 General Assembly. The hotel is two blocks from Interstate 5. I can see Laguna Hills from the hotel. I was once stationed in Laguna Beach helping fire victims in the area. The hotel has an atrium with a lagoon. At least one GA event is scheduled in the atrium.

The hotel is right across the street from the University of California at Irvine Medical Center. I was on the side of the hotel facing the hospital. I only remember two sirens waking me up. The hotel pool was closed for maintenance but is a nice facility with a hot tub.

I used the exercise room. It has three treadmills and one stair master. "The WiFi sucks" was what someone said while the RPEA Board got a walk-through from Hilton staff. The Wi-Fi in the lobby is complimentary.

The Wi-Fi in the room is different but free and a director mentioned that his carrier, AT&T, wouldn't let him logon due to the unsecured network. I don't have a laptop and I've never owned a cell phone so I don't have a dog in this fight. The hotel representative said she'd try to have the issues cleared up by the GA.

I attended two different elementary schools in Orange County, California so I was able to share many memories with locals while there. The Orange County landmark where

my mother and youngest step-daughter worked, KONA Lanes in Costa Mesa, is gone after more than a ½ century.

I had never been in John Wayne Airport so the flight and arrangements were new to me. I flew into and out of Lindberg Field in San Diego and LAX hundreds of times. We, GA Attendees, are to use the Super Shuttle from the airport to the hotel. There are three guys working the blue van, Super Shuttle, at SNA, the airline acronym. You have to go out the terminal building and the Super Shuttle is behind the car rentals. They are going to be very busy at the beginning and the end of the GA.

Margaret Brown, candidate for CalPERS Board, was at the meeting stumping for last minute votes. JJ Jelencic, current CalPERS Board Member, was our guest. RPEA had a reception for the soon-to- retire friend of our group and retirees in general.

The highlight of my trip was being stranded in the airport with JJ Jelencic on our way out-of-town. I got to buy him an iced tea while I had a Cobb Salad, iced tea and Wilma, the waitress who has worked at SNA for 32 years, reminisced with me about Orange County and its changes over the decades. She, an Orange County native, noted that she is retiring to Holland where her grandfather is from because she cannot afford to stay in California when she retires.

The RPEA Board Meeting approved the changes to several chapter bylaws. Included in this package was a request by Chapter 103.

I was sworn in as Area Director for another term. A motion to get pre-approval for large membership recruitment expenditures was made by me and voted down. So, conduct your chapter membership raising activities early in the year and get those requests for reimbursement to headquarters. It's first come, first served! There is a limited pot of money.

AMTRAK comes into Anaheim about 2 ½ miles from the hotel so AMTRAK might be a way to attend the GA without flying into John Wayne Airport. Ron Lind, current CalPERS Board Member, was our guest speaker. He introduced himself as the closest thing to a friend on the CalPERS Board that JJ Jelencic has. JJ was in the audience for the joke.

AMBA has a new sales manager and he told our board he wanted to increase our membership to 50,000! AMBIA, in California, has increased the pay of their sales force in California. The old cost-of-living in the Golden State has struck again. Jeannie Coffee, the AMBIA VP for Association Relations, seemed to imply that she'd make sure the money was spent to get us some new members in Northern New Mexico.

2018 General Assembly will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton, 100 The City Drive South, Anaheim Orange, California. 92868-3204.

Area Workshops were a topic of the Area Directors meeting before the RPEA BOD Meeting. The template for an area workshop is a one-day affair with as many meaningful speakers and workshops as possible. Workshop agendas for past Area Workshops were included with the latest Area Director's Handbook. I will distribute some of this information when I am in your chapter meeting. Even an Area III Workshop Evaluation form is included. Thanks to Area III Director, Bob Van Etten!

NEW MEDICARE CARDS

The Federal government is in the process of removing SSNs from Medicare cards. With over 58 million beneficiaries, the process to issue new cards will be gradually implemented over a period from April 2018 to December 2019. Under the new system, a randomly generated 11 character Medicare Beneficiary Identifier will replace the SSN-based health claim number on the new card.

Benefits will not change. You will receive information in 2018 explaining how to use the new card and what to do with the old one. As soon as you receive the new card you can begin to use it. Be sure to provide your doctors and pharmacies with the new number for their records. Usually they will ask to see it and make a copy of it.

If your current Medicare card gets lost or stolen you can replace it by calling 1-800-772-1213, contacting your local Social Security office or going online at SSA.gov/MyAccount. To check your Medicare account for fraud or misuse by another you can check your claims at the above online address or call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227. Also, if you see signs of identity theft, including use of your Social Security number for obtaining loans, credit, telephones, etc., you should report it to the Federal Trade Commission at IdentityTheft.gov or 1-877-438-4338.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Please mark your calendars now for our future meeting dates in 2018:

January 18, 2018
March 15, 2018
May 17, 2018
September 20, 2018
November 15, 2018

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in our Chapter 99 Bank Account on September 30, 2017 is \$1006.63. Expenditures in September for our August mailing was \$114.82 for copying, postage and supplies and \$39.25 for checks for the new bank account.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Attached at the back of this report is Jim Anderson's Legislative Tracking Report for the 2017-2018 legislative year as of October 4, 2017.

WHAT IS RPEA

RPEA is a non-profit association of retirees and active employees who are members of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). Our mission is important:

- RPEA represents all public employees - classified schools, public agencies, and state.
- RPEA is liaison between retirees and CalPERS.
- RPEA is a mutual protective association for all beneficiaries of CalPERS.
- RPEA fights to maintain our current pension and health care benefits and improve these benefits every year.
- RPEA has local chapters in your area - attend meetings to stay informed and hear interesting speakers.

While we encourage participation in one of our 87 chapters, most of our members participate by reading our bi-monthly newsletter, giving us feedback on their needs, and enrolling in one or more of our "members only" insurance programs.

At \$5.00 per month, RPEA is a bargain hard to resist. We need you and you need us — to support our fight to protect our pensions and benefits.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are active and retired California Public Employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and improving retirement, medical and other benefits.

WHO'S WHO IN SAGEBRUSH CHAPTER 99

President and Newsletter Editor: Marlene Baker, Home: (702) 269-1304; Cell: (702) 845-3465 mbaker7400@aol.com

Vice President & Legislation Chair: Louis Casella, Home: (702) 733-2805; Cell: (818) 259-5971 lcasel@earthlink.net

Secretary & Membership Chair: Jean Putney, Home: (702) 898-1888; Cell: (702) 338-6900 jeanputney@cox.net

Treasurer: Joe Beck, Home: (702) 562-6907; dixielasvegas@yahoo.com

Director: Chuck Logan, Home: (702) 839-5027; Cell: (702) 332-9605 dothehula1950@yahoo.com

Director: Ross Parker, Home: (702) 579-7249; Cell: (530) 908-3473 roglo3@cox.net

**RPEA Headquarters:
300 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-6912
(916) 441-7732 or (800) 443-7732
Fax: (916) 441-7413; rpeahq@rpea.com
Please notify RPEA headquarters of any changes to address or status**

RIDES

There are many members in the area who would like to carpool to our meetings. Please let us know if you need a ride or if you can offer transportation. Call Jean at (702)898-1888.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

If anyone has suggestions for future speakers, please let one of our board members know so that we can try to accommodate your suggestion. Also, we are always looking for persons interested in serving on the Board.