



Volume 27, Issue 3

The Camellia  
Retired Public Employees' Association  
Area VII -Sacramento, California  
Chapter 004 Newsletter

*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 our earned retirement, medical and other benefits.*



May/Jun. 2022

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - Roxanne Woodward**

Hello All –

While the weather is still somewhat pleasant, it appears that we may be in for a long hot summer. Meanwhile a somewhat better thought is that we received our COLA in our last warrant yet inflation is already eating it up!

We had a nice turnout at Aviator's for our May Board meeting. We used a small meeting room (at no charge) and were able to order either breakfast or lunch from the menu. This made is easy and worked well for the smaller group.

For our June 8<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting, we will return to Vince's in West Sacramento. (see luncheon flier within). A reservation is required. The cost is \$5.00 per member and funds will be collected at the door. As Sheryl would say *You know what to do - RSVP and select your menu choice.* The downside is that we will be meeting at 11:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. The upside is that we will have an enjoyable luncheon meeting and I look forward to seeing you there.

Our meeting time is going to be a recurring issue. Many restaurants don't open before 11:00 a.m. Oh, and Maggie's Table is a strong possibility for our July Board Meeting. We plan to hold our annual August card bingo again at Oki Park (College Greens/Glenbrook area). Save the dates now by marking your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Plan on joining us at all of our meetings. Don't forget that we award door prizes! Further details for meetings and/or events will be for forthcoming. While we have to go through hoops and hurdles to make things happen, we'll do what it takes so that we may reap the benefits!

**Membership**

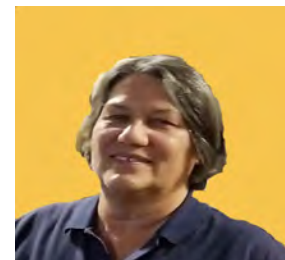
Not surprisingly, our membership continues to slide with some losses being attributed to attrition. We have 1,027 members as of As of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Our recently expanded membership committee will be mee earlier this month. If you have ideas for recruitment and retention, please reach out to one of the committee members (Diane Buffington, Chairperson, Penny Felix, Marie Reed, and Roxanne Woodward). We'd love to hear from you!

It is true, the recruitment that each of us does has a significant impact on bringing in new members. When talking with people we know that are in CalPERS, please let them know about us, what we do for them, and why they should join us. After all, RPEA is the only statewide organization that represents all CalPERS members. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Loran Vetter in her new role on the RPEA Board as Director of Membership. As Lo-

ran says "This is our organization and we must work to keep it strong and viable." Let's go RPEA!

**General Assembly (GA) 2022**

For those that may not know. GA is the biennial meeting of the Association where business is conducted and attendees have an opportunity to meet members from other chapters, We are looking forward to GA 2022 (September 26-29, 2022, Hilton - Arden). Preparations are well underway by many, many volunteers. Thank you to those chapter members that have already volunteered to assist! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Headquarters who will pass information on to Norma Rose, chair of the GA Planning Committee. It's exciting that GA is in Sacramento this year and we look forward to seeing our members attend to observe GA in action.



We have a looming deadline to submit resolutions and discussed that item at our May Board meeting. Chapter 004 does not anticipate submitting any resolutions; however, if something comes to mind please let Roxanne know ASAP.

**CalPERS Elections**

The CalPERS Board of Administration's fall 2022 election process is well underway. Randall Cheek was endorsed by RPEA for the upcoming retiree seat at CalPERS. There are three (3) seats to fill and they represent state, school, and retiree groups.

Congratulations are in order for Randall Cheek in his run for the retiree seat. His petitions qualified and he made it through the nominations process! Thank you to those that helped gather signatures and who support his nomination from our chapter, as well. Randall is a great choice and will be a big voice for us in this retiree seat. So, please help get the word out and get the vote out, including the same for our primary elections in June!

CalPERS will mail ballots on August 26<sup>th</sup> and votes must be received by September 26<sup>th</sup>. Eligible retired CalPERS members will be able to vote online, by phone, or by mail in this election. RPEA urges you to vote by mail. CalPERS recently posted the below communication concerning these elections.

Continued on Page 3

**RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT**

I keep finding items that I think might be of interest to you and here is another of my "finds"...

In a recent email I received from Director of Health Benefits, J.J. Jelencic there is a link to the following article:

**Calling All CalPERS Long-Term Care Policyholders!  
Kaiser Health News/New York Times Want to Hear Your  
Stories**

Posted on May 11, 2022 by Yves Smith

As readers may recall, we've been following the very long running shaggy dog story of the CalPERS long-term care policy debacle. The short version is that CalPERS violated the California statute that allowed it to offer long-term care plan by providing only an in-house product, as opposed to also selling third party plans, and then grossly underpricing it and offering an inflation protection option, which many policyholders chose. CalPERS also failed to disclose that this plan was independent of the rest of CalPERS, not backed by the state, nor supervised by any insurance regulator.

This fiasco generated a policyholder class action suit, where CalPERS agreed to a tentative settlement, which it recently aborted, in what looks like bad faith (see CalPERS Drops Long-Term Care Settlement, Which Was Designed to Suck More Money into Ponzi Scheme and Then Fail).

Below we've posted an e-mail from long-term care policyholder Lawrence Grossman, who has written some articles about this train wreck. Kaiser Health News and the New York Times are working on a story on long-term care policy problems, with CalPERS to feature prominently. They are interested in hearing from you!

From Lawrence Grossman:

I have been approached by Kaiser Health News/New York Times. I am sending out tomorrow the text below as an email to those I have been in contact with. Please circulate the information widely.

Further to my recent articles about the CalPERS long-term care insurance (LTC) crisis, I have been contacted by a reporter with Kaiser Health News which is partnering with The New York Times on a series of stories regarding long-term care costs.

The reporter wishes to speak with LTC policyholders like you about the CalPERS rate increases and the prospects of you now getting alternative LTC to CalPERS.

As the first step, here is the link to their "callout form" for you to contact them. They are running it in the New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/30/science/long-term-care-costs.html>

Please fill out the form and I understand that they will get back to you for an interview about your experience.

This may be an extremely effective way to get the CalPERS story widely circulated and to build public support to address the LTC crisis. Therefore, I strongly urge you to complete the form. I have done so today in just a few minutes.

It would also be quite helpful if you would share the link with anyone else you know with CalPERS long-term care insurance.

For your information as well, May 9 I attended virtually the Superior Court session where CalPERS and the class action lawsuit attorneys and the judge determined that the case will go to trial, likely late this year or early next year. Any legal resolution is most likely yet a few years or more away in time,

~~~~~

An additional link in J.J.'s message led me to the following article that contains a form for individuals to respond to the N.Y. Times with their stories. The link follows the story below:

**Are You Struggling to Pay for Long-Term Care?**

The New York Times and Kaiser Health News are looking into whether Americans are having trouble finding enough help as they or their loved ones age.

By The New York Times  
Published March 30, 2022

Updated May 6, 2022

As Americans live longer, it is increasingly difficult and expensive to ensure that older people receive the medical and personal help they need, whether at home or in a care facility. That includes assistance with getting up and about, bathing and taking medications. Likewise, older people with dementia or other cognitive issues need help.

Are you receiving support with everyday living from family members, friends, nurses or aides? Are you providing support yourself? Paying for it to help someone else?

Reporters from The Times and Kaiser Health News are writing about the toll on families and individuals dealing with the costs of long-term care. We would like to hear about your experiences.

contact NY Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/30/science/long-term-care-costs.html>



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - continued from page 1

CalPERS - Communications & Stakeholder Relations, May 13, 2022

Contact: Colin Steiner, Information Officer, (916) 795-3991 - [newsroom@calpers.ca.gov](mailto:newsroom@calpers.ca.gov)

SACRAMENTO, Calif.– Three candidates will vie for the vacant retired member board seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration in a special election this fall. The candidates for the retired position include:

- Tim Behrens – Department of Developmental Services
- Randall Cheek – California State Lottery
- Yvonne Walker – Department of Justice

Elections for the state and school member seats won't be conducted since incumbent Theresa Taylor and candidate Kevin Palkki were unopposed.

Taylor will serve an additional 4-year term beginning January 16, 2023 through January 15, 2027 as the state member representative. Palkki will join the CalPERS Board on January 16, 2023 and serve a 4-year term as the school member representative replacing Rob Feckner who didn't seek reelection. Election results for the state and school member seats will be official upon certification by the Secretary of State.

Ballots for the retiree seat election will be mailed August 26 and votes must be received by September 26. Only eligible retired CalPERS members (excluding survivors and beneficiaries) will be able to vote online, by phone, or by mail in this election.

A random drawing to determine the order of the names on the ballot for this election will be held on June 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the CalPERS Headquarters, 400 Q Street, Lincoln Plaza North Room 1140, Sacramento, CA 95811. Members of the public may attend this event. Additional information may be found at [www.calpers.ca.gov/boardelection](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/boardelection).

### CalPERS Board Violated Open Meetings Law

The following article appeared in *The Sacramento Bee* (by Wes Venteicher, May 09, 2022) and is an update on the lawsuit that former Board Member J.J. Jelincic filed last spring.

“The CalPERS Board of Administration violated California’s open meetings law when it excluded the public from a discussion two years ago related to the exit of its former investment chief, a judge ruled last week.

The retirement system’s board held a closed-session meeting in August 2020 after the sudden resignation of former Chief Investment Officer Ben Meng. Meng quit after someone filed a conflict-of-interest complaint over his personal investments in Blackstone, a private equity firm in which the pension fund also was invested.

A notice published by the board said the meeting, held 12 days after Meng’s resignation, was closed so board members could discuss a “chief executive officer’s briefing on performance, employment, and personnel items.”

J.J. Jelincic, a former CalPERS board member, requested a transcript of the meeting and other CalPERS records through the state’s Public Records Act. CalPERS denied his requests, and Jelincic sued in March 2021, saying the pension system had improperly closed the meeting and withheld records. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael Markman issued a final judgment in the case Tuesday, after determining nearly everything discussed in the meeting should have been held in open session, with the exception of some comments made by Matt Jacobs, the retirement system’s chief counsel.”

### PERF

At the end of April 2022, the Public Employee’s Retirement Fund was valued at \$455.8 billion.

### RPEA Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met May 2 and 3 at the Doubletree in Orange, CA. Although the agenda was fairly lengthy, several items were able to be addressed on the consent calendar, including Board of Directors, Committee and Headquarters written reports. Once the minutes of the previous Board meeting are adopted by the Board, they will eventually be posted on line at [www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com)



## Conserve Water on Your Spring/Summer Landscaping

### Plant early

Now is the time of year when lawns come out of dormancy - a time many gardeners eagerly await. This is also the time of year that we trade large heating bills for sometimes equally large water bills. As you consider your gardening plan this spring, why not resolve to use less water?

Planting new plants in spring (vs. summer) gives them numerous advantages. Milder conditions are less harsh on the young leaves and buds, and lower temperatures require less water for the plants to get established

### We use a lot of water

### Go native

The [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) claims that, across the country, watering our landscaping accounts for nearly one-third of all residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gallons per day. In addition, some experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of water used for irrigation is wasted due to evaporation, wind, or runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems.

Choosing plants native to your area is another way to save effort and water. [Native, drought-resistant plants](#) require less maintenance and less water once established and have the added benefit of providing habitats to beneficial pollinators and soil organisms.

Conserving water doesn't mean you have to convert your yard into a rock quarry. Making some minor changes can reduce landscape water use but still leave your property looking beautiful and alive.



### Start with the lawn

### One More Thing

Sure, a lush, green lawn can increase a home's curb appeal, but if you plan to stay put for a while, you can consider reducing your lawn's size by replacing some areas with mulch or hardscaping. To maintain size, but reduce water usage, you can replant with a less thirsty variety of turfgrass and/or not cut your grass so short. Longer grass promotes deeper root growth, resulting in a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation, and fewer weeds.

- I have strong opinions about leather shoes, and I will not be sued.

- When you're dead, you don't know you're dead. The pain is felt by others. The same thing happens when you're stupid.

-Descartes subsequently realized that people who don't think also are.

- Do you ever go out and while you're out you think: This is exactly why I don't go out.

### Water more efficiently

See you next time - and in the meantime, avoid soreheads, laugh a little and always question authority.

Water your lawn before 10 a.m. for max efficiency. [ThisOldHouse.com](#) recommends watering between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. "At this cool time of day, it's less likely the moisture will evaporate before your grassroots can absorb it from the soil," they explain.

~~Above thoughts courtesy of Sherman R. Frederick, a Nevada journalist.



## LUNCH BANQUET MENU

Choice of

**\*Veal Parmagiana**

**\*Special Steak Sandwich**

**\*Italian Chicken Sandwich**

**\*Baked Lasagna**

*Lunch Includes \*Salad \*Hot Bread and Butter \*Coffee or Iced Tea*

*(Gluten Free pasta and vegetarian pasta available upon request)*

840 Harbor Blvd, West Sacramento 95691

### **Reservations Required**

Contact Sheryl Zazzi

at (916) 607-8282 or [redhatzaz@gmail.com](mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com) or mail to:

Sheryl Zazzi

1709 Lakewood Dr

West Sacramento, CA 95691-4043

with your menu selection by June 3, 2022. Your cost of \$5.00 for lunch will be collected at the door when you sign in for the meeting. Note the time for the meeting to begin is 11:00 a.m..

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**RPEA CHAP. 004**  
Sacramento, Yolo Areas  
Second Wednesday  
of each month.

**June 8, 2022**  
General Meeting-11:00 a.m.  
Vince's Ristorante  
840 Harbor Blvd., W. Sacramento

**July 13, 2022**  
Board Meeting  
Location TBD

**August 10, 2022**  
General Meeting - 10:00 a.m.  
Card Bingo in the Park  
Oki Park - 2715 Wissemann Drive  
Sacramento, CA

**WHEN MEETINGS RESUME**

Lunch is **\$5.00** to members and **\$10.00** to guests for all  
Chapter lunches except  
**Spring Luncheon and**  
**Christmas Luncheon**

Members may attend all meetings.  
Please reserve your spot.

**Failure to make a reservation may result in no lunch  
available and failure to appear and not cancel a  
reservation will result in a \$10.00 charge.**

To reserve or cancel  
contact **Sheryl Zazzi** at  
[redhatzaz@gmail.com](mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com) or call (916) 607-8282  
by the Wednesday before each meeting.

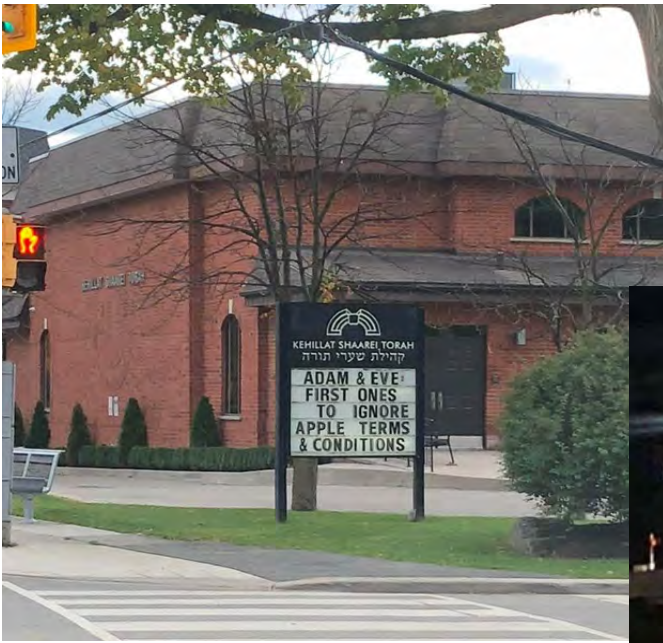
**INVITATION TO OUT OF STATE  
AND OUT OF COUNTY MEMBERS**

We would like to invite any fellow RPEA members, who live out of state or out of county, to join us. If you happen to be in town, during our meeting, come by and say hi and maybe tell us about some of your adventures. Especially now that our meetings are being held virtually via the internet, we would like to have you join in to see your Chapter in action via ZOOM! Please contact a Board member to obtain the log in information.

This invitation also includes any of you from other chapters, who would like to stop by, and introduce yourself and tell us about your chapter.



*A Bit of Humor to  
Brighten  
Your Day!*



*We are stronger when we  
listen, and smarter when we  
share.*

*Rania Al-Abdullah*



**Retired Public Employees' Assn. Chapter 004**

**P O Box 188235**

**Sacramento, CA 95818-8235**

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Save your Chapter mailing costs and receive me in color!  
Contact [marie.reed@comcast.net](mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net)

2021-23 CHAPTER 004  
OFFICERS

|                                                                             |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| President Roxanne Woodward                                                  | (916) 388-0230 |
| <b><a href="mailto:rwoodward55@comcast.net">rwoodward55@comcast.net</a></b> |                |
| Vice President Randall Cheek                                                | (916) 541-8988 |
| <b><a href="mailto:rcheek1947@att.net">rcheek1947@att.net</a></b>           |                |
| Past President Marie Reed                                                   | (916) 428-2090 |
| <b><a href="mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net">marie.reed@comcast.net</a></b>   |                |
| Secretary Marie Reed                                                        | (916) 428-2090 |
| <b><a href="mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net">marie.reed@comcast.net</a></b>   |                |
| Treasurer Bobbi Smith                                                       | (916) 852-8736 |
| <b><a href="mailto:smithbcat@hotmail.com">smithbcat@hotmail.com</a></b>     |                |
| Area VII Director Ken Brown                                                 | (530) 647-2168 |
| <b><a href="mailto:moosenmarno13@gmail.com">moosenmarno13@gmail.com</a></b> |                |
| Asst. Area VII Director C.T. Weber                                          | (916) 320-9186 |
| <b><a href="mailto:ctwebervoters@att.net">ctwebervoters@att.net</a></b>     |                |

2021-23 Chapter 004  
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

|                                                                               |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Health Benefits Vacant                                                        |                |
| Legislation Randall Cheek                                                     | (916) 541-8988 |
| <b><a href="mailto:rcheek1947@att.net">rcheek1947@att.net</a></b>             |                |
| Membership Diane Buffington                                                   | (916) 452-9097 |
| <b><a href="mailto:diane-buffington@att.net">diane-buffington@att.net</a></b> |                |
| Program Director Diane Buffington                                             | (916) 452-9097 |
| <b><a href="mailto:diane-buffington@att.net">diane-buffington@att.net</a></b> |                |
| Newsletter Marie Reed                                                         | (916) 428-2090 |
| <b><a href="mailto:marie.reed@comcast.net">marie.reed@comcast.net</a></b>     |                |
| Special Events Sheryl Zazzi                                                   | (916) 607-8282 |
| <b><a href="mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com">redhatzaz@gmail.com</a></b>           |                |
| Reservations Sheryl Zazzi                                                     | (916) 607-8282 |
| <b><a href="mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com">redhatzaz@gmail.com</a></b>           |                |
| Sunshine Lucy Gutierrez                                                       | (916) 213-8719 |