



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.*

Volume 24, Issue 4



July/Aug 2019

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

**Spring Luncheon and Christmas Luncheon**

Members in good standing 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 **Nadie Savage** at [savagelouise1948@gmail.com](mailto:savagelouise1948@gmail.com) or call **(916) 495-2742** by Friday before each meeting.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### RPEA CHAP. 004

##### MEETINGS

Sacramento, Yolo Areas  
Second Wednesday  
of each month.

**Wed. July 10, 2019**

Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
Casa Gardens Restaurant  
2760 Sutterville Rd.

**Wed. Aug. 14, 2019**

General Meeting, 9:30 a.m.  
**EARLIER FOR CARD BINGO**  
Casa Gardens Restaurant  
2760 Sutterville Rd.

**Wed. Sept. 11, 2019**

Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
Casa Gardens Restaurant  
2760 Sutterville Rd.

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

General Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
Casa Gardens Restaurant  
2760 Sutterville Rd.

It is with a very heavy heart that I notify you of the passing of our RPEA Headquarters Office Manager, Tanya Rakestraw. Tanya passed suddenly on June 24 after a lengthy battle with her illness. Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. July 12, 2019 at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park, Fair Oaks CA.

Tanya was employed by RPEA in April of 2004 and served initially as Member Services Representative, moving on to Assistant Manager and eventually Office Manager. Under her leadership as Manager, RPEA saw an improved workflow and coordination among the employees which allowed for a reduction in staff, and in turn, resulted in a reduction of costs of operations of our Organization. She was a gem among gems and will be sorely missed by all with whom she dealt.

For myself, I felt honored to call her friend. Rest in peace, my friend, until we meet again.

~Editor



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### Presidents Message - Roxanne Woodward

Hi All –

Summer is here. Get out and have some fun. Go to your local farmers' market, a movie, a museum, or perhaps attend a concert. Whatever you do enjoy your summer with family and friends.

The topic of our June guest speaker was "protecting your wealth from healthcare costs in retirement". Our speaker, Percy McGee, provided us with some interesting facts, figures, and statistics about rising healthcare costs. With the surprising facts provided, it might be the time for us to rethink protecting our retirement security from those rising costs. Thank you, Diane Buffington for arranging for our guest speaker. If you have a topic that might be of interest for a guest speaker, please bring it to our attention.

Speaking of topics, both membership and recruitment at the Chapter level needs to be our focus. It is an extremely important aspect of our Strategic Plan. While our Membership Chairperson Patricia Fuller has been doing an excellent job, it is incumbent on each of us to stay en-

gaged. Aside from active and retired State employees, there are 37 agencies here in Sacramento County alone that contract with CalPERS. Check the following link at the CalPERS website for a listing of public agencies that participate in the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT)

Fund: [www.calpers.ca.gov/page/employers/benefit-programs/cerbt/cerbt-participating-agencies](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/employers/benefit-programs/cerbt/cerbt-participating-agencies)

Search on the key word Sacramento for a local listing. Aside from those local agencies that we might already be familiar with like SMUD, Regional Transit, or classified City and County school employees, I surprised myself in learning of various other local agencies.

Remember that all CalPERS beneficiaries are eligible for membership in RPEA. There is strength in numbers. RPEA has so much to offer including our association's member benefits which some local agencies might not have offered through their employers. Make a commitment toward this effort and invite others to join us at our meetings and experience first-hand what we are all about.

On another brief topic, if you have not already done so, check out the Association's revamped website at [www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com). It has an all new look, feel, and content, and is easy to navigate. Invite other prospective members to explore our website, as well.

Hope you have/had a wonderful Independence Day and looking forward to seeing you soon.



**A NOTE FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENT ~**

I attended the recent meeting of our statewide Board of Directors and was once again disappointed by the apparent lack of interest in Association activity by members of our local Chapter. The proceedings of a Board of Directors meeting may not hold the thrill of attending a grandchild's soccer game or a rousing game of Pinochle with friends, but sometimes it isn't the amusement or entertainment we need, but the information received.

This meeting focused on new activity being proposed to generate membership and notification of a statewide Membership Committee meeting. Also, a proposed budget was presented for the review of the Board members for next fiscal year. This budget will be voted upon at the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting in September. We heard from our Legislative lobbyist Pat Moran of Aaron Read and Associates about the ongoing activity at the Capitol and how some of that activity may affect us as retirees.

All members are welcome to attend these meetings and you are encouraged to come see the Board in action. The activities and information provided can affect you and your chapter, so do attend. Several years ago, members of Chapter 004 packed the audience area and participated in the discussions on motions made. It would be good to see that once again. Please try to attend the next Board of Directors' meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Hotel in Sacramento. More details as to time will be available in August at our Card Bingo event.

# # #

**AREA DIRECTOR DENNIS CASSELLA TO STEP DOWN**

Area Director Dennis Cassella has informed the Board of Directors of the Association that he plans to step down as Area Director. All chapters in Area VII have been asked to provide a name for a replacement to this position. If more than one name is submitted by these chapters, delegates from each chapter will be sent ballots which must be returned to HQ by August 16 to elect a new Area Director. Chapter 004 has submitted the name of Sharrel Wyatt to be placed on the ballot, as she volunteered her service at our last meeting.

# # #

**UPCOMING ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Members interested in becoming officers of Chapter 004, now is your chance! A nominating committee will be formed and an election will be held in February for new officers. If you are interested in this, please contact your Past President, Marie Reed, and be sure to attend our Card Bingo in August when nominating documents will be available.

As to attendance at meetings, we have been having a problem with attendance at our local Chapter meetings as well. If you didn't know it, we have a contract with Casa Gardens Restaurant in which we GUARANTEE a certain number of attendees at a meeting. If we don't meet our guarantee, we must still pay for the luncheon that would have been provided. So, we often wind up paying for lunches that aren't consumed. If you are from the generation when I grew up, you were admonished to not waste, and this is a waste of our Chapter's finances by paying for something we don't receive. When you are contacted about attending a meeting, please try to respond you will attend and show up. The meetings are interesting, and the lunches are delicious – a treat at only \$5 for members, too.

# # #

**ABOUT THE FLYER FOR BEACH BLANKET BABYLON!**

Our Special Events Chair, Sheryl Zazzi is looking for COMMITMENT to attend this event. She will hold any post-dated check for your convenience until you advise it is ok for deposit. Please contact Sheryl at the number or email provided to let her know if you can attend. It promises to be another fun adventure for our members.

# # #

**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, YOUR USED GREETING CARDS AND/OR PULL TABS FROM ALUMINUM CANS**

As part of our Chapter's "Giving Back to our Community" program, we invite members to bring non-perishable food to donate to the Sacramento Food Bank when you come to any meeting or member luncheon. Just one can a meeting can make a big difference to a local family. We have successfully donated to the Food Bank every year.

And did you know we can make a difference with items we usually toss away?

Don't toss your used greeting cards! Bring only the fronts of the cards to the Chapter meeting for me to get them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The Ranch teaches their participants to recycle used greeting cards into a new product to sell in their gift shop. The program assists young people in learning business skills while raising funds for a charity. We recently had word from one of our members, Janice Williams, that the Ranch will not accept Hallmark, American Greeting or Disney card fronts due to copyright issues.

Rather than toss those aluminum tabs from soda cans and other products that use them, bring the tabs to the meeting and I will get them to McDonald House, which collects them as a fund-raiser for their programs.

Thank you for your generosity.



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER 004 SPONSORS**  
*A Return to*  
**BEACH BLANKET BABYLON – Bus Trip**



*Beach Blanket Babylon*, the world's longest running musical revue and one of the most popular San Francisco attractions, is a high energy pop culture satire and the perfect night. The *New York Times* says *Beach Blanket Babylon* is "updated more often than your smartphone!" The *San Francisco Chronicle* says it is "a must-see" and gives the show its highest rating! This will be the final opportunity to attend this show as it is closing forever on December 29, 2019.

***Bus Trip to San Francisco***  
***Fun...Fun...Fun!***

**Saturday, November 9, 2019**  
**Cost - \$62.00**



**Reserve your seat no later than Sept. 13, 2019**

**Only 45 seats available.**

***ARRIVE EARLY – BUS LEAVES TARGET AT 10:30 a.m.***

*Target – 2505 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95818*  
*Approximate return to Target 10:30 p.m.*

*Three Hour Stop at Union Square or Pier 39 for Lunch or sight-seeing  
(on your own).*

***Bus will pick up for transport to the theatre at 4:45-5:00 p.m.***  
***Show-time is 6:00 p.m.***

Mail your reservation and payment to our Special Events Coordinator: **Sheryl Zazzi**,  
**1709 Lakewood Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691**; telephone (916) 607-8282,  
[redhatzaz@gmail.com](mailto:redhatzaz@gmail.com).

**Make check payable to RPEA Chapter 004**

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**RESERVATION INFORMATION**

*Complete and return this section with payment for each person attending.*

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$62.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ (amount enclosed)

MEMBER'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list one contact number if you are coming with guests. You will be responsible to gather your group.*

GUEST'S NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_



[www.rpea.com](http://www.rpea.com)

**Retired Public Employees' Assn. Chapter 004**  
**P O Box 188235**  
**Sacramento, CA 95818-8235**

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SACRAMENTO, CA

### JOIN US AT A MEETING

NEED TRANSPORTATION?

CALL ONE OF OUR OFFICERS TO SEE IF RIDE  
SHARING MIGHT BE ARRANGED.

### **I COULD HAVE BEEN AN E-MAIL!**

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

#### 2018-20 CHAPTER 004

##### OFFICERS

President Roxanne Woodward	(916) 388-0230
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Vice President Randall Cheek	(916) 541-8988
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Past President Marie Reed	(916) 428-2090
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Secretary Marie Reed	(916) 428-2090
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Treasurer Bobbi Smith	(916) 852-8736
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Area VII Director Dennis Cassella	(530) 272-2130
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Asst. Area VII Director C.T. Weber	(916) 320-9186
<a href="mailto:ctwebervoters@att.net"><b>ctwebervoters@att.net</b></a>	

### NOTICE!!

**If you have moved or changed your address for  
delivery of this newsletter, please notify:**

**RPEA Headquarters**

**300 T Street**

**Sacramento, CA 95811-6912**

**or (916) 441-7732**

#### 2018-20 Chapter 004

##### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Health Benefits Harvey Robinson	(916) 444-7019
<a href="mailto:HRobin6766@sbcglobal.net"><b>HRobin6766@sbcglobal.net</b></a>	
Legislation Randall Cheek	(916) 541-8988
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Sunshine Lucy Gutierrez	(916) 213-8719