



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

Volume 25, Issue 5

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.



SEPT/OCT 2020

Presidents Message - Roxanne Woodward

RECENT RPEA BOARD DECISION

Hello All -

Dear Chapter 004 Members,

You may have already heard that the RPEA Board of Directors sent a letter to Henry Jones, Retired Member Representative and President of the CalPERS Board, asking for his immediate resignation due to highly questionable behaviors. It has been requested that this decision be shared with our chapter membership. As not everyone has an e-mail address, the letter is being printed here in our newsletter. .

On August 31, 2020, I and several of our Chapter 004 members attended an open meeting of the RPEA's Board of Directors, along with several other chapter presidents and members from throughout the state. The Zoom meeting was well attended. We were thanked for taking the time to become more informed. Our participation and support of the RPEA Board of Directors gives strength to their decision.

We have been confronted with extremely serious issues that have developed over the past year with the CalPERS Board. Our retirement security is being affected by poor financial decisions and other matters. The tremendous secrecy rules put in place in 2019 are designed to keep the RPEA Board, representing YOUR pension security, in the dark. The more active we are in staying informed and involved in this matter, the more opportunity we have to ensure security and safety in our very important CalPERS retirement future.

Best Regards,

Roxanne Woodward, President

RPEA, Chapter 004

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I hope this finds you doing well. I know this has not been an easy time for any of us. I'm now looking forward to the fall colors, cooler weather, much needed rain, and some fresh crisp air! I do know for me that time is going by fast. Before we know it the holidays will be upon us. I miss our large family functions and gatherings. Yet I stay connected, and share photos, recipes and happenings through various media. We're fortunate to have these media applications available to stay in touch with colleagues, family, and friends.

The letter on the left advises of the action taken by the RPEA Board of Directors during an Open Meeting on August 31, 2020. This meeting was to discuss asking for the immediate resignation of Henry Jones, Retired Member Representative from the CalPERS Board of Administration. The full letter is on page 5 of this newsletter. We are fortunate to have so many colleagues working hard on our behalf representing, speaking up, and taking action on the many issues that face all of our membership. We have much more work to do and will continue to work together to "make a difference".

During our October 14th General Membership Meeting, Treasurer Bobbi Smith will propose our budget for the upcoming year. Our By-laws require the budget to be approved by members at a Regular Membership meeting and our new fiscal year begins November 1st.

I also want to let you know that our Special Events Coordinator Sheryl Zazzi is eager to plan activities for our enjoyment when the timing is right. In the meantime we'll just have to hang in there!

Hoping you all have a beautiful fall season ahead and I look forward to seeing you at our October meeting. As always, stay safe and healthy and remember "we're all in this together".



EMBRACE HOPE OVER HATE -
FAITH OVER FEAR -
COMPASSION OVER CONFRONTATION

STATEWIDE OFFICER ELECTIONS - UPDATE

As you may recall, initially there were three members running for the position of Director of Public Relations and election ballots were mailed to the delegates. Unfortunately, RPEA's Secretary/Treasurer, Marie Reed, was unable to certify the results of the election for this position. This was due to the fact that one of the three candidates had withdrawn his intent to run for that office after the ballots had been mailed to the delegates. Although an attempt had been made to inform the delegates that there were only two candidates left in the nomination, the information was not received by all delegates before they voted. Hence a revote is underway and new ballots are in the mail to the delegates. The ballot must be postmarked and received at Headquarters no later than September 29, 2020. The Election Ballot Counting Committee will subsequently come together to tally the votes after which the election will be certified and the results announced.

* * *

HEALTH CARE - OPEN ENROLLMENT

The CalPERS 2020 open enrollment starts September 21 and ends October 16. Any changes made during open enrollment will take effect January 1, 2021. During this time you have the opportunity to change your CalPERS health plan, add and/or remove dependents, and enroll in a health plan if you don't currently have coverage.

The CalPERS website contains a wealth of information to help you with any decision you might need to make including specific benefit changes that may impact you, monthly rate premiums and which plans your doctors participate in. Additional information may be obtained by visiting the CalPERS website at www.calpers.ca.gov

* * *

AB 2473 UPDATE

AB 2473 was pulled by its author, Assembly Member Cooper, in early August prior to being heard by the Senate Policy Committee. RPEA is vigorously opposing this bill. The bill, sponsored by CalPERS, would exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act specified records regarding an internally managed private loan made directly by a public investment fund, including quarterly and annual financial statements of the borrower or its constituent owners, unless the information has already been publicly released by the keeper of the information. RPEA expects the bill to come back next year and will continue to oppose it in its present form.

Wise
One**PROPOSITIONS - INITIATIVES**

There are several propositions slated for the November 2020 ballot. Our Legislative Chairperson, Randall Cheek, is preparing an article for the statewide newsletter with regard to these initiatives. In the interim, you may check out the Secretary of State's website for specifics on the various propositions at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures/>

You are encouraged to study and understand what you are voting on. In addition, the website contains a host of information related to the upcoming election. Be sure to exercise your right to vote in this election cycle.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of the end of August, Chapter 004's membership stood at 1,136 members. We continue to gain a few and also lose a few. Please note that our Membership Chairperson Patricia Fuller informed our Board she may not be able to continue in this capacity due to health reasons. In the interim, she is able to carry on from home. Our Board is actively seeking a member to backfill this position. If interested, please contact me and/or Patricia to see what is involved in serving as our Membership Chair.

Ask your colleagues and cohorts to join RPEA in its' fight to protect our pensions. As has been said in the past, we've worked long and hard to earn our pensions and our voices must be greater than those joining the attacks or we may see our defined benefit plan changed to something less desirable. So, help spread the word! Our Association does great things for its active and retired members.

* * *

UPCOMING MEETINGS**RPEA CHAP. 004**

Sacramento, Yolo Areas
Second Wednesday
of each month.

Wed. Oct. 14, 2020

General Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

Wed. Nov. 18, 2020

Board of Directors, 10:00 a.m.
Note date change
due to Holiday on Nov. 11

ZOOM Meeting

Instructions will be made available prior to each meeting

Be sure to sign in to our October General meeting - information and prizes - Try it, you might like it!!

GIFTS FROM THE HEART – “GIVING BACK”

One of Santa's elves, Sheryl Zazzi, is gearing up and soliciting donations for Sacramento County's 32nd annual “Gifts from the Heart” (GFTH) program. The annual gift-giving program is designed to provide holiday gifts to children, teens, and senior adults served by the county's Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services Division, and Senior and Adult Services Division.

What an opportunity for our members to help sponsor these individuals and “give back”! In the past, her largest donors have been from her California State Retirees colleagues from Chapter 2. Unfortunately, this year gift baskets normally placed on tables at meeting went unfilled as meetings were cancelled. The success of the GFTH program comes from the “heart” of kind donors and also from the various volunteers who dedicate their time, organizing toys and gifts to be delivered or picked up by social workers.

With our members help, Sheryl will buy, wrap, and deliver a little love this Christmas. She will do her best to again bring joy to their season and put smiles in the hearts of children, teens ageing out from the system, and of course isolated seniors. Last year she was able to fill the wishes of 14 seniors and children, and provide for 5 - \$100 gift certificates for teens leaving the system.

Please make checks payable to Sheryl Zazzi and mail to 1709 Lakewood Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. *Please write RPEA member on the memo line* of your check so she can have us acknowledged as a donor. Questions may be directed to Santa's elf at (916) 607-8282, redhatzaz@gmail.com. Thank you in advance Sheryl for your time and effort (shop, wrap, deliver) and be sure to track and report your volunteer hours for this “giving back” project.

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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!

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.

CHAPTER 004 REPORTING

Membership: As of the end of August, our Chapter membership totals 1,138 members.

Treasurer: The balance in our bank accounts on August 31, 2020 was \$20,045.64 and included dues deposit of \$1,020.30 and expenses related to printing and mailing our newsletter of \$897.15. Also included was our donation for an upcoming General Assembly of \$500.00 per our approved budget.

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Have fun for Halloween!! Carve a pumpkin!

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WANTED!

Share with us what you've been doing, your thoughts or reflections on retirement, any positive stories that might be of interest to members of our Chapter. Write for our newsletter. To get you started...

- Have you taken any interesting trips, foreign or domestic?
- How about hobbies...do you like to garden, Zumba, sing, write poems, fish, sail, practice yoga?
- Have you joined a club or organization that could be of interest to the rest of us?
- Have you participated/volunteered in a special event?
- How about books or films? Seen a good opera, play or concert?
- If you've moved out of state, has it been a good experience? We have much in common. Just send us a letter or an email to the addresses on the back page and we can publish it in the next Newsletter.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

As seniors, we seem to be the target of choice for various scams being perpetrated. I "borrowed" the following good advice from our sister Chapter 30.

One of the scams to be aware of is a phone call telling you that they are at the court house and just seconds away of filing charges against you for failure to pay a debt. They might even tell you that they are at the police station, and the law will be sent out, if you don't pay up right now.

Another one is that your grandson or granddaughter is in jail, and you need to pay their fine. Before you do that, call them to verify that this is legitimate.

The one that I got a while back was that my grandson was in an accident and needed money for the hospital bill. The caller didn't even bother to find out if I had a grandson named Mike, before giving me his spiel. I told him, "Good luck Mike! Let me know how this turns out." Then I hung up.

NEVER, EVER give them your drivers license or social security number. Sometimes they will ask how you are doing today. What they are trying to get you to say is "Okay." You are being recorded, and by saying okay, they can buy things on your account and use the recorded word to confirm the purchase.

Just think before you answer any calls from someone you don't know. **Keep your private information private!**

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**HAPPY FALL****NOTICE!!!**

If you discard or recycle our newsletter in the trash, please shred it as there are email addresses and telephone numbers listed in it. Our directors are volunteers and we don't want unnecessary solicitations coming our way because of publication of those numbers.

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Knowledge is power. Information is power. The secret-ing or hoarding of knowledge or information may be an act of tyranny camouflaged as humility.

Robin Morgan

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

We continue to request donations of non-perishable foods, the fronts of used greeting cards and pull tabs from aluminum cans. Please continue to save these and we will collect them when we are able to meet again in person.

The foods are donated to the Sacramento Food Bank and the pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House. We send the fronts of greeting cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children where the children use them to create new cards for sale. The Ranch will not accept Hallmark, American Greeting or Disney card fronts due to copyright issues. This program assists young people in learning business skills while raising funds for a charity.

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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 or call (916) 607-8282 by the Friday before each meeting.



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

300 T Street, Sacramento, California, 95811-6912

(916) 441-7732 • Fax: (916) 441-7413 • (800) 443-7732

www.rpea.com rpeahq@rpea.com

August 31, 2020

Henry Jones, President
Retired Member Representative
CalPERS Board of Administration
400 Q Street,
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Henry:

It is with a heavy heart but a firm conviction that the Board of Directors of the Retired Public Employees' Association of California has voted to call for your resignation from the CalPERS Board of Administration.

Our demand is precipitated by your poor judgement and inappropriately secretive manner in the handling of the apparent Political Reform Act violations by Ben Meng while he was the CalPERS chief investment officer. We view your actions in this instance as a continuation of your long-standing posture of openly opposing transparency and accountability on the part of the CalPERS Board and staff.

With respect to Mr. Meng's apparent wrongdoing, you have participated in an apparent cover-up of unlawful behavior, and we fear that this cover-up is ongoing. It is an established fact from your own statements to Bloomberg Business that you had personal knowledge of Meng's violations months before they became public, that you knew of CalPERS CEO Marcie Frost's apparent plan to keep the violations a secret from the board as a whole and the public, and that you also knew that CalPERS had not reported Meng's violations to the FPPC. Further, as board president, one of the few legitimate powers you possess is the power to share with the board as a whole any information that you are aware is being kept from it. You cannot claim that you lacked the authority to ensure that the full board was kept informed. Likewise, as a fiduciary, you had an individual responsibility to file a complaint with the FPPC, yet you failed to do so.

The CalPERS Board Governance policies that govern your behavior offer no authority for any of these actions. To the contrary, the Board President Delegation Resolution (94-03-B) specifically states the opposite in requiring that that Board President "Keep the Board Informed as to all actions taken under this delegation." The Board's own written policy VIII (B)(6) also makes it clear that, as Board President you have a duty to "...manage the effective and efficient flow of information to the Board, which is comprehensive and timely without being over detailed." Your fellow Board members are independent fiduciaries, and your failure to keep them informed has potentially exposed them to personal liability, as well as undermining public trust in the Board as a whole.

We see your actions in this instance as being consistent with your behavior throughout your board tenure. Some other failures to discharge your fiduciary duty to CalPERS members and beneficiaries that we highlight:

- Your failure to publicly support an investigation into the false statements about current CEO Marcie Frost's educational background and achievement.
- Your failure to publicly support an investigation into the similarly false credentials of former CalPERS CFO Charles Asubonten.

- Your failure to object to CalPERS labeling every internal audit since 2016 as “attorney-client privileged,” which appears to be motivated by a fundamentally anti-transparency agenda.
- Your failure to prevent monthly board member briefings on board agenda matters from taking on the character of serial meetings.
- Your failure to support free and fair CalPERS board elections.
- Your failure to properly investigate the resignations of other CalPERS executives.

More generally, we have been extremely disappointed on an ongoing basis by how you wield your power as Board President inappropriately in board meetings. You have shown yourself as eager to cut off anyone who would offer facts or viewpoints inconsistent with staff recommendation on a given agenda item. Despite the board showing generally too little interest in fact-finding or debate, on the rare occasion when it does occur you frequently respond by trying to shut it down. When RPEA or other members of the public offer comments that advance the collective understanding of an issue under consideration by the board you almost always refuse to acknowledge the information and have, on numerous occasions, cut off fellow board members who attempt to enter into a dialogue with those commenters to promote the board's understanding of an issue.

You sit in the seat on the Board of Administration reserved to be elected by retired beneficiaries, yet you appear to be more concerned with covering-up the incompetence and misdeeds of staff than in protecting our benefits. It was shocking in your last Board election campaign when groups not affiliated with retirees spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of questionable origin on your behalf. You appear to be beholden to interests other than those of the beneficiaries of CalPERS and your recent outrageous conduct confirms this to be the case.

The Board of Directors of the Retired Public Employees' Association of California has determined that we have no alternative other than to demand your resignation from the CalPERS Board of Administration with immediate effect.



Rosemary Knox, President

Retired Public Employees' Association of California

Cc: Theresa Taylor, Vice President, Elected State Member Representative
 Margaret Brown, Elected All Member representative
 Rob Feckner, Elected School Member
 Fiona MA, California State Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
 Lisa Middleton, Local Government Elected Official,
 Governor Appointee David Miller, Elected All Member Representative
 Stacie Olivares, Insurance Industry Representative, Governor Appointee
 Eraina Ortega, California Department of Human Resources, Ex Officio Member
 Jason Perez, Elected Public Agency Member Representative
 Ramon Rubalcava, Public Representative, Appointed by Senate Rules and Speaker of the Assembly
 Betty Yee, California State Controller, Ex Officio Member

This is my step ladder



**I never knew my real
ladder**

*A Bit of Humor to
Brighten
Your Day!*

A guy wants a divorce.
He tells the judge, "I just
can't take it anymore.
Every night she's out
until way after midnight,
just going from bar to
bar."

Judge asks, "What's she
doing?"

The guy answers,
"Looking for me."

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Members in Sacramento County

Vote Early or On Election Day at the County of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections Office starting 29 days before and election day. Hours: Monday –Friday 8 am until 5 pm and until 8 pm on Election Day.

7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento

Vote at a Vote Center or go to a ballot drop off location:

For Sacramento County Drop Off Locations:

<https://elections.saccounty.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

**I see people
around my age
mountain
climbing, I feel
good getting
my leg through
my underwear
with out losing
my balance**



www.rpea.com

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

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TAKE THE 100% LOCAL PLEDGE
SHOP Local
STAND With Small Businesses
SUPPORT Those Who Employ Our
Neighbors
We Will Come Back From This Together!

I COULD HAVE BEEN AN E-MAIL!

Save your Chapter mailing costs and receive me in color!
Contact marie.reed@comcast.net

2020-22 CHAPTER 004

OFFICERS

President Roxanne Woodward rwoodward55@comcast.net	(916) 388-0230
Vice President Randall Cheek rcheek1947@att.net	(916) 541-8988
Past President Marie Reed marie.reed@comcast.net	(916) 428-2090
Secretary Marie Reed marie.reed@comcast.net	(916) 428-2090
Treasurer Bobbi Smith smithbcat@hotmail.com	(916) 852-8736
Area VII Director Ken Brown moosenmarno@comcast.net	(530) 647-2168
Asst. Area VII Director C.T. Weber ctwebervoters@att.net	(916) 320-9186

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

2020-22 Chapter 004

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Health Benefits Harvey Robinson HRobin6766@sbcglobal.net	(916) 444-7019
Legislation Randall Cheek rcheek1947@att.net	(916) 541-8988
Membership Pat Fuller pfuller1946@yahoo.com	(916) 688-1248
Program Director Diane Buffington diane-buffington@att.net	(916) 452-9097
Newsletter Marie Reed marie.reed@comcast.net	(916) 428-2090
Special Events Sheryl Zazzi redhatzaz@gmail.com	(916) 607-8282
Reservations Sheryl Zazzi redhatzaz@gmail.com	(916) 607-8282
Sunshine Lucy Gutierrez	(916) 213-8719