

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
Surf City—Santa Cruz Chapter 009
July 2019



We are retired California public employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and improving our retirement and medical benefits.

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday July 2, 2019 — Time: 11:30

**Allie Wilson from Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay
will be our speaker**

For reservations call **Pat @ 423-1239**

Reservations must be made by Thur., June 27

**If you find at the last minute that you can't come,
please call Pat.**

We are charged for no-shows!

**First lunch
is free when
you join!**

**The Back Nine at
The Inn at Pasatiempo
555 Hwy 17, Santa Cruz
(take Pasatiempo exit)**

Sit-down lunch

\$15.00/person

5oz Burger with Green Salad Dessert: Brownies

Standard alternative for lunch: salad w/chicken. Reserve ahead..

SPEAKER'S NOTES *by Mary Doherty*

This month's speakers were John Kegebein and Kaleena Mornard from the Ag History Project.

The mission of the Agricultural History Project (AHP) honors and promotes knowledge about agriculture on the Central California Coast, both past and present. AHP preserves, exhibits, collects and builds community awareness of the economic, cultural and ethnic aspects of agriculture in the area. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization founded in 1986. The Agricultural History Project opened its doors to the public in May 2004. We accomplish our mission through exhibits and interactive activities that help visitors experience daily life on farms and ranches on the Central Coast during the 1800's and early 1900's. We believe that knowledge of history provides us the ability to make better decisions about our future.

Potatoes and wheat were once major crops of the Central Coast of California. Today these fields are growing lettuce, strawberries and raspberries. Years ago, ships and railroads, not today's trucks, transported the agricultural bounty to markets. Come and visit our museum to learn about the people and crops that made this area so unique.

2nd Saturday on the Farm

Every month we produce a 2nd Saturday on the Farm, a family event that focuses on a particular area of agriculture. Visitors can participate in the regular activities of the Ag History Project plus others related to the day's special focus. We host over 2,500 visitors each year at 2nd Saturday on the Farm. We have created some unique interactive educational activities to help you have fun learning about past agricultural practices. What we like to call our "usual" activities include:

- Wooden cow milking: we have life-size wooden cows with rubber teats that help you learn how to milk a cow.
- Kid-driven tractor: we retrofitted a John Deere tractor so that anyone can learn to drive it. You sit in the seat and control the steering wheel while a trained volunteer stands on a platform to your right to controls the speed. We even have space for a parent or friend to stand to your left and enjoy the ride.
- Tractor Simulator: we have a stationary tractor that you can drive down a crop row. The computer screen in front of you displays how well you are handling the tractor.
- Puppet Theater: each month we have a new show playing.



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2Director vacancies

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Sue Pierce 408-353-2832

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1 Director vacancy

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Philipps**HISTORIAN:** vacant **CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!****HOSPITALITY:** Pat Pimentel**HEALTH/INSURANCE:** Lynn McKibbin**LEGISLATION:** Jerry Bowles**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Dena Taylor**PROGRAM:** vacant **CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!****OUTREACH:** Sue Pierce**SUNSHINE:** Mary Doherty**AREA III ASST. DIR.:** Bob Culbertson**RPEA Chapter 9 website:****www.rpeasantacruz.org****Webmistress:** Becky Taylor 421-9284**beckytaylor@tutor@gmail.com****Treasurer's Report – *Steve Redfield***

Beginning Balance: 5-1-19 \$7,813

Ending Balance 6-1-19 \$6,929

FUND BALANCES

General Fund \$5,416

Investment Opportunities \$1,513**TOTAL** 6-1-19 \$6,929**Legislative Report — *Jerry Bowles***

This is the first year of a 2 year bill cycle. The total number of bill introductions for 2019 is: 2,576: 1,799 Assembly Bills and 777 Senate Bills (and not including constitutional amendments and resolutions). The RPEA Legislative Committee tracks bills that would have an impact on our retirement. A list of the bills that RPEA is tracking can be found on our website. (rpeasantacruz.org) Under Legislation, click "RPEA Legislative Bill Summary Reports." A synopsis of each bill is provided.

The California State Budget—How the Budget Gets Passed

How does the state budget get passed? The state's fiscal year is from July 1st through June 30th. The California Constitution requires the Governor to submit a proposal for a balanced budget to the Legislature each year by January 10th. Budget committees in both the Senate and Assembly analyze the proposed budget separately. The Senate and Assembly committees then each present a budget bill to their own house for passage.

A Budget Conference Committee works out differences between the Senate and Assembly versions of the budget and sends it back to the two houses for approval. The Legislature's approved budget is due by law by June 15th but historically was often late due to difficulties in reaching agreement. It is less likely that this will be an issue, as voters approved Proposition 25 in 2010, requiring a majority vote rather than a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for the budget to be enacted. However, a two-thirds vote is still required to raise new revenues. Once approved, the budget is sent to the Governor to sign. The Governor has the ability to veto particular spending line items in the budget.

One budget item important to the health of our retirement system— Pension Paydowns

-Following in Jerry Brown's footsteps, Newsom is making public employee retirement liabilities a priority. He wants to put an extra \$3 billion into the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and an extra \$2.9 billion over four years into the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS). These payments are on top of the state's regular pension contribution of \$10 billion in the new budget. Yes, it sounds like a lot but the state has a long way to go. Currently, California's retirement liabilities add up to **\$256.5 billion**, according to Newsom's finance department.

Ag History Project cont'd from page 1

AHP's two story California style barn is home to our exhibits, research center, archives, and gift shop, the "Country Corner." Exhibits include "When Apples Were King," the story of the once flourishing apple industry; "Pick Now, Eat Later," food preservation methods for our bountiful production; "Legacy of the Vaqueros," cattle from the Mission days to current times. There are also extensive fruit jar and milk bottle and dairy artifact displays. The upstairs Santa Cruz County room archive houses a non-circulating collection of agricultural related books, photos and an extensive collection of USDA and UC Extension Service pamphlets.

View our collection of restored horse drawn equipment including plows, binders, reapers and planters. An extensive collection of hand tools is also on display in the Porter Implement Shed. Then, wander down to the Snyder Building, known on-site as The Shop. The building includes our restoration shop and storage for restored equipment. There will probably be someone working on a carriage, tractor or other rescued piece of equipment while you're there.



2019 2nd Saturdays 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

July 13- Safe Summer Fun on the Farm
 August 10 – Round up on the Farm
 No September 2nd Saturday Visit Yesterday's Farm at the Santa Cruz County Fair September 11-15
 October 12- Tractor-O-Treat
 November 9- Harvest on the Farm
 December 14- Christmas on the Farm

President's Message — *Bob Culbertson*

Dear fellow Retiree, As July approaches I think of Independence Day : July 4th! For fifteen years in my Job as a State Park Ranger and Ranger Supervisor I worked every weekend (days off Wednesday and Thursday) and every summer Holiday. on several July 4th Holidays I worked back to back shifts starting at 6 A M and ending at 3 AM the next day. Lots of people on the beaches, lots of fireworks, lots of happy people and a few obnoxious ones: they got into fights, drank too much, or used dangerous explosives in a crowd. I remember a day at Huntington Beach in Orange County. I saw three people crossing the sand to the parking lot. Two men helping the third one, in the middle, walk across the beach. I stopped my patrol unit , hopped out and asked if the man in the middle was ill. The helpers said no, they were just helping him back to his car so he could drive home. When they let go of his arms he went down in a heap - could not walk - too much to drink! They were going to put him in a car onto the road! I transported him to the Jail where he could sober up safely, while he told me what a lousy person I was. It is so great to be retired! Now I look forward to being with the grandkids at one of the great parades in our county! Hope you have a safe and happy celebration of our country's Independence Day.

If you fly within the United States or enter secure federal buildings and military bases, you will need to a valid passport or other federally approved document, such as a REAL ID driver license or identification card, beginning October 1, 2020. My husband recently applied for a Senior Citizen ID card. He took the documentation needed to get a REAL ID, but when the card arrived in the mail, I wasn't sure if it was a REAL ID.

Here's how you can tell. The Golden Grizzly Bear with a star printed on the upper right hand corner means the License or ID card is a REAL ID. Good to go flying with. :) The Senior ID is free.



Health/Benefits — *Lynn McKibbin*

Summer Safety Tips for Seniors

Summer tends to bring with it a sense of excitement and a desire to get outside and be active. That's great, but for seniors who have a higher sensitivity to heat, a little more caution needs to be exercised when it comes to making plans in the sun. As long as you're careful and stick to a few main safety tips, you can enjoy most of the summer activities you can imagine. Here are 7 summer safety tips for older adults:

1. Stay hydrated. The standard suggestion is to aim to drink **6-8 cups of water a day**. If you intend to spend much time out in the sun, you may want to aim even higher to avoid dehydration. Invest in a water bottle or two that it's easy to take along on your jaunts outside and challenge yourself to finish it before you get home. Don't just depend on your body to tell you when you're thirsty. One of the many small frustrations of aging is that seniors become less aware of their thirst. **Be proactive in staying hydrated** and make sure it's water, sports drinks or juice that you're drinking – sodas, coffee, and especially alcohol won't work as good alternatives for hydration.
2. Don't stay out for too long. If you live somewhere where it gets really hot, you should keep your plans for outdoor activities reasonably short. Don't plan to spend the whole day out in the sun – stick to a couple of hours and then head inside for a break. You don't always feel the effect the sun is having on you in the moment, but it can build to something dangerous if you're not careful to temper the time you spend outside on hot days.
3. Check the forecast before you go out. You don't want to be caught unawares on a 104° day. Make sure you know what to expect of the weather before you go out so you can dress appropriately and plan your day accordingly. Don't risk being stuck on a hike far from your car when record temperatures hit in the afternoon. When the heat starts to get extreme, make sure your plans give you an easy out from the outdoors so you can take breaks and cool off.
4. Keep sunscreen where it's easily accessible and you'll remember to use it. If you carry a purse, **keep your sunscreen** in it at all times. If you don't, stick some in your car or anywhere else you can think of where you're likely to have it when you need it. If you think you might forget to re-apply when needed, set yourself an alarm, pretty much all phones have that option these days.
5. Check the side effects of your prescriptions. Some medications make people more sensitive to the sun. Make sure you know if your prescriptions mean you need to take extra precautions. It probably won't mean you have to forego outdoor activities, just that you'll need to make extra sure to follow some of the other suggestions on this list to avoid problems.
6. Use your air conditioning if you have it. I know it costs money, but summer heat waves can have serious consequences for seniors. Making sure you're reasonably comfortable and safe in your own home is worth the splurge. If you don't have an air conditioner, consider buying one. The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** may help if the cost is prohibitive. If you don't have A/C in your home and can't find a way to afford it, take trips in the hottest part of the day to the mall, the movies, or the closest library. You can take advantage of their A/C for a little while before heading back home when the day starts to cool down.
7. Know the early warning signs of heat-related illnesses. Hopefully these tips can help keep you from encountering a heat related illness, but you should still be prepared for the worst just in case. Review the symptoms for dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat syncope. If you suspect you're experiencing any of these, don't be shy about speaking up and insisting on water, shade, or some time inside in air conditioning. It's better than a trip to the emergency room.



Community Wildfire Safety Program Public Safety Power Shutoff

Working Together To Protect Our Communities From Wildfires

Given the continued and growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires, and as an additional precautionary measure following the 2017 and 2018 wildfires, we are expanding and enhancing our Community Wildfire Safety Program to further reduce wildfire risks and help keep our customers and the communities we serve safe. This includes expanding our Public Safety Power Shutoff program beginning with the 2019 wildfire season to include all electric lines that pass through high fire-threat areas – both distribution and transmission.

We know how much our customers rely on electric service and that there are safety risks on both sides. We will only proactively turn off lines in the interest of safety to help reduce the likelihood of an ignition when extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted. While customers in high fire-threat areas are more likely to be affected, any of PG&E's more than 5 million electric customers could have their power shut off if their community relies upon a line that passes through a high fire-threat area.

Public Safety Power Shutoff Criteria

Our Wildfire Safety Operations Center (WSOC) monitors fire danger conditions across our service area and evaluates whether to turn off electric power lines in the interest of safety.

While no single factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff, some factors include:



A RED FLAG WARNING

declared by the National Weather Service



LOW HUMIDITY LEVELS

generally 20% and below



FORECASTED SUSTAINED WINDS GENERALLY ABOVE 25 MPH AND WIND GUSTS IN EXCESS OF APPROXIMATELY 45 MPH,

depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate



CONDITION OF DRY FUEL

on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content)



ON-THE-GROUND, REAL-TIME OBSERVATIONS

from PG&E's WSOC and field observations from PG&E crews

Working With Our Customers To Prepare

We are continuing to reach out to our customers and communities about wildfire safety and steps they can take to prepare their homes, families and businesses.

- **Update your contact info** by visiting pge.com/mywildfirealerts today to make sure we have your current contact information.
- **Identify backup charging methods** for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers.
- **Plan for any medical needs** like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power.
- **Build or restock your emergency kit** with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.

Learn More

about PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program.



Call us at
1-866-743-6589



Email **wildfire
safety@pge.com**



Visit **[pge.com/
wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety)**

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Time Dated Material
Please Deliver by June 22, 2019



if you're not already receiving this newsletter via email, please consider doing so! It will save our chapter considerable money each month by reducing the printing and mailing costs. Just let me know. We want to hear from you! Please email your letters to the editor to me at detaylor@cabrillo.edu or send to RPEA, P.O. Box 413, Capitola CA 95010.

SUNSHINE — Mary Doherty

Happy Birthday to all Chapter 9 members
with birthdays in July!

And wishing all our
members a safe and
happy July 4th Holiday!



We send cards to our members throughout the month. If you know someone who we should send a card to, please let me know at 831-423-3610

Upcoming General Membership & Board Meetings

**Aug. 6 — Annual picnic. This year we will be at Simpkins
Family Swim Center and Community Center**

Sept 3—Next Stage Players

The Chapter Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of the month. Chapter members are invited to join us. Let a member of the Board know you would like to attend and get directions to the meeting. All the Directors' names, phone numbers and email addresses are located on page 2 of every newsletter.

Membership — Bill Philipps

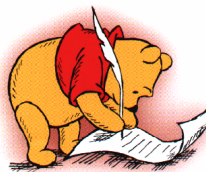
Our Chapter membership currently stands at 579.

This month's newsletter sponsored in part by:



Courtesy of former Regional Transportation Commission executive director and RPEA member Linda Wilshusen, everydayprimate.org

Tell your friends about RPEA! We are the voice of all CalPERS members, retired or still working. It is an organization that advocates for retirement security for all public employees. Anyone can join, and members receive discounts on various kinds of insurance and entertainment attractions. In our local Santa Cruz Chapter, members enjoy monthly luncheons, interesting speakers, and special BBQs and holiday parties. Get a friend or neighbor to join RPEA and you will get 10 free raffle tickets at the next meeting you come to. We have recruitment packets of information for you to give to anyone you think might like to join us.



Have something to say? Send a letter to the editor! Send to detaylor@cabrillo.edu or to the return address on this newsletter.