



**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA**
Area III Monterey County – Chapter 020
Representing the Salinas Valley & the Monterey Peninsula

**Newsletter
November/December 2018**

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 retirement, medical, and other benefits that we have earned through our years of service.

HOLIDAY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

When: Thursday, Dec. 6th - 11:00 to 1 PM

**Where: The Steinbeck House Restaurant, 132 Central Avenue, Salinas
(More parking behind the Catholic Church off Stone Street & around the corner
behind the Steinbeck House)**

Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$20.00

Selections off the menu

***Reservations required!* Call Robin Valentine 831/449-2628 by Nov. 28th**

GUEST SPEAKER: TBD

Recaps from last meeting. Joining us from the downtown fire station in Salinas were the team of Captain Robert Marx, an Engineer, one Firefighter, and a Paramedic. There are six stations around the city, a city that encompasses 55 sq. miles. The fire department is the first responder to 911 calls.

Recently, the city was charging for emergency services from the fire department; however, Captain Marx indicated that this matter has been settled. There is no longer a charge for calling the fire department. So please do not hesitate and make that call when faced with an emergency.

All fire stations regardless of city, respond to all areas outside their districts if the need arises. In case of a catastrophic emergency a firefighting team from each district goes out into neighborhoods within their jurisdiction to patrol for infrastructure damage. Utility companies are contacted when power lines are down and water leakage noted. Further, we are reminded to never go near a downed power line or into water damaged areas. Call 911!

We were also given important tips on how to prepare for an emergency, such as a fire or other types of structural damage to our homes. See helpful tips below:

- Important documents
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- Change of clothes (3-5 days)
- Drinking water in trunk of car (change periodically [for freshness] as needed)
- Medications
- Flashlights & batteries
- Food
- Phones and chargers (Be aware that phone lines and cell tower may be down)

We were so grateful that this team of firefighters were able to join us and give us valuable information that we can all use in times of disaster. They were all so kind and caring that we truly respect the job they do to keep us safe wherever we live.

The Big Truck! Here is a little story that I hope you enjoy. One of our members (our immediate past president) shared with us a story about an emergency situation that occurred during her grandchild's birthday. Susan's mother fell ill and required services from the fire department. They were called and within minutes drove up in their *great BIG red fire truck* whereupon all the children ran up thinking it had arrived for them. Well, great-grandma got her care and was safe, but the kids got the biggest treat of all – the presence of the ***big red fire truck*** in

- Keep photos ready to go

in the front yard and in visiting with the firefighters who were so kind to them. We so loved that story. I hope you did too!
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MEMBERSHIP

Though we had a small group attend our last meeting, we would like to encourage members to come out and join us. Bring a friend who may be interested in joining. If they do, lunch is on the chapter. We usually meet at Park Place Bingo. The salads are good and the coffee's is great!

We are aware that some members may not be able to come out and join us but have also been told that you get a lot of information from our newsletter. We are glad to know this, and we do appreciate your input!

We are reminded that we can help to bring in new members through people we know or through former peers that may not know anything about retirement groups. Thus, we can do outreach. Tell these folks about RPEA and how they work to protect our retirement benefits. Remind them that once they leave their job there is no one out there to protect their benefits. Only by joining a retirement group that has their best interest in mind, will they enjoy the benefits of having a voice in the legislature. I am referring to threats that are brought forth by special interest groups whose aim is to gain control of our funds.

BIRTHDAYS

A great big Happy Birthday to past president Susan Jimenez! Also, birthday wishes to all others celebrating birthdays this November and December. Please let us know about your upcoming birthdays and we will give a special shout-out to you on our next newsletter. And, don't be shy. Let us know. And don't forget cake - your choice of flavor to be enjoyed at the membership meeting.

SPECIAL THANKS

I'd like to recognize and thank some members of our team for the special things they do throughout the year. In this case, I would like to express my gratitude to Robin Valentine (our VP) and to Alicia Esponilla (treasurer). They came out early and stayed late for set-up and clean-up at our last meeting. These two ladies are truly dedicated to our chapter.

A great big thank you also to Haru, our host at the bingo parlor who also gave us a hand. We thank her for always being there for us and for donating an extra three hours of her time to our luncheon. As a token of appreciation, we will be sending Haru a special gift of \$50 during this Christmas season. We also thank her for all her efforts and dedication in working with our chapter throughout the years.

We also want to thank all the members who have renewed their membership this year, particularly in the last couple of months. We've had so many renewals that it shows your faith in our association.

FYI we now have almost 400 members in our chapter. We are part of one of the biggest regions in the state which includes 18 chapters around Central California from as far south as Monterey County to San Francisco. We have a little over 100 chapters throughout the state as well as in a few neighboring states, which include Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico.

So even when people move away, they go on to start their own chapters out of state because they know of the important work that RPEA is doing. Other people move farther away but they tend to keep their membership within their last chapter and appreciate newsletters from their old community.

ELECTIONS

Our terms in office are for one year. Our next election will take place at our membership meeting in February 2019. For those of you who are interested in running for any position, please

contact me or Susan Jimenez with your interest. Please see the back of this newsletter with the officer positions that are available and contact information.

Should we not get any participation in our next elections and positions are not filled, we will be in danger of closing our chapter for lack of leadership.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Margaret Mount, Salinas

IN MEMORIAM

Glenda & Terry Rodman; Martha Martin; Lester Burns*

*It is very sad when one of own members loses a loved one. In this case we would like to express a message of condolences to Cathy Burns, our secretary. She has been out on bereavement leave after the recent loss of her dear husband Lester. After a very sad period of mourning, she expects to return in December. Please remember Cathy in your prayers during this very difficult time in her life.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Know thyself or at least keep renewing the acquaintance.

Robert Brault



Respectfully Submitted,

Rosie S. Foster

President

Newsletter Editor

NOTICE!! IF YOU PLAN TO MOVE OR HAVE MOVED, & FOR DELIVERY OF THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE REPORT YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS TO RPEA HEADQUARTERS, 300 T STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-6912; OR CALL 916/441-7732 OR 1-800/443-7732.

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