



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 35

October, November, December

Fall 2022

CHAPTER 35 JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY LUNCH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 12:00 NOON

Vallejo Moose Lodge
337 Nebraska Street

Lunch: Meatloaf, potatoes, salad, dessert,
coffee, tea or lemonade

Cost to members is \$10.00
\$18.00 for guests

Please call your reservations to:
Dorothy Hayes 707 648-3212 no later than
October 30th

Join us for lunch and bring a friend



FROM HEALTH AND WELFARE

I send cards to members who are ill or in need of a little "Sunshine" from our Chapter 35. Please call me if you are ill or if you know of a member who is ill or lost a family member. Thank you,

Sandy Stone
Health and Wellness Director

CALPERS ELECTION BALLOT SHOULD BE IN THE MAIL TO YOU SOON.

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE FOR RANDALL
CHEEK, OUR RPEA DIRECTOR OF
LEGISLATION. WE NEED HIS EXPERTISE
TO WORK TO PROTECT OUR PENSIONS.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2022

Officers:

President: Dorothy Hayes 707 648-3212
Vice-President & Assistant Area 1 Director:
Rachel Maldonado Aziminia 510 501-2104
Jr. Past President: OPEN
Secretary: Sylvia Amen 707 319-8794
Treasurer: Pat McCarthy 707 643-1157
Asst. Treasurer: OPEN

Directors:

Finance: OPEN
Communications: Mary Cecchini 707 644-0321
Health & Welfare: Sandy Stone 707 552-6458
Membership: Marlies Lenigk 707 642-7985
Legislative: Bob Sather 707 374-1384
Newsletter Editor: Lotte Sather 707 374-1384
Area 1 Director Susan Tamboury 707 623-7996

Facebook "RPEA Chapter 035"



ELECTION OF CHAPTER 35 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2023-2024

The following have been nominated:

President : Rachael Maldonado Aziminia
Vice President: OPEN
Jr. Past President: Dorothy Hayes
Secretary: Sylvia Amen
Treasurer: Pat McCarthy
Assistant Treasurer: OPEN
Financial Director: OPEN
Legislative Director: Bob Sather
Membership: Marlies Lenigk
Health and Welfare: OPEN

Communications Director: Mary Cecchini
Newsletter Editor (appointed) ;Lotte Sather

Elections will be held at the November 9th-
meeting. Nominations will be taken from the
floor.

MINUTES
RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION – CHAPTER 035

The quarterly meeting of Chapter 035 of the Retired Public Employees' Association was held on **August 10, 2022**, at the Vallejo Moose Lodge.

The meeting was called to order by President Dorothy Hays at 12:18 p.m. Eighteen members and guests were present. All Officers and Directors were present except for Legislative Director Robert Sather and Health & Welfare Director Sandy Stone.

President Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance and then welcomed new members Cheryl Whitfield, Charles Kitts, and his wife Michele Kitts, as well as Area I Director Susan Tamboury.

Treasurer Patricia McCarthy reported that our ending balance as of July 31, 2022, was \$25,525.07.

As Assistant Area Director, Vice President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia helps our Area I Director Susan Tamboury. Rachel has been working on a survey on how the chapters are running. The survey has been sent out to the leadership of each of the chapters in our area. At the RPEA General Assembly that will be held at the end of September, she will be one of the delegates as well as Assistant Sergeant of Arms. Please let her know of any speakers that you feel would be beneficial to our chapter.

Membership Director Marlies Lenigk reported that we now have 502 members.

Communications Director Mary Cecchini had nothing to report.

Director Sandy Stone was unable to attend today's meeting. She informed Secretary Sylvia Amen that she had sent a Get Well note to Lynn Ancheta. Please let her know if there is a member who is ill or has lost a family member and she will send a card.

Area I Director Susan Tamboury thanked everyone for coming after the lockdown. She explained that Area I covers from Marin County to the Oregon border and has five chapters: Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Lake County, Vallejo, and Eureka. She is President of three of those chapters. She told us that State Board Meetings are done quarterly. Some are in person and some by ZOOM. If she is unable to attend one of the meetings, she calls on Rachel to fill in for her.

Newsletter Editor Lotte Sather reported that Legislative Director Robert Sather attended a ZOOM meeting with the Legislative Committee. She also reported on what she will be doing at General Assembly as our delegate. She received a packet with the Program, Resolutions to be decided on, and By-Laws changes. Each chapter is entitled to one delegate for every 300 members. Our chapter has a bonus delegate since Rachel will be attending as Assistant Area Director. She pointed out that our RPEA Newsletter has statements from the candidates that are running for State RPEA positions. It also has information from our lobbyists – some of the best in California – who are working to protect our pensions.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The next Quarterly Meeting will be on **November 9, 2022**. Please spread the word about our meetings and encourage other members to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Lunch raffle winners: Rachel Maldonado Aziminia, Shirley Moore, Robert Sather, and Patricia McCarthy

SYLVIA AMEN, Secretary

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

My second attendance at the RPEA General Assembly 2022 ended on September 29, 2022. It was enjoyable as well as an informative. Here is a summary of what I learned during the five days, September 25-29.

On the first day I attended the Area Directors meeting where the draft of the Membership Strategic Plan written by Elena Yuasa was discussed. A Strategic Plan Committee is going to be established to finalize the plan. Elena was also elected as the RPEA Membership Director.

The General Assembly began at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 26. The Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra welcomed us and thanked RPEA for its endorsement because he is running for the state assembly. The other speaker was John Garamendi (who also is my congressman) spoke of the federal legislations that were passed to support the middle class.

In addition, we listened to a legislative panel that consisted of Randall Cheek, RPEA Director of Legislation; Aaron Read and Pat Moran. RPEA legislative advocates; and Steve Mavliglio, political consultant for the California Retirement Security organization. They informed us about the threat of several billionaires who would like to eliminate defined benefits like PERS and about the importance of RPEA because it advocates for the interest of its members. Two RPEA sponsored bills, SB 1168 raises the minimum statutory CalPERS postretirement benefit for local public agency employees from \$500 to \$2,000 and SB 850 ensures families of fallen officers receive their full survival benefits regardless of family structure, were passed by the legislators and signed by the governor. Please visit www.rpea.com for information on these two bills.

Lastly, two candidates were nominated from the floor, Thelma Lemar for Health Benefits Director and Marie Reed for Secretary/Treasurer. At the end of the day, we had a Delegates' Reception where we had the opportunity to meet other delegates.

On September 27, we had the opportunity to attend five workshops. I attended 1) Resolution 1, Chapter Dissolution Headquarter Cost Recovery; 2) Chapter Bylaws; 3) Emergency Resolution 2, RPEA Bylaws, Article II; 4) How to Recruit and Retain Members; and 5) Membership Recruitment. Both Resolution workshops had lively discussions on their issues and will be discussed further in this article. Since I believe that membership is the life blood of our organization, I attended the workshops on membership which were informative. Lastly, the Chapter Bylaws workshop presenter, Jim Anderson, provided us with a template of chapter bylaws that I will be sharing with the Solano Chapter board members. At the end of the day, we enjoyed a banquet and listened to pianist Lee Allen and danced to John Covert's Crystal Image Band.

On September 28, the ad hoc re CalPERS Issues Expert Committee Panel which consisted of the following individuals: David Soares, Michael Flaherman, Randall Cheek, JJ Jelincic, Rosemary Knox, Al Darby, and Abe Baily. They stressed the importance of having representatives on the CalPERS Board that are active participants and ask probing questions to protect the investments of CalPERS. Currently it appears that the current board goes along with whatever the CalPERS staff proposes. That is why we need to vote for Randall Cheek to serve on the CalPERS Board. He is in a run-off and will need RPEA members to vote for him.

The resolutions were discussed and voted on. Resolution 1 that dealt with the RPEA State office being reimbursed from dissolved chapters' funds. The split would be 45/55, state office/chapter. Resolution 2 that dealt with inserting this objective, "RPEA may fully participate in national and statewide coalitions, forums and organizations that protects the interest of all CalPERS members." Both resolutions ailed.

Jack Danielson, from AMBA, informed us of the services AMBA provides to RPEA members such as life insurance, long term care, Medicare supplement insurance, MASA (Medical Air Services Association) Emergency Transport Policy, annuity with long term care, dental and vision, cancer/heart/ stroke policy, tax-deferred annuity, and pet insurance. Please visit the AMBA website for information: www.amba.info.

The Candidates' Reception was held where we were met and spoke to the candidates who were running for President, Vice President, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

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On September 29, the last day of the assembly, we voted for the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The candidates were Rosemary Knox and JJ Jelincic for President; Al Darby and Loren Vetter for Vice President; and Catherine Jeppson and Marie Reed for Secretary/ Treasurer. Rosemary, Al and Catherine were elected.

It was an honor representing you at the 2022 General Assembly.

Rachel Maldonado Aziminia
Chapter Vice President

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY—by LOTTE SATHER

It was my honor to serve as your Chapter 35 delegate at General Assembly. We had a very informative and busy convention as Rachel has reported.

I attended 5 of the 23 possible 50 minute work shops on Tuesday and all general sessions. We did our work and learned.

Our Keynote Speaker was The Honorable John Garamendi .

Our newly elected Officers are : President Rosemary Knox; Vice President Al Darby; Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Jeppson; Director of Public Relations Scott McGookin; Director of Legislation Randall Cheek; Director of Membership Elena Yuasa; Director of Health Benefits Thelma Lemar.

Food and fellowship were terrific. The office staff was on hand and did a terrific job keeping food and activities running.

We had four Area 1 delegates. Pictured left to right, Susan Tamboury, Area 1 Director; Rachel Maldonado Aziminia Assistant Area 1 Director and Chapter 35 Vice President; Lotte Sather Chapter 35 delegate and Newsletter Editor; and Deann McCall delegate from Eureka.

Bob Sather did a good job keeping track of delegates as Master Sargent of Arms.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May we all celebrate the spirit of Christmas, which is Peace, the Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope, and the Heart of Christmas, which is Love.

Patricia McCarthy
Treasurer, Chapter 35

Dear fellow RPEA members,
I just want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Marlies Lenigk
Membership Chair

It was a pleasure to see several of our members at our August membership meeting since the worst of COVID. Hopefully the health of our country will continue to improve. I wish our members a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Rachel Maldonado Aziminia
Vice President

God Jul!
Bob Sather, Legislative Director

I hope everyone is well. Hope many of you will be able to attend our meeting - just to be out and visit again. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday!
Dorothy Hayes
President

Here's wishing that you all have a happy holiday season! I'm looking forward to our next meetings and am hoping more members will be able to attend. I've missed seeing everyone. Hope you have a happy and healthy New Year!

Sylvia Amen,
Chapter Secretary 707 319-8794

Happy Holidays
Mary Cecchini
Communications

Happy Holidays
Sandy Stone
Health and Welfare

Happy holidays to you all.
Hope you can share them with
Family and friends.
Lotte Sather
Newsletter Editor

