



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 35

October, November, December

Fall 2023

CHAPTER 35 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

12:00 NOON

Vallejo Moose Lodge
337 Nebraska Street, Vallejo

AGENDA:

- 12:00 - 12:30 Luncheon—Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings
- 12:30—1:30 Music by Mike Saliani and ; Diego Garcia
- 130 to 2:00 Chapter Business Meeting

Lunch is **FREE** !

Please RSVP to:
Rachel by calling 510 501-2104
or by email: rmaziminia@aol.com
no later than **October 31st**

Join us for lunch and bring a friend



CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2023-2024

Officers:

President & Assistant Area 1 Director:
Rachel Maldonado Aziminia 510 501-2104
Vice-President OPEN
Jr. Past President: Dorothy Hays 707 648-3212
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: Odessa Pinnock 707 864-8049
Membership: Marlies Lenigk 707 642-7985
Legislative: OPEN
Newsletter Editor: Lotte Sather 707 374-1384

Area 1 Director OPEN

SUNSHINE—HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Please contact Odessa, if you know of a member who needs a card. Call Odessa at 707 864-8049 or email ospinnock@gmail.com. Leave your name, the name of the member who needs the card and why. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

If you would like to receive your Chapter 35 newsletters by email, please send an email, including your full name, to Editor Lotte at rgransather@aol.com. If you can help with labeling and stuffing the 439 newsletters in envelopes, contact Lotte 707 384-1384

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2023 was my first year as president of the Solano Napa Chapter 35 and it has been an honor to serve as your chapter president. It has been a learning curve for me and I hope the new year will provide the opportunity for the board and me to try new things to better serve our members. In addition, it has been the first full year that we have met in person for each of our membership meetings. It has been great to see our members again and we hope to see more in 2024! For those of you who attended, we hope our guest speakers were beneficial and informational.

As a board, we have decided in 2024 to meet in different restaurants throughout Solano County since most of our members live in this county. But if there are several members in Napa County who are interested in having a meeting there, please let me know by calling me at 510-501-2104 or emailing me at rmaziminia@aol.com.

Lastly, I wish all our members a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends. And may you all have Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas! And may the New Year bring peace and prosperity.

Rachel Maldonado Aziminia
Chapter President

.DAY TRIPS REPORT FROM PRESIDENT RACHEL

The Napa Senior Center isn't providing tours at this time, stopped offering them since COVID. But I am providing information on a tour provided by:

Joseph Nelson Community Center

611 Village Drive, Suisun
(707) 421-7200

Local Tour Tuesday, Dec.12--Senior Holiday Lights Tour, 5-6:30 pm, \$2.00 per person.

See beautiful holiday light displays in Suisun City, Fairfield, and Vacaville. Advanced registration and payment are required. On the day of the tour, meet at the Joseph Nelson Community Center Parking Lot at 4:30pm and all will take the city van. Contact the center for further information.



INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON RPEA. COM

You should all receive the magazine sent from Headquarters bi-monthly.

If you need up to date information, go to the website "RPEA.com". You can get all the current information on RPEA, CalPERS, Amba, Volunteering,, Blogs with good information, recipes, the COLA increase due May 1st, update on Long Term Care settlement, and much more. To enter the Members only section, you have to have a login. Instructions are there.

AMBA provides discounts as well as many types of insurance. Contact information is on the website.

THANKSGIVING AT PLYMOUTH

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the "New World." After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

History Channel

MINUTES
RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION – CHAPTER 035

The quarterly meeting of Chapter 035 of the Retired Public Employees' Association was held on **August 9, 2023**, at the Vallejo Moose Lodge.

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia at 12:52 p.m. Nineteen members and guests were present. All Officers and Directors were present except for Communications Director, Mary Cecchini and Newsletter Editor Lotte Sather.

President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced member, Bob Hepner and his guest Connie Tapp. She also introduced first time attendees, Wayne Johnson and Carrie Hubbard from Napa, and Charles Kitts from Fairfield. She announced that today's luncheon and the luncheon at our November meeting will be free. Rachel will be contacting the Solano Community College Music Department to see if they would be able to perform at our November meeting.

Our first guest speaker was Loran Vetter, Chair of the RPEA volunteer committee. She writes a column in our RPEA Newsletter trying to explain the importance of volunteering. There is a misconception that public employment retirees don't deserve their pension because they didn't work hard enough for it. In order to change public opinion and the opinion of our legislators, we need to show how much we're putting back into the community. She is keeping a list of where our members are volunteering and how many hours they are putting in. The Federal Government has established a value of \$37.32 for every hour that we volunteer. Using that figure, less than 1% of our RPEA members have reported \$1,953,000.00 worth of volunteer time to her. To report volunteer hours, there is a form on the RPEA website, or Loran can be contacted at givesback@rpea.com.

Our second speaker was Elena Yuasa, Director of Membership for RPEA. She talked about recruiting new members by letting them know that RPEA does a lot of work behind the scenes to protect our pensions and health benefits. There is a Legislative Committee that reviews all the bills that affect retirees. We need to talk about RPEA to let potential members know what to expect. To retain members, we need to listen to them to see what their needs are. She suggested one way to recruit was to send a link to RPEA's website to show all the work that is being done on our behalf.

President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia reported that she was invited to attend a CalPERS Benefits Education event in Eureka on behalf of RPEA.

The minutes of the May 17, 2023, Quarterly Meeting were approved as posted in the Newsletter.

Treasurer Patricia McCarthy reported that our beginning balance for this past quarter was \$26,604.87. We had income of \$1,433.80 and expenses of \$1,029.73, leaving an ending balance as of the end of July of \$27,008.94.

Membership Director Marlies Lenigk reported that we currently have 503 members.

Health & Welfare Director Odessa Pinnock reported that she sent Get Well cards to Dorothy Hays, Lynn Ancheta and Shirley Dingley.

Old Business: Copies of the proposed bylaws changes were handed out to all members present. President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia pointed out that the new language was in red, and a strike out indicated the old language. Jim Anderson, Chair of the state Bylaws Committee provided a template for what our bylaws should be like. If you have any questions, you can text, email, or call Rachel. We will vote on the proposed changes at our November meeting.

New Business:

President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia suggested that we create a committee to discuss 1-day outings for our members, such as to a winery, or to the theater or the movies. Eleana Yuasa suggested that we consider partnering with our local Senior Center. Membership Director Marlies Lenigk volunteered to contact them to see what is available.

Our luncheon today was free. In November, our holiday luncheon will also be free. The Board will be discussing what to charge for future meals at their next meeting. If you have an opinion on how much should be charged, please contact Rachel and let her know.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be on **November 8, 2023**.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

SYLVIA AMEN, Secretary



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Hope your holidays are safe, happy, and healthy!
Best wishes for the New Year too!
Sylvia Amen, Secretary

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Mary Cecchini, Communications Director

I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and
all that is the best in the New Year!
Dorothy Hays, Immediate Past President

Just wishing all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.
Marlies Lenigk, Membership Chair

Happy Holidays to All and Sincere Wishes for a Prosperous New Year!
Patricia McCarthy, Treasurer

Blessings to you and your family during this holiday season and
Best wishes for a new year of Peace, Love and Joy.
Odessa Pinnock, Health & Welfare (Sunshine) Director

Wishing you a happy holiday season with family and friends
and a happy and healthy new year!
Lotte Sather, Newsletter Editor