

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

ORANGE COUNTY

May, June
and July,
2021

RPEA CHAPTER 040

ESTABLISHED JULY 31, 1972

MARGARET BROWN, CALPERS BOARD MEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 via ZOOM at 1:00 pm.

Please mark your calendar to join us for our Chapter 40 General meeting. Look for an email invitation from lorne2000@gmail, with the link to join the meeting. Please update your email address.



THE PREZ SEZ

Hello Chapter 40 members, I trust you are well, and in good spirits in spite of the challenges of COVID-19. Warmer days and cloudy skies of "June gloom" is upon us with anticipation that better days are ahead.

It has been a year since we've been "sheltering in-place" due to Covid restrictions and other measures instituted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). I trust that all of our members have been vaccinated and are on the way to some degree of normalcy. The CDC has reported that vaccines are available to all persons 12 years and older, with more than 200 million vaccinated. As of this writing, according to CDC, vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask in open spaces. That's Great news!

In anticipation of resuming in-person contact in open settings, several board members have been researching venues for our future luncheon meetings. Our usual restaurant, Hometown Buffet has permanently closed. We intend to have a suitable venue for our meetings by the time the CDC restrictions have been lifted.

On a somber note, it is with a deep sense of loss and regret I report the passing of two of our longtime Chapter 40 members, Jeraldine Teresa O'Keefe and Gerald William O'Keefe (Jeri and

Jerry). Jerry was preceded in death by his wife Jeri, who made her transition 17 days prior to Jerry's passing. Jerry O'Keefe was a past chapter president who served unselfishly, giving of his time and talents to the success of Chapter 40. Both O'Keefes are to be commended for their many years of devoted service to our Chapter and to RPEA. They will be sorely missed by all.

RPEA state board has scheduled the next General Assembly (GA) for September 26-29, 2022.

Margaret Brown, who is running to be re-elected to the CalPERS Board, is our scheduled guest speaker for our next virtual June meeting. Margaret is a member of our chapter 40.

An email will be sent with the necessary link to join the meeting. Please make certain that we have your current email address. If you are unable to join the zoom meeting, you may be assured our newsletter will update you on the chapter's events and programs.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 1 PM. All meetings will be on zoom until further notice. Stay well and be safe.

Ivory Webb, President

RPEA MISSION: 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 and medical benefits.

IN MEMORIAM

Jeraldine O'Keefe
1942-2021

Gerald O'Keefe
1941-2021



An Irish Blessing

*May the roads rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand*

.....

"He was my mentor. . ."

I met Jeri and Jerry O'keefe in the year 2010, Jerry, at this time, was serving as President of Chapter 040 and Mrs Jeri was also serving as a board officer.

During this time is when I became a member of the chapter. Jerry and Jeri worked very hard to perform their office positions with faithfulness, integrity, dedication, and love.

Jerry and Jeri, were a very dear couple to me. Jerry taught me to be proud, work hard and to be involved in the many opportunities we have to serve as an officer of RPEA.

I learned so much from them, and could say many more good and positive things about them but most importantly I want to say that I loved them and I miss them very much.

— Estela Merkosky

IN MEMORIAM

It saddens us that our memoriam list is so much longer than that of our new members. We send our condolences to the families of those listed.

- Burbink, Albert — Anaheim
- Hunter, Paul — Yorba Linda
- Hunter, Sara — Yorba Linda
- Ibarra, Aurea — Corona
- MacDonald, Charlotte — Anaheim
- Moll, Ramona — Santa Ana
- Nguyen, Joseph — Santa Ana
- O'Keefe, Gerald — Anaheim
- O'Keefe, Jeraldine — Anaheim
- Watson, Joanne — Anaheim



We welcome our new members, and hope to meet you virtually at our June meeting.

- Abdou, Elhami — Yorba Linda
- Bednarski, Christina, — Fountain Valley
- Castro, Bertha — Santa Ana
- Gallo, Fortino — Santa Ana
- Swaim, Alice — Santa Ana



**Minutes of General Meeting RPEA
Chapter 040, March 10, 2021**

President Ivory Webb called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Guest Speaker: Viola Sadler introduced guest speaker Martha Franco, representing Smart Cremation, a company offering a pre-planning choice for death decisions. Her discussion explained the difference between advanced planning versus last minute decisions at time of death, covering timelines, dignified treatment of the deceased, choice of disposal of cremains, ease of use for the survivors, portability, cost, guarantee, and cancellation policy. Members had many questions for Martha, which were all answered satisfactorily.

Minutes: Secretary Bea North read aloud the Minutes for the General Meeting on December 9, 2020 and the Board Meeting on January 13, 2021. Motion to accept the Minutes by Viola Sadler; second by Estela Merkosky. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer John Jago reported on our account as of February 28, 2021, and that there were currently 533 members. John also reported that it is better to renew the CD for only six months instead of one year. Overall CD rates are expected to be more favorable in six months and he can renew for a longer period at that time. Motion by Viola Sadler; second by Mercedes Smith to amend the motion on January 13, 2021 to renew the CD for six months instead of one year. Motion passed.

Membership Report: Membership Chair Bill Todd confirmed current membership at 533.

Old Business: There was general discussion of difficulties reaching members electronically in order to invite them to attend Zoom meetings since many email addresses supplied by RPEA are no longer valid. Estela volunteered to contact Headquarters about the issue and identify the invalid email addresses so that they can be deleted. Viola will continue to put a message in each Chapter 040 Newsletter encouraging members to update their emails with RPEA.

New Business: At the Board meeting on January 12, 2021, there was discussion on guest speakers for future General meetings, one being to invite Margaret Brown, member of the CALPERS Board of Administration. Viola was recently contacted by Karen Rossi of the Orange County Council on Aging, offering a program on "financial wellness" for seniors. All present were interested in having both as speakers at future meetings. Viola volunteered to contact both persons and schedule them for June or September, according to their availability.

President Webb announced the death of longtime member Jeri O'Keefe, wife of Past President Jerry O'Keefe. Mrs. O'Keefe will be missed by all.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:51 PM by motion of Bea North; second by Lorne Merkosky. Motion passed.

Bea North, Secretary



**Minutes of Board Meeting RPEA
Chapter 040, April 14, 2021**

President Ivory Webb called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Minutes: Secretary Bea North read aloud the Minutes for the March 10, 2021 General Membership Meeting. Motion and second to accept the Minutes by Viola Sadler and Estela Merkosky. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer John Jago reported the total in all accounts as of March 31, 2021, with 531 members. Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report by Estela Merkosky and Bea North. Motion passed.

Membership Report: Membership Chair Bill Todd confirmed 531 members.

Old Business: Estela reported attending a luncheon meeting with Area VIII Director Kathleen Collins, new Area VIII Assistant Director Elena Yuasa and members from other Chapters. Kathleen reported a Policy File change regarding refunding of dues, and a change in the confidentiality/non-disclosure agreement.

John reported he is continuing to check restaurants for group dining for future meetings.

Viola has booked speakers for the next two General Membership meetings: Margaret Brown as speaker for June, and a speaker on "Financial Wellness" from the Orange County Council on Aging in September.

Discussion continued on the issue of verifying correct email contacts for Chapter members.

New Business: Ivory presented the current RPEA Building Maintenance Account Donations Report. Participation will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by consensus. The next General Membership meeting will be Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM. The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 1:00 PM. All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

Bea North, Secretary

HUMOR

THOSE SENIOR MOMENTS

It is better to grow old with a sense of humor than with no sense at all.

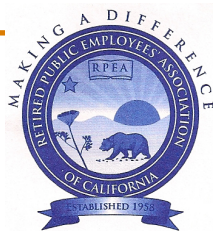
Does anyone else put things in a safe place and then forget where the safe place is?

My doctor is concerned about my high blood pressure. I told him next time don't leave me sitting in the waiting room two hours.

Until the Covid pandemic, I had not realized how many things I can do in my pajamas.

I told you I don't have Alzheimer's. What I have is Some-timers. Sometimes I remember and sometimes I don't.

THIS AND THAT: HERE'S WHAT WE HEAR FROM HEADQUARTERS



● RPEA President Rosemary Knox announced the cancellation of RPEA's 2020 General Assembly (GA) which had been postponed until March 2021.

In hopes that the pandemic phases out restrictions, the next biennially GA has been scheduled for September 26-29, 2022 at the Hilton Arden West in Sacramento. Norma Rose has been appointed to head the GA Committee.

- Marie Reed has resigned her position as Secretary-Treasurer. Abe Baily was elected and installed as Treasurer, and Roger Klaves is now the Area VII Director.
- Margaret Brown received the official RPEA endorsement for re-election to the position she currently holds on the CALPERS Board.
- The RPEA Board felt that there is a need to protect our membership mailing list from being mishandled if mailing projects are outsourced to a printer and/or mail house. Since our chapter uses a printer/mail house for mailing projects, we need to have the printer/mail house sign a Confidential and Nondisclosure Agreement (CDNA) to protect our mailing list.

After the document has been countersigned we keep a copy and send a copy to headquarters.

- Harvey Robinson, Past RPEA President and Health Director passed away on Valentine's Day from COVID complications. Al Darby wrote a

beautiful eulogy in the state RPEA Newsletter.

- The Headquarters Office Staff is now three: Radtana Lee, Office Manager; Corey Saeteurn, Assistant Office Manager; and Teena Stone, Member Services Secretary.
- NO REFUNDS POLICY:
An update to the RPEA Policy File (rev. 04/2021). This update reflects the following changes passed by the Board of Directors at the October 2020 meeting: A new Section 2.5 has been added regarding active member requesting membership cancellation and refund policy.

"Those members choosing 'Cash Pay' or payment by credit card who wish to cancel their membership note – no refunds for a discontinued membership will be issued after 30 days from date of payment. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on an individual basis, depending upon the circumstances. Members wishing to cancel a dues deduction membership must send a written request to Headquarters office. Such request will be forwarded to CalPERS and the date of such cancellation will be noted in the member's record."

- Make it a point to visit the RPEA website and click on the different options. Read the newsletters from other chapters to see how they are coping with the pandemic. Stay informed on what is going on in the legislature. www.rpea.com



RPEA ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER 040
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Go to: www.rpea.com



ZOOM MEETING
JUNE 9, 2021 AT 1:00 PM
MARGARET BROWN FROM
CALPERS BOARD GUEST SPEAKER

If you don't have an invitation by
June 4, 2021, please contact Lorne
at: lorne2000@gmail.com

GO PAPERLESS.
SAVE US MONEY.

We can email this letter to you
if you let Viola Sadler know.
Email me at vrsadler@aol.com.

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