



We are active and retired California Public Employees working together to maintain the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and improving retirement, medical and other benefits

Mission Statement

Retired Public Employees Association Of California Chapter 46 North San Mateo County

In Touch!

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The Prez says.....by Anita Alvarez

Yes, sadly, our October 14, end of year RPEA Chapter 46 meeting/luncheon is cancelled due to Covid 19.

It is still hard to fathom that 2020 is virtually on its way out. We are still shut down by a pandemic, Corona Virus that began elsewhere in late December, arrived in the U.S. and by MARCH, it rapidly took over the United States and the World. Coupled with our late response, here we are in late August, with cases still blooming, deaths tolls rising, businesses shut-down, high unemployment and people stuck at home to avoid catching the virus. The only prevention we have available to us is the same response we had to the 1918 flu

pandemic; Stay isolated, wear masks, and stay six feet apart! Until testing for all is available, and a vaccine is available, the virus does not clearly have an end in sight.

As if that is not enough, we are currently fighting the worst firestorms in California history. There were hundreds of fires started by lightning up and down the state on August 15, 2020 and hundreds have lost their homes. There are civil unrest protests and riots, due to unjust shootings by police that do not solve problems but make things worse. To change things for the good of the nation and our people, we must vote in the most important election in our lives. Please be sure to vote on November 3.

I am truly sorry for all of you that have been hurt by these events and I wish you Godspeed for a speedy recovery and good health.

During this past quarter, the RPEA, President Al Darby inexplicably resigned from the RPEA during the month of July. RPEA then appointed our Vice President,

Rosemary Knox as President, and when Al was able to return in August, he became Vice President of RPEA. He plans to run for the office of Vice-President for the coming two years. We wish you well Al, and we are glad you're back! The RPEA bi-annual General Assembly has been postponed until March 29 to April 1, 2021. The meeting planning is on-going, but the General Elections will soon take place in September as previously scheduled.

In the meantime, recruit, recruit, recruit!
Please stay with us and keep in touch!

Scam DuJour..... by Dan Porter

LOCKSMITHS SCAMS-The Better Business Bureau reports that recently there have been a number of reported locksmith scams that are easy to pull off as most people overlook red flags because of the desperation of being locked out of home or car. To avoid any issue when locked out at home, consider getting a couple of recommendations from neighbors of locksmiths they know as one may not be available in your time of need. Or, go to BBB.org, and search for Better Business Bureau listing of Accredited locksmiths in your area. When at a distance from your home, consider placing the BBB link that will inform you of local businesses that have credible history of service. As to locksmith scamming, there are a variety of ways that these are done starting with the creation of ads that mimic legit businesses, offering services for low costs on the phone that are replaced by much higher prices when at your residence, etc. BBB recommends that in the contact phone call, get a firm commitment on the price of the service call (time and mileage) and get a written quote before work is started. Keep in mind that locksmiths have the skills to pick locks, and most alleged needs to drill the lock are generally a precursor to selling up-priced replacements along with recommended over-priced equipment.

PET SCAMS - As the pandemic continues to plague this Country and as significant reduction of outside activities will be strongly recommended for more time, some people have considered the potential positive impact of easing the isolation by having a puppy or kitten. Scammers are taking advantage of this by creating bogus online offers of cute pets that they do not have, and, of course, will never ship. The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker has recorded 2,166 scams in past few months up from 700 for the same period last year. (BBB has stated that the actual number probably is higher as some victims do not know about the Tracker or are too embarrassed to report.) These deceptions now comprise 24% of online scams. The loss to victims also has risen from an average of \$600 to \$700 this year. As the result of an in-depth study in 2017, BBB has expressed an opinion that a majority of sponsored links are bogus. Thus, their recommendation is to adopt a pet from an animal shelter. - If someone you know has had a good experience getting a pet from a breeder, that should be considered.

BIG PRIZE SCAMS--With the current financial difficulties for people, the Federal Trade Commission is once again warning that scammers have dusted off the con of unsuspecting persons falling for the phone call that the person has won the Publishers Clearing House or some other well-known organization grand prize or a car or a house or a monthly amount of money for life or any other fantastic prize. All the person needs to do is to pay a "processing fee," "taxes," or "shipping and handling charges," to claim the prize. Those alleged needed payments can be made by giving a credit card number or doing a money transfer from your checking account or mailing a check or sending a gift card.

First, FTC warns not to trust caller ID appearing on the phone screen as Scammers can make any name or number show up on the screen. Next, legitimate sweepstakes do not make you pay a fee to get any prize.