

April - May 2019



Oh 63 News!

Retired Public Employees' Association of California
Chapter 063 – Indio Southern California Area VI



*Put a spring in your step and come along to
our May luncheon!*

When? Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Friday, May 17, 2019

*You're
invited!*

Where? Heritage Palms Clubhouse
44291 Heritage Palms Drive South, Indio
(Just tell the gate attendant you're attending the luncheon.)

Program: "Healthy Longevity" with Dr. Joseph Scherger, MD, MPH
(See page 2 for additional details.)

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY MAY 10. When you RSVP, please give the name (with correct spelling) and phone number for each attendee. Phone Carl Thibeault at (760) 459-3174 or email thibeaultfc@earthlink.net.

What's on the agenda? A delicious lunch (compliments of RPEA), friendly conversation, an interesting program, updates on legislation, and drawings for door prizes. It's an opportunity to stay informed, meet new people and enjoy a pleasant time.

**KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING RPEA?
PLEASE SHARE THIS INVITATION.**

MAY LUNCHEON PROGRAM:**HEALTHY LONGEVITY**

Our May luncheon program will explore the topic "Healthy Longevity." We are indeed fortunate to have as our guest speaker **Dr. Joseph E. Scherger** who is Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC). Author of more than 500 medical publications and the book **LEAN AND FIT: A DOCTOR'S JOURNEY TO HEALTHY NUTRITION AND GREATER WELLNESS**, he has given over 1,000 invited presentations. With a prestigious medical resume and awards too numerous to list here, Dr. Scherger brings a wealth of information and insight to a topic important to all of us!



Dr. Joseph E. Scherger, MD, MPH
Vice President for Primary Care
Eisenhower Medical Center
Rancho Mirage

welcome

NEW CHAPTER 63 MEMBERS!

PATRICIA BROOKMAN	Wyoming
RUBEN CORDOVA	Blythe
SUSAN DANGLES	La Quinta
MARIE DOTY	Illinois
JUAN MIRELES	Palm Desert
MARY MIRELES	Palm Desert
RUTH STANKIEWICZ	Alabama
WILLIAM VECK	Palm Desert
EVELYN WILSON	Indio

*In Remembrance.....*

Janet Elliott
Cathedral City

Thad Foster
Arizona

Regina Hoffman
Rancho Mirage

Jose Torres
Coachella

CHAPTER 063 CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT	Carl Thibeault	760-459-3174
VICE PRESIDENT	Wendy Allaire	760-347-3663
SECRETARY	Margo Thibeault	760-459-3174
TREASURER	Richard Davis	760-347-8253
EDITOR	Linda Stonebreaker	951-784-1060
AREA DIRECTOR	Jim Anderson	951-212-8281

We are California public employees who are working together to maintain and improve the quality of our members' lives by protecting and improving our retirement and medical benefits. RPEA members include retirees, beneficiaries, currently-employed public employees, friends, family members, and others who share our goals. We welcome everyone!

CalPERS Investment Committee Rejects Tobacco Reinvestment Again

The CalPERS investment committee has rejected a proposal to consider reinvesting in tobacco stocks. Proposed by board member Jason Perez and supported by Margaret Brown and Dana Hollinger, the 13-member committee voted it down.

"I don't smoke, but my charge isn't to worry about people's health, it's about making sure the fund is making the returns that it is supposed to," Perez has stated in interviews. "If it's legal, in no way connected to terrorism, and it's profitable, we should be in it." He believes "the big tobacco companies are just waiting for Trump to make weed legal and they're going to start jumping into that stuff."

CalPERS' general investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, had previously concluded that the investment committee's decision to divest from tobacco stocks had cost around \$3.6 billion in profits between 2001 and the end of 2016. More recently, however, a downturn in the prices of tobacco stocks would have meant a loss of around \$500 million for the pension system in 2017 and the first half of 2018 [if CalPERS had remained invested in those stocks] Wilshire reported at the March 19 meeting.

"We are currently losing money on tobacco, [if CalPERS had reinvested]. I don't see any point in buying in at this point," board member Theresa Taylor advised, saying the committee should stick to its original 2016 plan to do a "deep dive" on tobacco divestment once every five years, or in 2021. Anti-smoking groups obviously oppose a product which is seriously dangerous to health.

Source: Randy Diamond. CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICE. ai-cio. 9 April 2019.



California Supreme Court Upholds Repeal of "Airtime" Benefit

In the case involving purchase of extra years of service credit, justices decided unanimously that employees never had a contractual right to that benefit and thus it is not constitutionally protected. It was not a vested right; the credit was not deferred compensation for work.

The court decided not to touch the controversial "California Rule" [the right of a public employee to accrue the same level of pension benefits throughout his/her career.] There is continuing pressure to weaken this rule. The Chief Justice explicitly said she was not taking a position on the question of whether pension terms could be changed going forward for years not worked. However, this is only the first in a series of six pending pension disputes. The next case, from Alameda, Contra Costa and Merced counties, challenges a 2012 law that placed restrictions on what can be used to calculate pensions [applied to vested pre-reform employees, not just new hires]. One example would be on-call pay as salary. The other cases involve workers who lost benefits because they were convicted of job-related felonies and six judges who want higher benefits because they had been elected but took office after reform legislation went into effect.

Sources: Daniel Borenstein. "Supreme Court Punts on Pension Rule." MERCURY NEWS. 5 March 2019; Maura Dolan. "Calif. Supreme Court Curbs A Benefit but Preserves 'California Rule.'" LA TIMES. 4 March 2019; Bob Egelko. "California High Court Rules." SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE. 4 March 2019; Katy Grimes. "Court Cuts Pension 'Air Time' but Preserves 'California Rule.'" CALIFORNIA GLOBE. 4 March 2019; Ed Mendel. "New Pension-cut Rulings Begin with Little Change." CALPENSIONS. 11 March 2019; Chris Reed. "Court Ruling Praised by Both Sides of Pension Debate." CALWATCHDOG. 11 March 2019.



Retired Public Employees' Association
RPEA Chapter 063 – Indio
301 West Santa Catalina Rd.
Palm Springs, CA 92262



REMINDER

Please put up-coming RPEA luncheons on your 2019 calendar. Dates will be confirmed prior to meetings:

May 17

September 20

November 15

An old Cherokee told his grandson, "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy and truth."

The boy thought about it and asked him, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."

**BEFORE
B-E-F-O-R-E
NOT B4.
WE SPEAK ENGLISH,
NOT BINGO.**

I'm not lazy
I'm just on my
energy
saving mode