



RPEANews

Retired Public Employees Association of California
Chapter 064 ■ Newport Beach, California

DECEMBER 2020



PRESIDENT'S Message

Hello everyone! I hope you are doing well, and congratulations for surviving COVID-19 and this pandemic year. My heartfelt concerns and condolences if you, or a family member have been impacted. 2020 has not been an easy time for any of us; I am optimistic 2021 will be better.



Dan Heredia
Chapter
President

A lot has been going on in Sacramento. If you receive and read RPEA Bi-Monthly magazine you know that Henry Jones, CalPERS BOARD President and RPEA representative was asked to immediately resign due to highly questionable behavior. And CalPERS Chief Financial Officer Ben Meng and CalPERS CEO Marcie Frost were trying to keep violations a secret. Without going into extreme detail, come to our last Membership Brunch of the year on Saturday, December 12, 2020 to learn more.

Our meeting venue, The Chicken Coop, can currently accommodate our group with appropriate social distancing measures. It will be wonderful to see you all again—even if it will be through a mask! If conditions change, I will notify you using robocall. (Read the article below for all the specifics for our party.)

Enjoy live music (yay!) great food and camaraderie at our annual holiday brunch

It's been awhile since we've been able to get together, so make a plan to get out of the house for some good company and tasty bites at our HOLIDAY BRUNCH BASH.

We will have the Z Bops providing 50's, 60's, Doo-Wop, R&B, Swing and Rock & Roll to cheer us up and bring the spirit of the holidays back! Make your reservation today and see you there!



**Saturday
December 12,
2020
10:30 a.m.
Cost: Only \$5
(FREE for curious
first-time attendees!
Spread the word)**

**THE CHICKEN COOP
414 Old Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach**

**Reservations are required.
Please RSVP to Pat Jones at
(949) 548-8987 by
December 10, 2020. Clearly
state your name and
number in your party.**

**The Z BOPS are local favorites
who perform at venues like the
American Legion, Elks Lodge
and the Harp Inn.**

CA Supreme Court refuses to hear Marin County pension case that could have slashed benefits

In a reversal, the California Supreme Court declined to take up the Marin County pension case (*Marin Association of Public Employees vs. Marin County Employees' Retirement Association*) and instead sent it back to the lower appellate court for final disposition. The court did so after ruling on a similar case earlier this year.

The previous case, *Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Association vs. Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association*, upheld the 'California Rule' which prohibits public agencies from reducing pensions of public employees.



RPEA provided friend of the court 'amicus briefs' that were submitted to the California Supreme Court in support of the California Rule.

Had the Supreme Court heard the Marin County case—and ruled in favor of the pension system—pension provisions could have been reduced for working public employees because the law would have been changed to allow pensions to only be "reasonable."

This precedent would permit public agencies to change pension provisions, which could reduce pension value over time – a reversal of the "California Rule."

Two other cases sent back to appellate courts remain as potential threats to the 'California Rule' however. Both of these cases were rejected by the high court based on the Alameda Decision, but there is a different issue in them that must be re-litigated in the appellate court. It's possible that they could be appealed to the California Supreme Court again.

You can be assured that RPEA is monitoring these cases to protect the income of our members.

Al Darby
RPEA Vice President

Please visit www.rpea.com for up to date information and how RPEA can help you or, any public employee you know who has yet to retire.



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MEMBER CORNER



As of October 2020:

378

Chapter Members

24,000

Statewide Members

Stay in the loop! For any
changes in your contact
information, please
email Dan Heredia at
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or call the Sacramento
office at: (916) 441-7732

STUDY SHOWS DECLINE IN AWARENESS, TREATMENT AND CONTROL OF HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

After nearly 15 years on an upward trend, awareness among Americans about high blood pressure and how to control and treat it is now on the decline, according to a new study. Even with the help of blood pressure medications, some groups, including older adults, are less likely than they were in earlier years to adequately control their blood pressure, the research found. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 108 million Americans have hypertension.

The authors found that in 1999-2000, just 70% of participants showed an awareness of their condition. That number increased steadily to 85% in 2013-2014, but declined to 77% in 2017-2018. Of those "aware" adults, the number who also were taking blood pressure medications remained relatively consistent—85% in 1999-2000, 89% in 2013-2014, and 88% in 2017-2018.

"The reversal in hypertension awareness is a real set back in the fight to reduce heart disease and stroke," said Paul Muntner, Ph.D., the lead study author who also is professor and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "While lifestyle factors are big contributors to hypertension, awareness and appropriate treatment are key to lowering blood pressure and keeping it in a healthy range to greatly reduce the risk for heart disease and stroke."

Of all adults with high blood pressure, the number who managed to control their condition increased from 32% in 1999-2000 to 54% in 2013-2014, but then declined to 44% in 2017-2018. Of those adults with controlled blood pressure, the number taking blood pressure medication increased from 53% in 1999-2000 to 72% in 2013-2014, then declined to 65% in 2017-2018.

Between 2015 to 2018, adults age 60 and older, as well as Black Americans as a group, were less likely than adults ages 18 to 44 and whites as a group to have controlled blood pressure. But participants with Medicaid as their health insurance were more likely to have their blood pressure under control than those without health insurance.

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Street>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip Code>>

Details & Other News INSIDE

- You're invited to our holiday brunch BASH
- CA Supreme Court refuses to hear pivotal pension case

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