



## RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Chico Chapter 077

### FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

**Mission Statement:**

*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 earned retirement, medical, and other benefits. RPEA represents the rank and file retired public employees.*

Sharon Salcido, Editor – 530-893-0181 – [sharonsalcidofromchico@gmail.com](mailto:sharonsalcidofromchico@gmail.com)

Matters concerning your address should be directed to Barbara Evans – [barbevans37@aol.com](mailto:barbevans37@aol.com) – 530-342-4783

RPEA Chapter 077 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6415, Chico, CA 95927-6415

Chapter Website: [www.rpeachapter77.com](http://www.rpeachapter77.com)

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 – 11:15 A.M.  
NASH'S RESTAURANT  
1717 ESPLANADE, CHICO

**Lunch Cost:** \$20 (Plated Lunch)

**MENU:** Alfredo Penne Pasta with Chicken or Vegetarian entrée without Chicken. The entrées will be accompanied by a small green salad and sourdough bread. A non-alcoholic beverage will be included.

**RSVP:** Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or Email her at [betsybikes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:betsybikes@sbcglobal.net)

**Reservation Deadline:** Sunday, January 28

**NOTE:** Please let Betsy know your entrée choice when you make your reservation and inform her if you have any dietary restrictions.

**SPEAKER:**

William "Bill" Bosch, President  
Northwest Lineman College



**TOPIC:**

*"Introduction to the Northwest Lineman College"*

Northwest Lineman College is an industry-leading educational institute, providing training and consultation services globally. Through training, this college helps thousands have safe and rewarding careers in power delivery. Lineworkers answer the call to power our nation every day by operating, maintaining, and constructing a safe and reliable electrical grid. Foundational training is obtained in 15 weeks. Campuses are in California, Texas, Idaho, and Florida. Additional information can be obtained on [www.lineman.edu](http://www.lineman.edu).

### NEW MEETING VENUE

Our Chapter 077 meeting on January 4 was held for the first time at Nash's Restaurant (1717 Esplanade), and we have received positive feedback on our new venue. We had a private room off the bar, and the door was shut after our meeting began so we could have a quiet setting. Our delicious lunches were plated and served by the wait staff who were very attentive. We want to remind you to give Betsy your entrée choice when making your reservation. There is a vegetarian option available along with the main entrée. Nash's provided us with colored tokens to indicate your meal choice which you will receive when you check in and pay your \$20 to Joan. Our meals include non-alcoholic beverages, and drink orders were taken upon our arrival. Nash's is happy to have our business and is eager to please. If you attended the January 4 meeting, please give us your feedback, and let us know if you have any suggestions.

## **The Budget Fix**

On January 10 Governor Newsom revealed his plan to deal with the \$39.9 Billion shortfall in the State's submitted budget. During more prosperous times, when the State was raking in income tax dollars at a higher rate, several costly programs were set up for funding. Now there will be delays, postponements, and alterations affecting early childhood education, school facilities, clean energy, transit and intercity rail. Climate change, behavioral health housing, and new charging stations may also be affected.

The Governor's budget fix dips into the State's reserve fund, withdrawing \$13 Billion. If he uses \$10.4 Billion, it will be necessary to declare "fiscal emergency." Apparently, he hopes to avoid or put that off for now.

Governor Newsom has rejected suggestions about raising taxes on the wealthy. Chris Hoene, Director of the Budget and Policy Center, states "California is home to great wealth...resistance to raising revenue and making the tax system more fair poses a risk of cuts to essential services." (Sac Bee 1/11/2024)

The Republican lawmakers, including our Assemblyman, James Gallagher, have accused the Governor of "Unsustainable spending." (Sac Bee 1/11/2024).

In the weeks ahead, we can expect dismay (the Governor may delay promised raises for health-care workers), annoyance (no new drinking fountains at schools), and heartburn (the State's newly emerged AL industry may lack governmental regulation).

This will be an ongoing saga....

As of January 14, 11 Statewide ballot propositions have qualified for the ballot. Prop. 1 is designed to make changes to the State's Mental Health Services Act, to issue bonds for funding, and integrate housing into needed treatment for veterans and homeless. It is widely supported, except by the Jarvis organization and Carl Demaio. (Yes, Jim Gregg.... Demaio is still at it!)

There are also 7 citizen initiatives, and the State legislature voted to send 4 constitutional amendments to the ballot. Voters should receive mail-in ballots and voter information in ample time for study in February.

## **Retail Thieves Targeted**

In 2014 Proposition 47 was approved by voters in an effort to expand criminal justice by softening the penalties for drug and property crimes. Now it is clear, as Assemblyman James Gallagher said, "Cite and release doesn't work" (E-R 1/10/2023). The Governor is tasking the lawmakers to come up with new legislation. Will it really be new legislation or a fix on Prop 47?

## **Blocked Again**

The new law banning firearms in most public places has been blocked by a lawsuit by the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

## **Tax Season Is Upon Us**

The *AARP Bulletin* has an article on IRS changes. A married couple, filing jointly, both 65 and older, would have a standard deduction of \$32,300. Consult your tax professional or Turbo Tax!

*Dear Readers, we hope the New Year is off to a good start for you, and we hope to see you at the member luncheons this Spring! Mary*