



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Chico Chapter 077

MAY 2023 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.*

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023 – 11:15 AM

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON

685 MANZANITA COURT, CHICO

(Formerly Holiday Inn across from Denny's)
Mangrove Avenue/ Cohasset Road offramp off Hwy. 99

LUNCH COST: \$18

**RSVP: Betsy Kruger (530-345-7563) or
email her at betsybikes@sbcglobal.net**

**NOTE: Please let Betsy know if you have any dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.
Vegetarian requests will be accommodated.**

SPEAKER:

Loran Vetter

**RPEA Community Involvement Chair
Member of Chapter 043 – Yolo County**

TOPIC:

“The ABC’s of Volunteering”

(Also known as “WIFM” – What’s in it for me!)

Every time we volunteer somewhere, it makes a difference in the community. Many of you volunteer and reap personal satisfaction out of it, but you don’t look at the ways it can be used to protect our pensions and benefits. For many of us, service is part of our nature, and we continue to provide service in our retirement. You have an opportunity to pay it forward by reporting volunteer activities that you are doing. In 2020, with approval of the State Executive Board, Loran began a program named “RPEA Gives Back.” You are encouraged to provide RPEA with your volunteer activities. A form is available at rpea.com. It can be downloaded, filled out, and returned to the address on the bottom or filled out and submitted online.

Volunteering

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (Volunteers for Public Service)

In counting volunteer hours, include any of the following:

- Meals on Wheels or other Nutrition Programs
- Care Car or other transportation services for neighbors, family, friends, and voters
- Hospital, blood bank, nursing home, and childcare volunteer
- Visiting or caring for the ill or handicapped in your home or away, errands, telephone calls, shopping, yard work, mail, etc.
- Library assistance, Volunteer tutoring at the library, school, or assistance in the classroom
- Teaching English, as a second language, to children and adults who are non-English speaking.
- Assistance with IRS, SNAP, Utility Discount based on income or medical exemption forms
- Interaction and assistance with youth activities including, but not limited to, after school programs, Girls and Boys Clubs, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts Museum volunteer
- Community Service organizations such as: Rotary, Elks, Lions Clubs, community theater, fairs, community activities such as street fairs, county fairs, and political campaigns
- Religious activities: Choir, Sunday school teaching, Church nursery oversight, Vestry, Helping Hands, preparing and serving food, music, Church Commissions, distribution of literature, and helping in service
- Charity work or assistance programs for the Homeless, Battered Women, Abused Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)
- Helping with food distribution, bazaars, and craft fairs
- Helping with grandchildren and other family members who need assistance while a parent is employed.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – By Mary Kowta

News from Sacramento

On April 10 our legislators returned to work after Spring Break, and they are out to get our CANDY! Yes, those yummy PEEPS that we sampled from a kid's basket after picking off the fake grass, as we searched for the Hot Tamales and Skittles. Those, and many other confections, contain the dreaded Red Dye No.2 and/or other unsavory chemicals. Assembly member Jesse Gabriel introduced the so-called Skittles Bill to remedy this, which of course, the candy industry wants to scuttle.

Other legislation, AB 1314, was presented by Assembly member Bill Essayli and co-sponsored by our Assemblyman James Gallagher. This bill will require school personnel to notify parents if their child claims to be transgender or transitioning. The Education Chair termed this as “bad policy” and put it on hold, i.e., it will not move forward. This item relates to a CUSD incident reported in local news. It aroused Congressman Doug LaMalfa to attend a CUSD school board meeting and express his own opinions.

Several bills are being currently watched and studied by our lobbyists, Read and Moran. Peruse those in the current RPEA Bulletin. AB 1410 would establish the Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman. They also give highest support to the to the federal act that would repeal government pension offset and windfall elimination from the Social Security Act.

In the aforementioned RPEA Bulletin, I urge you to read the comments of RPEA President Rosemary Knox (referring to CalPERS Board foolishness), VP Al Darby (portfolio strategy) and lastly, Randall Cheek, Director of Legislation for RPEA (he does not mince words)! He skewers CIO Musicco, who reported that \$67 Million was lost with the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, “just a drop in the bucket”, she said! Apparently,

bigger banks did not invest in SVB because it would be risky (SVB had only 6 months of history). He also mentions CEO Marcie Frost and her desire to keep private equity loans private (untransparent). They cannot seem to help themselves; the Board voted not to divest of Russian properties after the invasion of Ukraine, and, moreover, continued to seek Russian investments! Let’s follow Randall Cheeks’ advice to write or call our legislators.

Fossil Fuel Divestment

SB 252 would require the divestment of fossil fuels by CalPERS and CalSTRS in the interest of protecting the environment and the lives and livelihoods of Californians. State Senator Lena Gonzalez’ effort last year sank when a similar bill was tabled as too politically divisive. This year she hopes to get the unions’ support. New York State and Maine are two states that are on board with plans for divestment. The gas and oil companies in California may be the most powerful in the U.S., so it will not be easy, even though many Californians are in favor of divestment. The *Sac Bee* published an excellent article (James Stone, 4/9) that gives the pro side of the issue.

Spring in Chico

At last!....I think, but maybe I'll wait a little longer before I buy tomato plants. A year ago, I had my plants in a laundry basket that I brought in from the back porch when it was cold or too windy. Not the best plan, probably! Now I have some chard and bok choy and onions in a raised bed.

Looking forward to seeing more members at our May luncheon meeting! The DoubleTree is quite nice, and they will have a bigger room for us next time.

Happy Spring to all!

Mary