



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER

**Chapter # 106, San Benito County Area III Volume 3 Issue 4**  
**July / August 2019**

## **Greetings**

**Margie Riopel**

Today, I am again reminded that time is precious, and to be forever thankful for the many blessings of family, friends and community that we have the pleasure to experience over a lifetime.

As a member of RPEA, it is with heavy heart that I notify you about the passing of Tanya Rakestraw, former RPEA HQ Office Manager. Tanya passed suddenly on June 24, 2019. Those of you who had the opportunity to meet and/or work with her may have experienced her commitment and dedication to RPEA. I remember my first telephone call to her when this chapter was started back in October 2016, upon the action taken by San Benito County Board of Supervisors to pull out of CalPERS health. I will be forever grateful to her for her reassurance, her assistance and her ongoing support to this chapter. Tanya will be missed by those she touched. Rest in Peace, Tanya.

It is important to note that the RPEA of California has a track record of support for CalPERS retirees. For over 50 years they have been committed to protecting and improving our earned retirement and medical benefits. As retirees, it is our responsibility to remain focused, informed and be involved in what and how our local agencies are treating retirees and to keep supporting the RPEA of California organization. Attend the meeting coming up in September that is listed below.

**Our next Chapter #106 RPEA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, at 11:30 am at Valley Pizzeria, 551 McCray St., Hollister, California.** Information about the meeting is attached.

## **Membership Committee**

Our current membership roster is at 76 members. We would like to welcome all our new members. Some of our new members live here in Hollister or in surrounding cities, while others currently live in Texas, Arizona, Las Vegas, Oregon, Nebraska, Ohio, and Washington. You may have received a welcoming package from our Membership Chair, Kim Hawk or will receive one shortly. You are all welcomed to attend our next meeting if you can or whenever you are in the area.

## **Sunshine Committee**

Contact Laura Schipper with any information regarding chapter members, birthdays and special events to recognize and acknowledge. You can contact Laura Schipper, by email or phone at [lschipp@hotmail.com](mailto:lschipp@hotmail.com) or (831)638-6461.

## **Health Benefit Report**

**Elsie Marshall**

The CalPERS Health Rates are already posted on the CalPERS website. For those chapter members that have CalPERS health, you should check the website or speak to your former employers. The CalPERS health rates for the retiree medical supplement has increased slightly.

For those chapter members who are San Benito County Retirees, the CSAC-EIA health rates are not posted yet. It is my understanding that the health rates for employees and retirees are being discussed with the employee health committee. You may want to contact your bargaining group representatives to voice your concerns about retiree health benefits, since the employee representatives are voting on your behalf. The CSAC-EIA rates are expected to go up, especially for the retiree medical benefits.

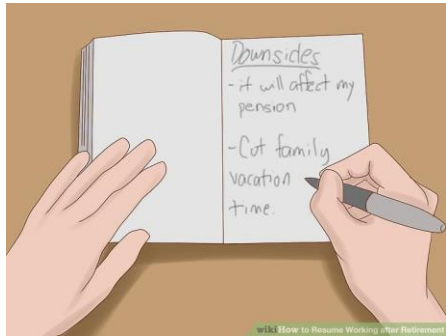
A petition has been suggested by chapter member Helen Barnes, former Tax Collector/Treasurer. She suggested collecting signatures and presenting the petition to the San Benito County Board of Supervisors, objecting to the continued rising health care costs levied on County retirees. This item will be discussed at the September meeting. Please be present to voice your concerns and provide input.

## **Board of Supervisors Action Regarding OPEB**

On July 23, 2019, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation of the Auditor, Joe Paul Gonzales to transfer funds from the CalPERS Irrevocable Trust for OPEB. The California Employer Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) is a CalPERS trust initiated by the BOS in 2008/2009 per GASB 43 and 45 to cover the ongoing liability of the County retiree medical benefit or OPEB (Other Public Employee Benefit). As of today, the County of San Benito CERBT has over \$23,000,000 in the trust, made up of contributions and investment income. However, on July 23, 2019 the Auditor requested authorization to transfer half of the funds from CalPERS to a different trust called Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS). Joe Paul Gonzales' believes that the County will see a greater return with this investment fund, and he will have more flexibility with this fund, rather than with CalPERS. The CERBT funds are controlled by CalPERS; PARS funds are controlled by the County Auditor.

## Legislative Report

Mandy Rose



Thinking of returning to work after retirement? Many of you know the rules but a new bill working its way through the legislature (AB 472/Voepel), is making some minor (non-substantive) changes to those rules and it seemed appropriate to review and remind us all- don't jeopardize your pension!

Government Code section 21224 permit employment of a CalPERS retiree in only two circumstances:

- When the retiree is simply employed because he/she has specialized skills needed in performing work of **limited duration**; or
- When the retiree is either appointed by the governing board, or simply employed during an **emergency** to prevent the stoppage of public business.
- The retiree may not exceed 960 hours in any fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

*There is also the issue of being and 'independent contractor.' Make sure you know the criteria so the IRS or CalPERS doesn't come knocking:*

- Who supplies the retiree with the tools and instrumentalities for work?
- Is the retiree engaged in an occupation commonly performed by a specialist? (Hint: a police chief is not an independent contractor).
- Is the retiree engaged in a stand-alone occupation or business?
- Does the job require a high degree of skill?
- Is the retiree retained for a finite project or duration?
- Is the method of payment more typical of an employer-employee relationship?
- Is the work performed part of the employer's regular business?
- What do the parties think their relationship is?

## Treasurer's Report

Catherine Shaw

### BEST SENIOR TRAVEL DESTINATIONS FOR 2019

Late summer and early fall vacations are perfect retirees. August sees prices start to fall as kiddos go back to school and tourists head back to work.

September water temperatures are perfect, and crowds have checked out. October boasts of harvest celebrations and wine crushes.

Some trips to consider: US National Forests, Disneyworld in FL, Corpus Christi, TX, Rhone River, fall colors in New England, Santa Fe, NM and theme vacations. You like to golf? quilt? bake? Do a search and add "vacation" to it to find a vacation that may feature your favorite hobby or pastime. Also check out TripSavvy.com for travel tips.

### SAFETY TRAVEL TIPS FOR EVERYONE

\* Leave expensive jewelry at home.

\* Tell your innkeeper or concierge your travel itinerary.

\* Keep your cell phone with you at all times, along with Hotel information and family contact information.

Hope everyone is doing something fun this summer and checking off that bucket list.

### THE TREASURER REPORT AS OF JULY 2019

Current Bank Balance is: \$1968.96

*For your information, the General Chapter meetings are held the first Thursdays of the months of March, June, September and December, at Valley Pizzeria, 551 McCray St., Hollister, CA. 95023 at 11:30 am.*

### Chapter Board of Directors

President: Margie Riopel

[mmriopel@aol.com](mailto:mmriopel@aol.com) (831)801-8306

Vice President: Elsie Marshall

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Secretary: Denise Thome

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Treasurer: Catherine Shaw

[catshaws@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catshaws@sbcglobal.net) (408)804-2404

*Board Meetings are scheduled in the months of January, April, August & November. Anyone wishing to attend the Board Meetings should contact any officer the for days, times and location of meetings.*

### Chapter Committee Chairs

Membership Committee Chair: Kim Hawk

[khawk95023@gmail.com](mailto:khawk95023@gmail.com) , (831) 637-8662

Legislative Committee Chair: Mandy Rose

[normandyannrose@gmail.com](mailto:normandyannrose@gmail.com) , (831)801-1254

Health Benefit Committee Chair: Elsie Marshall

[Elsie.marshall@yahoo.com](mailto:Elsie.marshall@yahoo.com) , (831) 801-6995

Sunshine Committee Chair: Laura Schipper

[lschipp@hotmail.com](mailto:lschipp@hotmail.com) , (831)638-6461

Newsletter Editor: Margie Riopel.....July 31, 2019