



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER

Chapter # 106, San Benito County Area III Volume 3 Issue 3
May / June 2019

Greetings

Margie Riopel

Hello. I hope all of you are well and enjoying the springtime, despite the cold weather and rain. I know we need the rain, but I am ready for summer. Enjoy the summer days ahead.

Please Note! We will not be meeting in June.
Our Chapter #106 RPEA meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2019 has been **CANCELLED**.

Our next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday September 5, 2019 at 11:30 am at Valley Pizzeria, 551 McCray St., Hollister, California. Information about the meeting will be available in our July/August newsletter.

For future information, the Chapter meetings are held the first Thursdays of the months of March, June, September and December, at the location listed above.

Sunshine Committee Chair

Laura Schipper is our new Sunshine Committee Chair. We appreciate that she has taken on this role. Please keep her in mind if you hear any news.

Laura would appreciate any information about members and families connected to our group who are celebrating birthdays, special events, feeling under the weather, or have passed.

Please contact Laura Schipper at lschipp@hotmail.com or text or phone at (831)638-6461

Thank you, Laura. I really appreciated my Birthday wishes in March. It certainly made my birthday a little brighter.

Membership Report

Kim Hawk

RPEA Chapter #106 is currently at 67 members. Our next meeting is on September 5, 2019. Kindly join us and bring a friend. Encourage retirees to join and stay involved.

The California RPEA Headquarters has informed us that funding is available to assist us with recruitment. They are assisting us with sending out letters to a list of potential members in our county. More information to follow.

Treasurer's Report

Catherine Shaw

Beware of Social Security Spoofing Call

Apparently, the scammers are no longer getting the results they used to from the IRS scams, so their latest trick is using the Social Security Administration which most seniors use.

According the National Council on Aging there has been a significant increase of fraudulent calls from people claiming to be from the SSA. The conversations can go one of two ways. Victims are threatened with arrest or legal action if they fail to call a specific phone number or press a number in the message to address the fake issue. The other option the scammer may try is to say they want to help activate a suspended social security number. They are even able to "spoof" the actual Social Security hotline number to appear on the phone: 1-800-772-1213.

Hang up immediately if you receive one of these calls. Social Security rarely calls you unless you have on-going business and are working with a representative. And the agency NEVER threatens arrest or legal action.

If you have received a suspicious call, report it to the SSA office at by calling 1-800-269-0271 or [submit a report on the OIG \(Office of Inspector General\) website](https://oig.ssa.gov/report).
<https://oig.ssa.gov/report>.

Cal PERS Cost of Living Allowance

Most of you have noticed a Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) in your May retirement warrant. There are standard allowances for retired members dependent on your year of retirement.

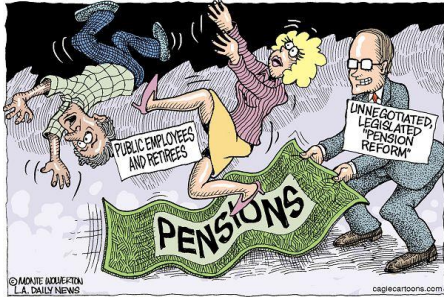
For example, those of you who retired in the mid 1960's may receive up to 4%. Those who retired in 1979 or earlier may be entitled to a 3% allowance. If you retired between 2005 and 2015 your COLA is currently at 2.44%. And those who retired in 2016 or 2017 are receiving a 2% allowance.

More information is available on the CalPERS website at www.calpers.ca.gov.

Legislative Report

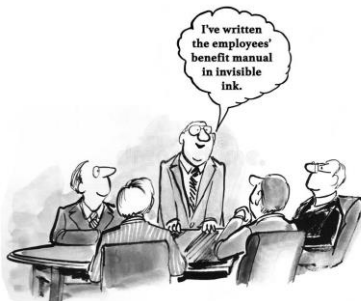
Mandy Rose

Many thanks to Margie Riopel, Denise Thome, Catherine Shaw and Kim Hawk for attending the April 23, 2019 Special Board of Supervisors meeting. The Board discussed the status of our CalPERS pensions and OPEB (Other Public Employee Benefits, which includes health care).



Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joe Paul Gonzalez informed the Board that our CalPERS pensions are funded at 72%. The unfunded liability is \$43,536,485. For the present, it does not appear as if the County will be pulling the rug from under us, as the Auditor is recommending pre-funding our obligation (which saves money), adding more to the PARS Irrevocable Trust (current balance \$3,300,000); and directing other revenue such as sale tax to PARS, which serves as a 'rainy day' fund should the County Budget be unable to make CalPERS pension contributions in any given year. In addition, and in case you are interested, the report to the Board stated that the County would need between \$157,174.145 to \$190,484,493 to terminate their relationship with CalPERS—money the County does not have.

However, some of us certainly feel as if the following is true of our health care costs, which are included in OPEB:



As of June 30, 2017, OPEB was funded at 77%. Active employee costs were \$9,031,779; Retiree costs were \$18,678,846 for a total of \$27,710,635. The County reported having \$21,335,848 toward that amount funded. As of March 31, 2019, the Auditor reported having funds of \$23,648,645 toward that amount. It is important to note, that the Auditor is proposing funding current liabilities and adding \$650,449 each year over the next 20 years to catch-up on the remaining unfunded liability. It also should be noted, the total amount of the liability is assessed at the capped contribution rates of \$550, for those under 65; and \$385 for those of Medicare age.

Chapter Board of Directors

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

Chapter Committee Chairs

Membership Committee Chair: Kim Hawk
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Newsletter Editor: Margie Riopel.....May 20, 2,019