



RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Clara County Chapter 031 Newsletter

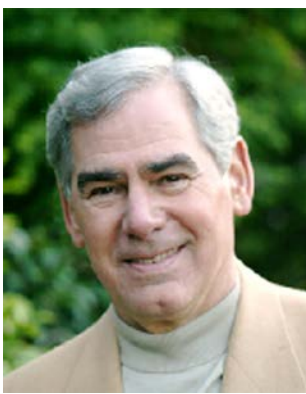
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January 2020

An Association of CalPERS Annuitants committed to the goal of helping all public employees maintain their physical and economic health during retirement

***NEXT MEETING – January 29th at
Elks Lodge – 444 W Alma Ave., San Jose,
CA 95110***

Pre-Paid Buffet Lunch at 11:15 – No admission before 11:15am. The flyer for the January lunch was sent out in November/December Newsletter (payment due date January 23rd). February lunch flyer is enclosed in this newsletter. ***Admission for members attending only the meeting will be at 12:15 pm.***
Meeting will begin at 12:30 pm.

CLIMATE CHANGE, THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION? ROD DIRIDON, SR., EMERITUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MINETA TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE



Mr. Diridon asks, “Planetary temperatures set records each of the past three years, the polar ice is rapidly melting, sea levels are rising, the worst storms and forest fires in history have

become commonplace...the climate crisis is upon us. Leading scientists agree that we have less than a dozen years to reverse the carbon build up before the point of no return. So, what can we, you and I do, to avoid Armageddon?”

Mr. Diridon is very well known. His political career began in 1971 as the youngest person ever elected to the Saratoga City Council. He retired in 1995 because of term limits after completing six terms as chair of both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Transit Board. He was the

only person to chair the San Francisco Bay Area’s (119 cities, 27 transit agencies, and 9 counties) three regional governments: The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Air Quality Management District, and the Association of Bay Area Governments. He chaired nine successful rail system development project boards. In 1995 the region’s main train station was renamed the “San Jose Diridon Station” upon his retirement from elected office.

In 1996 he founded and chaired the Transportation Research Board’s study panel, “Combating Global Warming through Sustainable Transportation Policy.” He has been very active ever since then to global warming. I am sure that you will truly enjoy his presentation. We are very happy to have him come speak to us.

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Following are the names of new members – Cynthia Billeci, Alice Carpenter, Cathy Chinn, Kimberley Faraday, Linda Granados, Cary Hogan, Benjamin Houseworth, Catherine Johnston, Yoon Koo, Nector Martinez, Gilbert McNatt, Laura Ojeda, Maria Padilla, Sharmila Pramanick, Elsa Rodriguez, Guadalupe Rosario, Michael Squires, Nancy Taylor, Hoan Tran, Evelyn Tuazon, Dianne Wall, Thomas Wilson, Mark Witt, Park Yan, and Ken Yeager.

Welcome Everyone!

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

Our new website is practically done. Please check it out. When you get to member section, the password is rpea31.

rpea-31santaclaraco.org

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INFORMATION DESK

Thank you to the following members who staffed the Information Desk in November/December: Linda Baum, Mary Chaboya, Michelle Cockerille, Gloria Courtney, Sara De Leon, Sue Farr, Kris Fisher, Judy Frey, Lidia Gonzales, Bob Hagele, Tom Heim, Connie Jimenez, Laura Levin, Brian Mark, Sherrill Martinez, Kathy Miller, Alan Miramon, Mary Mitchell, Thu Nguyen, John Avery Palmer, Jean Platner, and Rachel Subega.

IN MEMORIAM: Our deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of Neno Aiello, Dan Armenta, Janet Berry, Elizabeth Chapman, Alfred Chappell, Larry Condit, Dale Frase, Vera Frase, Ramon Hernandez, Marjorie Hutton, Mary Lane, Pearl Owen, Ruby Saling, Irene Schale, Ann Shimada, Maxine Smrekar, Margaret Susa, and Masako Tsukamoto.

They will truly be missed.

THE HISTORY CORNER MARIANNE DAMON, RPEA CHAPTER 031 HISTORIAN 2019 IN REVIEW

As I entered important dates in my new 2020 calendar, flipping a page for each month, I started thinking about time not as a circle, not as coming back to a January starting point, but as a spiral. Yes, another January, but a year apart, another turn of our Earth around our Sun. And then I started thinking of our Sun and solar system moving in space, our spiral arm wheeling around the center of our Milky Way Galaxy, completing one revolution about every 240 million years. My two-dimensional spiral became a three-dimensional grand galactic helix of awesome proportions, and we are along for the ride!

This is what I was thinking when I sat down to write our Chapter's year in review. Although many of our activities are similar from year to year, each stands unique as its own moment in its present time. And we experience the ebb and flow of people leaving and people coming.

We had a wonderful year of speakers, thanks to the efforts of our former Program Director Jo Pugsley, and our new Program Director, Charlie

Mendoza. In January the Director of Facilities Security for the County, Doug Feliciano, gave a presentation on what he has done to improve security for our Info Desk, for other county buildings, and on how we can stay safe. I felt this was so important that I wrote up his talk for the next newsletter, so members who were not present could benefit from this information. In February we had a heart-felt presentation from artist Jane Pitcher on endangered species. March was our County Benefits presentation, always well-attended. In April the subject was Genealogy, and I wrote up the information for the May newsletter. In May two Kaiser physicians presented, one on health concerns of aging, and one on back pain. July's topic was Trends in Silicon Valley and Bay Area Architecture; although the audio-visual wasn't working, we had a lively discussion and decided to bring the speaker back for a full presentation at a later date. Our August speaker was from The Stroke Awareness Foundation and gave important information specific to our locale. September's speaker informed us what JW House is and what services they provide for families of hospitalized patients; they are located on the Kaiser Santa Clara campus. Our last speaker, in October, was from the San Jose Police Department; she gave us information on senior safety and crime prevention. At the end of each meeting, after lunch, and the speaker, attendees have two (free!) chances to win door prizes.

Our year started off with a flurry of activity and decision-making, as we lost our decades-long meeting place of Harry's Hofbrau (they closed without notice!). We quickly booked back-up days at Three Flames as we searched for suitable alternatives. We finally decided on Hometown Buffet and booked with them, but they closed just before we were to have our first meeting there! We then decided on the Elks Lodge in Willow Glen and held our first meeting there in April. We have been pleased with the parking, the meeting space and the food. However, we do have extra costs that we didn't have before, as there is a fee for the meeting room, we pay extra for a newsletter insert payment slip, and our treasurer, Sue Farr, has hours of extra work processing these payments and creating a list of paid-lunch attendees. We will attempt to renegotiate the room fee, and we've decided to raise the meal price at Elks from \$12 to \$15 for 2020. We also needed to rent a storage space for our equipment and supplies.

As if the loss of our meeting space wasn't enough to deal with, we also lost our website! Without explanation, many non-profits were shut out of their websites by the host. Luckily, most of the information had been backed up by Connie Cravalho, our former secretary and webmaster. Mary Mitchell, our Newsletter Editor, took on the

task of finding a new host and building a new site which, as of now, is almost complete.

We've had new people join our Board. Our secretary for over ten years, Connie Cravalho, submitted her last minutes for December 2018 and then stepped down. Marianne Damon served as interim secretary from January through July until Lynne Jorgensen stepped up to the position in August. In March, Charlie Mendoza became Program Director and immediately pulled together an interesting slate of potential speakers. Due to the death of our long-time vice-president, Rex Recchio, Mary Chaboya took up the duties of vice-president. Mary's job as Sunshine Chair is now being covered by Josie Rice. A big thanks to all these folks for stepping up to new duties for our Chapter!

Our June picnic was held once again at Vasona, catered by Armadillo Willy's, and ninety people attended. At the picnic The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Mary Chaboya for her years of work for and at the Info Desk, as Sunshine Chair, and for volunteering for numerous other assignments. The County's annual luncheon to honor the Info Desk volunteers was held on October 8th. By the way, we still need volunteers, as there were some shifts that went uncovered during the year.

Our membership remains steady at an average of 2,300 members. We continue to offer our newsletter via e-mail which also provides handouts and slideshows from our presenters. Currently about 160 members receive e-newsletters rather than hardcopies. The newsletter has standard features such as listings of Info Desk volunteers, new members, and deceased members, information about the next meeting and speaker biography, and activities available through our partnering non-profit group Bay Area Older Adults. In addition, there are feature articles. This year there were biographies on our members Mary Chaboya, Volunteer of the Year and Lynne Jorgensen, our new secretary. And in keeping with opportunities to visit places within the County, there was an article on Nihonmachi/Japan Town, and on our Martin Luther King Library.

Our RPEA year ended with a wonderful holiday luncheon at Three Flames. We were entertained by a hearty chorale of four singers from The Gilbert and Sullivan Society's Lyric Victorian Carolers, who certainly put us in the mood for a cheery holiday season. Thanks to everyone for making our last year memorable and for coming along on our ride through time and space!



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**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
(RPEA)**

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Chapter Website: www.rpea-31santaclaraco.org
Headquarters Website: www.rpea.com

RPEA
Kathy Miller
President
Chapter 031

February 26, 2020 MEETING

The February 2020 meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge located at 444 W Alma, San Jose, CA 95110. The guest speaker will be from Habitat for Humanity and will present information on what they do.

Please note the increase in the cost of lunch. Each attendee must pay **\$15.00**. We will have a chicken dish, pasta, salad, bread, butter, coffee and water.

In order to provide a count of attendees to the Elks Lodge, a **\$15 payment must be received no later than February 20, 2020**. **No late payments will be accepted, no payments will be accepted at the Elks Lodge on the day of the meeting and there will be no refunds. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Doors open at 11:15 am for lunch. If you do not wish to have lunch, please arrive **no earlier than 12:15 pm** on the day of meeting. No drinks or food will be available for those who do not pay for lunch.

Complete the form below and send with payment to Sue Farr, 1967 Bohannon, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Make payment out to RPEA Chapter 031.

Sincerely,

Chapter 031 Board Members

Please Print

Name _____ # Attending _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

(Please list all persons included in your payment)

**Make checks payable to RPEA Chapter 031 and mail to
Sue Farr, 1967 Bohannon, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Payment must be received no later than February 20, 2020.
No late payments accepted
No payments allowed at the Elks Lodge on the day of meeting
Sorry, no refunds.
Please do not arrive before 11:15 am**

Meeting Date: February 26, 2020

BAO Activities

New activities have been announced at the Bay Area Older Adults website!

Jan. 24: Palo Alto Museum of American Heritage tour

Feb. 04: Lecture, Tools for managing anxiety and stress

Feb. 10: Wine Tasting, Wines of the Southern Hemisphere

Feb. 12: Hike: Rancho San Vicente (easy to moderate)

Feb. 14: Euphrat Museum, Women Pathmakers

Feb. 26: Hike: Coyote Lake (moderate)

Check out their listings for events through May and plan ahead! Membership is free with sign-up. There are fees for various activities to cover transportation, lunch, etc. Their website is:

<https://www.bayareaolderadults.org/>