

RPEA RIVERSIDE



Retired Public Employees' Association of California
Chapter 15 – Riverside California Area VI Newsletter Issue 4 of 6

WHAT ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THE COURTS?

Lately, there has been a lot of press about the impact of court decisions on public employees. The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in a case about paying union dues if you didn't belong to the union. The California Supreme Court is considering cases affecting the way unions can bargain with the public agencies. Both cases have caused a lot of angst with public employees and those who have retired from public agencies and are receiving benefits. The easy answer to these concerns for retired public employees is to NOT BE CONCERNED. As for now, your retirement benefits have been vested and are secure.

So what is the problem, and why is there little impact on retired public employees and specifically RPEA? First the "Janus Case". Mr. Janus, a public employee in Illinois, filed suit because he did not want to belong to the union negotiating his contract with his public employer. He did not believe he should pay dues to a union that supported political actions he did not agree with.

Previously, the courts have said that he only had to pay dues for those benefits he received as being a member of the union; and the union would not charge him for their political activity while still carrying out contract negotiations or grievance protection. The U.S. Supreme Court overruled the precedent and allowed those not agreeing to be members of the union not to pay any dues at all. Under existing statutes, bargaining units must negotiate contracts for all public employees, so workers who opt out of paying dues still get the benefit of the negotiated contract.

How does this affect RPEA? First, RPEA does not "represent" our members in contract negotiations. RPEA does provide a service to our members to help them with issues that need to be addressed with CalPERS or sometimes with their previous employer. RPEA does this work in response to your being a member. Non-members do not get these services. So being a member of RPEA allows for help and access to those services RPEA provides to members, such as dental, health, and a long list of ancillary benefits.

The dues paid to RPEA are **specifically forbidden** in the Bylaws from use for political activity. All political activity is carried out by separate Trustees of the Legislative Action Organization (LAO) or the Independent Expenditure Committee (IEC). The funds used by the Trustees are from strictly voluntary contributions to these two committees. These committees receive no dues. Therefore, if you do not agree with the political contributions to campaigns you do not like, you are free not to donate money to the LAO or IEC.

What about the attacks on the so-called "California Rule"? The California Supreme Court is considering four cases that have been heard in lower courts regarding the way public employee contracts have been negotiated. In previous court rulings, the Courts have said that if a bargained benefit is to be removed from a contract, the public agency is obligated to replace the benefit with something equal. This is called the "California Rule" and has been adopted by several states. This allows public employee unions to maintain equilibrium in their contracts. The current cases have challenged this rule, and the decisions are split. In general, the courts have stated that unless there is an economic emergency benefits cannot be cut without compensating for the cut.

(continued on page 4)

PAGE 2

RPEA CHAPTER 15

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of June 30, 2018, the Chapter 15 account balance totaled \$6,751.80.

Copies of the current financial statement will be available at the September general meeting.

Del Sells, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT as of July 26, 2018

Total number of Chapter 15 members: 613

Retirees 539

Chapter Associates 2

Beneficiaries 46

State Associates 20

Affiliates 6

Annie James, Membership Chairperson

Welcome

WOW! 33 NEW CHAPTER 15 MEMBERS!

MAURICE BAKER (MIRA LOMA)

PATTIE BAKER (MIRA LOMA)

SYLVIA BRISKIN (RIVERSIDE)

STEPHEN BROWN (RIVERSIDE)

MELODY BUCK (RIVERSIDE)

KRISTIN CLARK (CORONA)

ALAN DAY (NORCO)

DIANNE DE GARMO (SO. DAKOTA)

MARILYN EGAN (RIVERSIDE)

ANTHONY ELMO (RIVERSIDE)

SUSAN EVANS-AGCAOILI (RIVERSIDE)

BARTON GAUT (RIVERSIDE)

TERESOT GOODSPEED (MORENO VALLEY)

OAKERETHA HATCHER (CORONA)

HERMAN HINZER (JURUPA VALLEY)

JOANN HOWE (PERRIS)

HOA HUYNH (TEXAS)

ROGER JOHNSON (LAKE ELSINORE)

NANCY KENNEDY (COLORADO)

FELIPE MOLINOS (RIVERSIDE)

RICHARD MORRIS (RIVERSIDE)

JANET ONEAL (RIVERSIDE)

KAREN POOLE (CORONA)

BENJAMIN REISER (RIVERSIDE)

RICHARD RENSTROM (JURUPA VALLEY)

AKBAR RIZVI (CORONA)

CELIA RUVALABA (CORONA)

ESTELLA SANCHEZ (RIVERSIDE)

JONI SHAY (RIVERSIDE)

ROBERT SIMMONS (RIVERSIDE)

BRYAN SNOW (NORCO)

KEVIN SPICCI (THOUSAND PALMS)

DOROTHY STUTZ (COLTON)

A MESSAGE FROM CHAPTER 15 PRESIDENT JIM ANDERSON:

IN MEMORIAM GEORGE LINN

I am sorry to report that RPEA President George Linn passed away at the end of June. He finally lost his battle with cancer. George was finishing his second term as RPEA President and had previously served on the Board of Directors as Director of Communications. George was a good friend and gave me good advice and counsel when I worked with him as Director of Legislation. He was always available and even took my phone call when he was undergoing chemotherapy at the hospital in San Francisco.

George loved RPEA and was successful making the organization financially secure and promoting good staff. He was effective in presenting RPEA's position to CalPERS management. According to Vice President Al Darby, he was looking forward to chairing the General Assembly this September. He will be missed.

Our condolences to the families of our deceased members

DOROTHY COMEAUX

RIVERSIDE

DELBERT LOCKHART

PASO ROBLES

ROBERT LEE DORSON

RIVERSIDE

RICHARD MOORE

RIVERSIDE

KRISTINA HUTCHINS

COLORADO

MARIO REYES

MORENO VALLEY

WILLIAM INMAN

RIVERSIDE

ELIZABETH STORMS

RIVERSIDE





If you have been in Riverside the last few weeks, you may be convinced that we are in a "global warming" situation. There have been comments that the humidity is due to a "monsoon" situation, but I remember in the past that this condition did not come this early. The Chapter 15 Board agreed some time ago not to have a General Meeting in July, and they were right-on considering it would be difficult just to come to Goeske Center in this heat and humidity.

However, not having a meeting makes it a little more difficult to keep in touch and communicate with the members. RPEA continues to make its presence known in the Legislature and in CalPERS. RPEA continues to be successful in presenting our opinions and ideas to CalPERS in order to stop their legislative initiative to "fix" the statutes on death benefits and deductions that would harm our members in the future. RPEA leaders appear at CalPERS meetings to get better decisions on how our pension finances are invested and to correct bad decisions on health benefits. RPEA's voice is respected by the CalPERS Board and staff.

The next General Meeting of our chapter will be on Thursday, September 27, 2018. This will be shortly after the RPEA General Assembly held September 8 through September 12 in the City of Orange. At our luncheon meeting, Del Sells, Mary Houston, Annie James, and I (as delegates to General Assembly from Chapter 15) will be able to report on the outcome of the state RPEA elections and the other actions taken. We are fortunate to have these members step up and attend the General Assembly to represent our chapter!

The General Assembly convenes every other year, when all of the state officer positions are up for election. Other members of the RPEA Board of Directors include the Area Directors who are elected within each specific area. The Board of Directors acts to implement the RPEA Bylaws. At each General Assembly, delegates vote on various proposals to change the RPEA Bylaws. At this time, the slate of people running for the various offices has not been fully determined, nor have the Bylaws changes that will be proposed. It is never a dull time on the floor of the General Assembly; so if you have time during September 8 to September 12, come and see your organization in action. For further information, contact me at (951) 212-8281.

We are all looking forward to seeing you in September--and hoping for cooler weather for the rest of the summer!

Jim Anderson, RPEA Chapter 15 President

**Of all my body parts, my eyes get the most exercise.
I do at least a thousand eye rolls every day!**

CHAPTER 15 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

(telephone area codes are 951)

PRESIDENT	Jim Anderson	212-8281	HEALTH BENEFITS	Norma Carter	924-2208
SECRETARY	Margie Wayne	689-9654	LUNCHEONS	Louise Russell	242-2279
TREASURER	Del Sells	776-2165	HOSPITALITY	Tom Gunn	237-7782
SUNSHINE	Doris Lear	780-3425	GOESKE PANTRY	Elizabeth Miller	787-6880
MEMBERSHIP	Annie James	992-8508	NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Linda Stonebreaker	784-1060
PAST PRESIDENT	Wes Stonebreaker	784-1060			



Retired Public Employees' Association
RPEA Chapter 15 - Riverside
Margie Wayne July Newsletter
6493 Nidever Avenue
Riverside, CA 92504

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Riverside, CA
Permit 1386

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



(Continued from page 1)

There has been a lot of discussion that we will sooner or later be subject to an economic emergency and that the public agencies will need to cut benefits. This happened in the 1930's during the great depression. It did not happen during the latest "great recession." In the Stockton and San Bernardino bankruptcy cases, retiree health benefits were cut due to severe economic emergencies in those cities; however, both cities continued to provide a defined benefit plan through CalPERS for their active employees.

How would overturning the "California Rule" affect retirees and RPEA? It wouldn't. Your retirement benefits in a defined benefit plan will continue. They are being paid as "deferred compensation" through contributions from (1) your employer, (2) you and (3) the earnings from investments made by CalPERS. They are in fact VESTED. Retiree health benefits are not necessarily vested, because they are a continuing contract with the employer and subject to being cut by the employer if there is an economic emergency or change in the law by a new administration.

None of the cases before the court propose to cut the defined benefits plans. The defined benefit programs may be challenged by initiative measures paid for by out-of-state billionaires. RPEA will continue to oppose these efforts through the LAO and IEC. As for now the defined benefit plan managed by CalPERS is not going away.

YOU CAN TAKE THAT TO THE BANK!

Jim Anderson, Chapter 15 President

**OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, SEPT. 27.
SAVE THE DATE!**

