

RPEA RIVERSIDE

Retired Public Employees' Association
of California | Chapter 15 - Riverside
Area 6 | March 2026 Newsletter



***HAVE QUESTIONS?
NEED ASSISTANCE?***

Contact RPEA Headquarters
(916) 441-7732 | RPEA@rpea.com
300 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

Chapter 15 President's Message

Protecting Members from Scams & Elder Abuse

Dear Chapter 15 Members,

This month we begin an important series focused on protecting our members from scams and elder financial abuse. Unfortunately, retirees are frequently targeted because scammers know we have pensions, steady income, and strong credit histories.

Here in Riverside County, reports of fraud targeting seniors continue to rise, especially phone, text, and email scams impersonating your bank, credit union, and government agencies.

We are seeing an increase in:

- Calls claiming to be from Social Security, Medicare, or the IRS
- Text messages about "account problems" or suspicious charges from your bank or credit union
- "Grandparent" emergency scams
- Jury duty or law enforcement threats
- Fraudulent investment or cryptocurrency opportunities
- Amazon or USPS having difficulties delivering a package

Remember These Red Flags:

Government agencies will never demand payment by gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency.

DO NOT click links in unexpected text messages or emails.

Never give personal information to someone who calls you unexpectedly.

Pressure to act "immediately" is a warning sign.

If something feels wrong, HANG UP!



Riverside County Reporting Contacts

If you believe you've been targeted or exploited, contact: **Riverside County Adult Protective Services (APS) at (800) 491-7123**

Riverside County **District Attorney** – Bureau of Investigation (**Elder Abuse Unit**) **(951) 955-5450**

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

ReportFraud.ftc.gov

Contact your city police department or Riverside County Sheriff's Office.

RPEA Is Here to Help You !!

If you receive a suspicious email, text, or phone message:

- You may call RPEA Headquarters at **(800) 441-7732**
- Email suspicious messages to RPEA@rpea.com
- Our IT/Network expert on staff is available to review questionable emails and help determine whether they are legitimate.

Please do not feel embarrassed if you are targeted.

These criminals are sophisticated and convincing. The strongest protection we have is education and sharing information.

If you receive a scam attempt, let us know so we can alert other Chapter 15 members.

Together, we can protect ourselves and one another.

Respectfully,

Margaret Brown
RPEA Chapter 15 President

An Invitation to Serve

Our Chapter 15 family recently lost a very special member, Helen Lair, who faithfully served as our Sunshine Chair.

Helen quietly and lovingly helped us care for one another. She sent sympathy cards, congratulations, get-well wishes, and thoughtful notes that reminded our members they are not alone. Her kindness helped keep our chapter connected in meaningful ways.

We are deeply grateful for the care and compassion she shared with our members.

As we honor Helen's memory, we are now seeking a volunteer to serve as our new Sunshine Chair.

What Does the Sunshine Chair Do?

This is a heart-centered role that helps keep our chapter connected.

Duties include:

- Sending sympathy cards when a member or their immediate family member passes
- Sending get-well cards when members are ill
- Sending occasional congratulatory or encouragement notes
- Coordinating with the Chapter President or Board when notified of member needs
- Maintaining a simple log of cards sent (for board awareness)

This role typically requires only a small time commitment each month, but the impact is significant.

The Sunshine Chair helps ensure that during life's difficult moments, and joyful ones too, our members feel remembered and supported.

If you feel called to serve in this meaningful way, please contact Annie James or any board member. We would be honored to speak with you.

Let us continue Helen's legacy of kindness by caring for one another.

Chapter 15 LEADERSHIP

RPEA CHAPTER	15 LEADERSHIP	2026
PRESIDENT	Margaret Brown	949-616-6150
VICE PRESIDENT	Kathy Johnson-Sanders	951-902-9628
SECRETARY	Annie James	951-992-8508
TREASURER	Joseph Gonzalez	951-536-4614
LEGISLATION	Recruiting -	
SUNSHINE	New RECRUITMENT	
COMMUNICATIONS	Recruiting -	
HISTORIAN	Kathy Johnson-Sanders	951-902-9628
BOOK EXCHANGE	Dorothy Stutz	909-872-0350
HEALTH BENEFITS	Norma Carter	909-238-5018
NEWSLETTER	Recruiting -	
LUNCHEON	Julia Murray	951-285-2801
HOSPITALITY	Joyce Edey	909-856-4301
MEMBERSHIP	Annie James	951-992-8508
GOESKE PANTRY	Norma Carter	909-238-5018
PAST PRESIDENT	Vacant	
AREA 6 DIRECTOR	Nelly Van Lommel	909-519-7390

MEMBERSHIP REPORT as of JANUARY 31, 2026

TOTAL MEMBERS: 523

NEW MEMBERS: 15

Deceased: 10

Annie James, Membership Chair

IN LOVING
Memory



*In loving memory
of our cherished members
who have passed on,
their contributions and
spirit continue to inspire us.*

LUCILLO CASTILLO
RIVERSIDE

LINDA ELLERMANN
RIVERSIDE

FERNANDO GUILIN
PERRIS

TERRY MCCLELLAN
RIVERSIDE

ROSALIE SILVERGLATE
RIVERSIDE

MARCH MENU



- ~ Veggie & Meat Lasagna
- ~ Green Salad/Fruit Salad
- ~ Vegetable Medley
- ~ French Bread & Butter
- ~ Fruit Cobbler
- ~ Coffee, Tea, & Water

welcome
NEW MEMBERS



Angela Anatunanya, Riverside
Santiago Belarde, Moreno Valley
Charlotte Bevilacqua, Riverside
Craig Bradshaw, Riverside
Rebecca Carrillo, Norco
Lucille Castillo, Riverside
Gloria Cortinas, Norco
Laura Embree, Fontana
Robert Embree, Fontana
Kenneth Ford, Riverside
Edward Guidero, Jurupa Valley
Marcella Hofer, Corona
Scott Mahler, Norco
Gilbert Meraz, Riverside



Chapter 15 - Riverside Invites you to the March 26th Luncheon and Membership Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, March 26

TIME: 11:30 AM

WHERE: Janet Goeske Community Center
5257 Sierra St., Riverside (Room D)



\$10 meal co-pay
for members & guests
First time guests
are FREE!



RSVP TODAY

or by Tuesday March 17

Text your RSVP To:
951-285-2801 | Julia Murray

or RSVP by Email:
juliaRPEA.C15@gmail.com