



# RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 35

April, May June

Spring 2026

## CHAPTER 35 LUNCHEON MEETING MAY 13, 2026

**OLIVE GARDEN**  
**1176 Admiral Callaghan Ln, Vallejo.**  
**DOORS OPEN 11:30AM, LUNCH 12 NOON**

**Guest speaker:**  
**Vang Xiong**  
**Supervisor, Solano County Public**  
**Health, Older and Disabled Adult**  
**Services**

### Free Lunch for All

When making reservations, please pick your lunch choice :

*Cheese Ravioli:*  
*Eggplant Parmigiana:*  
*Never—ending Soup, Salad and Breadsticks:*  
*Shrimp Scampi:*  
*Spaghetti and Meatballs.*

Also your choice of salad or the following soups: *Chicken and Gnocchi; Minestrone, Pasta e Fagioli or Zuppa Toscana*

**RSVP by May 7th to:**  
Rachel 510 501-2104

If texting or leaving a message, state your name and the name of the person you may be bringing as a guest and lunch choice.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

### Officers:

President and Area 1 Director:  
Rachel Maldonado Aziminia 510 501-2104  
Vice President: Greg Marro 707 720-7348  
Jr. President: Dorothy Hays 707 648-3212  
Secretary: Sylvia Amen 707 319-8794  
Treasurer: Patricia McCarthy 707 643-1157

### Committee Chairs:

Sunshine Odessa Pinnock 707 864-8049  
Communications Debbie Geske 707 483-7509  
Membership Greg Marro 707 720-7348  
Newsletter Editor Charlotte "Lotte" Sather  
707 374-707 or cell 707 246-7888

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## SUNSHINE—HEALTH AND WELLNESS

If you know of a member who is ill, lost a family member or has passed away, please notify Odessa by call Freeing 707 864-8049 or emailing her at [ospinnock@gmail.com](mailto:ospinnock@gmail.com). If you leave a message, give your name, the name of the member and why a card should be sent. Thank you.

## MOVING

If you are moving, please contact headquarters in Sacramento with your new address by calling 800 443-7732 or emailing [rpeahq@rpea.com](mailto:rpeahq@rpea.com).

## OUR NEWSLETTER

Is now printed and mailed at Headquarters. If you want to receive by email, contact Lotte at email [rgransather@aol.com](mailto:rgransather@aol.com).

## MINUTES

### RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION – CHAPTER 035

The quarterly meeting of Chapter 035 of the Retired Public Employees' Association was held on **February 11, 2026**, at the Olive Garden, 1176 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo.

Thirty-eight members and guests were present, including all Officers and Committee Chairs except for Newsletter Chair Lotte Sather.

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia at 1:30 p.m. Christian Kovacs from American Stage Tours was unable to appear as Guest Speaker, but Carrie from his office appeared in his place.

President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia assisted Carrie in talking about several of the tours offered by American Stage Tours: the California Academy of Science in San Francisco; Filoli Gardens & the Museum of American Heritage; the Monterey Bay Aquarium & the 17-Mile Drive tour which includes Carmel; Old Sacramento & the State Capitol; and Safari West in Santa Rosa. where you are taken around in a safari-type vehicle to see exotic animals such as zebras, giraffes, and rhinos and has a BBQ lunch.

American Stage Tours provides buses that will hold either 36, 48, or 56 passengers. Chapter members will get 50% off the price of the tour. Guests and spouses will pay full price. We need to find a good central place where we can leave our cars while we are on the tour.

Rachel will be sending out information about the tours by email. Members should let her know what mode of communication they want to use and let her know if they don't do email or text messages. We will make a list and prioritize the tours we would like to do. Carrie will need the date that we want to take the tour.

**President's Report:** President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia welcomed one new member, Patricia Hornisher, and her husband, Charlie. She reported that the RPEA Executive Board will be meeting in Sacramento on March 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Vice President's Report:** Vice President Greg Marro talked about a recruitment plan for CalPERS employees. Certain government agencies may not be able to give out personal information about when their employees are retiring. We will have to work around that and find another way to get them information about RPEA. If our members know of someone who is retiring, they can let either Greg Marro, Debbie Geske or Rachel Maldonado Aziminia know. Our chapter now has around 514 members. We will be coming out with a tri-fold flyer with information about our Chapter and how to contact us. Marsha Parker suggested going to retirement parties and handing out information. Nanci Finley suggested leaving pamphlets in HR Departments. Let Greg know if you know of a Senior Fair coming up. We may be able to set up a table to pass out information. We had a table at the Solano County Fair last year and will be doing that again this year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Patricia McCarthy reported that our beginning balance for this past quarter was \$24,584.72. We had income of \$1230.25 and expenses of \$2,270.37, leaving a balance as of the end of July, of **\$23,544.60**. Pat indicated that we can now take payments with Zelle. Board members with vouchers will be able to get reimbursed with Zelle.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Communications Chair Debbie Geske reported that she placed notices of our meeting in the newspaper and online in Nextdoor Neighbor. Debbie has compiled the following list of our legislators and how to contact them:

#### **Federal Senators - California:**

Alex Padilla, Tel: (415) 981-9369 or (202) 224-0454

Adam Schiff, Tel: (415) 393-0707

#### **California Congressional Representatives:**

Mike Thompson, 4<sup>th</sup> district,

Napa district office – Tel: (707) 226-9898 / Fax: (707) 251-9800

John Garamendi, 8<sup>th</sup> district

Vallejo district office - Tel: 707-645-1888 / Fax (707) 438-0523

Fairfield district office – (707) 438-0523 / Fax (707) 438-0523

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**California State Senator**

Christopher Cabaldon, 3<sup>rd</sup> district  
Vallejo office – Tel: (707) 551-2389  
Napa office – Tel: (707) 224-1990  
Email: Senator.cabaldon@senate.ca.gov

**California State Assembly:**

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, District 4, Tel: (707) 224-0440 / Fax: (707) 224-0430  
Lori Wilson, District 11, Tel: (707) 438-7359 / Fax: (707) 438-7344

**Napa County Board of Supervisors:**

District 1, Joelle Gallagher, Tel: 707-253-4828  
Email: Joelle.Gallagher@countyofnapa.org  
Board Aide for district 1, Yazmin Dominguez, Tel: (707) 299-1354  
Email: Yazmin.Dominguez@CountyofNapa.org  
District 2 Supervisor Liz Alessio, Tel: (707) 259-8276  
Email: liz.alessio@countyofnapa.org  
Board Aide for district 2, Victoria Knoblock. Tel: (707) 253-4435  
Email: victoria.knoblock@countyofnapa.org  
District 3 Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Tel: (707) 253-4827  
Email: Anne.Cottrell@countyofnapa.org  
Board Aide for district 3, Leah Doyle-Stevens, Tel: (707) 254-4154  
Email: leah.doyle-stevens@countyofnapa.org  
District 4 Amber Manfree, Tel: (707) 259-8278  
Email: amber.manfree@countyofnapa.org  
Board Aide for district 4, Abigail Flores, Tel: (707) 299-1478  
Email: abigail.flores@countyofnapa.org  
District 5 Belia Ramos, Tel: (707) 259-8277  
Email: belia.ramos@countyofnapa.org  
Board Aide for district 5, Melissa Moize, Tel: (707) 253-6170  
Email: Melissa.Moize@CountyofNapa.org

**Solano County Board of Supervisors**

District 1 – Cassandra James, Tel: (707) 784-3261  
Email: crjames@solanocounty.gov  
District Representative - District 1, Yuritzi Jacobo Martinez, Tel : (707) 784-3262  
Email: yjacobomartinez@solanocounty.gov  
District Representative – District 1, Tony Stewart, Tel: (707) 553-5363  
Email: ajstewart@solanocounty.gov  
District 2 - Monica Brown, Tel: (707) 784-3031  
Email: MEBrown@solanocounty.gov  
District Representative for Supervisor Monica Brown:  
John Glidden, Tel: (707) 784-3004  
Email: JMGlidden@solanocounty.gov  
District Representative for Supervisor Monica Brown:  
Wanda Madeiros, Tel: (707) 784-2974 /  
Email: wlmadeiros@solanocounty.gov  
District 3 Supervisor Wanda Williams, Tel: 707-784-6136  
Email: wlwilliams@solanocounty.gov  
District Representative for Supervisor Wanda Williams  
Latressa Wilson Alford, JD, Tel: (707) 784-6418  
Email: LLwilsonalford@solanocounty.gov  
District Representative for Supervisor Wanda Williams  
Kathy Lawton-Ceasar, 707-784-3006  
Email: kmlawtoncaesar@solanocounty.gov  
District 4 Supervisor John M. Vasquez, Tel: (707) 784-6129  
Email: JMVasquez@solanocounty.gov  
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District Representative for Supervisor John M. Vasquez:

Jennifer Hamilton, Tel: (707) 784-3034

Email: jlhamilton@solanocounty.gov

District Representative for Supervisor John M. Vasquez:

Ryan Chalk, Tel: (707) 784-6128

Email: RLChalk@solanocounty.gov

District 5 Mitch Mashburn, Tel: (707) 784-6130

Email: mhmashburn@solanocounty.gov

District representative – District 5

Danette Mercado, Tel: (707) 784-6131

Email: DIMercado@solanocounty.gov

**Other contact information:**

**Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA)**

Tel: (916) 441-7732 / Fax 1(916) 441-7413

Website: www.rpea.com

Email: rpea@rpea.com

**CALPERS**

Tel: 888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377) / TTY: (877) 249-7442 / Fax: (800) 959-6545

Website: <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/>

Debbie indicated that she will be adding City Counsel information to the list.

Sunshine Chair Odessa Pinnock didn't have anything new to report. Her contact information is in our Newsletter. If a member you know is ill, let her know and she will send out a card.

**Old Business:**

A vote was taken on which American Stage Tour we would like to do. The voting went as follows: Safari West – 18, Filoli Gardens & the Museum of American Heritage – 3,

The Monterey Bay Aquarium & the 17-Mile Drive – 4, Old Sacramento & the State Capitol – 3, The Academy of Sciences – 0. We will be doing the Safari West tour. Rachel pointed out that every year we can do a tour. Our next fiscal year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. In August we can take another vote for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

We would like to form a committee to go and meet our legislators to let them know that we have an active chapter that is interested in protecting our pensions and in learning about issues that affect seniors, such as scamming. Let someone on our Board know if you would like to be on this committee. The committee would need to strategize on how they want to go forward when meeting with our legislators.

Rachel reported that our Board voted to donate \$1,000.00 towards renovations at the RPEA State offices. She learned at the RPEA State Board meeting that the following expenditures were made:

1. Major HVAC repairs: \$10,551
2. Recessed LED lighting: \$1,800
3. Slurry seal paving and restriping of parking lot: \$4,950
4. Dead tree removal, rough grading and fencing: \$2,000
5. Replacement of all sidewalks around the headquarters: \$22,000
6. New plumbing: \$3,550

This is a total expenditure of \$44,851.

A motion was made by Josie Hodson to donate \$1,000.00 to the Building Fund Drive. The motion was seconded by Marsha Parker and passed.

**New Business:**

President Rachel Maldonado Aziminia asked for volunteers for a Nominating Committee. An election will be held in May for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The other Board positions are appointed by the Board. The names of those running for office will be posted in the Newsletter that comes out in April. Josie Hodson volunteered to be Chair of the Nominating Committee. You can call her if you are interested in running for office. If any of the current officers are interested in running again, they can let her know. If anyone is interested in Health Benefits or Legislation, those Chairs will be appointed in July.

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General Assembly is held every two years. This year it will be held in San Jose at the Hilton from September 28<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>. Our chapter can send two delegates and two alternates. Rachel is already a delegate since she is on the State Board. State would pay expenses for the delegates, and our Chapter would pay housing and mileage expenses for the alternates. Their meals would be provided while there. Volunteers are also needed on the first day for registration. We need to know by May if anyone is interested. Doris Kogo said that she is interested in being an alternate. Debbie Geske and Greg Marro both said that they were interested in being either a delegate or alternate and Odessa Pinnock is interested in either being a volunteer or an alternate. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

SYLVIA AMEN, Secretary

**RPEA CHAPTER 035 (SOLANO AND NAPA)  
VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT BY GREG MARRO**

As chair of the Membership Committee, we will meet before the general membership meeting in May 2026 to review a preliminary first draft of an information/recruitment brochure (tri-fold) and asking the Executive Board for their comments and input until we agree with a final version to be approved.

Also under consideration is developing an “outreach recruitment plan” on contacting our former place of public employment and to contact our union representatives, where applicable, to assist with recruiting “about-to-be” retirees who are within three to six months of their planned retirement.

As always, “word-of-mouth” from our chapter members are our best recruitment method, the “bring one, teach one” mantra to have prospective new members to join our Solano/Napa Chapter 035. If any member has any ideas for recruitment, I will be glad to entertain your comments, and you can forward those to my email at [gregmarro@yahoo.com](mailto:gregmarro@yahoo.com).

Thank you.  
Greg Marro



**OUR RPEA CHAPTER 35 OFFICER ELECTIONS  
MAY 13TH**

Anyone interested in nominating someone for office of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer or who is interested in running for office themselves for next term, which runs from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028, can contact Nominating Chair:

Josie Hodson , at 707 746-6550,

Nominations will also be taken from the floor at our May 13th meeting.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Spring is here and the days are longer. I enjoy the longer days because of the longer hours available to visit friends and local sites before darkness descends upon us.

I am happy to report that I am keeping my new year's resolution, to visit my fitness center. Research shows by the month of February "a large majority abandon them." I hope that I will be the 9-12% who successfully keeps her New Year's resolution.

**February 11 General Meeting**

There were 39 members and guests in attendance at the February General Meeting held at the Vallejo Olive Garden. We missed those who were not available to attend. Our guest speaker was Carrie Wood from the American Stage Tour company who answered questions about the day tours that the AST provides. The chapter members voted for the Safari West tour in Santa Rosa. Please attend the May general membership meeting to find out about the tour that will occur in August 2026.

**New and Renewed Members**

In each newsletter we welcome our new chapter members. I am happy to report sixteen joined our chapter: James Bridgeman, Novato; Ana Cash, Napa; Hollis Critchley, Napa; Stephen Foti, San Anselmo; Eudora Fleischman, Fairfield; Richard Frishman, Napa; Lawrence Hammond, Vallejo; Mary Hammond, Vallejo; Edna Harris, Vallejo; Ana Hegerty, Vacaville; Ronald Jackson, Benicia; Lorna Higgs, Suisun City; Elisa Lomas, Fairfield; Sofia Mbega, Stockton; Vicki Poli, Napa; and Richard Stensby, Napa. In addition, two members renewed their membership in January, and one in March. We thank you all for your continued membership with the Solano Napa Chapter 035 because our members both new and renewed are the strength and backbone of our organization. We hope you will consider joining us at the May 13 general membership meeting.

**RPEA General Assembly 2026**

The General Assembly 2026 will be held at the Hilton San Jose from September 29-October 1. Several members volunteered to be delegates and alternate delegates. Their names will be submitted to the RPEA Headquarters in June.

**Contribution to the RPEA Inaugural Building Fund Drive**

At the February General Membership Meeting, the members approved the Board's recommendation that the chapter contribute \$1,000 toward the Inaugural Building Fund Drive.

**May Guest Speaker**

The general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at the Olive Garden at 1176 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, from 12-2 PM. The speaker will be Vang Xiong, Supervisor, Solano County Public Health, Older and Disabled Adult Services. The topic of his presentation is *Elder Financial Exploitation*.

*Hope to see YOU on May 13*

*Rachel Maldonado Aziminia*

**MAY DAY—MAY 1ST**

The First of May is the date of many public holidays. In many countries, May Day is synonymous with International Workers' Day, or Labor Day, which celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement. As a day of celebration, the holiday has ancient origins, and it can relate to many customs that have survived into modern times. Many of these customs are due to May Day being a cross-quarter day, meaning that (in the Northern Hemisphere where it is almost exclusively celebrated) it falls approximately halfway between the spring equinox and summer solstice. In the Celtic tradition, this date marked the end of spring and the beginning of summer.

*From Wikipedia*

(Note: Remember May baskets and Maypole dancing?)