



Volume 31, Issue 2

The Camellia
Retired Public Employees' Association
Area VII -Sacramento, California
Chapter 004 Newsletter

We are active and retired California public employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and improving our earned retirement, medical and other benefits.



MAR/APR 2026

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - Roxanne Woodward

I hope this communication finds you well. Spring has always been my favorite time of year providing a time for reflection and renewal. After sowing some new wildflower seeds in my beds, I am now enjoying colorful blooms. I keep my humming bird feeders and water fountain filled, as well.

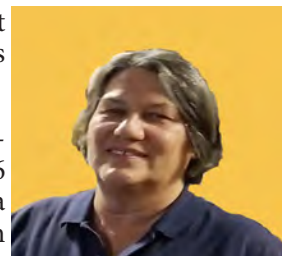
We enjoyed our annual Spring luncheon earlier this month at Cattlemens. I would like to thank Debbie Dettner, our local Associated Member Benefits Advisor, for joining us as our guest speaker. She provided us with a myriad of benefit options available t and answered all of our questions. She also surprised us with special drawings at the end of her presentation. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie, our speaker, the luncheon, and the many door prizes, including two beautiful floral arrangements donated by Tatiana Weber. Thank you to all for joining us and a big thank you to both Sheryl Zazzi and Marie Reed for their hard work in making our luncheon a success. A few photos are contained herein.

I recently spoke with Chik (Aviators' lessee). As it now stands, it appears that we may be without our regular meeting place for some time. The recent issues all started as a part of the Sacramento County Department of Airports planned construction and upgrades inside of the restaurant. In the interim, several members have been researching other locations near that venue as many of regular meeting attendees are from that area. I appreciate that these members have stepped up and provided leads for additional meeting locations. All of the options provided thus far are still on the table. However, we will meet at the Old Spaghetti Factory on Watt Avenue for our May 13, 2026 Board meeting. Once again, we may need to become advocates to get the County to resolve the issue at Aviators in a timely manner. We all signed onto petitions and surveys in 2023 when the establishment was threatened with closure. We did it then ad can do it again! More on this topic later.

I will continue to send out monthly meeting announcements (electronically only) for all of our meetings. I generally send the announcement out one (1) week before the meeting date. Our meeting date is the second Wednesday of each month and alternates between the Board and the General Membership meetings. All members are welcome to attend all meetings. Our RSVP policy is still in place and Sheryl Zazzi will continue to take our RSVP's. It is important to heed the instructions in the meeting announcements as we are in flux with our meeting locations and may need to adhere to specifics from the meeting place. If you have not been receiving these announcements electronically and did in the past, please check with RPEA's Member Services to make sure that your e-mail address is correct in their new system and/or

on file. It is my understanding that a tremendous amount of keying was required in the new system.

Membership: Our Chapter membership at the end of March 2026 stood at 885 members, including a few new local members. We wish you all a warm welcome and invite you to join us at one of our upcoming meetings or events.



CalPERS (CP): We continue to encourage our local members to attend the CP Board of Administration meetings that are held in downtown Sacramento and open to the public. The calendar for these meetings may be found at: <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/about/board/board-meetings/calendar>. Just a reminder that our Chapter will reimburse you for your mileage and parking. If you need a Reimbursement Form, please let me or our Secretary/Treasurer know. Do not send these forms to Headquarters as this reimbursement is from the Chapter. Be sure to wear a RPEA t-shirt. If you are in need of one for this purpose, please contact RPEA Headquarters. Additional CP news may be found below.

CP Upcoming Elections: This year CP will hold three (3) separate elections to fill seats on the CP Board of Administration for representatives of state members, school members, and public agency members. Note: Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 14th. The current state member representative is Theresa Taylor. She has held this position since 2015 and will not seek re-election. Her term will run through January 15, 2027. The current school member representative is Kevin Palkki. He has served since 2023. The current public agency representative is Mullissa Willette who has served since 2022. Additional information on this topic may be found at: www.calpers.ca.gov/about/board/board-elections.

PERF Update: The value of the PERF at the end of February 2026 stood at \$614.7 billion. This was the latest figure that I was readily able to access on the CP website.

COLA: I always look forward to our COLA adjustment that will will be showing up in our next benefit check. As I like to say, every little bit helps! If you would like a sneak peek before then: 1) log into your "myCALPERS" account; 2) go to "Retirement"; and 3) select "Benefit Summary" and voila!

Health Care: The CP Pension & Health Benefits Committee (PHBC) met on March 17, 2026 and re-elected Ramon Rubalcava as Chair and Kevin Palkki as Vice Chair. Topics covered included: health open enrollment results, an update on

Continued on Page 3

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

The year 2026 has hit with a bang and it is already mid-April. Tax Day has come and gone, hope you all had a reasonable experience with that chore this year. The new laws are changing many aspects of this date, some advantageous, some not so much.

As usual, I have come up with some alerts from a financial source, warning about the scammers out there, searching for ways to get into your pockets and bank accounts. I hope you find the tips I present are helpful for you. So, here goes:

Know the red flags

No matter which technique the scammers use, the red flags remain the same. You may be:

- Contacted unexpectedly by phone, email, text, direct message or pop-up with a request for personal information or money. Never click a link or download an attachment from someone you don't know. Banks or financial institutions will never text, email or call you asking for personal or account information.
- Pressured to act immediately with an alarming phone call, email or text that plays with your emotions. Scammers may pose as an employee from a familiar organization, such as your bank or other financial institution, and say there's a problem that needs immediate attention. Do not act unless you have verified the person who has contacted you and the story or request is legitimate.
- Asked to pay in an unusual way, like gift cards, bitcoin, prepaid debit cards or digital currency, including Zelle® or Venmo® to resolve fraud. Your bank or financial institution will never ask you to transfer money to anyone, including yourself, and will never ask you to transfer money because we detected fraud on your account.
- Asked to provide personal or account information, such as an account verification code, bank account number or PIN. When in doubt, don't give it out. Financial institutions will never text, email or call you asking for an account authorization code.
- Offered a free product or 'get rich quick' opportunity that seems too good to be true. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Never cash a check for someone you don't know.

If you authorize a transfer or send money to a scammer, there's often little your financial institution can do to help get your money back.

###

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

February 2026

Terry Dasno

Dianna Hadley

Dominique Herbert

March 2026

Sherman Ahi

Pearl Cohen

RAMBLINGS OF AN OLDER MIND...

I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond.

I decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'An ambulance.' (I wrote "another Doctor" @ my Doctor's office)

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble..

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words ' The' and ' IRS ' together it spells 'Theirs...'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way.

I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Ah! Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

May you always have Love to Share, Cash to Spare, And Friends who Care.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - continued from page 1

the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) transition, long-term care market research, and retiree COLA. The Committee also took public comment on difficulties with the transition to CVS, and behavioral health care. Additionally, the Board directed staff to provide PBM grievance and appeals numbers to them. The next meeting of the PHBC will be held on May 18, 2026 in closed session to discuss an update on its health plan rate renewal negotiating strategy. It seems like only a few years ago, we were getting our open enrollment contracts in late spring. The gap seems to be getting wider or maybe that is just me getting older!

Save the Date(s): Our annual Card Bingo will again be held in the park on August 12, 2026. This is a fun event enjoyed by our local members. For our Delegates, our biennial General Assembly will be held occur September 29 – October 1, 2026 in San Jose.

###



Lively conversations at our recent Spring Luncheon. In back, Tatiana and C.T. Weber, then John Eng and Julie Edul. We see the back of Linda Raridan & Noreen Nagao listening.



At Left, from left to right we see Lucy Gutierrez, President Roxanne Woodward and Reservations Chairperson Sheryl Zazzi taking card of the drawing for door prizes.



At right: Enjoying the meal at our recent Spring Luncheon we see Diane Buffington (in the cowboy hat), and Johnnie Young-Craig. Next is Cara Vallot and in front is Bruce Kennedy, long time members.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

RPEA CHAPTER 004

Sacramento, Yolo Areas
Second Wednesday
of each month.

May 13, 2026

Board Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
Old Spaghetti Factory
1625 Watt Ave., Sacramento

June 10, 2026

Membership Meeting -
Time and Place To Be Determined

July 8, 2026

Board Meeting
Time and Place To Be Determined

Please RSVP if you plan to attend
any of these meetings
Members meals are \$10 to attendees-
except for Spring Luncheon
and Holiday Luncheon

Contact **Sheryl Zazzi** at
redhatzaz@gmail.com or text (916) 607-8282
by the Wednesday before each meeting.

**NOW THAT IN-PERSON MEETINGS HAVE
RESUMED**

Lunch is \$10 for members in attendance at Chapter meetings
and \$15.00 for guests for all Chapter meetings except
Spring Luncheon and

Holiday Luncheon

Members may attend all meetings.
Please reserve your spot.

**Failure to make a reservation may result in no lunch
available and failure to appear and not cancel a
reservation will result in a \$10.00 charge.**

To reserve or cancel a reservation
contact **Sheryl Zazzi** at
redhatzaz@gmail.com or text (916) 607-8282
by the Wednesday before each meeting.

NOTICE!!!

If you discard or recycle our newsletter in the trash, please shred it as there are email addresses and telephone numbers listed in it. Our directors are volunteers and we don't want unnecessary solicitations coming our way because of publication of those numbers.

2025-27 Chapter 004 COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
Health Benefits Judi Johnson jj2xwater@att.net	(916) 524-5738
Legislation Randall Cheek rc cheek1947@att.net	(916) 541-8988
Membership Diane Buffington diane-buffington@att.net	(916) 452-9097
Program Director Diane Buffington diane-buffington@att.net	(916) 452-9097
Newsletter Marie Reed marie.reed@comcast.net	(916) 606-6049
Special Events Sheryl Zazzi redhatzaz@gmail.com	(916) 607-8282
Reservations Sheryl Zazzi redhatzaz@gmail.com	(916) 607-8282
Sunshine Johnnie Young-Craig ijclady1@gmail.com	(916) 395-2618

2025-27 CHAPTER 004 OFFICERS	
President Roxanne Woodward rwoodward55@comcast.net	(916) 296-0887
Vice President Randall Cheek rc cheek1947@att.net	(916) 541-8988
Past President Marie Reed marie.reed@comcast.net	(916) 606-6049
Secretary/Treasurer Marie Reed marie.reed@comcast.net	(916) 606-6049
Area VII Director Ken Brown moosenmarno13@gmail.com	(530) 647-2168
Asst. Area VII Director C.T. Weber ctwebervoters@att.net	(916) 320-9186

NOTICE!!
**If you have moved or changed your address for
 delivery of this newsletter, please notify:**
RPEA Headquarters
300 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-6912
or (916) 441-7732

Sayings Heard Around Town

Retired: I Do Nothing in the Morning, to Keep my After-
noons Free.

If it Involves Books and Pajamas, Count Me In!

I'm in a Hurry Because I Have to Get There Before I Forget
Where I Was Going.

It Takes a Special Kind of Person to Wake Up Early and Still
Be Late.

At Night, I Can't Fall Asleep... In the Morning, I Can't Get
Up.

#

**INVITATION TO OUT OF STATE
AND OUT OF COUNTY MEMBERS**

We would like to invite any fellow RPEA members, who live
out of state or out of county, to join us. If you happen to be
in town, during our meeting, come by and say hi and maybe
tell us about some of your adventures.

This invitation also includes any of you from other chapters,
who would like to stop by, and introduce yourself and tell us
about your chapter.

Our calendar on RPEA's website is up to date for 2026.

#

Our Regular Meeting Place

Due to the remodeling of our regular meeting place at Avi-
ator's Restaurant, we have had to make other arrangements
for our meetings. We have made arrangements for the next
meeting to be held at **The Old Spaghetti Factory** on Watt
Ave. We look forward to seeing you there. Please be sure to
make your reservations with our Reservation Chair person
Sheryl Zazzi at (916) 607-8282 or redhatzaz@gmail.com.
We are still seeking a regular venue as it is uncertain how
long the remodeling at Aviator's will take.

#

**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS AND PULL TABS
FROM ALUMINUM CANS**

We are still collecting donations of non-perishable foods,
and pull tabs from aluminum cans. Please continue to save
these and we will collect them at regular meetings. The foods
are donated to the Sacramento Food Bank and the pull tabs
to Ronald McDonald House.

*A Bit of Humor to
Brighten
Your Day!*

NEVER BE AFRAID TO
TRY SOMETHING NEW.
REMEMBER, AMATEURS
BUILT THE ARK;
PROFESSIONALS BUILT
THE TITANIC.

I HATE IT WHEN I SEE
SOME OLD PERSON AND
THEN REALIZE WE WENT
TO HIGH SCHOOL
TOGETHER



Arguing with a women is like reading
the Software License Agreement.

In the end, you ignore
everything and click
"I agree".



*I'm working on pants for old guys.
They'll combine the comfort of
Dockers, with the protection of
Depends. I'll call them
Dry Dockers."*

If you eat well...
and get lots of
sleep... and do
exercise... and
drink lots of water...
... You'll die anyway!



Open the Wine.. ♥

Yes officer, I did see the
'speed limit' sign, I just didn't
see you.

CalPERS and Private Debt

by J.J. Jelincic

The dangers of Private Debt have been especially heavily reported in the financial press over the last three months.

On March 18, 2026, right in the middle of Sunshine Week, CalPERS released a heavily redacted report on its growing Private Debt program. The \$24.5 billion program is 4% of the portfolio and on its way to 8%.

The CalPERS staff, under the direction of Marcie Frost, offered no specific reason for any of the redactions but did cite G.C. 7922.000, 7927.705 and 7928.710.

7922.000

An agency shall justify withholding any record by demonstrating that the record in question is exempt under express provisions of this division, or that on the facts of the particular case the public interest served by not disclosing the record clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the record.

7927.705

Except as provided in Sections 7924.510, 7924.700, and 7929.610, this division does not require disclosure of records, the disclosure of which is exempted or prohibited pursuant to federal or state law, including, but not limited to, provisions of the Evidence Code relating to privilege.

7928.710

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this division or other law, the following records regarding alternative investments in which public investment funds invest are not subject to disclosure pursuant to this division, unless the information has already been publicly released by the keeper of the information:

- (1) Due diligence materials that are proprietary to the public investment fund or the alternative investment vehicle.*
- (2) Quarterly and annual financial statements of alternative investment vehicles.*
- (3) Meeting materials of alternative investment vehicles.*
- (4) Records containing information regarding the portfolio positions in which alternative investment funds invest.*
- (5) Capital call and distribution notices.*
- (6) Alternative investment agreements and all related documents.*

There is nothing to support that any of the above items are in the report. Even if it did, unfortunately for CalPERS, this law which they co-sponsored only applies to:

(1) "Alternative investment" means an investment in a private equity fund, venture fund, hedge fund, or absolute return fund.

CalPERS had tried to amend the law to cover Private Debt but failed. Board members have publicly attacked RPEA for successfully killing the change.

#

Who are California's highest-paid civil service employees? Nearly half of the top 150 highest-paid state employees work as executives and investment officers for CalPERS or CalSTRS, California's largest public pension funds. Together, the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System's assets exceed \$1 trillion, according to the latest valuations. That staggering amount is managed by investment officers and executives whose compensation is subject to scrutiny by the boards that oversee the retirement systems. The reason for their massive pay packages comes down to the nature of investment officers' work. To secure the best possible returns on public employees' retirement contributions, the state agencies have said that they need to attract talented investment managers. Compensation for the public pension funds' highest-paid employees has increased in recent years as the funds' assets have similarly grown, though those increases have largely outpaced inflation.

A table showing the top 150 highest-paid California state employees.

Employee Name	Department Name	Job title	Total pay
Stephen W Gilmore	CalPERS	Chief Investment Officer, Public Employees' Retirement System	/\$2,272,874
Daniel J Bienvenue	CalSTRS	Deputy Chief Investment Officer, California State Teachers' Retirement System	/\$1,566,471
Marcie L Frost	CalPERS	Executive Officer/Public Employees' Retirement System	/\$1,561,539
Arnold B Phillips	CalPERS	Managing Investment Director, Public Employees' Retirement System	/\$1,557,236
Scott Chan	CalSTRS	Chief Investment Officer, California State Teachers' Retirement System	/\$1,464,919
Daniel Booth	CalSTRS	Deputy Chief Investment Officer, California State Teachers' Retirement System	/\$1,358,484

Source: State Controller's Office
Table: William Melhado

Read more at: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article314754348.html#storylink=cpy>