



Retired Public Employees' Association Mission City Chapter #61 March-April 2026 Newsletter

March 10, 2026

Lunch Meeting at Denny's*
Hybrid Meeting

Those wishing to attend the Chapter 61 meeting in person will meet at Denny's (1745 El Camino Real, Santa Clara) at 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: Kari Rogers, Fire Prevention Specialist,
Santa Clara Fire Department (SCFD)
Community Risk Reduction Initiatives and Senior Safety

**Note: Different Location Than Announced*

at the February 11, 2026 Meeting/China Stix Lunch

RSVP!! Email Nora Monette (nmonette@aol.com) or leave message at (408) 244-5153 by March 9th if you plan to attend in person

Those wishing to Zoom can join the meeting using the link below.

Zoom Meeting Link

Time: Mar 10, 2026 11:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87923417532?pwd=24SZHLWLTMO60CX9KMacFKOsfHldQJ.1>

Meeting ID: 879 2341 7532

Passcode: 036354

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,87923417532#,,,,*036354# US

+16699006833,,87923417532#,,,,*036354# US (San Jose)

Join instructions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/87923417532/invitations?signature=eAx6l0iV OIYXzUQEbuLnfBroVeYmRjdrIbHhbL-3CW4>

Next Meeting

March 10, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

(In-person AND Zoom meeting. If you cannot attend in person, log on to Zoom meeting link shown on this page)

**** NOTE ****

MEETING LOCATION
Denny's
1745 El Camino Real
Santa Clara

Upcoming
2026 Meetings
(2nd Tuesdays)

March 10, 2026

May 12, 2026

July 14, 2026

Sept. 8, 2026

November 10, 2026

See Last Page for
Board Member Contact
Information

Secretary.....Mary Hanel

**January 13, 2026 at Santa Clara PD, Community Room
Meeting Minutes**

At arrival, attendees signed in. A hybrid meeting, a few people attended via Zoom. In person attendees were given a beverage and an opportunity to select from a choice of box lunches from Panera. A speaker from the Electric Department (Silicon Valley Power) began her presentation about 11:45 am after being introduced by Virginia Soo.

Speaker Presentation: Guest speaker, Rachel Radell-Harris, Senior Electric Division Manager for Community Outreach, discussed these topics: 1) Background and history of Electric Department; 2) How electric rates are determined; and, 3) Why there are so many Data Centers in Santa Clara and if they affect residential customers' rates and access to power.

1) The Community Outreach division of SVP is involved in many projects for the community good including roof solar projects, a fixed income program, K – University education programs, and even research projects with Santa Clara University. Rachel mentioned that the City's Electric Department was created in 1896 and will celebrate its 130th anniversary this summer. In 1998, during the deregulation of electricity in California, the Electric Department took on the brand name of Silicon Valley Power. SVP became coal free in 2017 and is now 40% carbon-free, has about 240 employees, and 61,000 accounts.

2) Rates are set based on periodic cost of service studies. Rates vary by customer type, e.g., residential or commercial or industrial or corporate. One type of customer should not be subsidizing another type. Coverage of potential risks in buying and selling power is also factored in. Purchasing power has parallels to stock market trading. Usually there are better deals for buying large amounts of power. Developers pay fees for projects based on estimated power needs. Residents can watch City Council Agendas to follow when rates are being discussed or when rate changes are approved. Santa Clara is built up so rather than build new power plants, Santa Clara purchases and brings power in. Santa Clara has also partnered with other electric utilities and been part of a joint powers agency (that includes places like Roseville, Lodi, Redding) buying power together.

3) Data Centers have been in Santa Clara for almost 30 years. Once the center of the semiconductor industry, when these companies began leaving Santa Clara or downsizing, data centers offered an opportunity to bring in new business. Data Centers have supported the General Fund, their power load is large and predictable, and they have been a source for drawing power to the grid serving residential customers during heat waves and other times when power needs spike.

In the last 5 years though, with the escalation of investment into AI (Artificial Intelligence) there has been huge growth in the number of data centers. Due to the amount of power and water they use, about 2 years ago some brakes

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RPEA Headquarters
300 T. Street
Sacramento, CA
95811-6912

Lucky Cash Prizes

January 13, 2026

1st Prize \$100
Chris Fernandez

2nd Prize \$75
Patrick Beall

3rd Prize \$75
Ken Kratz

4th Prize \$50
Patti Blevins

5th Prize \$50
Nancy Velasco

February 11, 2026

1st Prize \$100
Gerri Andrade

2nd Prize \$75
Shirley Goldenberg

3rd Prize \$75
Laura Perez

4th Prize \$50
Patti Blevins

5th Prize \$50
Bernadette De Sousa

Every time you attend a Chapter 61 meeting (including through Zoom), you are eligible as an attendee to win "Lucky Number" prize money!

were put on to slow the construction of new data centers. There are definite pros but also cons to data centers.

Following Rachel's presentation, President Robin Burdick called the Business part of the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

President: Robin said it was time for the Election of 2026 RPEA Chapter 61 officers. She said this would be her last meeting as President so a new President needed. The other officers were willing, if there were no new volunteers, to serve another year. When it was clear there was no new person offering to serve as president, Sandy Myers offered to serve as President if someone else would take over as Treasurer. Newsletter Editor, Nora Monette then offered to serve as Treasurer if someone else would assist her or take over the newsletter.

Robin also mentioned that she is the Director for this year's Santa Clara Women's League SHOWTIME Melodrama fundraiser for Santa Clara Senior Center Programs. The show, "The Dastardly Disaster," will be held March 6th, 7th, and 8th at the Community Recreation Center and tickets can be bought at the door but can also be purchased online from Santa Clara Women's League at santaclarawomensleague.org. Mary Hanel has flyers for the event (also see page 9 of this newsletter).

1st Vice President/ Legislative Chair: Ken Kratz said that he attends the RPEA Legislative Committee every couple of months. The committee discusses and monitors pending legislation affecting CalPERS retirees and all seniors; read the latest RPEA magazine to keep abreast of important legislation. RPEA headquarters in Sacramento has requested that every Chapter create a committee of 3 members who will visit the offices of their local State Senator and State Assemblyman to make them aware of issues affecting RPEA members. Ken will create a questionnaire to be submitted to Chapter members in order to prioritize legislative effectors to be submitted to those local State legislators. Two-chapter members, Bill Wallace and Robin Burdick, volunteered to be a part of the committee.

Treasurer: Sandy Myers passed out copies of the November-December 2025 Treasurer's Report. Total Funds (Beginning Balance) was \$31,626.78. The Deposits Total was: \$1,124.80. Expenses were primarily for the Newsletter and for Birthday and Door prizes for the November meeting. The Total Funds (Ending Balance) was \$31,404.72. Sandy reminded everyone that the Birthday Award this year will be \$25 and the Random drawings will be for \$100, \$75, \$75, \$50 and \$50.

Sandy suggested that we buy a portable microphone that could be passed to whoever was speaking to enable the Zoom attendees to hear everything that was going on during the meeting. Ken Kratz offered to help Sandy pick out a microphone that would have minimum static/feedback and work well with the computer set-up we have.

January-February Birthdays (both meetings)

Thai Tran
Sadie Hansen



February Meeting Gift Basket
Rod Ulibarri



Membership: Virginia Soo said she would look for a speaker for our March meeting. She welcomes member suggestions. Thai Tran suggested a speaker on the topic of health and wellness for seniors. The Senior Center has a Health & Wellness Program Nurse or Kaiser might provide a speaker. There was also interest in getting a speaker on AI. John Peterson suggested contacting someone at the Humane Society for a future meeting regarding the benefits of having a pet as we age.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

February 11, 2026 - China Stix Restaurant Meeting Minutes

Since President Robin Burdick was unable to attend due to illness, Treasurer Sandy Myers presided, calling a brief meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2026 Officer Election: Sandy announced and asked for a vote to accept the slate of Chapter 61 officers for 2026. The proposed slate: Sandy Myers, President; Ken Kratz, VP-Legislation; Bill Wallace, VP-Programs; Mary Hanel, Secretary; Nora Monette, Treasurer; Virginia Soo, Membership Chair; Gerri Andrade, Sunshine Chair; Nancy Velasco, Newsletter Editor. France Cornu made a motion that slate be accepted and Bernadette De Sousa seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Sandy then checked that everyone had signed in and asked if any of Board members present had news or announcements. Bill Wallace noted that following unsuccessful cataract surgery, he went to the VA Medical Facility in Palo Alto and they were able to help him. So don't give up if cataract surgery doesn't work for you, there are new medical developments that may help.

Virginia Soo also provided a "Chinese New Year" themed gift basket as an additional random prize drawing for this meeting.

Membership Chair.....Virginia Soo

As of February 4, there are a total of 700 members in Chapter 61.

Earlier in the month, approximately 30 Chapter 61 members celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Horse at China Stix Restaurant. Members enjoyed a delicious multi-course meal and socialized with friends and former co-workers. New member Rod Ulibarri won the raffle basket filled with Chinese goodies and an anthurium plant.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th at 11:30 am. Thank you to Lynne Richards for suggesting someone from the Santa Clara Senior Center speak to our group regarding health insurance plans. Perhaps at a future meeting since there is a lot of confusion when choosing a plan that is right for you.





**Thank you to Robin Burdick for her many years on the
Chapter 61 Board**

**From running Zoom Meetings, organizing the Summer BBQ,
publishing newsletters and attending meetings, you have been a
guiding and supporting force!**

We appreciate you!

2026 Chapter 61 Board Members		Contact
President	Sandy Myers	s_bmyers@sbcglobal.net (408) 859-1201
Vice President-Legislative	Ken Kratz	kskratz@yahoo.com
Vice President-Programs	Bill Wallace	takineasyst@sbcglobal.net (408) 218-7494
Secretary	Mary Hanel	maryhanel6608@comcast.net
Treasurer	Nora Monette	nmonette@aol.com (408) 244-5153
Membership Chair	Virginia Soo	virgsoo@yahoo.com (408) 390-8619
Sunshine Chair	Gerri Andrade	gmagerri@sbcglobal.net (209) 324-6947 (please note corrected phone #)
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Velasco	Nancycosmo1@gmail.com (408) 709-9782

Santa Clara Women's League presents

SHOWTIME

an old fashioned melodrama entitled

The Dastardly Disaster

Fri. Mar. 6 • 7pm
(doors open at 5:30pm)

Sat. Mar. 7 • 7pm
(doors open at 5:30pm)

Sun. Mar. 8 • 2pm
(doors open at 12:30pm)

Tickets

\$10 Adult • \$5 Child

Family Pack \$25

(2 adults & 2 Children under 12)

A fundraiser for Santa Clara
Senior Center Programs

Delectable Food and Chances
to Win Prizes Galore

Community Recreation Center
969 Kiely Blvd, Santa Clara

Purchase tickets at
santaclarawomensleague.org
or at the door

2026

Mark Your Calendar for Santa Clara Showtime 2026— "The Dastardly Disaster" Melodrama & Fundraiser set for March 6-8. This is a family event, appropriate for all ages. In addition to a fun-filled show and Olio acts by local talent, there'll be a variety of tasty food offerings plus an exciting raffle with more than 15 themed opportunity baskets at each performance, all filled with desirable items. New to the raffle this year is a 75" Samsung TV, and there will also be a series of cash prize raffle items. One need not be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased from any Santa Clara Women's League (SCWL) member or at the event. All proceeds from this SCWL community fundraising event will benefit Santa Clara Senior Center Programs with focus on health, wellness, and nutrition.