



Quarterly
Newsletter

Cattails

For the Retired Public Employees of
San Joaquin County

Member of CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – by Marcel Leduc & Dick Callistro



I'm happy to report that our organization is both thriving and growing. We continue to be involved in providing social activities for our members, of advocating on important retiree issues, and disseminating information through various means, including this newsletter.

On the subject of growth, we recently completed a membership campaign, which resulted in a seven percent growth in our numbers. Of the some 3,400 County and Special District retirees eligible to be part of our organization, 1,650 have elected to do so. Congratulations and welcome to our new members!

In June, we had our annual picnic at Oak Grove Park, where some 200 retirees and their guests attended, despite a very hot day. We've received positive feedback from many of those in attendance and we are always looking for ways to improve the event each succeeding year. Of special note, Robert Palmer, Retirement Administrator, is now a retiree. As is his custom, he attended the picnic where your Board of Directors presented him with an Honorable Membership into RPESJC. As a member, Bob, you are now receiving this newsletter; congratulations on both your retirement and your membership in RPESJC! As reported previously, Bob's replacement as Retirement Administrator is Annette St. Urbain, and we look forward to continuing our positive relationship with her.

Be sure to read the Benefits Committee Report in this issue, as an important consideration of "Ventura decision" benefits is coming up.

One of our Board Members, Rick Toher, has resigned from the Board due to his involvement in other activities. We can't begin to thank Rick for all of his work for this organization. Rick handled the publication and mailing of this newsletter, created and operated our computer applications, was the primary interface with the Retirement Administration on operational issues, and

completed various mundane tasks, ranging from printing member name tags to sending out special mailers. With his resignation, the President, according to the by-laws, may appoint someone to fill the position until the next election. I am pleased to inform you that Joe McKee, a retired Sergeant with 32 years of active service to the County, has been selected to fill the vacant Board position. Joe has picked up right where Rick left off. He is doing all the duties formerly performed by Rick and has, along with George Hong, made substantial improvements to our web site. Be sure to read the article "Our Website, RPESJC.org." We are really proud of the website and proud of George and Joe for making it what it is.

Part of what makes our organization great is the quality of our volunteers who handle everything, from each detail of social and special events, to very difficult issues in the area of advocacy, the dissemination of information, and the day-to-day operations of our organization. Thanks to you all! ❖

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BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT – by Dick Callistro

There is not much for us to report on in this issue regarding health insurance benefits for retirees. The County continues to pretty much ignore us as much as they can and the Retirement Board is not presently in a fiscal position to help us in any way.

Both the Governor and the state legislature each have their own emphasis on addressing health care issues for Californians.

One part of this statewide health care concern has to do with cost issues while the other part deals with assuring medical insurance for those who are not now presently insured. Neither issue will have much effect, if any, on San Joaquin County retirees.

The cost issues have to do with new federal requirements that mandate that all governmental agencies must include in their accounting the future costs of benefits they provide to retirees, not just the current cost. This will have minimal, if any, effect for San Joaquin County as the County provides no retiree health benefit except for the retirees' sick leave bank where the future costs are already accounted for. This new accounting requirement is significant for the state (CalPers), most counties, cities, certain special districts, and school districts. They must post to their accounts the future costs of benefits promised and there is concern that this accounting debt will adversely affect their bond rating, etc. We are certainly no expert on this issue, but it seems logical that since this same reporting is required for every political division in the country, the playing field should again, in short time, be leveled.

As a part of this cost issue, the State is trying to get a grip on the true current and future costs of governmental post employee benefits. One of our positions is that, for counties, the state should mandate minimum governmental retiree health insurance benefits for all 1937 Act counties, and then limit State budgetary participation to those counties to the minimum it establishes. Don't hold your breath!

SUPPLEMENTAL (VENTURA DECISION) BENEFITS

Our present emphasis is on the issue of reinstating the monthly supplement for most retirees, which resulted from a Settlement Agreement approved by a Superior Court based on the "Ventura Decision". Both the Board of Supervisors and the Retirement Board approved the settlement agreement in 2001. Using Retirement System surpluses, the two boards and the Superior Court

essentially established a three-tier retirement system for San Joaquin County.

For those who retired before April 1, 1982 with 15 years of County employment experience, and having reached the age of 65, they receive a \$50 per month supplement. This group was singled out because it was already receiving supplemental Cost Of Living payments. This supplemental payment is fully funded for the future.

Skipping to the third group, those who retired January 1, 2001 or after, it received or will receive greatly enhanced retirement payments under a different formula. This program is also fully funded.

The middle group, those who retired after April 1, 1982 but before January 1, 2001, was to receive a supplemental payment of \$10 per month for each year of service, up to 30 years, or to a maximum of \$300 per month. This earned supplemental payment, which applies to most San Joaquin County retirees, was not fully funded! Payments were suspended early in 2006 due to insufficient funds.

To compound matters, County Counsel issued a legal opinion in July of 2005, which opined that the County must be credited for poor investment performance by the retirement fund before supplemental payments for this group can be resumed. An attorney provided by the Deputy Sheriffs Association, who is well familiar with retirement law, wrote a letter to the Retirement Board strongly suggesting that Counsel's opinion was incorrect, and further, that County Counsel, as an employee of the County, has a conflict-of-interest in this matter. Further, that the Retirement Board should request a second legal opinion from another attorney well versed in retirement law. When this matter came before the Retirement Board there were just eight of the nine members present. When considering the conflict-of-interest issue, the Board voted, to our astonishment, four-to-four and the matter did not pass. We are currently working on taking this issue to court for a proper resolution.

Recently, the Retirement Board received the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from its Auditor for the year ending 2006. As many of you know, the value of assets held in the retirement fund is determined on an actuarial basis, rather than an actual annual basis. That is, to avoid the annual ups and downs of market performance,

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Benefits Report continued from Page 2

which could dramatically affect annual budgetary and administrative requirements, the value of the investment portfolio is “smoothed” over a five-year period. The actuarial value of investments for the year ending December 31, 2006 is really an average value of assets for the years: 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. While the performance for the first year, 2002, is poor, the subsequent years have been significantly better. However, utilizing both the five-year smoothing process and the need to establish reserves for a downturn in investments, the preliminary conclusion from this report is that there are not sufficient funds to reinstate the supplemental “Ventura” benefits for most retirees.

We are a bit confused that this financial report indicates that the fund assets grew by some \$230 million from 2005 and 2006, and yet there still appears to be insufficient funds to reinstate the supplement for most retirees. Also, the retirement fund’s reserves for downturns in investments grew to over \$145 million for the period ending 12/31/2006. Why can’t some of this be used for the supplemental payment?

On your behalf, we are currently reviewing this issue and will provide our input to both the Retirement Board and administrative staff on this matter. ❖

IMPORTANT DEFERRED COMPENSATION CHANGE

The Federal Pension Protection Act of 2006 made a major change, potentially affecting those with Deferred Compensation investments. The Act now allows for a non-spouse beneficiary to roll over a deceased participant’s 457 Deferred Compensation plan balance into an inherited IRA. Implementation of this change required Board of Supervisors approval, so RPESJC contacted the County to advise the County of the change and to urge the County to approve it. The Board of Supervisors did approve this matter and it is now in effect.

This can provide non-spouse beneficiaries significant savings. Previously, non-spouse beneficiaries were required to withdraw the entire amount of a deceased participant’s savings in a lump sum payment, which could result in significant tax consequences.

You should consult your tax adviser for more detailed information. You can also contact your Hartford Deferred Compensation agent. ❖

LEGISLATION REPORT – by Sandy Wild

AB552 is in committee and not expected to have any action take place until January 2008. This bill deals with health insurance for retired county public employees’ health insurance offered at a cost not to exceed 102% of the premium being paid by active employees.

AB840 is in committee and will be heard July 3rd. This bill would require that all California residents have insurance coverage and be more affordable. Employers would have to cover more of their employees. This bill has been reintroduced, having been vetoed by the Governor in 2006.

AB1276 is in committee and deals with labels on prescriptions. It would require a more specific explanation of what the treatment is for, and also require identifying color and marks on tablets or capsules.

In December the Governor formed a commission to hold hearings and bring a report back to him in January 2008. The Post- Employment Benefits Commission (PEBC) is to identify the total unfunded pension and health benefits liabilities of state and local governments in California. The commission is to evaluate and compare various approaches to address any lack of funding and propose a plan to resolve this issue. The third hearing is scheduled in Burlingame on July 12th, when CRCEA will be in attendance representing the public county retirees and to voice their issues. There are twelve commissioners; among them are the head of SEIU, a California Teacher’s Union representative, a General Motors health benefits representative and a prior legislative analyst for CRCEA, who is commissioner.

RPESJC will be following all these hearings of the commission and legislature. ❖

**Celebrating 150 Years of Health Caring
San Joaquin General Hospital
1857 – 2007
September 13, 2007
Main Lobby of the Hospital
Kick-Off Celebration
9 AM – 11 AM**

You are invited to join us in celebrating San Joaquin General Hospital’s 150th Anniversary.

NEW RETIREES

Name	Department	Years
Michael Bacaylan	Public Works	23
Esther Castellanos	Deferred	7
Douglas Cohen	Human Services	13
Sandra Davis	HCS – SJGH	20
Sandra Driscoll	Mental Health	30
Joanne Faber	Deferred	2
Charles Fromm	Sheriff	8
Janeen Goebel	HCS – SJGH	9
Bonnie Grondahl	Deferred	1
Patricia Gwerder	Deferred	1
Deborah Hench	Registrar of Voters	33
Elaine Hench	Non-Member	11
Christina Hill-Apell	Public Health	13
Larry Hudson	Human Services	16
Earla Hunt	Employ. Economic Dev.	22
Robert Johnson	HCS – SJGH	20
Allyson Keller	Deferred	5
Donald Knapp	Deferred	1
Kathy Lee	Sheriff	16
Larry Mackey	Probation	1

NEW RETIREES (Cont.)

Name	Department	Years
Tahir Mansoor	HCS – SJGH	10
James McWilliams	Non-Member	4
Christy Mundy	Human Services	8
Jack Ojennus	Public Works	25
Alex Padilla	Deferred	18
Robert Palmer	Retirement	16
Bernice Parker	Employ. Economic Dev.	10
Teresa Richardson	Superior Court	18
Randall Rooker	Deferred	9
Roger Ross	Public Defender	29
Juanita Sales	HCS – SJGH	31
Joan Scantlebury	Human Services	36
Nora Serpa	Registrar of Voters	10
Larry Sherman	Deferred	5
Jerry Sigman	Substance Abuse	10
Ray Utley	Employ. Economic Dev.	10
Michael Walker	HCS – SJGH	14
James West	Sheriff	4

Welcome NEW RPESJC Members!

Name	Depart.	Name	Depart.	Name	Depart.
Dan Abdallah	N/A	Shirley Delfatti	N/A	Harland Hendricks	DA
Deborah Adams	Rev. Rec.	John Dentoni	N/A	Janet Hogan	SJGH
James Allen	Sheriff	David Derksen	Sheriff	Elbert Holman	DA
Dorothy Alvillar	Probation	Phyllis Derksen	Courts	Robert Hunter	Planning
Joseph Arguijo	Probation	Donald Dickinson	Sgh	Maryann Jimenez	Pub. Health
Edith Asher	M. Health	Dennis Dorgan	HSA	Phyllis Johnson	N/A
Joy Bansmer	Probation	Elaine Dunn	Sheriff	Michael Junker	Sheriff
Barbara Barnard	N/A	Geraldine Flanary	Courts	Mary Kelly	Probation
Frederick Bauer	Sheriff	Alice Fouts	Sheriff	Dorothy Klishevich	DA
Louanne Bertilacchi	CSS	Leonides Franco	N/A	Wallace Kobayashi	DA
Michael Bowers	DA	Joan Frederiksen	HCS	Gerald Krein	Sheriff
Carl Brand	N/A	Jane Fredrick	N/A	Roland Krug	Sheriff
Herbert Callen	Ag	Ronald Fry	Sheriff	Ray Lewis	SJGH
Robert Carl	Sheriff	James Fulton	N/A	Mollie Livingston	Assessor
Juanita Chandler	HSA	Jim Garcia	Pub. Works	Elaine Loker	HCS
Marlene Charlton	N/A	Jean Gleason	Sheriff	Mary Long	N/A
Cooper Lyle	Sheriff	Herman Goldsberry	Sheriff	John Lopez	SJGH
Karleen Corkrum	HSA	Melchior Gonzales	Sheriff	Jesus Jess Lozano	ISD
Edward Couch	Sheriff	William Goodman	N/A	Joan Lucas	N/A
James Cronin	Sheriff	Andrea Green	N/A	Hamilton Machado	Mos. Abate.
Virginia Crosby	SJGH	Frank Guevara	SJGH	Prudencia Mandac	N/A
Thomas Crothers	HSA	Florence Hall	HCS	Dennis Marciasini	Gov. Build
Carolyn Davis	HCS	Sharon Harden	SJGH	Donald Markwell	N/A
Joseph De Silva	DA	Arthur Harty	Sheriff	Elaina Martinez	Sheriff
Mary Dearborn	Co. Clerk	Stuart Henderson	HR	Larry Matthews	Com. Dev.
		Edith Hendricks	N/A	James Mattingly	DA

Congratulations

SUMMER PICNIC PICTURES

Thank you and “hugs” to my crew of Picnic decorators, who arrive early every year to decorate the Pavilion. Lucy Valverde, Carol Davenport, Rosalina Lockhart, Jeannie Witcher, Shirley Scherf and the many others not mentioned here who have helped in the past. Also, thanks to the husbands, wives, companions and guests, not to mention my grand children this year, who manned the ladders and helped carry the heavy equipment needed to have a “Gala Event”!

- Sandy Wild, 2007 Picnic Committee ❖



NEW RPESJC Members (Cont.)

Name	Depart.				
William Mc Culloch	Sheriff	Robert Oneto	SJGH	Marla Stricler	ISD
Maria Mc Dougal	HCS	Helen Perez	Sheriff	Judith Tirapelle	SJGH
Mildred Mc Elhany	N/A	Ted Pesetti	Sheriff	Larry Underwood	Sheriff
Mary Mc Kenna	N/A	Micky Pollack	ISD	Rachel Valdivia	N/A
John Mcaughey	Sheriff	Tony Reyes	N/A	Henry Varela	Pub. Works
Irma Mckay-Lewis	HSA	Teresa Richardson	Courts	Pauline Villa	SJGH
Helen Mcpherson	N/A	Gary Riesenbeck	Sheriff	Richard Vote	HSA
James Miller	Env. Health	Tanna Robinson	Sheriff	Helen Walejko	N/A
Paulette Miller	HSA	Ernest Rodriguez	Sheriff	Thomas Walker	Com. Dev.
Barbara Moffitt	Sheriff	Juan Rodriguez	Pub. Works	Donald Wallace	Sheriff
Valentine Morales	SJGH	Chris Saha	Sheriff	Roberta Wallinger	Men. Health
Gerald Mullin	HSA	Elaine Seibel	Purchasing	Lora Way Val	Courts
Mary Murillo	HCS	Marlene Selena	Bd of Ed	David Wellenbroch	DA
Jack Nayer	DA	Hazel Serva	SJGH	Norma Wellman	Sheriff
Mary Nayer	Courts	Lee Shattuch	DA	James West	Sheriff
Pete Nicholoff	Sheriff	Glenn Shellcross	Sheriff	Betty Wiederrich	N/A
Mathew Nichols	N/A	Robert Shellenberger	Assessor	Susan Willer	N/A
Randie Northrip	HSA	James Shelton	HCS	Carol Williams	Pub. Health
Virginia Oldham	N/A	Donald Smith	Assessor	Richard Williams	Sheriff
Sharon Olivarez	Sheriff	Michael Smith	Sheriff	Roxana Williams	SJGH
Alfred Olsen	Env. Health	Thomas Stinson	N/A	Merle Worthen	Ag ❖
		Steven Storey	Pub. Works		

Dates To Remember

August 9, 2007	RPESJC monthly luncheon, John's Incredible Pizza Speaker: Roger Speed, former SJC Healthcare Services Director Topic: "Single Payer Healthcare"
August 23, 2007	RPESJC Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office
September 13, 2007	RPESJC monthly luncheon, John's Incredible Pizza Speaker & topic TBA
September 27, 2007	RPESJC Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office
October 11, 2007	RPESJC monthly luncheon, John's Incredible Pizza Speaker & topic TBA
October 22-24, 2007	California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) Conference at the Stockton Hilton
October 25, 2007	RPESJC Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office

CRCEA SPRING CONFERENCE

by Sandy Wild

In April four RPESJC board members went to Ontario, California to attend San Bernardino's hosting of the twenty member counties, who are CRCEA member associations. You may wonder why we attend these association gatherings. Yes, we stay at nice hotels and have meals out, but there are long hours of presentations on political, economic, health and legislative trends presented and this monitoring is hopefully going to help attain our goals as your representatives at RPESJC. As you are well aware, we are the only county who receives no help with the rising costs of healthcare. This is coming to "roost" with the other 19 counties as they fight to retain their benefits, since these are not mandated retiree benefits under the 1937 ACT pension laws.

Another reason we attended was to observe and learn "the ropes" for hosting a smooth functioning conference, since San Joaquin County will host this fall. The networking at these conferences is daily and ongoing throughout the year via phone, e-mail and snail mail. ❖

OUR WEBSITE, RPESJC.ORG

Some of you may be aware that we have a presence on the Internet, but with our ever-increasing membership, we would like to see more take advantage of this resource. Our web site is located at www.rpesjc.org. There you will find a number of links on the left side of the page, directing you to such areas as "Publications", "Activities", "Healthcare" and "Resources".

"Publications" is where you'll find past issues of our newsletter, Cattails. By "clicking" on one of the links, an electronic version of our quarterly newsletter will appear on your screen after a moment, depending on the speed of your Internet connection. This is the identical newsletter that is sent to our membership. Please note that these are past issues of our newsletter; members receive the current issue through conventional mail. To view these newsletters and certain other documents on our web site, you'll need to download and install a free program called Adobe Acrobat. This is a fairly painless process and you'll find a link to this program on our site.

On our "Activities" page you will find information about both upcoming and past events. Photos of past activities are available, as well, such as ones taken at our recent Summer Picnic at Oak Grove Regional Park.

Our "Healthcare" page contains links to helpful resources, such as the CareCounsel, WebMD and more. From time to time we post articles and information about various healthcare topics, as well.

From the "home page" of our web site, you'll find other links, such as useful forms, how you can contact us, and photos of the RPESJC Board. Our "Resources" page contains a number of links to various organizations and governmental entities that you may find worthwhile.

While we strive to keep the site current, it, like the rest of the organization, is for the members, and as such, we value YOUR input. If you have a suggestion about

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something you would like to see on the web site that would be of benefit to the membership, contact us! While you can always call our office message phone at (209) 466-8556, the fastest way to reach us is through our e-mail at rpesjc@sbcglobal.net. ❖

CRCEA FALL CONFERENCE – by Sandy Wild

Contracts are signed with the Hilton for the October CRCEA Conference, where RPESJC will be hosting the 19 other member counties. We have invited Doug Wilhoit of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce to participate in the opening ceremonies. On Tuesday of the conference Debbie Mizner, founder of “Packed with Pride”, will give a presentation about her local endeavor on behalf of our troops in Iraq. A banquet with entertainment and raffle donations is being planned for 150 attendees. As you can imagine, this requires many hours of planning and volunteers. Would you like to help? Please call to volunteer by leaving your name and phone number at RPESJC’s office, 466-8556, or by e-mailing us at rpesjc@sbcglobal.net.

Interested in attending the Conference? A very limited number of seats are available. Registration is \$15 for the three-day session/seminars. Contact Judy Courtney at 478-1875 for more information. ❖

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who meant so much.

William Anderson	4/27/07	Lincoln Fire
Gladys Chapin	5/11/07	Beneficiary
Marvin Clark	5/27/07	Public Works
Donald Hatch	5/9/07	Government Buildings
Ruth Hoopes	6/16/07	Public Works
Sarita Jeffrey	6/14/07	Mary Graham Hall
Cleveland Jones	6/6/07	Public Works
Marilyn Kurle	5/15/07	SJGH
James Mallars	5/25/07	Nisqyuti Abate,
Michiko Ryuto	5/15/07	SJGH
Mary Sadler	5/1/07	Juvenile Hall
Manuel Santos	6/10/07	Public Works
Suzanne Self	4/1/07	Superior Court
Dorothy Suttman	4/12/07	Beneficiary
Daniel Valadez	6/21/07	SJGH
Aleta Vaughn	4/4/07	Human Services
Otis Walker	4/30/07	Probation
Catherine Young	4/2/07	Maintenance



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Member comments and suggestions should be directed to Editor, RPESJC Newsletter. Email: rpesjc@sbcglobal.net, or contact

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The RPESJC Newsletter is published four times each year. The information published in it is believed to be reliable. However, the newsletter assumes no responsibility or its staff for inaccuracies contained herein.

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for RPESJC membership. For enrollment assistance, call (209) 466-8556.

WE'RE GROWING!

Thanks to a recent membership drive, we've added another 100 plus members to our rolls (see pages 4 and 5 for complete list). RPESJC has grown to more than 1650 members, reflecting almost half of approximately 3400 County retirees. Though we're thrilled with this growth, we're not ready to rest on our laurels. RPESJC continues to grapple with some difficult issues that affect retirees, not only locally, but throughout the state and the nation, as well. It is through strength of membership and affiliation with our 19 sister associations throughout the state that we can continue to advocate on your behalf. Know a County retiree who is not a member? Refer him or her to RPESJC and help your organization grow. A membership application form is always available though our web site at www.rpesjc.org. Thanks for your continued support! ❖

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You CAN participate in the Stock Market's Growth With True Safety. Get a Guaranteed Return – Even In a Volatile or Down Market!

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Retired Public Employees

The Newsletter for the

