



Quarterly
Newsletter

Cattails

For the Retired Public Employees of
San Joaquin County

Member of CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association)



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Office: (209) 466-8556

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Volume 9 Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – by Marcel Leduc



Where does the time go? Our association has probably been the busiest ever since our last newsletter. Let me try to bring you up-to-date. Please refer to various committee reports in this newsletter for more information.

First, the post-1982 (Ventura) subsidy has been restored. The subsidy will be effective November first and appeared on your December first pay warrant. For the present it is funded for the next ten months only. This is the result of a year-long effort by our Benefits Committee, with support from the Deputy Sheriffs Association, Retirement Administration and the Retirement Board. We will continue our efforts to have this subsidy fully funded in the future.

Second, our association hosted our first ever CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association) conference October 22-24. What a fantastic job by co-chairs Sandra Wild and Pat Lynch. We received great reviews from all twenty associations in attendance. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to make this event a huge success.

Third, perhaps the best measure of our success as an organization is attracting new members. In the last edition I announced that our membership had reached 1,650 retirees. In this edition I'm pleased to announce that our membership has grown to over 1,750 members! We still have approximately 1,600 retirees that don't belong but we continue to encourage them to become members. We are the recognized association representing all retirees, members or not. If you know someone who isn't a member,

please encourage them to join. Remember, numbers matter when advocating on your behalf!

Fourth, the Activities Committee, as always, has been busy. They've arranged for a seven day cruise April 5th-12th to Vancouver. Please refer to the flyer sent to you, or check for it on our website.

Whether we are ready or not, Christmas will soon be upon us. Again, the Activities Committee is already preparing for our annual Christmas luncheon on December 13th. As usual, this promises to be a great event. Please plan to attend for a great time!

Remember, we have monthly luncheon meetings on the second Thursday at John's Incredible Pizza on March Lane and Pershing Avenue in Stockton, and we would love to see some new faces attend.

Have a wonderful holiday season! ❖

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BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT – by Dick Callistro

By now you probably all know that the supplemental “Ventura” benefit has been restored for those or you who retired between April 1, 1982, and January 1, 2001. As this represents close to 3,500 retirees, most retirees fall into this group. This benefit pays qualified retirees \$10 per month for each year of service up to 30 years, or \$300 per month. Sufficient funding has been identified to fund this benefit for ten months. More about this subject later in this article.

This supplemental benefit is provided under the terms approved by a Superior Court judge in 2001. The court approved a Settlement Agreement in the case of San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriffs Association, et al. v. Board of Retirement of the San Joaquin County Employees’ Retirement System, County of San Joaquin, Real Party in Interest. That Settlement Agreement approved supplemental benefits for all then current and future retirees. Similar agreements have also been reached for all or most ’37 Retirement Act counties. The reason for approving these agreements stems from a 1997 California Supreme Court decision involving Ventura County. In that decision, the court basically found that the County should have included compensation beyond salary considerations in calculating retirement benefits.

In the San Joaquin agreement, retirees were placed in three separate groups; those who retired before 1982, those who retired between 1982 and 2001, and those who were to retire after 2000. The reason for this was that those who retired before April 1, 1982 were already receiving some additional benefits, so the amount approved for this group was less than for those who retired between 1982 and 2001. Employees who retired on or after January 1, 2001, also received a different amount, which is based in a formula spelled out in Government Code Section 31676.14 and is tailored to the individual retiree.

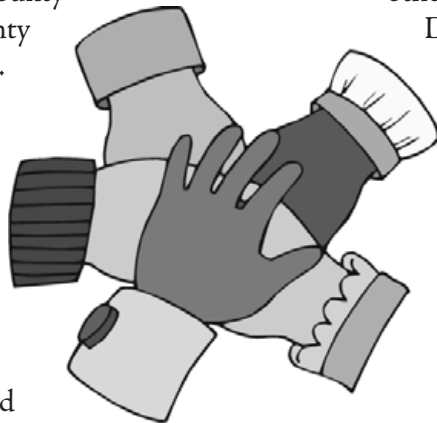
All three groups were funded by Retirement Fund Reserves, which had accumulated with the robust economy in the late 1990’s. However, the reserves were insufficient to fully fund all three groups. The agreement provided for full funding for those who retired before April 1, 1982, and full funding at the time for those who were to retire on or after January 1, 2001. Only half of the funding necessary to

fully fund the post ’82 pre ’01 was available for that group. Accordingly, the supplemental benefit for that group was suspended in April of 2006. The retirement system uses a rolling five-year investment cycle, which averages out investment returns during that period and results in more stability by mitigating the year-to-year ups and downs of the market. Since the last two years have seen a market increase, the retirement system is better funded and in a better position to restart the supplemental benefit.

Your Benefits Committee has been working on restoring this benefit for over a year. We are extremely grateful to the San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriffs Association for its efforts and financial support in this effort. Unlike other labor groups, retired members of the Deputy Sheriffs Association continue to be members of the Association upon retirement. Since there are well over 100 retired Deputy Sheriffs who had lost their supplemental benefit, the association took an active interest in having the benefit restored. With the Association’s assistance, we were able to employ an attorney who not only has extensive experience in retirement law, but was the actual Deputy Sheriffs Association’s attorney in the Settlement Agreement deliberations.

As mentioned previously, the Supplemental Benefit has been restored for ten months only. This restoration was accomplished because of legal interpretations of both the law and the Settlement Agreement and was accomplished with the full cooperation of the Retirement Board and Retirement Administration. We believe that well before the end of that ten month period the financial health of the retirement fund will be sufficient, and with the proper application of the law, that the benefit can be continued and, perhaps, fully funded for all future years. ❖

The A.A. Stagg Class of 1968 is planning a 40th Class Reunion on August 30, 2008, at the Stockton Golf and Country Club. We are in the process of updating Class of 1968 addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for the 40th Class Reunion. If you know where any of our classmates are, please include their information. Please email your information to bigill@comcast.net.



CRCEA CONFERENCE – by Sandy Wild

Well, it's all over but the recap for another 9 1/2 years. That's when RPESJC will host the 19 other counties that are members of CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association) once again. Eighty-six attendees were present for the conference which, took place October 22-24 at the Stockton Grand Hotel.

Months of meetings and planning went into this event. Pat Lynch and Sandy Wild were Co-Chairs, with most of RPESJC's board members taking planning and procurement of speakers, entertainment, materials/equipment and raffle donations. Marcel Leduc, our president, negotiated and signed the contracts with the hotel for rooms and food a year in advance. Jerry Arnell, our treasurer, worked with board member Pat Lynch to tabulate registration payments as they were received.

Board member Joe McKee assisted with posters, rosters, tickets, photography, sound and computer needs. Linda Begley was Registration Chair, who with her husband Cody, assisted conference attendees with questions or concerns. Sally Tanaka sent letters requesting donations and raffle gifts, worked the registration desk, and helped to setup the area for processing the registered attendees and getting the program materials and handouts to them. Linda Begley and Judy Courtney sent letters soliciting donations. Pauline Toy and Margaret Miller helped with door prize preparation and wrapping, driving all over picking up donations, running errands, toting supplies around, etc. Judy followed up with thank you letters to our contributors.

RPESJC had wonderful assistance from our volunteers. Sal and Irene Cortez greeted/escorted; George and Putsy Hong aided with photography and registration; Genevieve Cantrell, Cora Schweitzer, Shari Habeeb, June Okuto, Carol Davenport, Karen Ribitch, Cathy McKee, Janean Cabral and Rosalina Lockhart staffed our registration/greeter assignments.

Bill Kirkwood, President of CRCEA, opened the Monday session and welcomed the CRCEA assembled members to the conference, which was followed by the flag ceremony by the S.J. County Sheriff's Color Guard and retired Deputy Sheriff Billy Dunn, singing the National Anthem. Stockton's Salvation Army Captain Eric Tumale gave the invocation.

Douglass Wilhoit, CEO of Stockton Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the group to Stockton/San Joaquin County and introduced the current Stockton Port Director

and President of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Richard Aschieris, who presented a program illustrating the growth at the Port and Rough & Ready Island and the significance the port played in the war effort in WW II.

Since this was our inaugural CRCEA Conference, the opening ceremony had a segment devoted to honoring Helen Rich, the founder of RPESJC. Pauline Toy, a long-time friend of Helen's and original RPESJC board member, gave the background leading up to RPESJC's formation.

Linda Begley introduced Annette St.Urbain, SJCERA's administrator, who spoke on local and state health issues and some of the challenges retirees face.

Dorothy Mulvihill, a local theater director and San Joaquin County Museum docent, gave an historical costumed story-telling on the establishment of Stockton and the surrounding area by the Weber Family, portraying Julia Weber, wife of Capt. Charles Weber. Archivist Michael Wurst gave a presentation on the papers written by naturalist John Muir and jazz musician Dave Brubeck, considered "prized collections" at the UOP Library.

Patrick McTighe of BMTI, an affiliate sponsor of CRCEA, put on a wonderful Hospitality Night session at his local office, assisted by his wife and staff, with a repeat performance in the hospitality suite at the hotel on Tuesday night.

Tuesday's sessions included Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi, Vice Chair of the California State Assembly Health Committee, who spoke on Health Committee bills and health insurance issues the committee has been studying. The Governor and both political parties continue to meet on formulating a legislative bill to cover the needy in California with health insurance, even though the legislative session is over for this year. Robert Hill, LACERA, spoke on health and wellness for retirees as a tool toward reducing the counties' costs for health care and the added benefit to the retiree in all ways. Newly appointed consultant to the PEBC, Bob Palmer (former Retirement Administrator) spoke on issues before the commission.

Lobbyist Amy Brown, a consultant to CRCEA, was part of a panel on the legislative bills passed and Sacramento legislative climate towards public employee's

*Please see CRCEA Conference
continued on Page 6*

Welcome NEW RPESJC Members!

Name	Dept.				
Kenneth Bassett	Sheriff	Martha Hoff	Mental Health	Judith Rong	HCS - SJGH
Doran Berg	Public Defender	Beverly Holt	Assessor	Armond Rossiter	Sheriff
Mary Black	HSA	Bruce Hopperstad	Behav. Health	Juanita Sales	HCS - SJGH
Maynard Bostwick	Probation	William Hunt	HSA	Joan Scantlebury	HSA
Nadine Boyd	Superior Court	Delois Johnson	HSA	Fieriel Seale	Unknown
Gordon Brecht	Unknown	Lucy Jones	Unknown	Melba Shadrick	Unknown
Mona Carrillo	HCS - SJGH	John Keele	Public Health	Larry Shelton	Sheriff
Henry Cisneros	HSA	Ronda Kersey-Utley	HSA	Archie Shields	Agriculture
Lisa Coleman	Unknown	Donna King	Mental Health	Jerry Sigman	Subs. Abuse
Richard Devol	Agricultural	Susan Kizer	HSA	Leonora Simpao	Unknown
Victoria Dominguez	HCS - SJGH.	Lilia Magdamo	Unknown	Barbara Suarez	HCS - SJGH
William Evans	Sheriff	Tahir Mansoor	Unknown	Donna Tillery	HCS - SJGH
Nancy Farley	Unknown	Della Mattingly	Unknown	Grace Tolentino	HCS - SJGH
Jack Fiori	Unknown	Margaret Mello	Mosquito Abate.	Leah Tolentino	Child Support
Wilma Fredericksen	Unknown	Sarah Mills	HSA	Peggy Trede	HSA
Alta Friedman	Unknown	James Morales	Public Defender	Joseph Veltri	Unknown
Dino Ghelarducci	Unknown	Noeur Muok	Public Health	Michael Walker	HCS - SJGH
Peter Heil	Marshal	Barry Oaks	Sheriff	Joe Wallace	Gov. Buildings
Joanne Hemans	HSA	Robert Palmer	Retirement	Dana Willard	Public Works
Deborah Hench	Reg. of Voters	Elsie Philippi	HSA	Sherrie Woodruff	HCS - SJGH
Robert Hickey	HSA	Fung Quijalro	HCS - SJGH	Carole Zorniger	Unknown ♦
Robert Hill	Motor Pool	Jon Rice	HSA		
		Janette Roberts	Mental Health		

NEW RETIREES

Name	Department	Years
Laurence Allen	Agriculture	10
Lori Anderson	Mental Health	5
Kenneth Bassett	Sheriff	29
Tom Beard	Mosquito Abatement	29
Randall Bender	Sheriff	24
Doran Berg	Public Defender	26
Linda Black	Human Services	10
Mary Ann Black	Deferred	21
Sonja Chan	Comm. Development	10
Henry Cisneros	Human Services	6
Ronald Cotta	Agriculture	10
Thomas Covarruvias	Deferred	10
Victoria Domingues	HCS - SJGH	34
John Drummond	Sheriff	37
Barbara Earley	Human Services	38
Ines Flores	Human Services	19
Alta Friedman	Superior Court	19
Jonnie Gaches	Superior Court	18
Linda Gipson	Employ.-Economic Dev.	11
Linda Guevara	HCS - SJGH	39
Tad Halladay	Sheriff	20
Lee Hammond	Child Support	26
Pamela Hammond	Deferred	8
Marie Hittle	Child Support	22
Martha Hoff	Mental Health	16
Bruce Hopperstad	Mental Health	25
Denise Jackson-Martin	Deferred	16
John Keele	Public Works	25

NEW RETIREES (CONT.)

Name	Department	Years
Ronda Kersey-Utley	Human Services	20
Donna King	Mental Health	25
Susan Kizer	Human Services	18
Mattie Laing	Deferred	16
Jody Leberman	Sheriff	28
Lori Locke	Public Health	7
Leslie Lords	Mental Health	12
Douglas Mattes	Agriculture	38
Alice Meyer	Superior Court	20
Andrew Meyers	Public Works	26
Sarah Mills	Human Services	29
Peter Neal	Tuxedo Fire Dist.	1
Barry Oaks	Sheriff	19
Lois Owen	HCS - SJGH	19
Caridad Pagsoligan	Deferred	12
Elizabeth Perry	Non-Member	4
Chean Riem	Human Services	25
Judith Rong	HCS - SJGH	20
David Rowlands, Jr.	County Administrator	8
Gloria Sterni	HCS - SJGH	27
Donna Tillery	HCS - SJGH	16
Leah Tolentino	Child Support	15
Peggy Trede	Human Services	38
Janice Westerman	Comm. Development	28
Mary Wickham	Sheriff	26
Ulanda Williams	Mental Health	27
Sherrie Woodruff	HCS - SJGH	21
Maria Zendejas	HCS - SJGH	22

Congratulations

APPLE HILL / JACKSON RANCHERIA EXCURSION

The September 25th bus trip to Apple Hill and Jackson Casino was full of surprises. It began with the bus being a bit late to pick us up to start the trip, resulting in increased traffic on our way to Apple Hill. Our driver had never been to Apple Hill and his supervisor had not given him proper instructions to the three farms we were to visit. Additionally, our driver had never driven a bus that held 56 passengers. The excitement came with him getting lost and trying to turn the bus around. We were thankful some farmers helped out by moving some equipment and directing him. The driver had never been to the casino and was unfamiliar with where to let us off or where to park. It was quite an adventure! In spite of a few challenges our driver faced, a good time appeared to be had by all!

By the way, a package of canned items was left on the bus. If they belong to you or you know the rightful owner, please give us a call at the RPESJC office, 466-8556. Thanks! ❖



Retirees on Bus Trip to Apple Hill



CRCEA Pictures



Carol Davenport, Janean Cabral, Cora Schweitzer



Two Attendees with Jerry Arnell



Bill Kirkwood, CRCEA President



Doug Wilhoit



Dates To Remember

December 13, 2007	RPESJC Holiday Luncheon, 11:00 a.m., Waterloo Gun & Bocci Club (Reservations Required)
December 20, 2007	RPESJC Board Meeting, (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office
January 10, 2008	RPESJC monthly luncheon, John's Incredible Pizza Speaker & topic TBA
January 24, 2008	RPESJC Board Meeting, (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office
February 14, 2008	RPESJC monthly luncheon, John's Incredible Pizza Speaker & topic TBA
February 28, 2008	RPESJC Board Meeting, (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office
March 13, 2008	RPESJC monthly luncheon, John's Incredible Pizza Speaker & topic TBA
March 27, 2008	RPESJC Board Meeting, (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m., SJCERA Office
April 5-12, 2008	Pacific Northwest Cruise

LEGISLATION REPORT – by Sandy Wild

The Governor has finished signing or vetoing 233 bills from the 2007 legislative session that were on his desk awaiting action. Here is a listing of a few bills that our association has been watching. For more info. See <http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill>.

AB554 was "Chaptered", meaning it is a law. It authorizes the Retirement system to participate with employers to prefund health care coverage or post-employment benefits for annuitants/retirees.

AB753 was Chaptered- Alternate retiree board member will be the 8th member to vote instead of alternate "safety" member when retiree board member is not in attendance. Compensation for meeting will be granted by the board members present.

AB775 was Chaptered- Alternate retiree board member will have all the job duties/rights and compensation of the retiree board members in positions 2nd, 3rd, 7th or 8th .

AB1296 was Chaptered- Private vendors promoting products on behalf of public retirees can be given waiver to the "public records act".

As a county that has no alternate for our retiree board member, who is Judy Courtney, our goal for 2008 should be to bring this need to SJCERA's agenda, with determination to have this position filled. It has been in the '37 Act laws for a number of years.

It has been a privilege to have been reporting on legislation for the past ten years and I will still keep watching the '37 Act and contacting the new Legislative RPESJC board member, whoever that might be! ❖

CRCEA Conference continued from Page 3

issues. Also on the panel were Karon Green and David Felderstein, Assembly and Senate PERS & SS committee consultants.

Becky Mizener spoke of her "Packed with Pride" project, which sends needed supplies to our troops. She continues with this, in spite of the loss of her own son, killed in combat in Iraq.

The conference banquet was held on Tuesday evening. Pat Lynch, board member of RPESJC, acted as emcee. Great entertainment was provided by The Old Pinoys, a local quartet, and were they good! The audience loved them, and before they left many of us (including some octogenarians), were standing, clapping, and dancing! Door prizes were raffled off and the evening ended with great success. Banquet door prizes were donated by area businesses and wineries. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for a list of donors.)

A business meeting ended the conference on the morning of the 24th. The general consensus was that the conference was very successful.

We could not have put on this conference without the help of many volunteers and hundreds of hours of time put in by some of your board members. Your RPESJC Board deserves kudos for the extraordinary time and effort they put in to make the conference a success. But it could not have been a truly successful event without the additional efforts of our wonderful volunteers. ❖

IN MEMORIAM



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

Viola Bowman	8/7/07	Beneficiary
Marlene Charlton	6/5/07	Human Services
Bruno Diaz, Jr.	6/29/07	Juvenile Detention
Morris Field	10/23/07	Beneficiary
Erick Fredericksen	8/2/07	Public Works
Celestino Garcia	10/14/07	Beneficiary
Henry Garduno	7/30/07	Beneficiary
Elizabeth Gearin	9/1/07	Mosquito Abate.
Antoinette Hallmark	7/17/07	Planning
Violet Humphreys	10/6/07	Human Services
Frank Letica	7/12/07	Public Works
Teresa Lilly	10/21/07	Veterans Services
Barbara Maag	7/30/07	Human Services
Vasillas Manolakakis	6/14/07	Beneficiary
Alice McHugh	9/19/07	Human Services
Mary Murillo	8/12/07	HCS – SJGH
Helen Myers	9/13/07	HCS – SJGH
Virginia Oldham	10/25/07	HCS – SJGH
Ronald Pizzi	9/22/07	Public Works
Judith Podesta	8/25/07	Reg. of Voters
Mary Poyer	10/18/07	Beneficiary
Susie Sandigan	9/4/07	Human Services
Howard Schroeder	10/16/07	Lincoln Fire Dept.
Etta Shelton	7/16/07	HCS – SJGH
Sally Smith	9/11/07	Beneficiary
Natalie Stockton	9/25/07	Beneficiary
Philomena Turner	8/17/07	HCS – SJGH
Elbert Watson	10/14/07	Public Works
Jean Yarborough	9/5/07	Dept. of Aging

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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.

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The above listed business and individuals provided door prizes, written materials, and/or monetary support to the Fall Conference of the CRCEA.

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