



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 Larry Mills



It seems the last quarter of 2010 just flew by with all the activities in October, November, and December. We have reported on those events in this issue of Cattails. As we welcome in the New Year, it's with hope of good health and prosperity for our members during the year 2011.

In October we sent representatives to the CRCEA Conference in San Rafael, CA. Director **Karen Ribitch** attended the CRCEA conference for the first time as a new board member, and has filed a very informative report. **Linda Begley** and I attended on behalf of RPESJC. Also of note, **Linda Begley** was recently named as our Alternate Delegate to CRCEA.

In November we sent **Linda Begley** to the SACRS Conference in Universal City, CA. She has filed a comprehensive report on that event. **Dick Callistro** and I attended in our roles of Alternate Trustee and Trustee, respectively, to SJCERA's Board of Retirement.

Both of these conferences, CRCEA and SACRS, are important to us as we gather information on how other 1937 Act counties are handling the issues of benefits, programs, and legislation that could affect their counties.

Another of RPESJC's endeavors is our participation in the "About-To-Retire\_Seminars." Our representative is **Pat Lynch**, who consistently receives good reviews on her presentation of materials concerning RPESJC. She explains the benefits of being a member in a humorous, yet professional manner.

In the Legislative Report by **Bob Palmer**, you'll learn the status of several Assembly and Senate bills. We proudly report that he was recently appointed as the permanent Executive Director of SACRS.

This past three months, **Margaret Miller** has been

busy. She chairs the Events Committee (with lots of help from committee members) while managing, planning, and executing all of our events. Look for her complete report in this issue.

As we begin a new year, I'd like to thank the balance of the RPESJC board members not already mentioned in this issue. They are working hard behind the scenes to make sure our projects are completed in a timely fashion. Those recognized are **Marcel Leduc**, our long serving Past President and the current Vice President; **Sally Tanaka**, our professional Secretary; **Jerry Arnell**, with exceptional accounting skills serves as Treasurer; **Joe McKee**, an expert at all things related to Communications and Special Projects; **Mike Smith**, whose vast experience helps to guide the Benefits Committee; and one of our general members - **George Hong**. He graciously assists **Joe McKee** by taking photographs of events and with maintaining our website.

This board is a perfect example of TEAMWORK! Enjoy the New Year...LM ❖

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## LEGISLATION REPORT – By Robert Palmer



**H**ere is a few of the 2010 Legislative actions of interest for members of RPESJC and SJCERA.

**THESE BILLS WERE  
SIGNED INTO LAW BY  
THE GOVERNOR:**

**AB 1354 (Fong)**  
Implementation of the Federal

### HEART Act

Passage of this legislation will make survivors of employees who die on active military duty eligible to receive benefits had the employee resumed his or her employment before passing away. The bill explicitly provides that such military death is not to be considered a service-connected death or disability.

**SB 1479 (PERSS Committee)** Reciprocity Coordination

This legislation allows a county retirement system to establish a member's start date up to 12 weeks after the employee begins working in another system for purposes of calculating service credit. A county retirement system would also be authorized to establish a member's termination date as no more 12 weeks prior to the member's actual termination.

**THIS BILL WAS VETOED BY THE  
GOVERNOR:**

**AB 1987 (Ma)** Final Compensation Calculation

This legislation was purported to be a means of ending pension spiking in '37 Act systems. It would have prevented accrued vacation, in certain cases from being considered in retirement calculations. Severance pay or settlement pay for retiring members would also not be considered for retirement calculations. It also would require that employees retiring could not be rehired in any capacity for six months. It also would impose many of the compensation factors allowed in the Cal PERS system be included in '37 Act systems as well. This latter issue would have created another round of what elements should be included in final compensation. Many of the systems felt that if this were to become law, there would be another round of "Ventura-like" legal cases.

In the Governor's veto message, he felt that it "does not provide a consistent treatment of all employees. The taxpayers of California deserve better. I am still hopeful that the Legislature will send me acceptable pension reform legislation."

We can probably expect that this issue of pension spiking will be raised in the next legislature with the new Governor. ❖

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES – by Margaret Miller



### **A**PPLE HILL AND RED HAWK CASINO TRIP

The weather on October 7, 2010 was a beautiful fall day. We had a full bus that traveled to High Hill Ranch, and nearby Boa Vista Orchards in the Apple Hill country East of Placerville, CA. We enjoyed tasting a variety of

wines; buying fresh apple based products such as apple pies, apple fritters, and apple jellies / jams. In addition, several local craftsmen displayed their wares in the Arts & Crafts section of those working apple ranches. For many, this was their first visit to Apple Hill. They found the day was a relaxing and delightful experience. The best part is that it's so close to home!

We then traveled a short distance back down the hill to the Red Hawk Casino. There we had lunch, and tried to win our fortunes at the gaming tables and machines.

The Bingo game winners on this trip were: member **Lois Enebrad**, and guests **Kay Cole**, **Georgia Mills**, and **Carole Scott**.

### HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The annual Holiday Luncheon was held December 9, 2010 at the Waterloo Gun & Bocci Club in Stockton. This event was deemed a huge success! The luncheon was attended by 275 people who enjoyed the beautiful accordion music of **Bob Foppiano**; the music and singing of **Rob & Ria Kroff**; the deliciously prepared food; and a raffle drawing with over 100 prizes. We recognized our charity of choice, "Packed With Pride" by presenting **Becky Mizener** with a monetary donation. We offer our sincere thanks to the Luncheon Committee; our Board

Members; volunteers; and the individuals / businesses that made generous donations to our raffle. Mark your calendars now, next years Holiday Luncheon will be held December 8, 2011.

### CRUISE SURVEY

The results of the cruise survey are in, and the Board of Directors is evaluating those results now. A final decision will be made soon for the cruise this summer or fall, so look a reservation flyer with more details...

### MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

Just a reminder that everyone is invited to attend our monthly luncheons at UJ's Restaurant in Stockton. We have speakers at most luncheons, who inform us on a variety of subjects. Please join us if you can.

EDITORS NOTE: In the last issue of *Cattails*, we inadvertently listed **Linda Begley** as a Bingo game winner on our bus trip to the De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. The actual winner was **Sonia Spatola** – congratulations! Staff regrets the error. ❖

## SACRS Conference – by Linda Bagley



The State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) Fall Conference was held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City, CA on November 9-12, 2010. I attended as the sole representative of RPESJC; however, **Larry Mills** and **Dick Callistro** attended in their roles as Trustee and Alternate Trustee of SJCERA's Board of Retirement. **Bob Palmer** also attended as the Executive Director of SACRS.

The General Sessions for the Conference were focused on "Risk, Liquidity, and Vision - Is Your Plan Ready"?

The first General Session was "The World after the Mid-Terms, QE2 & Beyond". The speaker was **Ron Insana**, CNBC's Senior Analyst and Commentator. He gave an overview of our countries financial situation, and feels we should see a better environment in 2011.

The second General Session was "The United States in the Geopolitics of the Second Decade". The speaker was **Harm De Blij**, Professor of Geography. He discussed

international trade, in regards to China, with information on those trade routes. He feels the relationship between the United States and China will influence the next decade of trade.

The third General Session was "The Condition of our Condition". The speaker was **Dr. Arthur Laffer**, Economist. He discussed economic behaviors, the stimulus package, and the mortgage takeover. He believes you cannot change distribution of income without affecting the volume of income.

The fourth General Session was a "Motivational Presentation" by **Lynn Swan**, Diamond Edge Capital. He played football at the USC, was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1974, won four Super Bowl rings, and was inducted into the Pro-Football Hall of Fame in 2001. His speech centered on the concept of overcoming adversities.

The fifth General Session was "SACRS Annual Systems Survey: Better Than Just a Bond Index?" The speaker was **Tom Lightvoet**. He presented the "Public Fund Universe Analysis Period Ending June 30, 2010". His discussion covered Style Characteristics, Asset Allocation, Performance, and Actuarial Statistics.

The sixth General Session was "Risk Management". The speaker was **Dr. Karyn Williams**, Wilshire & Associates. She discussed risks in corporate investments.

In addition to the General Sessions, we had the opportunity to attend **New Trustee Training**. There were also several Concurrent Sessions based on the issues of today.

The SACRS Spring Conference is scheduled for May 10-13, 2011, in Santa Barbara, CA. There will be representatives from RPESJC attending in order to better serve our membership. ❖

## Welcome NEW RPESJC Members!

Name	Department
Susan Anderson	Revenue & Recovery
Lise Bachman-Karnes	Human Services
Sally Bella	*
Dawn Buck	Child Support Services
Cynthia Bulmer	Probation
James Burlington	*
Eloisa Caraveo	Superior Court
Richard Cordova	Sheriff
Judy Doran	Sheriff
Marla Ford	HCS – Behavior Health
Raymond Hernandez	*
Steven Hill	*
Richard Jimenez	*

Alfonzo Jones	HCS – Behavior Health
Patricia Knaggs	*
Brenda Kramer	Sheriffs Office
Janet Marino	*
Tommy Mc Donald	HCS-SJGH
Relina Monotti	*
Kim Padilla	Probation
Karen Ranken	Behavioral Health
Barbara Riesberg	Public Health
Gwendolyn Snell	Public Health
Helen Varela	Superior Court
Raymond Walters	Sheriff
Ricardo Yanez	*

\*Retiree declined to give department name



## NEW RETIREES

Name	Department	Years
Lise Bachman-Karnes	Human Services	6
Eduardo Barrow Jones	Sheriff	26
Linda Beadles	HCS–Mental Health	11
Eloisa Caraveo	Courts	33
Susan Carr	Solid Waste	10
Suzanne Custino	Deferred	2
Diane Dimas	Sheriff	21
Cheryl Dinjian	HCS–SJGH	17
Helen Dong	Emergency Services	41
Jack Dong	Information Systems	35
Judy Doran	Sheriff	20
Nenita Fontanilla	HCS–SJGH	9
Judith Giron	Recorder	10
Judy Griffith	HCS–Mental Health	22
Francine Gutierrez	Human Services	30
Susan Halligan	Deferred	1
Robert Herrera	HCS–Mental Health	20
Vickie Herrera	Sheriff	30
Richard Jimenez	Parks & Rec	12
Genevieve Johnson	Human Services	18
Diane Jordan	Assessor	34
Mary Landay	Probation	24
Leland Miller	Deferred	5

Janice Mitchell	Sheriff	14
Arthur Moreno	Sheriff	25
Cecilia Norwood	HCS–SJGH	18
Kathy Nysten	Human Services	21
Shirley Pace	Human Services	21
Alvin Raifaisen	Public Works	23
Andres Raya	Substance Abuse	26
Michael Riddiford	Mt. House	1
Lisa Rivera	HCS–SJGH	15
Patricia Rivera	Sheriff	15
John Robles	Public Works	38
Robin Sarisky	Deferred	10
Peggy Schrepfer	Aging – Comm Services	20
Melissa Siojo	Human Services	33
Patrick Slamon	District Attorney	21
Linda Smith	Revenue-Recovery	31
Ruben Smith	Community Development	36
Jammie Sorrells	HCS–SJGH	19
Michael Taylor	HCS–SJGH	38
Kathy Truitt	Deferred	10
Margaret Valdez	Substance Abuse	13
Brenda Wagner	Child Support	19
Raymond Walters	Sheriff	29
Connie Weiman	Sheriff	10



Congratulations

## CRCEA Conference – by Karen Ribitch



**P**resident Larry Mills, Director Linda Begley and I attended the Fall Conference of the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) October 25-27, 2010. It was hosted by Marin County at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. This

CRCEA Conference had representatives from 18 of the 20 member counties, with the only exceptions being Imperial and Tulare counties. The Keynote Address was given by California Congresswoman, Lynn Woolsey. She spoke about the current media attacks on pensions for public employees.

CRCEA Executive Secretary, **Dorothy Lueking** gave an excellent talk about the history of CRCEA, their mission, the duties of delegates, and how to get the most out of attending a conference. Breakout sessions throughout the conference included many timely topics, but the Membership Committee had the most value for us as we attempt to build our membership.

**Robert McCrory**, EFI Actuaries (our actuarial consultant for SJCERA), spoke about defined benefit pension plans versus defined contribution plans. He debunked the myths that persist between defined benefit and defined contribution plans.

**Richard A. White**, President of SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems) presented a State of the Union address regarding SACRS, issues being faced, and offered an update on the Orange County lawsuit.

The Legislative Report - Sacramento Scene was a panel discussion moderated by **Art Goulet**, CRCEA Legislative Committee Chair. The three panel members were: **Pam Schneider**, Principal consultant, Senate Committee on Public Employment and Retirement; **Karon Green**, Chief Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security; and **Amy Brown**, CRCEA Legislative Consultant. ❖

## Dates To Remember

Thursday, January 13, 2011	Monthly Luncheon, UJ'S Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m. Topic: Alzheimer's Aid Society
Thursday, January 27, 2011	Board Meeting (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m. in the SJCERA Office
Thursday, February 10, 2011	Monthly Luncheon, UJ's Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m. Topic: American Heart Association
Thursday, February 24, 2011	Board Meeting (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m. in the SJCERA Office
Thursday, March 10, 2011	Monthly Luncheon, UJ's Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m. Topic: Empowerment
Thursday, March 24, 2011	Board Meeting (Members Welcome) 10:00 a.m. in the SJCERA Office
Thursday, June 9, 2011	SUMMER PICNIC
Thursday, December 8, 2011	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

## MEMBERS FINANCIAL SERVICES – By Frank Feng



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**Question:** I have so many statements from different places. Which ones I should keep and for how long do I need to keep them?

**Answer:** When you are retired or approaching retirement, you could face difficult decisions when it comes to investing. On one hand y: Every one should have a financial "filing system". You should keep the following inside:

Investment statements. Organize them by type: IRAs, 457 deferred compensation plans, mutual funds and stocks. The annual statements are the ones that really matter. When it comes to your IRA or 457, it is wise to retain your Form 5498s (the year end "Fair Market Value Information" statements) and other IRS reporting forms such as Form 8606s and 1099-Rs. For non-retirement accounts, you will want to retain any record of your original investment in a mutual fund or a stock. This will help you determine capital gains or losses.

Bank statements. If you have any fear of being audited, keep the last three years worth of them on file. You may question whether the paper trail has to be that long, but under certain circumstances (lawsuit, divorce, past debts) it may be wise to keep more than three years of statements on file.

Mortgage documents, mortgage statements and HELOC statements. As a rule, keep mortgage statements for the ownership period of the property plus seven years. As for your mortgage documents, you may wish to keep them for the ownership period of the property plus ten years (though your county recorder's office likely has copies).

Your annual Social Security benefits statement. Keep the most recent one, as it shows your earnings record from the day you started working. If you see an error, contact the social security office immediately.

Utility bills. You only need the most recent statement. Check the current statement then get rid of the old one.

For more information on these or any other financial issues, please call me at (209) 948-6024 Ext.50140 ❖

*Representatives are registered, securities are sold, and investment advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll-free (866) 512-6109. Nondeposit investment and insurance products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the financial*

**Do you have a financial question? Send me an e-mail and I will discuss it the next newsletter.**

## IN MEMORIAM

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



Frank Alkire	10/17/10	Beneficiary
Geraldine Bagby	9/4/10	Mental Health
Henrietta Bender	12/7/10	Beneficiary
Roy Berg	11/12/10	Public Works
Gordon Brecht	9/1/10	Beneficiary
Dolores Crokrite	11/14/10	HCS – SJGH
Richard De Vol	10/8/10	Agriculture
Antonio Galvan	10/1/10	Probation
Sandra Haskins	11/30/10	HCS – SJGH
Dorothy Hitchcock	10/14/10	Beneficiary
Harlan Holden	11/3/10	Assessor
Charles Kuhl	11/27/10	Data Processing
Felix Limon	10/3/10	Beneficiary
Jerry Mahan	11/8/10	Human Services
Stephen Mattice	9/30/10	Juvenile Hall
Michael McGrew	11/30/10	County Counsel
Erodita Pasion	9/21/10	HCS – SJGH
Lester Peterman	9/9/10	Treasurer
J Ramsey	9/19/10	Micke Grove
Anthony Sainaghi	11/27/10	Sheriff
Oola Smith	12/5/10	Human Services
Mary Storck	10/16/10	HCS – SJGH
Nita Storrs	11/16/10	Superior Court
Glendean Tadich	10/27/10	Human Services
Mary Thornton	9/19/10	Beneficiary
Dale Wilson	10/3/10	Animal Control ❖

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

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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 staff assumes no responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.

# FINANCIAL CENTER CREDIT UNION

## - by Michael P. Duffy President/C.E.O.



### CREDIT CARD LOOPHOLES

The Credit CARD Act of May 2009 was passed to help protect consumers from unfair and unexpected changes made by credit card issuers to their credit card agreements.

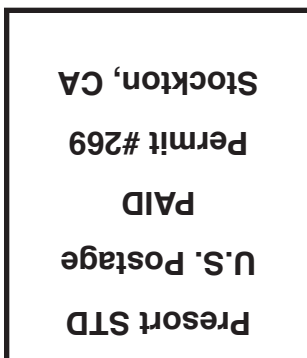
Unfortunately, some card issuers are uncovering new ways to charge customers extra fees and higher rates through loopholes in the law. You can count on Financial Center to continue bringing you fair, honest deals on credit cards. You won't find us pulling any of these tricks:

1. New fees. Since the law only limits existing fees, some card issuers are hitting their best customers with new fees, including high annual fees.
2. Higher minimum monthly payments. Some card issuers are raising minimum payments to bring in more cash (and fee income, assuming some customers are unable to make the higher payments).
3. Reduced rewards. Watch out for changes in the fine print of rewards programs reducing cash back and other rewards.

4. Rate increases. The new law protects the rates on current balances, not rates for future purchases. That means cards can hike up rates on future purchases even if you've never missed a payment. Financial Center will never make your rate skyrocket.

The best advice for cardholders is to pay attention to notices from credit card companies, and read the fine print regarding changes. Under the new rules, card issuers are required to give customers 45 days' notice of any changes.

If you're on the lookout for a credit card with all the perks from a name you can trust, look to Financial Center. We are pleased to provide three Visas with straightforward advantages including low rates, security protection, worldwide acceptance and up-front and honest fees. To learn more or to apply, please call 209-948-6024, ext. 0 or visit [www.fccuburt.org](http://www.fccuburt.org). ❖



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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