



Cattails

For the Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County

Member of CRCEA (California Retired County Employees' Association)



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November 2016
Volume 18 Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – by Bob Palmer



Lewis Carroll wrote: "The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things: Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax-- Of cabbages--and kings--And why the sea is boiling hot--And whether pigs have wings."... The Walrus and The Carpenter (1872)

As I craft this message, this old poem comes to mind. Retired Public Employee of San Joaquin County (RPESJC) is one of the most active retiree groups for our size in California. Each year, we provide a wide variety of activities for you, our members:

- The *Cattails* that keeps us current on membership, retirements and sadly, passings
- Monthly Luncheons and Informative Speakers
- Trips: via bus, cruise ship, or trains to interesting places
- Advocacy: retirement benefits and health care
- Annual picnics and holiday luncheons
- Support for a local charity
- Providing a vendor with a variety of insurances for members to consider
- Speaking engagements for members planning on retirement

To accomplish all these activities, it requires a dedicated group of retiree members volunteering their time. We call upon their interests and skills and time to accomplish all these events:

- Finances and accounting
- Minutes and correspondence
- Telephones and responding to members' questions
- Maintaining mailing lists and website and data bases
- Writing articles and coordinating newsletter printing
- Coordinating with other retiree organizations
- Searching for and purchasing raffle gifts
- Locating speakers
- Planning events

Most of these are not major time consuming activities but are critical to providing the level of services we believe are important to you, our members.

We need your help. We do have a number of vacancies on the RPESJC Board of Directors. At this past business meeting we did not have a quorum to conduct business. So I am again seeking your help

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WHAT'S NEW WITH SJCERA — BY Annette St. Urbain, SJCERA CEO

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

The term of office for the elected Seventh (Safety) Member expired on June 30, 2016. The incumbent, Assistant Sheriff-Coroner Dave Souza, chose not to run for re-election and has since retired. Lieutenant Sheriff Chanda Bassett ran unopposed and was declared the elected Safety Member of the Board to serve a three-year term through June 30, 2019.

The Board elected new officers in July, with Michael Restuccia as Chair, Cindy Garman as Vice Chair, and Ray McCray as Secretary.

We thank former trustee Dave Souza for his service to SJCERA. Our thanks to you for warmly welcoming SJCERA's newest trustee, Chanda Bassett, to the SACRS community.

INVESTMENTS

SJCERA's investment return for the twelve months ending June 30, 2016, was 1.5%.

The Board has hired investment managers to fill the newly created Crisis Risk Offset asset class, which has an allocation of 20% of the total portfolio. Dodge & Cox is managing a new long duration U.S. Treasury portfolio, Graham Capital Management for a systematic trend following strategy, and AQR Capital Management and P/E Global for alternative risk premia strategies. SJCERA plans to complete rebalancing the portfolio to the new allocation targets by the end of the calendar year.

SJCERA held its Eleventh Annual Investment Manager Roundtable in August. Moderated by PCA, representatives from investment managers in each of SJCERA's asset classes and the consulting actuary gathered together to discuss SJCERA's portfolio and plan characteristics. In particular the roundtable focused on: capital markets review and outlook, global growth and interest rates, risk and change, and meeting investment and plan objectives. The keynote speaker, David Lafferty, Chief Market Strategist at Natixis Global Asset Management, gave a global macro review and outlook presentation.

The Board's Real Estate Committee has been evaluating opportunities for additional commitments consistent with the Real Estate Investment Implementation Plan for

2016, adopted by the Board and held their Real Estate Roundtable in June 2016.

PLAN FUNDING

The results of the annual actuarial valuation, performed by Cheiron as of January 1, 2016, were presented to the Board in September. The composite employer contribution rate prior to any assumptions changes resulting from the experience study increased nominally from 41.35% of covered payroll to 41.71%. Plan experience during the year had minimal impact on plan cost in the latest valuation. SJCERA's funded ratio as of January 1, 2016 is 65%.

Cheiron also completed SJCERA's Triennial Experience Study for the three years that ended December 31, 2015. The experience study compared actual plan experience to the actuarial assumptions for the plan and recommended minor adjustments in line with the experience results. The Board directed Cheiron to use the following economic assumptions for the plan: 7.40% annual investment return, 2.90% inflation, 3.15% wage inflation, and 2.60% COLA. The demographic assumptions as presented by Cheiron, were included in the final annual actuarial valuation report as of January 1, 2016. The assumption changes adopted by the Board increased the employers composite contribution rate from 41.71% to 42.99%.

San Joaquin County's 2016-17 budget provides for an additional contribution to SJCERA of 5% of covered payroll be applied to the County's share of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability.

Continued on Page 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT.

in seriously considering "donating" some of your time to assist us. Please plan to come to one of our business meetings. They are listed in this Cattails. And please talk to one of our current board members about the time commitments. The Board members are also listed in this Cattails. Whatever your skills, abilities, or interests we can use your help. Thanks for your consideration. ❖

ACTIVITIES REPORT – By Bill Mitchell, Activities Coordinator



In this issue of Cattails there are two flyers that require your immediate attention – the Holiday Luncheon and the Reno Fun Train.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at the Waterloo Gun and Bocci Club. The club is located on the N/W corner of Ashley Lane and State Route 88 (Waterloo Road) in Stockton. The Social Hour begins at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with many friends and colleagues in a festive atmosphere. An excellent menu has been planned, and the pricing has been held constant with last year. Again, like last year, we're providing you with the Haven of Peace's "Wish List" - it's on the reverse side of the flyer. Those who bring a donation to this event for the Haven of Peace will receive a second raffle ticket to increase your chances of winning a prize.

You won't want to miss this one, so please be sure to mail your form and check by the deadline indicated on the flyer. Hope to see you there! This event will be reviewed in the next issue of *Cattails*.... SEE ENCLOSED FLYER.

RENO FUN TRAIN

The Reno Fun Train is scheduled to leave the downtown Sacramento Amtrak Train Depot on Friday, March 3, 2017. This is the special "Mardi Gras" themed fun train. It will leave at 2:30 p.m. and arrive in Reno between 7-8 p.m.

Please note this is not the daily, regularly scheduled California Zephyr train between Emeryville, CA and Chicago, IL. This train is a special one just for fun!

The Amtrak Station provides 288 long term parking spaces for our vehicles while you're away. The lot is operated by the City of Sacramento (lot #293 at I Street and 4th Street.) The cost is \$10 per day for parking. The parking fee, up to \$30 with a receipt, will be reimbursed by RPESJC.

You'll stay at Harrah's Hotel & Casino directly across the street from the train depot for two nights. The hotel

provides a WINNER'S BOOK with valuable coupons for meals, drinks, and more. The return trip leaves Reno on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 10 a.m. and arrives in Sacramento at 3:10 p.m.

This train will have 15 train cars with about 600 people aboard enjoying the ride through the Sacramento foothills and into the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. The train will cross over or pass through about 50 bridges and tunnels while travelling towards Reno. This special train trip, operated through KEY HOLIDAYS and AMTRAK, will consist of: Live Music and Entertainment Car, Dancing Car, Bar Car, Lounge Car, Gold Service Dome Car, Cafe Car, Baggage Car, Seven Coach Cars, and a Smoking Car. This train is fully equipped for your enjoyment.

Lunch will be provided on the way up and back, or you may bring your own food with you for those with dietary restrictions. You may also bring your own alcoholic beverages with you!

Please book by December 9th! Payment by checks or credit cards are gladly accepted. The prices below reflect prices for age 50 or older, and include cancellation insurance.

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NOVEMBER TRIVIA—Words

- 1 – What is the nautical term for the side of a ship sheltered from wind?
- 2 – What is the longest word in the English language typed only with the left hand on a standard keyboard?
- 3 – This word can refer to a wife, a mother, a daughter, or a sister of a Muslim ruler. It can also refer to a small yellow raisin.
- 4 – What form of poetry is named after an Irish city?
- 5 – What is a short word that can refer to a cooking utensil, a bad movie review, or a search for gold?
- 6 – Timothy Leary, the sixties radical, was responsible for what phrase?

Answers on Page 5

Welcome NEW RPESJC Members!

Name	Department
Janet Briscoe	Mental Health
Rebecca Brownfield	Depart. of Aging
Valerie Cardoza	Sheriff
Gloria Diaz	SJGH
Rhonda Fideldy	Courts
Francine Garcia	Courts
Dina Jose	Sheriff
Bill Miller	Parks & Recreation
Corazon Parial	SJGH
Diane Schultz	Public health
Emma Valera	Human services agency
Todd Wright	Sheriff ❖

NEW RETIREES

Name	Department	Years
Janet Barton	SJGH	8
Sandra Bauer	Public Health	17
Janet Briscoe	Mental Health	15
Cheryl Campos	Deferred	10
Nilo Canton	SJGH	14
Magda Colon	Sheriff	14
David Cook	Public Works	33
Harold Crosby	District Attorney	26
Patricia Dalesandro	Human Resources	15
Deanna Diaz	Child Support Svs	29
Pamela Dickson	Sheriff	11
Caridad Dietrich	Public Health	6
Werner Dietrich	Deferred	5
Michelle Ekas	Deferred	9
Edonna Evans	Human Services	22
Rhonda Fideldy	Courts	26
Lori Freitas	Human Resources	36
Francine Garcia	Courts	37
Patricia Gardea	Sheriff	37
Betsy Gemora	SJGH	14
Rebecca Graham	Treasurer-Tax Collector	13
Shirley Gravelle	Courts	17
Mary Hardin	Calif. Childrens Services	12
Gloria Howard	SJGH	14
Scarlet Hughes	Conservator	12
Dianne Ingham	Child Support Svs	24

Roger Janes	Public Works	11
James Jordan	Deferred	2
Dina Jose	Sheriff	30
Angelina Kwarteng	Deferred	5
Michael Maury	Public Health	15
Billy Miller	Parks and Rec	10
Maria Moreno	SJGH	34
Wanda Mullin	Public Health	28
Corazon Parial	SJGH	14
Steven Pease	Sheriff	31
Diana Phelps	Deferred	5
Vicki Ramirez	Juvenile Detention	18
Javier Ramos	District Attorney	26
Virgilio Ronquillo	SJGH	16
Rachael Ruiz	Human Resources	9
Susan Ryan	Deferred	14
Rosa Sanchez	Courts	12
John Shepherd	Deferred	9
Donna Skidgel	Public Health	8
David Souza	Sheriff	26
Ted Towle	Human Services	11
Gina Vafflor	SJGH	11
Maria Vance	Child Support Svs	27
Rebecca Vargas Turner	Assessor	6
Frank Vega	Deferred	4
Sharon Watson	Deferred	5
Susan Webb	Deferred	10

Congratulations



ACTIVITIES REPORT CONTINUED

Double occupancy for \$369 PP

Single occupancy for \$449 PP

Triple occupancy for \$343 PP

Quadruple occupancy for \$333 PP

NOTE: Guests in any type of wheelchair must advise KEY HOLIDAYS one month in advance due to safety and train requirements. A FORM WILL BE MAILED TO YOU UPON REQUEST.

All guests will have to complete the Insurance Cancellation Waiver upon booking. A FORM WILL BE MAILED TO YOU UPON BOOKING.

This should be a wonderful long weekend, and the making of lasting memories. In 2014, RPESJC had 36 people who took the overnight RENO SNOW TRAIN and enjoyed themselves. For more information on the train trip, go to: KEY HOLIDAYS.COM or RENO FUN TRAIN.COM and click on the Featured Video to view the train and its amenities. It looks like a lot of fun!

Please don't wait to make your reservations. Sign up now. People who do sign up will be mailed additional information regarding this trip. SEE ENCLOSED FLYER.

RED HAWK CASINO & APPLE HILL

The RED HAWK CASINO & APPLE HILL bus trip was sold out again. We scheduled three buses to handle the number of people for this most popular day trip. The outing was scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2016. Look for a review in the next issue of *Cattails*....

ALASKA CRUISE 2016

If you were one of the people who went on this cruise on August 29th, would you please contact Bill Mitchell, Activities Chair, and let him know about your trip? ❖



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Website <http://www.havenofpeaceinc.org>

Women's & Children's Underwear and Toilet Paper Urgently Needed

WHAT'S NEW WITH SJCERA CONT.

ACTUARIAL AUDIT

The Board of Retirement retained Gabriel Roeder Smith (GRS) to conduct a parallel actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2016, and review the assumptions and results of the experience study completed by Cheiron. GRS will present its findings and results to the Board in late October. Final reports from Cheiron, including employer and member contribution rates for calendar year 2017, will be submitted to the Board in November, for adoption by the Board of Supervisor before year-end.

FIDUCIARY COUNSEL

In July, the Board retained Nossaman, LLP, Ashley Dunning, Partner and Co-Chair of Public Pensions and Investments Practice Group, to serve as fiduciary counsel to the Board. The Board referred a matter regarding a special supplemental benefit and related funding to fiduciary counsel for analysis.

CEO RECRUITMENT

Chief Executive Officer Annette St. Urbain advised the Board in July that she would resign from SJCERA employment by the end of the calendar year. The Board retained Alliance Resource Consulting to conduct a nationwide executive search for SJCERA's successor CEO. The search was initiated on September 21, 2016. The Board also retained Robert Palmer as an organizational consultant. ❖

NOVEMBER TRIVIA ... ANSWERS

- 1 – The side of the ship sheltered from the wind is called leeward.
- 2 – The longest word typed with only the left hand on a keyboard is: stewardesses.
- 3 – The word for a Muslim's female relatives or a small yellow raisin is: Sultana.
- 4 – The form of poetry named after an Irish city is: Limerick.
- 5 – The word that can refer to a cooking utensil, a bad movie, or a search for gold is: pan.
- 6 – Timothy Leary is responsible for the phrase "Turn on, tune in, drop out." ❖

Dates To Remember

Thursday, November 10, 2016	Monthly Luncheon at UJ's Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Bob Appler, V.F.W. Post 52
Thursday, November 17, 2016	Board Meeting (Members Welcome) @ 10:00 a.m. in the SJCERA Offices
Wednesday, December 14, 2016	Holiday Luncheon - Waterloo Gun & Bocci Club @11:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 15, 2016	Board Meeting (Members Welcome) @ 10:00 a.m. in the SJCERA Offices
Thursday, January 12, 2017	Monthly Luncheon at UJ's Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Tim Viall, Stockton Record
Thursday, January 26, 2017	Board Meeting (Members Welcome) @ 10:00 a.m. in the SJCERA Offices

MEMBERS FINANCIAL SERVICES — By Frank Feng



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Question: Do I need to pay taxes on my Social Security income? I have heard a lot of conflicting answers and it is really confusing. Could you talk about it?

Answer: A good portion of your Social Security income may be taxed. Depending upon your filing status and "combined income." Up to either 50% or 85% of your social security income may be taxable. Your "combined income" is defined by Social Security as the sum of your adjusted gross income, 50% of your Social Security benefit income, and any non-taxable interest earned, such as interest earned from tax-free municipal bonds.¹

Single filers with a combined income from \$25,000-\$34,000 and joint filers with combined incomes from \$32,000-\$44,000 may have up to 50% of their Social Security benefits taxed.¹ Single filers whose combined income is over \$34,000 and joint filers over \$44,000 may see up to 85% of their Social Security benefits taxed.¹ If you are married and file separately, your benefits will likely

be taxed no matter how much you earn or how much Social Security you receive.¹

What can you do if it appears your benefits will be taxed? You could explore a few options to try to lessen or avoid the tax hit. Keep in mind that if your combined income is far greater than the thresholds, your chances of averting tax on Social Security income are slim. If your combined income is reasonably near the respective upper threshold, some moves might help. For example, if you file jointly and your "combined income" is \$46,000, of which \$3,000 is interest earnings, you may have options to revise your portfolio and shelter the \$3,000 interest. This way your "combined income" would be reduced to \$43,000 (at least for the tax calculation purpose). Now you are below the threshold and your taxes on social security income could be reduced significantly.¹

If you would like to have more information on this topic or any other financial issues, please call Frank Feng at (209) 948-6024 ext 50140 or email to frank.feng@cunamutual.com. ❖

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IN MEMORIAM



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

Shirley Anderson	7/18/16	Beneficiary
Robert Applegate	9/2/16	Sheriff
Robert Baysinger	7/25/16	Courts
Ruth Bloom	7/18/16	Courts
Margaret Clark	8/28/16	Beneficiary
Bessie Crosby	8/29/16	Health Care Services
Samuel Delaney	7/29/16	SJGH
Robert Denton	6/29/16	Human Services
Carol Disa	6/28/16	Environ. Health
Susanne Driscoll	6/28/16	Beneficiary
Leonard Garrow	7/20/16	Lincoln Fire
Susanne Guerrero	8/20/16	Probation
Jo Harrington	7/4/16	Human Services
Dorothy Jacobs	7/31/16	Beneficiary
Robert Littlefield Jr.	9/5/16	Sheriff
Raymond McGhee	8/13/16	Beneficiary
Inez McKinsey	7/20/16	Beneficiary
Helen McPherson	7/19/16	Beneficiary
Marcia Pierce	7/23/16	Human Services
Larry Ray	7/28/16	Weights & Measures
Jewel Shanda	9/6/16	Beneficiary
Ben Smith	8/28/16	Beneficiary
O Stockdale	9/16/16	SJGH
Mary Vochatzer	7/30/16	Substance Abuse
Valerie Wilborn	8/19/16	Human Services
Jessie Wilson	7/25/16	Beneficiary
Melvyrn Wingett	7/31/16	Administrator
Timotea Won	9/8/16	Human Services

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

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

RPESJC is asking for help from the membership in recruiting new members during 2016. If you know a retired public employee who is not a member of RPESJC, or someone planning to retire soon, urge him or her to join our association. RPESJC is the voice for retirees before the Board of Retirement and the Board of Supervisors. Please call the office at 209-466-8556 for membership packets, and let's start recruiting new members. Thank you. ❖

Published quarterly for the Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County

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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Larry Mills, Vice-President	951-8476
Jerry Arnell, Treasurer	931-5430
Sally Tanaka, Secretary	931-6653

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Dick Callistro	466-8556
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Bill Mitchell	466-8556
Mike Smith	951-0461
Lois Sayhoun	466-8556
Adrian Van Houten	466-8556

Technical Support

Joe McKee, Coordinator	466-8556
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Retired Member, Board of Retirement

Adrian Van Houten	466-8556
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Alternate Retired Member, Board of Retirement

Margo Praus	466-8556
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Newsletter Committee

Tammy Williams-Ankorn, Edit Services
Bob Palmer, Staff Advisor
Tim Ankorn - Layout & Design
ABS Direct - Print & Mailing Services

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.



KEEPING YOUR ACCOUNTS SAFE AT THE GAS STATION

Over the last few years, gas pumps have become a favorite target for debit and credit card theft. Scammers are placing skimming devices at gas station pumps to steal debit and credit card information when people purchase gas. After capturing the plastic card information, the thieves are then able to use the data to create counterfeit cards.

None of us want to be victims of this type of fraud! Thankfully, there are several steps we can all take to help keep our debit and credit cards secure. Financial Center Credit Union has shared the following tips so that we can all remain safe as we fill up our cars at the gas station.

1. Location, location, location. As with many safety advisories, choosing your gas pump is all about location. Use a pump that is closer to the front of the gas station so that it's in view of gas station employees. Scammers are more likely to tamper with pumps that are away from the store so that they can go unnoticed.
2. Look for a safety seal. Gas stations have worked on making their pumps more secure by placing a security tape over their gas pump cabinets. This tape is often red

and located near the cabinet lock. If the security tape at the pump appears to be removed, cut, or otherwise tampered with, it's time to move to a different pump. Also, be sure to report suspected tampering to the gas station manager.

3. Check your accounts regularly. Enroll in online banking so you can keep track of purchases made on your checking/share draft accounts and credit cards. This way, you can spot and report fraud immediately to help minimize the impact.
 4. Report suspected fraud. If you suspect your debit or credit card numbers may have been compromised, or you find an unknown transaction in your account history, report it immediately to your financial institution. If someone does make unauthorized transactions with your debit card or credit card number, be aware that you are protected under the Fair Credit Billing Act and the Electronic Fund Transfer Act. However, these acts do require you to report missing cards or unauthorized transactions, so the sooner you report suspicious activity, the better!
- ❖

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Newsletter for the
Retired Public Employees
of San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 8556
Stockton, CA 95208-0556

