

San Diego Chatter

CALIFORNIA STATE RETIREES
CHAPTER 17 - SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES
District G

Chapter EMAIL: CSRchapter17@gmail.com Chapter WEBSITE: www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Elaine Edwards Yahraus, President

I hope everyone has managed to keep warm and stay dry. The last few months I have been very busy, preparing for the February chapter meeting and then after the meeting reviewing the forms on which the members provided suggestions for topics and speakers for future chapter meetings. The topics most requested were Social Security, Medicare and the new California Driver's License. I also worked on my presentation on Long Term Care for the CSR Health Benefits Committee and attended the CSR Board of Directors Meeting.

I am very pleased to announce that Linda Bradford and Cessaly Hutchinson volunteered to be members of the Chapter 17 Membership Committee. Thank you for your commitment to help this chapter flourish.

On April 1 & 2 Chapter 17 will have four representatives in Sacramento for Lobby Day, Steve Haley, Gloria Koch, Alberto Covarrubias and Beverly Durcan. Thank you for volunteering to help with one of the most important events of the year where CSR members meet with State Legislators to promote the mission of this organization to protect the pension and health benefits of all retired state employees. Chapter 17 has another chapter member who will be there as a CSR Board Member, Gaspar Luna Oliveira District G Director. Chapter 17 members look forward to learning about your visit with our State Assembly Members, Senators and their staff.

I mentioned earlier I am a member of the CSR Health Benefits Committee so I follow the CalPERS Health Benefits Committee meetings on the CalPERS Website. The California State Retirees newspaper lists the dates of the CalPERS Board meetings and then you can go to the CalPERS website and review the agendas and determine which meetings you would like to view on the webcast. If you have the time and enjoy using a computer I hope you view at least one of the meetings, the nice part is you can disconnect and nobody knows you have left the meeting.

Currently CalPERS is preparing for the election of the member of the CalPERS Board who represents retired members. You will be receiving information in the next few months so as time moves closer to the election you can study the candidate information and will be prepared to cast your vote. You will see updates in the CSR newspaper.

Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday, April 4.

April 4th Meeting – Speakers – Optum RX and Cholesterol Screening

Christina Fountain, from Optum RX and Carolyn Wolatz a pharmacist from the San Diego area will do presentations on Cholesterol management naturally and Insomnia management with both prescription and non-prescription and will be doing cholesterol screenings for those who are interested in having that done.

CSR Board Week – February 26th thru 28th, 2019 - Summary

On Tuesday the meeting was attended by the Chapter Presidents and the Board of Directors where discussions took place on chapter specific operation procedures.

- Bookkeeping options
- Branding standards - use only those logos approved by the CSR Board of Directors.
- Postcard Program available to the chapters to announce chapter meetings. Chapter 17 currently uses the newsletter for this purpose but could use this program at a later date.
- Uniform operation of the chapters including meetings, communications and notifications to headquarters
- Ambassador Program - There was a very lengthy discussion.

On Wednesday CSR State committees met.

1. Finance Committee -

- Bookkeeping options – continued discussion.
- Accountability of gift cards as giveaways at chapter events

2. Membership Committee

- Committee member assignments were announced
- Ambassador Program discussion was continued

3. Health Benefits Committee

- Committee Members - The committee is very fortunate to now have doctor and a nurse as members.
- There was a report on SB 1810 The Council on Health Care Delivery System, (Universal Health Care – state level) At this time there is uncertainty about how this would affect CalPERS Health Benefits Program.
- Update on the CALPERS Long Term Care Lawsuit with the trial date set for June 19, 2019. LTC Valuation presented at the CalPERS Finance and Administration Committee stated. There is \$ 4.47 Billion in the fund. The good news is the actuaries recommended not to increase the premiums this year.
- The CalPERS Pub 98 - Changing Your Beneficiary or Monthly Benefit After Retirement – new publication is available; can be ordered from CalPERS or downloaded from the CalPERS website.
- Information on Health Benefits Dependent Eligibility Verification was distributed. If you have dependents you will need to verify their eligibility. If you have a May birthday you should have received your First Notice in February. If you have an August birthday you will receive your First notice in May.
- There was a court victory for Blue Water Navy Veterans in the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The court ruled the Veterans did not have to set foot on the land in Vietnam. If they were off the coast and developed the same medical conditions of Veterans that served on land and exposed to Agent Orange, these Veterans should be entitled to presumptive category and thereby entitled to benefits. This committee will continue to follow the proposed rules for Veterans to seek private care.
- There were no or small increases in the Dental Plans.
- Vision coverage - discussion of the possibility of combining ones vision coverage in their health plan and their VSP plan reducing out of pocket expenses.
- Negotiations continue for a contract between Enloe Hospital and Anthem Blue Cross. Enloe is the only hospital in the area since the Paradise Fire.

4. Bylaws & Governing Rules Committee – changes to Governing Rules

- Section 5.02 and 5.03 – Executive Vice President and Vice President duty statements adding

other duties as required.

- Section 9.20 and 9.21 - Delegate Elections and Duties – moved to Section 10 Delegate Assembly and sections renumbered to 10.03, 10.04 and 10.05.
 - GR 13.00 – Presidents Forum was removed as the Board has implemented a Chapter Presidents and Board Forum on the day before committee meetings.
 - Section 5.00 – Duties of Officers and District Directors addition in paragraph 1 regarding Communication and engagement with members.
 - Section 11.01 - Committees – The maximum number of eight members was removed the minimum remains at five for each standing committee.
 - Under Section 12 Committee Organization and Responsibilities new language was added to promote CSR' Strategic plan and remove outdated language in sections under the various committees.
5. Board of Directors Meeting was on Thursday with a very full agenda.
- CalPers Speakers – Marcie Frost, CEO and Ben Meng, Chief Executive Officer.
 - Ted Toppin – Legislative Report
 - Dick Mesa was introduced as the PAC Chair and the representative from each district was announced. Laurie Bella, from Chapter 17, was announced as the Representative for District G
6. Gaspar Luna Oliveira, District G and Connie Lira, District F were sworn in as directors of their respective districts.

2019 CHAPTER MEETINGS LOCATION and DETAILS

1. We will continue meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego, CA.
2. **Meeting Dates: 1st THURSDAY of the following months: February 7th; April 4th; June 6th; August 1st and October 3rd.**
3. **Meeting Time:** Doors open at 10:30, Lunch 11:00 to 12:00 and meeting from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.
4. **Location Directions:** Sizzler, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego, CA, (858) 278-6988. Off of I-15 – take AERO DR exit from North or South – go West to Signal -Turn Right. Entrance at back of building with a parking lot. Doors open at 10:30 am. Meeting - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. **OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER 17 MEMBERS**
5. **HOLIDAY MEETING** – will be arranged and noticed in the upcoming chapter newsletters.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2019 Schedule –

1. **February 7, 2019** – Member Meeting – Sizzler Restaurant – **DISCUSSION TOPIC: CSR Strategy Plan**
2. **April 4, 2019** – Member Meeting – **DISCUSSION TOPIC: Optum RX, speakers and Cholesterol Screening**
3. **June 6, 2019** - Member Meeting – **DISCUSSION TOPIC: TBA**
4. **August 1, 2019** - Member Meeting – **DISCUSSION TOPIC: TBA**
5. **October 3, 2019** - Member Meeting – **DISCUSSION TOPIC: TBA**

DECEMBER 12, 2019 – Holiday Meeting - Year End Celebration – 7 Seas in Mission Valley

Time Sensitive

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Treasurer/Newsletter Editor

Diane Whorton – (619) 467-7861
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District G Director (CSR Board)

Gaspar Luna Oliveira (619) 548-4793
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SUB CHAPTER-IMPERIAL VALLEY

Chair

Tom Stroud – (760) 353-1749
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Recording Secretary

Ray Vialpondo - (760) 353-2445
Raynov1@roadrunner.com

COMMITTEES

Review Committee (Finances)

Steve Haley – Chair (619) 441-8769
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Legislative Committee

Laurie Bella – (619) 435-3688
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Gloria Koch – (858) 455-1917
Email: GloriaKoch304@gmail.com

Membership Committee (chair vacant)

Members
Linda Bradford
Cessaly Hutchinson

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

(Have your Social Security # ready)

California State Retirees, Inc (CSR)
(888) 808-7197
www.CalRetirees.org

CSEA Member Benefits

(800) 952-5283
www.calcsea.org/benefits

CalPERS Headquarters

(888) 225-7377
www.calpers.ca.gov

Social Security

(800) 772-1213
www.SSA.gov

Medicare

(800) 633-4227

***** If there is a committee you wish to help with please contact the President so you can be assigned*****

Lobby Day – April 1st and 2nd. Laurie Bella will be there as PAC Committee member along with volunteers from Chapter 17. Gloria Koch, Steve Haley, Alberto Covarrubias, Cessily Hutchinson and Beverly Durcan.

CalPERS – CEO appointed new Investment Officer – 400 staff, why do we need private investment consultants

Henry Jones – new CalPERS Board President. Up for re-election. Theresa Taylor (Local 1000) is board Vice President.

Recently picked up 42 new members in Chapter

Old Business Membership chair/committee vacancy

Still looking for a Membership Chair. Elaine requested volunteers for the committee. Linda Buechat and Cessily Hutchinson volunteered as members – not chairs.

NEWSLETTER – Diane Whorton, emphasized the importance of getting input from the members. Needs help from the members to keep it going

New Business Topics for future Meetings

Elaine passed out a form to members to put their ideas of topics for our meetings and asked that they give them to her so she can review and use the information for planning

Informational Items February Board of Directors Meeting

Elaine will be attending

Program The Strategic Plan

Presenters

Jay Jimenez, CSR Vice President and Jerry Fountain, CSR CFO

- Outreach to roll overs
- Outreach to ALL state bargaining units
- Communication
- Mobilize members – bus to Sacramento
- Leads and Supports – Board and Chapter Officers primarily

Goal 1 - Advocate for State Retirees Benefits

- CalPERS – took loss in 2018 – less than 4%
- Legislators – make them our friends

Goal 2 – Build and Retain

- Focus on retaining “roll overs” and other members
- Educate
- Outreach to other organizations

Goal 3 – Communicate with and Engage Members

Goal 4 – Mobilize Members

Goal 5 – Lead and Support the Organization at All Levels

Jerry – Fiscal

- \$2.6 revenue – \$2.2 disbursements
- Goal 1 – minimal – PAC will fund most
- Goal 2 – Unknown, could be substantial
- Goal 3 – Minimal
- Goal 4 – Minimal
- Goal 5 – Significant Impact

Adjournment

2:05 pm