

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

This will be my last President's Report for Chapter 17. At the end of the Executive Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2019 I resigned as President of Chapter 17. Steve Haley graciously accepted the role of President. I have agreed to be his Vice President and will remain as Chairperson for the Membership Committee. I have enjoyed my presidency and working with all the members but because of personal reasons I feel I could not adequately serve the members of the chapter. Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the August 1st meeting.

REVIEW - Board Week June 25th thru 27, 2019 by Elaine Edwards

Tuesday, June 25 the Chapter Presidents met with the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons in Costa Mesa. Interested parties were also welcomed at the meeting. The opening discussion was on uniform chapter practices including chapter agendas and meeting minutes for both chapter and executive meetings, completion and submitting travel claims, sharing hot topics at chapter meetings which CSR staff send to the presidents and submitting to headquarters the annual budget and meeting schedule.

Discussed under Outreach and Informational Chapter Meetings, Headquarters would fund one meeting a year that is in an area zip code served by that chapter where a meeting has never been held. It was encouraged to have a PAC Committee Member attend chapter meetings to encourage members to vote in the CalPERS election and in State elections.

A list of standardized recruitment materials was provided which included applications for membership and the PAC, as well as, a booklet published by CalPERS, "Planning Your Service Retirement" for people who have not retired.

There will be a change in the Governing Rules, Incompatible Acts (acts that harm CSR or holding office in another organization that harms CSR). This will be included on the candidate's consent form.

98 percent of CSR members come from rollovers; there is currently a lawsuit in Federal Court that could end rollovers. It is more important than ever that each of us recruit new members.

On Wednesday, June 26 the Finance, Bylaws and Governing Rules, Membership, Health Benefits and Political Action Committee meetings were held. During the Finance Committee there was a discussion of accountability of gift cards as giveaways at chapter events. A new form was provided to be used by the chapters to track giveaways. Chapters who maintain checkbooks in the chapter as does Chapter 17 is known as Option 2. The Chapters were provided updated instruction booklets. There was a motion made to move \$250,000 from the checking account to the investment account as the checking account had \$583,000 which exceeds insurability limit under FDIC.

The Bylaws and Governing Rules Committee Meeting returned two items back to the committee.

1. Governing Rules Section 10.00 Delegate Assembly to outline decorum at Delegate Assembly.
2. Governing Rules new Section 13 Chapter Presidents'/Board of Directors Council to change the term council to forum and who attends at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
3. Information items discussed were Section 2 of the Governing Rules, Membership and Dues, Section 7 Election Procedures for Officers and District Directors and Section 9 Chapter Elections adding incompatible acts which was brought to the Board of Directors meeting.

The Membership Committee Meeting focused on the Ambassador Program, Chapter 17 has three ambassadors Linda Bradford, Cessaly Hutchinson and Alberto Covarrubias. They will visit State worksites and provide The California State Retirees and gather contact information so the papers can be mailed to worksites in the future.

The Health Benefits Committee Meeting opened with an update on AB 1810, Council on Health Care Delivery System. After the HBC meeting the Governor and the Legislature reached an agreement and the name was changed to Healthy California for All Commission and will have a thirteen members.

The CalPERS Long Term Care Lawsuit Was heard by the Court on June 10 and 11 and focused on contract interpretation issues. At the time of the meeting the Judge had not released his decision. It appears that the case will continue in early fall.

There was a reminder for members with August birthdays with dependents on their health plan should have been contacted in May by CalPERS. If the member does not respond, CalPERS will remove the family members. Members with November birthdays will be contacted in August.

The VA test pilot program of the Mission Act also known as VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 ended June 12, 2019 and became effective the next day allowing Veterans to elect to go outside the VA under certain conditions.

Good news, there will be no increase in the dental and vision plans this year.

There was a presentation on State and Federal Health Care Updates. The Outpatient Prescription Drug Reference Pricing Program for Basic (non-Medicare) members who receive pharmacy benefits managed by the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (Optum RX) will see certain Tier Pricing Drugs replaced by these drugs. The selected firm will assist CalPERS with the implementation and on-going support of Reference Pricing beginning August 2019 through December 31, 2021.

The 2020 premium rates for the Health Plans were provided to the attendees. Please see the California State Retiree for the premiums and the State contribution. Please also read To Your Health by Larry Woodson for an explanation of rate increases and also surprise billing for out of network ER visits and the Legislation that CSR supports to eliminate surprise billing.

The newest member of the Health Benefits Committee, Karen Smith-Sayer brought four bills to the attention of the HBC. Tim Behrens, and Ted Toppin related to addressing the aging population of California and closing gaps in health care to ensure the elder needs are effectively addressed. The Bills are currently being reviewed by Mr Toppin.

The Political Action Committee was the last meeting of the day. Dick Mesa the Committee Chair provided a listing of Committee Members. Laurie Bella of Chapter 17 is on the Committee representing District G. Ted Toppin of Blanning and Baker reviewed twelve Assembly and Senate Districts that will be having elections in the March 3, 2020 primary. Final endorsements will be found in a future edition of the California State Retiree.

Thursday, June 27, 2019 The Board of Directors meeting was held. The Board voted and approved the transfer of \$250,000 from checking to Edward Jones Corp 3 Account for investment in stocks.

The Board voted and approved the changes to Governing Rules Section 2 Membership and Dues; 7.00 Election Procedures for Officers and District Directors; 9.00 Chapter Elections.

Ted Toppin addressed the Legislation that CSR is following and detailed information can be found in the July edition of the California State Retiree.

Dallas Stone of CalPERS reminded attendees that the ballots for the election for the Retiree Representative on the CalPERS Board would be mailed out August 30. If you don't receive your ballot by September 6, please contact CalPERS at 1-(855) 292.9956.

JJ Jelincic spoke and emphasized how important it is to fight to protect our health benefits. (He will be the guest speaker at Chapter 17 August meeting)

Christina Fountain from Optum RX spoke on proper medication disposal and Carolyn Wolax spoke on high blood and reducing your blood pressure without medication.

There were staff reports. Corrine Celentano reminded everyone that in 2020 there would be District Directors elections for Districts A, B, and C.

Jamie Villa the communication and social media expert encouraged everyone visit CSR on Facebook, Twitter and sign up for the E-Newsletter.

Tony Maldonado discussed the importance of recruiting new members because CSR is receiving 116 cancellations a month and reported deaths of 120 per month. He oversees the Ambassador Program and is working to recruit new members through that program.

At the close of the meeting Tim Behrens announced he would be running for President of the CSEA Board of Directors. The election will be July 20, 2019.

August 1st Meeting – Speaker – J.J.Jelincic, Candidate CalPERS Board

J.J. is a member of the California State Retirees and will be running for the Retiree seat on the CalPERS Board of Directors. He served on the CalPERS Board for 2 terms as an active employee, has taken time to retire and get a running start for this election. J.J. will be at our meeting on August 1st. This is your chance to ask questions, get answers and make suggestions.

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** – December 12, 2019. Best Western Seven Seas. San Diego, CA 92108

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2019 Schedule –

1. **August 1, 2019** - Member Meeting – **GUEST SPEAKER: J.J.Jelincic, Candidate CalPERS Board.**
******* CONFIRMATION Vote by members – to accept Officers appointments for Chapter 17 *******
2. **October 3, 2019** - Member Meeting – **DISCUSSION TOPIC: TBA**
3. **DECEMBER 12, 2019** – **Holiday Meeting - Year End Celebration** – Best Western 7 Seas in Mission Valley

California State Retirees – Chapter 17
c/o Diane Whorton
7563 Central Avenue
Lemon Grove, CA 91945-2337

Time Sensitive

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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SUB CHAPTER-IMPERIAL VALLEY

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Recording Secretary

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COMMITTEES

Legislative Committee

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Gloria Koch – (858) 455-1917
Email: GloriaKoch304@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Chair-Elaine Edwards (619) 435-4044
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*****

CALIFORNIA STATE RETIREES

Chapter 17 Meeting

June 6, 2019

12:00 pm to 1:37 pm

MINUTES

Call to Order

Elaine Edwards, President
1200 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Steve Haley, Vice President

Roll Call Officers

President, Elaine Edwards, Vice President Steve Haley, Secretary, Gloria Koch, Treasurer, Diane Whorton (excused)

Delegates

Elaine Edwards, Diane Whorton (excused), Danny Morales (excused), Arlene Ryan, Steve Haley, Laurie Bella, Michael Miller, Linda Beuchat, Gilbert Nguyen, alternate, Gaspar Luna Oliveira (Bd of Directors)

Committee Chairs

PAC Committee Co-Chairs Gloria Koch and Laurie Bella
Membership Chair – Elaine Edwards-Yahraus

Introduction of Guests

Gaspar Luna Oliveira, District G Director
Merrilee Colton, Chair of the CSR Membership Committee

Welcome New Members

Eddie Emory and Steve Shia

Approval of the Agenda

Approved

Motion: to approve made by Steve Haley, Gaspar Oliviera 2nd. Motion passed

Approval of the Minutes

Approved as corrected

Motion: to approve minutes as corrected made by Steve, ? 2nd. Motion Passed

Treasurer Report

April and May 2019

Presented by Elaine Edwards. Diane Whorton was excused. Corrected copies distributed for all months as there were calculation errors in the database. April and May were new reports.

April - Beg,Bal: \$5152.63 – Rev:\$1,605.50– Exp \$522.00 = \$6,236.13 ending balance

May Beg,Bal: \$6,236.13 – Rev:\$1,607.95 – Exp\$299.00 = \$7544.70 ending balance

Motion: to approve treasurer report made by Sharon Hatch, Marlene DeMeis 2nd. Motion passed

President's Report

Elaine opened the meeting by inviting the attendees to join in a celebration for Joe's 102 birthday with cake and presents. Joe, a member of Chapter 17, gave a quick overview of his life – his first memories are at age 5 or 6 when he was placed in an orphanage where he had to milk 14 cows by getting up at 4:00 am every day. By age 9, he run away from the orphanage and became a "hobo." During his life Joe was a circus employee, a resident at Father's Flanagan's Boys Town in Nebraska, and worked for San Diego State University for 33 years. Joe provided his wisdom for a long life: he reads two books a week, keeps connected and active all the time.

After the celebration, Elaine reminded the attendees that:

- CSR Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 25 through the 27, 2019 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa
 - June 25 meetings between Board Members and Chapters' Presidents (open to attendees)
 - June 26 CSR's Committee Meetings
 - June 27 CSR Board of Directors Meeting

Elaine said that the rest of her report was going to be taken care during new business

Report of committees

PAC – Laurie Bella and Gloria Koch

Laurie reported that PAC committee members had met with Rob Knudson, a longtime staff member, of Assembly Member Brian Maienschein on April 24, 2019. Laurie mentioned that the meeting went smoothly and that talking to Rob was like preaching to the chorus, Rob's mother was a retiree from the State and he is very aware of the importance a defined benefit pension and health care insurance during retirement. Gloria spoke of their meeting with staff members of Senator Ben Hueso on June 5. Again, staff was very supportive and aware of the benefits the State pensions. Staff members reviewed our legislative agenda and assured us that the Senator was supportive of AB 824. Staff also thanked us for lobbying about our retirement.

Membership – Elaine, Cessaly and Linda

Elaine mentioned they will be going to workplaces to hold meetings

Report of District Director

Gaspar Luna Oliveira

Gaspar reported on the upcoming CalPERS elections. He said that on April 12, 2019 CSR Board of Directors interviewed Henry Jones (incumbent) and J.J. Jelencic, Candidate. After the interviews and director's discussion the Board decided to endorse J.J. Jelencic. Election ballots will be mailed on August 30. Votes must be received by September 30 and voting processing will start on October 1, 2019. Gaspar emphasized that members have several ways to cast their votes: online, by phone and by mail He reminded attendees not to forget to sign the ballot. He also talked about the upcoming CSR Board of Directors and encourages members that live close to attend the meetings. Regarding membership recruitment, Gaspar spoke of the importance of new members for the survival of CSR. He encourages all of us to use "10 Great Reasons to Join the California State Retirees" handout.

Old Business

No old business pending

New Business

Elaine reported on Health Care Costs

Elaine said that CalPERS basic plans are going up a lot! The CalPERS Board had rejected the staff recommendations and requested that staff re-negotiate with health plans. CalPERS board will determine rates and the State contribution at their June meeting.

Elaine provided an update on the Long -Term Care (LTC) lawsuit. The first lawsuit determined the actuaries miscalculated the rates. Settlement from this lawsuit provided members a \$60 check. Attorneys got two million. Phase I of the lawsuit against CalPERS focuses on contract language interpretation issues. A Judge will provide a final decision. Phase II will be decided by a jury.

If CalPERS loses it has been calculated that there could be a fine of one billion dollars. Also, a loss may mean 125% increase in fees for LTC members.

Informational Items

Elaine mentioned that our guests for the August meeting will be J.J. Jelencic, candidate for CalPERS Board of Directors and Tim Behrens, CSR's President.

Program

Presenter

Merilee Colton, Chair of Statewide Membership Committee

The Membership Statewide Committee presently consists of eight members. Its purpose is to make recommendations to CSR Board and set recruitment goals. The criteria for deciding who is a member are as follows: a retired state employee with a CalPERS pension. Other persons can join us as Associate Members. She explained that CSR membership is declining due to members' deaths and the lack of rollovers. It used to be that membership came from California State Employees Association (CSEA). CSEA was composed of SEIU 1000, CSR and CSEU. If there are no rollovers, we need to aggressively enroll new members through the Ambassadors Program – this program visits workplaces and meet with employees to make them aware of the existence of CSR. Another way to achieve this goal is to mail the California State Retirees Newspaper to the different state workplaces. The newspaper has a membership and a PAC form.

Merilee mentioned that she had met with Chapter 17 Membership member's Elaine, Cessaly and Linda

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 1:47 pm