



Retired Public Employees' Association Mission City Chapter #61 January-February 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting

**Tuesday
January 13, 2026
Hybrid Meeting**
(In-person AND Zoom meeting. If you cannot attend in person, log on to Zoom meeting link shown on this page)

**January
MEETING LOCATION
Santa Clara Police
Department Building
601 El Camino Real
Santa Clara**

**February Lunch
Social Event
Wed. Feb. 11, 2026.
See page 5**

2026 Meetings
(2nd Tuesdays)

January 13, 2026
March 10, 2026
May 12, 2026
July 14, 2026
Sept. 8, 2026
November 10, 2026

January 13, 2026

Lunch Meeting at Santa Clara PD Building

Speaker: Rachel Radell-Harris, Senior Electric Division Manager,
Silicon Valley Power

Those wishing to attend the Chapter 61 meeting in person will meet at
SCPD (601 El Camino Real, Santa Clara) at 11:30 a.m.
Box Lunch Provided

Free parking is available in the Caltrain lot across Benton Street in designated police department parking spaces (see map on page 4).

RSVP!! Email Robin (robburdick28@gmail.com) if you plan to attend in person so we can order lunch for you.

Those wishing to Zoom can join the meeting using the link below.

Zoom Meeting Link

11:30 a.m. Pacific Time (US and Canada) January 13, 2026

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89531422728?pwd=Q5qaf00F0YbwQ47TnlBO9nqVZcNH9n.1>

Meeting ID: 895 3142 2728

Passcode: 010051

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,89531422728#,,,,*010051# US

+16699006833,,89531422728#,,,,*010051# US (San Jose)

Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89531422728/invitations?signature=uCRWs4jo2yXYCEUckXWv4tBT71Mfv7ejvKxDSYiH_Cc

President's Report..... Robin Burdick

Happy New Year to all of our Chapter 61 members. We hope to see more of you at this year's chapter meetings (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov). Our January meeting (to be held at the Santa Clara Police Community Room) will be another great meeting with a speaker from Silicon Valley Power, Santa Clara's electric utility. Lunch will be catered, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

RPEA continues to work to hold CalPERS to account for how retirement funds are invested. Please check your December 2025 issue of the RPEA magazine for some illuminating articles on what's happening with CalPERS. Forgive me for repeating myself – the magazine is one of the myriad ways that RPEA keeps us up to date on what is happening with CalPERS and how they're handling our retirement funds.

This will be my last article as Chapter President. I've enjoyed my year on the executive board, but I'm stepping down (as I announced last newsletter). We'll be having elections for Chapter 61 officers at the January 2026 meeting. Please consider volunteering for one of the chapter officer positions – RPEA is a great organization and the Sacramento office is a tremendous help to newcomers. But don't think that because I'm stepping down from the executive board that I'm going away altogether. I cherish my time with my retired colleagues and enjoy going to meetings, so you'll definitely see me in the future.

Happy 2026 to all of us. Let's hope for kindness and peace in the new year.
Robin

Secretary.....Mary Hanel

Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA), Mission City Chapter #61
November 11, 2025, Lunch at Denny's, 1745 El Camino Real, Santa Clara,
11:30 a.m.

Business Meeting Minutes

An attendance sign-in sheet was passed around the table. A hybrid meeting, 4 people attended via Zoom.

President: Robin noted it was Veteran's Day and thanked members who were veterans for their service to the country. She also said that the City of Santa Clara was holding a ceremony at Central Park in honor at Veterans later in the day – at 2:30 p.m. Robin also asked that members consider volunteering to be a Chapter 61 officer when nominations will be taken from the floor at the next meeting in January. Because last year's late January party for members at China Stix in Santa Clara Town Centre was such a successful and fun event, the Board is going to plan for a "Chinese New Year" themed party for members at China Stix in early or mid-February 2026. Finally, Robin announced that she will again be involved in directing the SHOWTIME melodrama fundraiser that supports Health & Wellness &

If you have moved or changed your address for delivery of this newsletter, please send your new address and current e-mail to:

RPEA Headquarters
300 T. Street
Sacramento, CA
95811-6912

November 2025 Lucky Cash Prize Winners

1st Prize \$100
Robin Burdick

2nd Prize \$75
Ken Kratz

3rd Prize \$50
Lois Steiner

4th Prize \$50
Linda Dietz

Every time you attend a Chapter 61 meeting (including through Zoom), you are eligible as an attendee to win "Lucky Number" prize money!

November – December 2025 Birthday Recipients

Chris Fernandez
Dave Hansen
Lois Steiner
Susan Souza

Nutrition programs at the Santa Clara Senior Center. The melodrama will be held at the Santa Clara Community Recreation Center March 6th, 7th and 8th, 2026. If anyone wants an acting part in the melodrama, let Robin know. *1st Vice President/ Legislative Chair:* Because it was Veteran's Day, Ken Kratz mentioned his grandfather was a veteran of World War I and his father a World War II veteran who served on the USS Sabine, a historic tanker. Ken recommended a close reading of the following articles in the October 2025 issue of RPEA Magazine: 1) the President's Message regarding the overcompensation of the CalPERS CEO; 2) the Investor's Corner column by Al Darby questioning some of CalPERS investment strategies; 3) the Health Benefits Directors Report on Open Enrollment; 4) California Legislature Wraps Up section on AB 351 aimed at limiting the influence of private equity and hedge funds in controlling health facilities; and 5) the GoFundMe campaign by RPEA to raise money to hire a nationally recognized forensic pension attorney to investigate CalPERS poorly performing investments the past few years.

Ken has been attending some of the RPEA Legislative Committee meetings; the Committee is encouraging chapter members to "Meet and Greet" their State legislators. The Committee is asking each Chapter to appoint three members to visit State representatives at their local offices to present issues important to our retirees. Our State representatives are Senator Aisha Wahab, Senate District 10, and Assemblyman Patrick Ahrens, Assembly District 26. Ken asked members to contact him if interested in forming a group to meet with Wahab and/or Ahrens in their local offices. There was a suggestion to invite those State representatives to our chapter meeting. Ken thought this would not only be difficult to schedule but also thinks it would be more effective to visit the legislators at their local offices.

Secretary: Mary Hanel said she was taking Minutes for this meeting and will submit them for use in the next newsletter.

Newsletter Editor: Nora Monette said her deadline for the January newsletter will be around the end of the first week in December. She will need to know by then if we will have a speaker and where we will meet for our next January 13, 2026 meeting and the exact date in February of the Chinese New Year Party at China Stix (*note: see page 5 of this newsletter for details of the February 11, 2026 Lunch Social*).

Membership: Virginia Soo was pleased with the high turnout at the September Chapter meeting and would like us to consider meeting at the Police Department Community Room again with either a speaker from another City Department (Fire Department or SVP/Electric Department) or an expert on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). If we go back to Police Department Community Room though we need to let people know where they can park for free near the Police Department and Board needs to figure out how to make the Zoom connection work better in the room there.

Sunshine Chair: Gerri Andrade sent out only one card during the past two months – a sympathy card to Rod Ulibarri whose wife passed away.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Membership Chair.....Virginia Soo

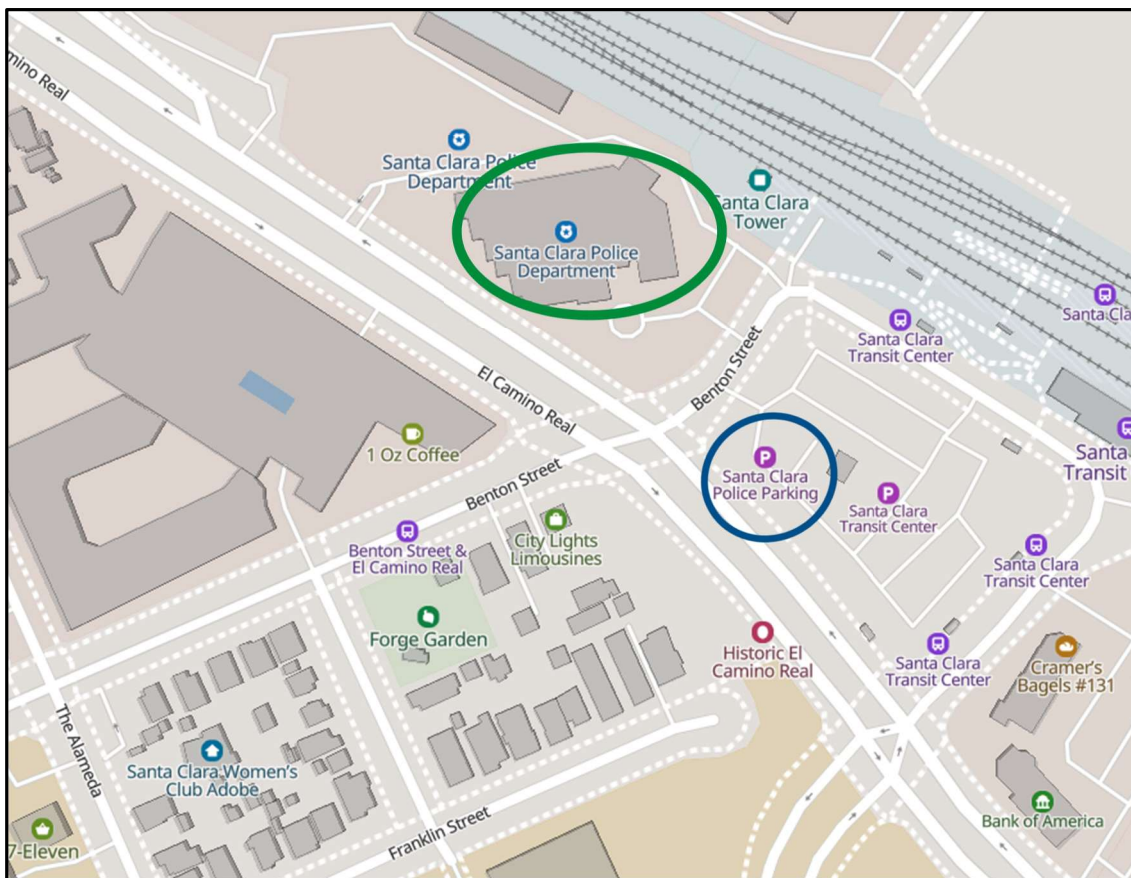
As of November 4, 2025 there are a total of 693 members.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13th at 11:30 am. It will be held at the Santa Clara Police Department (SCPD) 1st Floor Community Room. The speaker will be Rachel Radell-Harris, Senior Electric Division Manager of Customer Engagement at Silicon Valley Power. Her presentation will cover how City residential rates are determined. She will also explain why so many companies choose Santa Clara to house their data centers. Our chapter has purchased a laptop so we will be able to include remote members via Zoom and avoid past issues where people were not able to hear the presentation. Please let us know if you plan on attending so we can arrange for the correct number of box lunches. **For those not familiar with the SCPD facility, parking is available across the street at the Caltrain lot in designated police parking spaces (see blue circle below).**

Chapter 61 welcomes suggestions for upcoming guest speakers. Some topics that have been proposed include fire department recommendations for making our homes safer, what to know about Artificial Intelligence (AI), preparing for health changes as we age, and travel insurance and how to submit a claim. Send me your suggestions and we will do our best to find a speaker.

Have a wonderful holiday! We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

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Join Us at the Next Meeting!
Santa Clara PD 601 El Camino Real (Green Oval above)
Community Room is on 1st floor, to left of main entrance

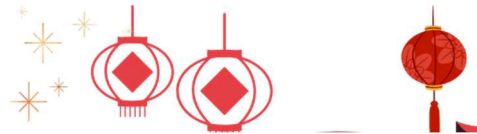


Every time you attend a Chapter 61 meeting (including through Zoom), you are eligible as an attendee to win “Lucky Number” prize money! (must be dues-paying RPEA member to participate)



Chapter 61 Board Members		Contact
President	Robin Burdick	Robburdick28@gmail.com (408) 307-8485
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Secretary	Mary Hanel	maryhanel6608@comcast.net
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Membership Chair	Virginia Soo	virgsoo@yahoo.com 408-390-8619
Sunshine Chair	Gerri Andrade	gmagerri@sbcglobal.net (209) 324-6947
Newsletter Editor	Nora Monette	nmonette@aol.com (408) 244-5153

Chapter 61 Winter Lunch



February 11, 2026 at 11:30 AM

Lunch at China Stix! Chapter 61 is hosting a lunch social at China Stix (2110 El Camino Real, Santa Clara) on Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. No charge for Chapter 61 members. **RSVP to Robin no later than Wednesday, February 4th.**

**RSVP!! Email or call Robin
(robburdick28@gmail.com)**