



RETIREED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MOTHER LODE CHAPTER 72



Issue 2 – December 2025 (Doreen Bass, Editor)

Dear Fellow Chapter Members,

This newsletter is our attempt to keep all of you informed so YOU can get involved and enjoy the opportunities provided! Our Mother Lode Chapter 72 is the place to learn about legislation and events affecting our benefits & pensions through statewide officers and local chapters. We are a widely dispersed chapter with 196 members--19 live out-of-state and 60 reside outside Tuolumne County. If you happen to be in Sonora during our meeting time, come and say hi. We would enjoy getting to know you!

1) Nominations were received for Chapter elected officers for 1-year terms for 2026 for the following offices:

President: Connie Newberg
Vice President: Geraldine Miller
Secretary: Shirley Dahlin
Treasurer: Doreen Bass

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Joan Montesano
Newsletter: Doreen Bass

Nominations are still open, if you wish to participate. The election will be held at our January 21st meeting followed by installation conducted by past-President Patrick Olesiuk.

2) We updated our By-Laws on 1/21/25 to conform to new State RPEA requirements and we submitted them to the By-Laws Committee. These By-Laws give structure and consistency to how we operate as a Chapter in the statewide organization. While we are still awaiting approval from the By-Laws Committee, our chapter is operating under the new statutes.

3) You will be pleased that we have more than adequate funds in our account to provide speakers and events that are pertinent to our members who vote on fiscal and governing issues.

4) RPEA hired a fiscal independent to audit CalPERS as questions have arisen about the seemingly poor investments of our pension funds. The Chapter voted 7/16/25 to send \$200 to RPEA to support this action.

5) At our Sept. 17th meeting, our speaker was Kristina Herrera from the Tuolumne County Public Health Department whose mission is to Promote Health Service to our County. Using PowerPoint, Kristina presented information about services available to us. She also provided handouts, including a Community Resource Guide, a Go Guide to free recreation areas, and documents with department statistics.

6) In lieu of a holiday luncheon, members voted to attend the entertaining Sierra Repatory Theater musical production of the Christmas Million Dollar Quartet (Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins) following the 11/17th meeting.

Our Chapter meetings are held 10:30am-12:30pm every other month on the 3rd Wed. at
Tuolumne County Public Library
480 Greenley Road, Sonora
1/21; 3/18; 5/20; 7/15; 9/16; 11/18
Lunch is included, so RSVP to 209-743-9078

Please let us know what speakers or topics YOU would like to hear (such as community engagement, volunteer, educational, or recreational information) or events we can attend next year.

Copied from the RPEA Chapter 004 Newsletter:

Tax Information:

Did you know that you can change your federal and/or state tax withholding election for your IRA distributions at any time by notifying your financial institution in writing? If you do not make changes, your previous selections will remain in place. You are advised to seek advice from your tax professional and attorney.



Cyber-Security Awareness :

Stay alert and take steps to safeguard your personal information.

Here are a few quick tips to help protect yourself online:

- Think before you click. Be cautious with unexpected emails, texts, or links—even if they look like they are from a familiar source.
- Use strong, unique passwords. A mix of letters, numbers and symbols makes usernames and passwords harder to crack.
- Turn on multi-factor authentication. Adding an extra step to login to any account protects them even if your password is stolen.
- Keep devices updated. Regular software updates close security gaps hackers might exploit.
- Monitor your accounts frequently and report any unusual activity right away.
- Never share personal information over email, text, phone or social media, unless you're sure of the source.

Remember: Banks will never call, email, or text you asking for your account number, password, or security codes. If you ever receive a suspicious message, contact your financial institution using the number on your credit card or bank statement directly before responding.

By staying informed and proactive, you can help ensure your financial information stays safe and secure.

Joke of the day:

“When I grow up, I want to be...YOUNGER!”

If you make your own pumpkin pies for holiday meals, here is a recipe to create Pumpkin spice mix:

- 1/3 cup ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon ground nutmeg or mace
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cloves
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground allspice

Thoroughly mix ingredients. Add 1 to 1-1/2 tsp spice mix to your other pie ingredients. Bake as directed.

Sonora’s “Red Church” in December:



May you experience the Joy of this holiday season!