



San Diego Chatter

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

Volume 2013, Issue 2

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www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS (have your SS# ready)

CSEA Retirees, Inc.
888 808-7197
Fax: 916 326-4364
Website: www.csearetirees.org

CSEA Member Benefits
800 952-5283
CSEA 916 444-8134

PERS Headquarters

Lincoln Plaza
400 "Q" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

PERS Retired Members
800 352-2238

PERS Beneficiary

916 326-3848
800 352-2238

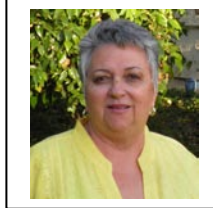
Social Security

800 772-1213

Medicare

800 633-4227

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Diane Whorton



This president has been busy since the 1st of year. I attended the Bylaws & Governing Rules (BGR) committee in Sacramento on January 9th & 10th. They are in the process of bringing things current and making some changes with the intent to better serve the members. One of the items is to change the make-up of the Board of Directors and provide a more democratic representation of members.

On January 29th the Chapter Finance Committee reviewed the chapter books, signed off on a clean slate and reports were sent to headquarters.

February 20th thru 22nd I attended the CSR Board of Directors meeting as well as several committee meetings held the same week.

The **Goals and Objective** committee met to review a draft for the new Strategic Plan for CSR. A Mission statement was created to emphasis the goal of CSR; **"To protect the pension and health benefits of all retired state employees."**

Some highlights of Strategy are:

1. Advocacy for current and future members and benefits with the California Legislature, CalPERS, Department of Human Resources and other entities.
2. Establish a Legislation committee
3. Grow the size and influence of our PAC membership by 25% per year
4. Expand our influence and effectiveness by cooperating with strategic partners (organizations with overlapping interests).
5. Recruit and retain members to enhance our Mission: Increase CSR membership by 300 per year
6. Improve communication at all levels of the organization by expanding and utilizing multi-media and 21st century technology.

March 20th we held a Chapter 17 meeting in El Centro to reach our members throughout the Imperial Valley. 13 members attended; we signed up 1 new member.

March 25th thru 27th I and the Chapter Treasurer will be attending the Bylaws & Governing Rules and Finance Meetings in Ontario.

April 8th & 9th - Lobby Day scheduled in Sacramento. Three people will be going from the Chapter to meet with our local Legislators. Our feet will hurt but we should be full of enthusiasm when we get home.

April 19th – Special Board of Directors meeting – Sacramento

April 24th – Chapter meeting – San Diego - Sizzler in El Cajon

May 8th thru 10th - CSR Board of Directors - Sacramento.

June 20, 2013 –Imperial Valley Chapter Meeting –Calexico – Family Style Buffet

June 26, 2013 – Chapter meeting – San Diego – Sizzler, Murphy Canyon Road

CHAPTER MEETING – San Diego, APRIL 24, 2013

LOCATION: Sizzler on Fletcher Parkway in El Cajon. Please arrive by 11:00 am so we can get our lunch ordered and finished and start our meeting by 12:00 noon. We will be doing chapter business before the speaker. There is side entrance you can come to if you arrive before 11:00 am. **SPEAKER: J. Eric Hereford, Special Assistant to the Speaker of the Assembly, John A. Perez - CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE**



MEET YOUR POLITICAL ACTION (PAC) CHAIR – Gaspar Oliveira

Gaspar was born in Corpus Christi, Texas and move to San Diego with his family in June 1959 settling in the Logan Heights (Barrio Logan) community. He attended and graduated from local public schools and San Diego State University majoring in Public Administration.

He started his Career with the State of California in April 1973 at the University of California (UC), San Diego. Career advancement opportunities took him to the UC, Davis; the Department of Industrial Relations in San Francisco, CA; and the State Personnel Board in Sacramento, CA.

In June 1980, he joined the newly created Department of Fair Employment & Housing (DFEH). With DFEH, he held several positions including Consultant (Investigator), Senior Consultant (Supervising Investigator); Administrator of the Fresno District Office and Administrator of the San Diego District Office. When the San Diego and Santa Ana District Offices were closed due to budget cuts at the end of October 2010, he accepted a Consultant (Investigator Specialist - Employment Discrimination) in the Los Angeles Regional Office retiring from State service on August 1, 2012.

Gaspar has been recognized by the California State Legislature and community organizations throughout California for his leadership and service in the area of civil rights. Also, for his volunteer work, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the United Way of Fresno & Madera Counties. He represented SEIU Local 1000 as a voting delegate at the San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council (LC). At the LC Annual Labor Day Breakfast in September 2012, he was recognized as a "Super Volunteer" for his many hours of campaigning for LC endorsed candidates and issues. In the fall of 2012, he was also given the prestigious SEIU Local 1000 Lapel Pin indicating he was a VIP (Volunteer In Politics) for his numerous hours of campaigning for Union endorsed candidates and issues.

Credit is given to his mother & father, Teodora & Gaspar, for his "genetic activism." He states his parents were proud to be Americans and they worked countless hours at local election polls for many years, "They always voted and campaigned for candidates they supported. They were the best example a son could have for participating in our democracy."

Political Action Committee (PAC) for Chapter 17 – Members for **San Diego County** are: Laurie Bella, Patricia Oneill, Gloria Koch and Angie Osuna. Members for **Imperial County** are: Elizabeth Gonzalez, Mariaelena Rodriguez, Ray Vialpando and Manuel Abundis.

FIRST CHAPTER 17 MEETING IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

What a treat – what a lively bunch!!!

This is not a sleepy farming area – these folks are in the mix of everything!!!

NEXT MEETING JUNE 20, 2013 in CALEXICO

Family Style Buffet
222 E. Cole Road Calexico, CA 92231
(760) 768-1440



Three chapter officers and 2 members made the trip to El Centro on March 20th to meet with Chapter members there. We found a lively bunch of people who have obviously been working together a long time with union activities.

Their ideas and questions were rolling out so fast we couldn't keep up with them. 4 members volunteered to do Political Action in their area and are anxious to get started with the visits to the Legislators.

We primarily used this as a planning meeting to schedule tentative meeting dates in June and October, discussed topics of interest and issues to be taken care of and anything else that came up. One of the members was having a problem with her check from PERS and we just happened to have a past area manager from CalPERS as a retired member who rode with us – a call was made and a problem was resolved. Now how's that for service!!

We signed up one new member – Beatriz Reina – welcome! It was a very productive trip and all of us from San Diego are anxious to go back and see what else we can rustle up.

Thanks to Liz Gonzalez for the being the point person and thanks to all of you who attended. It's going to be a fun and productive group. All of you sitting in Imperial Valley come on out and join us in June. **A post card will be sent to members in that area with the meeting date, time and place.** See you in June.

DELEGATES TO VOTE ON MEMBER RATIO FOR DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

At the Board of Directors meeting in February it was voted to send a mail ballot to our delegates to change the delegate ratio from 1 to 100 members to 1 to 200 members.

Our chapter currently has close to 1400 members which means we have 14 delegates at this time. Changing the ratio would mean we would have 7 delegates to represent our membership at CSR Delegate Assembly, held every 3 years. The change would mean a cost savings to CSR and the change would mean less representation making decisions for the members at Delegate Assembly.

Delegates need to hear from you as to what you feel is best for the members of Chapter 17. **There will be a discussion on this topic at our meeting on April 24th.** Ballots are being sent out in May to be returned in June.

TRYING SOMETHING NEW in JUNE 2013 - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Per requests of members we are trying out a new location for our San Diego County chapter meeting in June. It is more centrally located and convenient to all freeways. (I-15 and Aero Drive). **This is for the JUNE meeting.** If this works out well we will change locations on a permanent basis. Come give us a try.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

JUNE 26, 2013

**SIZZLER
3755 Murphy Canyon
Road**

**San Diego, CA
(858) 278-6988**

**change of
location**

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

We need a webmaster for the chapter. **Anyone who would like to work on the Chapter 17 website** please contact us at Chapter 17 email: chaptr17@gmail.com OR call Diane at (619) 264-6280. We are building the site and need your ideas or suggestions. It is your site so you need to let us know what is missing and what you need to see. **CHECK OUT THE CHAPTER WEBSITE:** www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info.

NEWSLETTER: Those who would like to be added to the chapter email list, please send an email to: Chaptr17@gmail.com. We will be happy to move you from hard copy to electronic copy. As well, if you prefer hardcopy please notify us of the preference.

If you are providing an email address please make sure you put the Chapter 17 email address in your address book so the email will not go into your SPAM folder.

California State Retirees – Chapter 17
c/o Diane Whorton
4814 Hart Drive
San Diego, Ca 92116

CHAPTER 17 MEETINGS

Meetings are held 6 times a year – on the 4th Wednesday of the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December – Holiday gathering (this date is flexible to accommodate location). December meeting location and information will be announced separately.

Time for all chapter meetings has been changed to 11:00 am. We will take lunch orders at 11:00 so we can eat a little earlier and take care of our business before our scheduled speakers. Please be prompt.

DATE: Wednesday – April 24, 2013

SPEAKER:

J. Eric Hereford

**Special Assistant to the Speaker of the Assembly, John A. Perez
CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE**

PLACE: Sizzler Restaurant – 1030 Fletcher Parkway, El Cajon

TIME: **11:00 am – lunch before meeting – Doors will be open early or come to side door**

TIME CERTAIN: Meeting Starts: 12:00 pm

MENU: Choice of chicken or steak with soup or salad or unlimited salad bar

COST: \$10.00 per member, chapter subsidizing the rest of the cost

11:00 AM

**Interstate 8 east to Johnson Ave
Left on Johnson to Fletcher Parkway
Left on Fletcher Parkway – about 1 block on right
Sizzler and Smart and Final in same parking lot**



California State Retirees, Inc

CHAPTER 17 - SAN DIEGO

Bi-monthly Meetings

February, April, June, August, October, December

Chapter Minutes

February 27, 2013

- Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 12:00 by President, Diane Whorton
- Pledge of Allegiance Led by Steve Haley, Vice President
- Roll Call of Officers President Diane Whorton, Vice President Steve Haley, Secretary Gloria Koch, Treasurer Mark Flahan
- Delegates: Diane Whorton, Mark Flahan, Pearl Pacheco-absent, Nellie Sayer, Marva Roddy, Audrey Garner, Elaine Edwards-Yahraus, Patricia Oneill-absent,
- Introduction of Guest Gene Waggoner, District G Director was not attending due to illness.
- Approval of Minutes Motion to approve was made by Nellie Sayer. 2nd by Marva Roddy. Motion passed
- Treasurer Report by Mark Flahan, Treasurer
- The Chapter has an unencumbered balance of \$11,652.54 as of 2/27/13.
 - The above balance includes \$5000.00 in grants.
 - Mark also mentioned that Chapter17 receives \$700 monthly allocation from CSR which is the minimum allocation available -- CSR determines Chapters allocations according to membership.
- President Report
- Ballots coming out to change delegate ratio in CSR. CSR has 1 to 100 delegates and it is being proposed to change to a ratio of 1 to 200 to save money.
 - Board of Directors met in San Francisco, February 22nd. New statewide officers were elected
 - Strategic Plan for CSR is being created
 - Raffles are illegal. For us to hold raffles we must pay \$20 to Secretary of state and make an application by October of each year. The permit would be good for one year at a time.
 - During the Health Committee meeting presentations were made by Blue Cross, Health Net and Kaiser. Also, CVS made a presentation and the Minute Clinic. Health coverage would cover those costs for members.
 - CalPERS made a presentation regarding Long Term Health Insurance. 3 letters will be sent to the members enrolled explaining the options available to them to avoid or reduce the impact of an 85 percent increase in premiums by 2015.
 - Lobby Day will be held in Sacramento on April 8 and 9. Diane Whorton Gaspar Oliviera, PAC Chair and Lori Bella, PAC member

will represent Chapter 17.

- Change number of chapter meetings – this was discussed at executive board to think about. We will discuss at our meeting in April – think about it.

Committee Reports

- Holiday Committee – Linda Collins, Chair absent.
- Membership/ Communications – Pearl Pacheco, Chair absent.
- Budget/Audit Committee – Steve Harley, Chair, reported that the committee reviewed Chapter 17 books & financial reports. Good shape. Mark Flahan, Treasurer sent all reports to Sacramento on 1/28/13.
- PAC Gaspar Oliveira, Chair reported that he and Patricia Oneill attended Scott Peter's open house and met with his Chief of Staff.

Unfinished Business

Grant requests - \$2,500/Travel-Meetings and \$2,500/ Newsletter were approved at the November BOD meeting. Travel & Meeting grant will be funding the Imperial valley meetings.

New Business

- Meetings El Centro/Imperial Valley
The first meeting is scheduled for March 20 at Denny's Restaurant in El Centro. Postcards have been sent to all members in that area inviting them to attend. Officers and PAC reps will go the meet the members
- New Meeting Location – trying it out
Our June 26, 2013 meeting will be held at the Sizzler located at 3755 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego. Use the side entrance. Phone: 858- 278-6988
- April Meeting
The April meeting will be at our present location (Sizzler in El Cajon).
- Business Cards for PAC Committee
Diane will research cost and order
- Banner
Banner has been ordered – cost \$258.12 – will be done for March 20th meeting in El Centro

Information Items

Diane mentioned that ballots would be sent sometime in May to vote on changing the delegate ratio. Think about this so we can discuss at our next meeting.

Guest Speaker

Bob Prath, AARP Representative – Mr. Prath talked about services and what they focus on for retirees. They target legislative issues.

Meeting Adjourned

1:25 pm

Submitted By

Gloria Koch

Gloria Koch
Secretary