



# San Diego Chatter

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

Volume 2013, Issue 4

July/August 2013

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### CHAPTER WEBSITE:

[www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info](http://www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info)

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS (have your SS# ready)

**CSEA Retirees, Inc.**  
888 808-7197  
Fax: 916 326-4364  
Website: [www.csearetirees.org](http://www.csearetirees.org)

### CSEA Member Benefits

800 952-5283  
CSEA 916 444-8134

### CalPERS Headquarters

Lincoln Plaza  
400 "Q" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### CalPERS Retired Members

800 352-2238

### CalPERS Beneficiary

916 326-3848  
800 352-2238

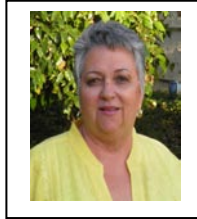
### Social Security

800 772-1213

### Medicare

800 633-4227

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Diane Whorton



There has been a lot going on since our last meetings, CalPERS has said they are going to post all of Retiree information on their website to disclose how much we make and how we earned it. Members are up in arms and expressing their concerns about this invasion of privacy. It is important that we all speak up and defend our right to privacy and safety.

If you have concerns and want to express them please contact your local newspaper, send your comments to CSR RETIREE attention Trinda or anywhere else you feel will listen. If we do not stand up we will not be heard.

Coming up:

\*\*\*\*\* **August 21, 2013 – E-BOARD MEETING – Officers, Delegates, Committee Chairs – Sizzler – Murphy Canyon Rd – 11:00 am**

**August 28, 2013** –San Diego Chapter Meeting – Sizzler, Murphy Canyon Road

**October 16, 2013** – Imperial Valley Chapter Meeting – Golden Corral, El Centro

**November 8, 2013** – CSR Board of Directors Meeting – San Diego – Doubletree Hotel, Mission Valley.

**Message to all:** I have worked very hard to get the newsletter started and the website up and running. I cannot keep doing this alone. I need members to step up and do some of the work i.e. write articles, help put the newsletter together, update the website, etc. Chapter 17 belongs to everyone – not one person – I cannot keep up with everything. If you want things to continue someone needs to step and help. Thanks

## POLITICAL ACTION

Chapter 17 has been busy with visits over the past several months. We are working hard to develop a working relationship with all of Legislators in this area. We will continue to make office visits and invite them to our meetings so we can get to know each other.

- April 24, 2013 - J Eric Hereford, Special Asst to the Speaker of the Assembly, John A. Perez, California State Legislature
- June 20, 2013 - Frank G. Salazar, Special Assistant to State Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District
- June 21, 2013 – Marty Block, District office visit
- June 26, 2013 - Alberto Valasquez, Dist Field Rep for Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez
- July 11, 2013 – Lorena Gonzalez – Open House at District Office

Thank you for the good work goes out to Gaspar Oliveira, PAC Chair for making these contacts. Gaspar will be attending the Statewide PAC Committee meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sacramento representing Chapter 17.



## **MEET Loli Torres – Imperial Valley Member – Calexico Standout**

Loli was employed at the Calexico office of the California State Employment Development Department (EDD) working with farm labor contractors wanting to hire farm workers and other workers wanting to secure employment. Prior to working for EDD she worked 16 years at the Calexico Chronicle. Because field work starts early the EDD office opens at 3:00am. Staffers began bringing in coffee and pan dulce for themselves as well as those seeking work. This was the beginning of the “Farm Workers Breakfast” held every year in December. You can read about Loli and this event on our website: <http://calstateretirees-chapter17.info/> or at

<http://micalexico.net/blog/13808573/loli-torres>

Loli was born and raised in Calexico from immigrant parents and is proud to call it home. She was married to “Nene” who passed away in October 2010, is the mother of four adult children, 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Loli is one of the “Charter” Retiree members to attend our first meeting in Imperial Valley in March 2013. She was the contact person for our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in June held in Calexico.

Chapter 17 leaders are glad to have met our Imperial Valley folks and excited to be involved with them and their activities in the “valley”. We are discussing working on the Farm Workers Breakfast this year as part of the community involvement.

## **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**

CSR is starting a statewide campaign to recruit new members to our Affiliate. We are in need of our members who would like to participate in worksite visits to talk to employees getting ready to retire. Anyone who has contact with their former worksites, contact information for a person to call to make arrangements for visits, or any other ideas for making contacts please provide the information via the Chapter Email.

We need everyone participating in our recruitment effort.

## **CalPERS Mailing of Dependent Eligibility Verification Letters**

This was received by email on July 30, 2013

\*\* Sent on behalf of Tim Behrens \*\* (CSR President)

### **Health Care Dependent Eligibility Verification Project Update**

As some of you are aware, CalPERS has initiated a project to ensure dependents enrolled in our health benefits program meet the plan eligibility guidelines so that only eligible dependents are covered. This is part of our efforts to control health care costs for our members and their families.

Beginning tomorrow, members enrolled in our health program will receive a letter from a vendor called HMS Employer Solutions who will be conducting the verification for CalPERS. Members will be required to submit documentation to prove dependent eligibility to HMS by September 12, 2013. Attached is a sample of the letter being mailed to members accompanied by a Frequently Asked Questions document.

Some members may feel it is a burden to provide this documentation but it's important to make sure CalPERS health benefit plans are compliant with State law, competitive and cost-effective. This project also helps CalPERS manage overall plan costs, which benefits all subscribers. We appreciate any effort on your part to help members understand the importance of this work.

### **Rita L. Gallardo, MPA**

Division Chief

CalPERS Office of Stakeholder Relations

[\(916\) 795-0944](tel:9167950944)

If you have dependents please be sure and complete the information requested and return it by September 12, 2013 so there is interruption in your medical care.



# CHAPTER MEETING DATES

## 2 Chapter Meetings

### San Diego and Imperial Valley

Meetings are held 6 times a year – on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**SAN DIEGO: August 28<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**\*\*\*\* NEW LOCATION \*\*\*\***

**Sizzler Restaurant - 3755 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego, CA, (858) 278-6988**

**SPEAKER: Harvey Robinson, Candidate for CalPERS Board**

#### **Directions:**

I-15 North or South to **AERO DRIVE** - Go West to **Murphy Canyon Road** turn **RIGHT (Stop Light)**  
- Enter the first Driveway on the right side - Turn right to far end of the parking lot.

**USE SIDE ENTRANCE – Do Not Go Through Line**

**IMPERIAL VALLEY – El Centro– October 16<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**LOCATION: Golden Corral - 2018 N Imperial Ave - El Centro, CA 92243 - (760) 336-0009**

**ELECTION OF SUB-CHAPTER CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

**SPEAKER: TBA**

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

**See the New Website**

SEE WHAT HAS CHANGED: [www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info](http://www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info)

**YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED. I CAN NOT DO THIS ALONE.**

Our chapter website is a work in progress and is going to provide specific information for our chapter areas, political action and general CSR information. We need your input as to what you want and **NEED** to see, access and so on. It is YOUR site so you need to let us know what is missing. **We are in need of a webmaster for the chapter.**

**Anyone who would like to work on the Chapter 17 website** please contact us via our Chapter 17 email:

[chaptr17@gmail.com](mailto:chaptr17@gmail.com) Or call Diane at (619) 264-6280.

**NEWSLETTER:** Those who would like to be added to the chapter email list, please send an email to: [Chaptr17@gmail.com](mailto: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.

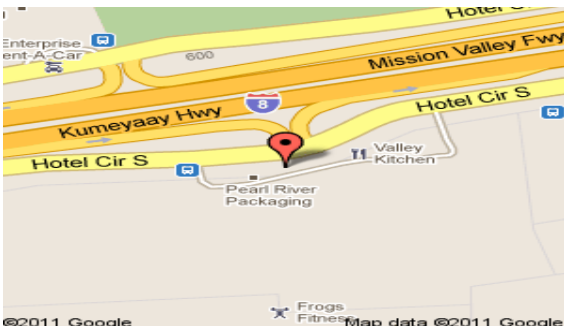
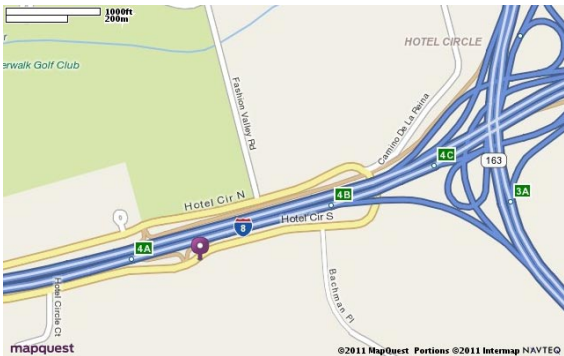
**If you are providing an email address please make sure you put the Chapter 17 email address in your address book so the email will not go into your SPAM folder.**

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

## CHAPTER 17 HOLIDAY MEETING



**DATE:** Wednesday – December 18, 2013 **TIME:** 11:00 to 2:00pm  
**PLACE:** MISSON VALLEY RESORT  
**ADDRESS:** 875 Hotel Cir S, San Diego, CA 92108 **Phone:**(619) 298-8281  
**MENU:** Buffet Lunch  
**COST:** \$15.00 per member and 1 guest. All non-members \$30.00  
**\*\*\*\*\* NO REFUNDS – NO EXCEPTIONS \*\*\*\*\***



### Between 5 and 163 on Interstate 8

Exit Hotel Circle Drive from either direction on 8

From 163 South

- Exit Hotel Circle
- At stop sign make a right. **Stay in right lane**
- Drive under the bridge and make a right
- Hotel is on the left side before to you get to freeway entrance.

From 163 North

- Exit I-8 West
- Follow directions for Hotel Circle

From 8 West:

- Exit Hotel Circle - same as 163 exit – **stay in left lane**
- Follow directions above (163 South)

From 8 East:

- Exit Hotel Circle.
- Hotel is directly in front as you come off the freeway



**CSEA Retirees Inc**  
**CHAPTER 17**  
**Bi-monthly Meetings**  
**February, April, June, August, October, December**  
**Minutes**

DATE: June 26, 2013

- Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by President, Diane Whorton
- Roll Call of Officers** President Diane Whorton, Vice President Steve Haley, Secretary Gloria Koch, and Treasurer Mark Flahan.
- Delegates:** Diane Whorton, Nellie Sayer, Patricia O'Neill, Elaine Edwards-Yahraus, Mark Flahan, Pearl Pacheco excused, Marva Roddy, Steve Haley.
- Introduction of Guests** Alberto Velasquez, Dist. Field Rep for Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez. Gene Waggoner, Dist. G Director
- Approval of Minutes** Minutes of the February 28, 2013 were approved. Motion made by Mark Flahan, second by Nellie Sayer.
- Treasurer Report** Treasurer, Mark Flahan reported \$9,481.07 as the Chapter's bank balance. After deductions the Chapter will have approximately \$7,400.
- President's Report**
- ❖ Diane attended May's Board Meeting and also a Special Board Meeting.
  - ❖ Elaine Edwards-Yahraus, Chapter 17 has been appointed to CSR statewide Health Benefits Committee
  - ❖ Diane has been appointed to CSR statewide Finance Committee.
- Welcome new members** Cindy Urban, William Finch and Lupe Palomares. During their introductions it was mentioned they were here because of the new location.
- Committee Reports**
- Holiday Committee:* Linda Collins, Chair, excused – Holiday Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18 at the Mission Valley Resort.
- .
- Membership/Communications:* We have two new members and three members passed away. The chapter has approximately 1400.
- Finance Committee:* Steve Haley, Chair – Nothing to report.
- Political Committee/PAC:* Gaspar Oliveria reported that Representative for Senator Ben Hueso was at the Calexico Meeting. Gaspar mentioned that Senator Marty Block received recognition by a Senior Group on 6/21/13. He also reported that Senator Block was very interested in

hearing our ideas for new legislation and is very supportive of retirees. Gaspar urged members to become involved in the PAC and called to their attention last week editorial of the UT. The Editorial advocates for the elimination of health benefits for retirees. He also announced that Chapter 17 will be visiting Assemblywoman Shirley Weber.

*District G Director's Report:* Gene reported that the CSR has two PACs: one that supports candidates directly; and one that supports legislative initiatives. The maximum donation to both PACs is \$15. He urged attendees to support the PAC.

Delegates received a ballot to decide the membership ratio for the General Assembly. 205 votes were cast for a ratio of 1 rep for 200 members. It passed.

Gene will propose that non retired state employees could become "pre-associate retiree members." This can be done electronically with no cost for the associate and may help in keeping current employees involved with the CSR.

**Unfinished Business** The Calexico meeting of June 20 was announced in the Imperial Valley Press. Attending from San Diego were Steve Haley, Gaspar Oliveria, Elaine Edwards, Diane Whorton and Gene Waggoner. Also, Senator Ben Hueso was holding an open house the next day and Chapter 17 PAC was planning to attend it.

**Informational Items** Calper's elections. Endorsements: Harvey Robinson and J.J. Jelincic.

**Guest Speaker:** Introduction by Gaspar Oliveira – Alberto Velasquez, Dist. Field Rep for Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez.

Alberto provided a quick biography of Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez. He spoke of her legislative priorities, the MOU with the Unions and her support of pensions (i.e., union negotiated contracts) versus ballot initiatives to reform pensions. They will be holding an open house at their new office in the State Building on Front Street soon. We will be notified of the date.

**Meeting Adjourned** 2:45 pm

**Submitted By**

*Gloria Koch*  
Gloria Koch  
Secretary