



San Diego Chatter

Volume 2013, Issue 5

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

September/October
2013

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Chaptr17@gmail.com

CHAPTER WEBSITE:
www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info

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

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

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

CalPERS Headquarters
400 "Q" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

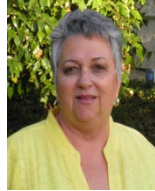
Retired Members
800 352-2238

Beneficiary
916 326-3848
800 352-2238

Social Security
800 772-1213

Medicare
800 633-4227

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Diane Whorton



A suggestion was made at our August meeting in San Diego to have a Question & Answer column for CalPERS questions in our newsletter. We are working on it. We have already added an **Ask a Question** tab to our website which will direct your questions to Elaine and the chapter email. Elaine is the former Regional Office Manager from the CalPERS San Diego Regional Office. Read more information at the end of the newsletter.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERED PLEASE CONTACT US AT: Chaptr17@gmail.com. There is also a link on the **Chapter Website:** www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info to send a form with your question.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 16, 2013 – Imperial Valley Chapter Meeting – **Golden Corral, 2018 N Imperial Ave - El Centro, CA - (760) 336-0009 – ELECTIONS** of Sub-Chapter Chair and Recording Secretary. **SPEAKER:** Sedalia Sanders, El Centro City Council

October 23, 2013 – San Diego Chapter Meeting – **Sizzler, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego, CA, (858) 278-6988**
Off if I-15 – take AERO DR exit from North or South – go West to Signal -Turn Right. **SPEAKER:** Assembly Member Shirley Weber or her Representative
****** USE SIDE ENTRANCE – DO NOT GO THROUGH LINE ******

November 6 thru 8, 2013 – CSR Board of Directors Meeting – San Diego **Doubletree Hotel, 7450 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 297-5466**. Committees: Finance, Bylaws/Rules, Membership, Health and Presidents Forum on Wednesday and Thursday. Board Meeting on Friday

December 6, 2013 – 34th Annual Appreciation Breakfast for Farm Workers – Calexico, CA - **THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR 2013.**

December 18, 2013 – Holiday Meeting – **Mission Valley Resort, 875 Hotel Circle S, San Diego, CA 92108 Phone: (619) 298-8281**. This meeting is for ALL Chapter 17 members

IMPERIAL VALLEY SUB CHAPTER ELECTIONS TO BE HELD OCTOBER 16, 2013

At the October Meeting elections will be held for Sub-Chapter Chair Person and Recording Secretary. All members are eligible to run.

- **Chair Person** will be liaison between Chapter 17 E-board and will be a voting member of the board. They will chair meetings, initiate programs and work with Chapter 17 officers on overall programs, projects and strategies with

Chapter 17.

- **Recording Secretary** will be responsible for taking minutes of all sub-chapter meetings, correspondence and help Sub-Chapter Chair in meeting locations arrangements and guest speakers.
- **PAC Committee** - At our first meeting held in Imperial Valley in March we had 4 volunteers for the PAC committee in that area. It's important that everyone be available to make legislative contacts in your local area, attend events representing California State Retirees and be available when needed by the PAC Chair person.

Gaspar has NOT heard from all of the volunteers. Please get in touch with our PAC Chair for Chapter 17 and give him your current contact information - please include an email address. It is important that we be able to contact you and have a regular program for legislative visits, speaker engagements and attending community events. **Gaspar Luna Oliveira:** GasparLunaOliveira@gmail.com - phone (619) 548-4793

IMPERIAL VALLEY CHAPTER MEETING - El Centro– October 16th – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

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

CONTACT: Liz Gonzalez for information [\(760\) 352-2131](tel:7603522131) or [\(760\) 604-2619](tel:7606042619) or alliancerus@hotmail.com

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Elaine Edwards-Yahraus – CalPERS Resource



Elaine is the former Regional Office Manager of the CalPERS San Diego Regional Office. Some of us were recipients of her knowledge when she processed our retirement paperwork for our big exit from state service. She started in 1977 retiring in 2004 after 27 years. She continued as a Retired Annuitant until 2012.

She has continued to service our local members as she has been very helpful answering a variety of questions regarding their health benefits, dependents, etc. when they have called or asked. We are going to continue to use her skills and knowledge as she has agreed to do a Q & A Blog regarding NON-personal CalPERS questions. She will research and bring the answers to us.

All of the questions and answers will be posted on our chapter website under **CalPERS Info – Q & A Blog – Ask Elaine**. Please check out the website: <http://calstateretirees-chapter17.info/category/ask-elaine/> to read her BIO and follow the links to ask a question.

The first question was asked at our last meeting: **“If the person designated as Power of Attorney becomes incapacitated what do we do?”** Elaine will answer at our next San Diego meeting on October 23rd. She will also be at the El Centro meeting on October 16th. Information will be posted on the website.

Elaine is also serving on the CSR Statewide Health Benefits Committee.

CHAPTER 17 MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES STARTING 2014

The CSR Board of Directors has changed their meeting dates beginning 2014. They will be meeting 3 times a year in February, June and October during the 4th week of those months. Unfortunately for us these meeting times are the same time the San Diego Chapter meets and it is necessary for the President and other members to be present at those board meetings.

We have also started chapter meetings in Imperial Valley and will hold 3 meetings there a year.

The Executive Board has made some changes so we can cover everything necessary. Beginning in 2014:

1. We will be meeting quarterly – 4 times a year in San Diego. 3 times a year in Imperial Valley. The Holiday Meeting in December includes ALL MEMBERS from San Diego and Imperial Valley.

2. We will need to take another look at dates so we can work around our sister chapters meetings in our district. We need to keep them on Wednesday – this seems to be the best day for most people. These dates will be set by our December meeting and a calendar distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

See the New Website

SEE WHAT HAS CHANGED: www.CalStateRetirees-Chapter17.info

It's All NEW: We working hard to provide you with information you can use and feel part of the State Retiree community.

- **HOME:** Mission Statement and our Objectives
- **ABOUT:** Officers, Committees, Chapter Rules and CSR Resources, Chapter Minutes & Financials
- **POLITICAL ACTION:** Representative - State Assembly, Senate, US Representative and US Congress: Legislation
- **CaIPERS INFO:** Q & A Blog – Ask Elaine: Articles and info from CalPERS and Link to CalPERS Website
- **ASK A QUESTION:** Form to send with CalPERS questions to Elaine and Chapter 17
- **NEWS: Articles,** Current and Special Events, San Diego & Imperial Valley Info, Newsletter and Member Spotlight
- **CALENDAR:** Calendar of pertinent Chapter 17 and CSR dates
- **CONTACT:** Contact us – sign up for the email list for electronic notices from CHAPTER 17 ONLY

Our chapter website always needs updating. **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 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. 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.

CHAPTER 17 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT – 2013

Chapter members voted at our June 24th meeting to support the 34th Annual Appreciation Breakfast for Farm Workers in Imperial Valley. This event is held each year; serving about 3000 farm workers before they go to the fields.

Members from the Imperial Valley Sub Chapter and officers will be attending. It will be held on Friday December 6th for 1:00 am to 6:00 am in Calexico.

Member Loli Torres is one of the original organizers of the event. The chapter is donating \$500.00 from our funds and has received donations from members. Anyone interested in donating to this project please send a check to

**CSR-Chapter 17 – NOTE: Farm Workers – Send to:
Mark Flahan: 4858 Mount Harris Dr – San Diego, CA 92117**

QUESTION TO MEMBERS

Would you like to receive the **California State RETIREE** by email? The **RETIREE** is sent out once a month to ALL members. We are being asked to poll our members and see if they would prefer receiving by email instead of in the mail. You DO NOT have to change. If you want to let us know.

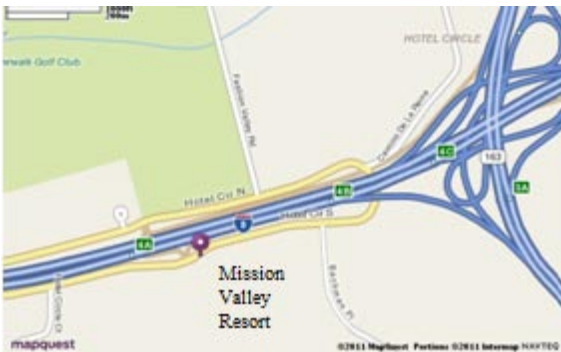
Please contact us through the Chapter 17 email: Chaptr17@gmail.com, **Membership Chair** Aida Canonizado @ aida.canonizado@gmail.com - or let us know at a meeting

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: MISSION VALLEY RESORT
ADDRESS: 875 Hotel Cir S, San Diego, CA 92108 **Phone:** (619) 298-8281
: Buffet Lunch
MENU: \$15.00 per member and 1 guest. All non-members \$30.00
COST: ***** 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





**CHAPTER 17 – Imperial Valley
Family Style Buffet, Calexico, CA**
(CONTACT: Loli Torres)

June 20, 2013
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

MINUTES

Call To Order Diane Whorton, President
Pledge of Alligence Steve Haley, Vice President

**Roll Call of Officers &
San Diego Members**

Diane Whorton, President; Steve Haley, Treasurer; Gloria Koch, Secretary – excused; Mark Flahan, Treasurer – excused; Gaspar Luna Oliveira, PAC Chair-Chapter 17; Elaine Edwards – Member of CSR Health Benefits Committee

Introductions

- **Gene Waggoner**, District G Director
- **Frank G. Salazar**, Special Assistant to State Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District Members

Guest Speaker – **Frank G. Salazar**, Special Assistant to State Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District

Gaspar Oliveira gave background and introduction

Born in Calexico – very proud.

Invitation to Senator Hueso's local office - 1224 State Street, D, El Centro – open house – 4 to 7pm. Senator Hueso won in special election in March. Large District from Indio south & east & west to Coronado and south bay. Advocate for 40th district.

If you call or get in touch GIVE Your name. Carries the weight. Email, phone, letter. PLEASE CALL. Keep in communication. Tell them what is a benefit to you.

Hueso Legislation – chairman of Veterans Affairs Committee. Working on: No xray machine for verterans. Chief Service Officer in each county. Imperial County person not yet certified because paperwork as been lost.

Natural Resource & Water committee – New River in Calexico & Salton Sea.

Housing

Education – This district has received more money for every child. Calexico and local areas, local controlled funding – more money invested in our children.

Border crossings – 2. EDL Enhanced Driver's Licenses – similar to Sentry pass. DMV – unfunded mandate. \$20 MORE FOR LICENSE. SB397 – RFI chip – security background included.

Salton Sea – Ecological disaster. Want to fix and change back to recreation area. Already secured over 12 million dollars

Out of district calls count - Local Office phone # 760 – 335-3442

Special Election – finishing 2 years of Vargas term. Will run for 4 year term and can run for another 4 years.

Manuel Perez is termed out – Edurado Garcia Mayor of Chochella will run for that seat.

GENE WAGGONER - Officers that are very concerned about members, Legislators – make visits, and contacts. Become involved. Email Gene with questions.

Approval of Minutes Liz moves Loli 2nd approval of minutes. Passed

Treasurer's Report

- Balance as of April 24, 2013 \$9,527.78
- Outstanding checks \$508.32
- Unencumbered balance \$9,019.46

President's Report Diane Whorton, President

Welcome new members Lourdes Garcia, Public Utilities Commission. Mary Platero, EDD

Committee Reports

1. PAC – Gaspar Luna Oliveira, Chair. Get good contact information from Imperial Valley members – Cards

Want to get accurate info for all PAC Volunteers. Only way to make our lives better is to stay involved. Worked on many campaigns – let's walk the walk.

2. Holiday Committee Report – Diane Whorton, -
Open Chapter meeting for ALL Members. Wednesday, December 18th, 2013. Mission Valley Resort. Flyer will be coming out

Unfinished Business

1. CalPERS Information regarding Health Benefits – Elaine Edwards

Had packages of all health plans, Anthem map, Pricing info. More information will be coming out. Maps of areas given for each plan,

Open enrollment 9/16 to 10/11/2013. Is PPO better than HMO?

New Business

- Establish meeting schedule for 2014 - Wednesday is better end of quarter
- Discuss Chair person positions for the sub-chapter – Election will be held at October 16th
Meeting for Sub-Chapter Chair person and recording Secretary
- Goals and Objectives for the Sub-Chapter – Need to think about this to discuss in October
- Meeting the members – Nee to start gathering Bios and pictures for our newsletter and website
- Ideas for Donation Project – Discussed The Farm Workers Breakfast

Informational Items See below

Meeting Adjournment 153pm

Submitted By


Diane Whorton, President



CHAPTER 17 - SAN DIEGO
Bi-monthly Meetings
February, April, June, August, October, December

August 28, 2013

MINUTES

Call To Order - Diane Whorton, President 12:10 pm

Pledge of Alligence - Steve Haley Vice President

Roll Call of Officers President, Diane Whorton, Vice President Steve Haley, Secretary Gloria Koch, Treasurer Mark Flahan, Treasurer (backup) Elaine Edwards-Yahraus

and

Delegates

Diane Whorton, Pearl Pacheco (excused), Nellie Sayer (excused), Marva Roddy, Elaine Edwards, Patricia O'Neill (absent), Audrey Garner (excused), Mark Flahan

Introduction of Guests

- Gene Waggoner, Dist G Director
- Harvey Robinson, Candidate CalPERS Board

Approval of Minutes

Gloria Koch, Secretary - Minutes with 2 corrections to delegates. Motion by Mark Flahan, 2nd Aida – Motion passed

Treasurer's Report

Mark Flahan, Treasurer
Starting balance as of 8/23/13 of \$9,340.27 minus \$1,776.94 (total outstanding checks) leaves is with an unencumbered balance of \$7,563.33 as of 8/28/13. Motion to accept Financial Report. Linda Collins 2nd Elaine Edwards. Motion passed

President's Report -

Diane Whorton, President

Executive committee met on August 21st. Discussed our chapter Financial reporting and reviewed a draft of new quarterly report form.

Discussion of having a back up Treasurer who will be trained in all aspects of Chapter 17 books and records. Elaine Edwards-Yahraus as agreed to take this position. She will need to be added to the signature card at the bank and will no longer sit on the chapter Finance Committee. Marva Roddy will be appointed to fill the committee vacancy.

Reviewed 2014 & 2015 calendars to select new dates for chapter meetings in both San Diego and Imperial county. We need to make changes to quarterly meetings in both areas and change our regular dates for San Diego because CSR Board of Directors will be meeting on 3 of our present times.

Discussed holding elections in Imperial Valley for a Sub-Chapter Chairperson and Secretary for the sub chapter down there. It was mentioned in large print in the July/ August newsletter and will be announced again in our next newsletter and elections held at the October 16th meeting. These two people will become members of chapter 17 E-Board.

Diane will be attending statewide CSR Board of Directors Workshop and Finance Committee in Sacramento on September 9th, 10th and 1th.

Since Diane sit on the Statewide Finance committee she received a copy of proposed changes in Financial reporting of the chapters. They will be required to have chapter "audit" completed at the end of each quarter beginning with 3rd quarter of this year. I had already requested this process in our chapter beginning last year and it didn't happen. Now it will be required. I am requesting that our 1st and 2nd quarters be completed as well so we are current by the end of October 2013.

Welcome new members

We went around the room for introductions and again welcomed 3 new members to our meeting.

Committee Reports

1. Holiday Committee

Linda Collins, Chair –

Holiday Meeting – Mission Valley Resort –Wednesday, December 18th Finalizing plans

2. Membership/Communications

Mark Flahan for Pearl Pacheco

Pearl Pacheco, Chair - sick right now – resigned chair through Mark Flahan – Aida Canonizado was appointed new Chair

3. Finance/Budget committee

Steve Haley, Chair

Committee reviewed finances questions at Executive Board Meeting. All reports are good.

4. Legislative/PAC

Gaspar Oliveira, Chair - PAC –

Gaspar alerted members to the San Diego Retirement – because of Prop B City employees are no longer on defined benefit, now Undefined - in 401k and not eligible for SS. Ben Hueso – introduced a bill to allow City employees to participate in SS. The bill passed however, City Attorney took to supreme court and ruled law was illegal. Carl DeMaio – wants to promote 401k for everyone. Watch out.

5. CalPERS/Health Benefits Report

Elaine Edwards-Yahraus -

Health Plans – review your plan guide – very helpful. Sharp Health Plan is new to San Diego. Dependant eligibility forms to complete. – Deceased – need to notify PERS so they can change deductions to one person from a two party plan.

PERS Question from Member – “If your Power of Attorney becomes incapacitated what do you do?” Suggested a Q & A in newsletter to answer questions. Elaine will get the answer.

6. District G Director's Report

Gene Waggoner

7 Assembly, 4 senators, congressional in Chapter 17 area. Develop working relationship with local offices. Would you prefer to get RETIREE electronically? PERS Board elections. Ballots mailed August 30th – back Sept 27th. Join the PACs.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. **Add Signature to Bank Card** – Motion made by Gaspar Oliveira, 2nd by Laurie Bella to add Elaine Edwards-Yahraus to the Signature card for CSR Chapter 17 at the USE Credit Union. Discussion: Motion PASSED.

Elaine will be removed from the Chapter Finance Committee and replaced by Marva Roddy.

Also will update name as AKA to California State Retirees

2. **Request for Newsletter Grant - \$2500**

Motion made by Aida, 2nd by Marva Roddy to request a \$2500 grant to publish the chapter newsletter being used for recruitment efforts. Discussion: This newsletter has become a recruitment tool bringing new retirees to our meetings who have never attended or stopped attending in the past. Many calls have been received from members, who are now homebound, saying this is the only information they receive to tell them what is going on locally with an added “don’t stop doing it”. Motion PASSED

3. **Meeting dates – 2014 & 2015**

Calendar of date changes was presented to the members. Motion made by Mark Flahan, 2nd by Gaspar Oliveira, to change our meetings to 4 meetings a year in San Diego and 3 meetings in Imperial Valley scheduling as close to end of each quarter and avoiding CSR Board Meetings. Discussion: Motion PASSED.

4. Farm Laborers Breakfast –

Information provide on the farm workers breakfast in Calexico. Members in Imperial Valley have expressed a desire to participate in this event.

Discussion: Reminder by Mark that there will expenses for people from San Diego to attend the event i.e. rental car, hotel, etc. which will add to costs.

Motion: If deadline is prior to October meeting donate \$ \$500 for breakfast Laurie Bella, 2nd Gloria Koch. Passed.

Members donations to this project: Elaine pledge \$100, Gaspar Oliveira \$25, Marva Roddy \$20, Harvey Robinson – personal contribution \$100, Jose \$20, Irene Schmidt \$20, Steve Haley \$50, Barbara \$20. Gene Waggoner \$50, Gloria Koch \$20. Total donations \$425.00

Informational Items

Guest Speaker Harvey Robinson, Candidate for CalPERS Board, Seat B

He wants to be our advocate. Confidentially of CalPERS Information. Tim has requested hearing with Assemblyman Beal. Years of service, final comp, initial allowance, where retired from.

DeMaio, Chuck Reed-San Jose – wants everyone in defined benefits plan. Employer contribution would be minimal.

AB340 – did not get 2 more members on CalPERS Board.

Directly impacts every state annuitant. Affects benefits – employer share – Governor proposing 80/80 plan.

CalPERS fine 600 million from Dept of Finance in savings. High Low Plan. Lower premium lowers employer contribution.

Bankruptcy in San Bernardino and Stockton. Will probably go to Supreme court. Need to support – not let employee benefits get cut

CalPERS Long Term Care advisory committee. Concern

Expand – My CalPERS - retired member statement. Need to know the circumstances of beneficiary and how to access.

Q – What is basic difference between Bilbrey and self.

Bilbrey doesn't seem to be engaged in what is going on around him or with those in attendance. Harvey is willing to be engaged.

Confidentiality – Bilbrey has not made any statements. Harvey spoke at board meeting

Long Term Care – Breach of trust at Cal PERS. They have not acknowledged of responsibility. Class action suit filed in LA. Asking for return of all contributions made to the program. Board approved program. Program raises premiums.

How can they release information on safety people? Won't put home & personal info on line only pay info but would be able to track you down.

Meeting Adjournment

2:15 pm

Submitted by

Gloria Koch

Gloria Koch
Secretary