

## May 2023 Cattails

---

From: Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County (rpesjc@gmail.com)

To: leknight7@yahoo.com

Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 09:16 AM PDT

---









rpesjc@gmail.com  
www.rpesjc.org

Office: (209) 466-8556

May 2023  
Volume 25 Issue 2

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – by Bill Mitchell



Succession planning is necessary for organizations to sustain themselves. The work of RPESJC is accomplished by an all-volunteer board of up to 15 members, all of whom have specific roles. As an association of retired seniors, it is inevitable that board members will eventually step down, but their functions still need to be performed. We have struggled, at times, to fill vacancies. I have pleaded in this column for interested individuals to step forward and express their willingness to be considered for a board position, and I have spoken to it at monthly luncheons and other events. Articles to that end have appeared in previous Cattails issues. Periodically, an ad hoc Board committee is established to identify potential individuals for targeted recruiting based on the specific talents needed to fill vacant positions. During the last several months, such a committee was formed and met to address a couple of key vacancies that had not been filled in about 3 years. I am pleased to report that we now have a full complement of talented board members. It gives me great peace-of-mind to know that, when it is my time to leave, the organization will remain in capable hands.

Due to persistent scheduling conflicts, we have found it necessary to immediately move the location of monthly luncheons. See the prominent alert in this newsletter, which includes the address of the new site. Please continue to call (209) 466-8556 or email rpesjc@gmail.com to let us know you’re coming, so that we know for how many people we need to set up and how much food to order. It is still anticipated that there will be a transition to an every-other-month format in the future, and will require registration forms and payment in advance, just like the process for other RPESJC events.

Goodness knows we needed the rain. Unfortunately, the seemingly endless series of atmospheric rivers caused

devastating floods, mudslides, loss of life and property, downed trees and power lines, and other consequences throughout the state. With some notable exceptions, our region escaped most of the worst impacts of the deluges. I look forward to seeing you at our annual picnic on June 8th on a hopefully beautiful warm (but not too hot!) spring day. ❖

### Inside This Issue

<i>Activities Report</i> .....	2
<i>Luncheon Location Change!!</i> .....	2
<i>2023 Richard Callistro Scholarship</i> .....	2
<i>Board of Retirement Report</i> .....	3
<i>New RPESJC Board Member Trish Huarte-Pechan</i> .....	4
<i>May Trivia</i> .....	3
<i>New RPESJC Members</i> .....	4
<i>New Retirees</i> .....	4
<i>Monthly Luncheons</i> .....	5
<i>Health Tips</i> .....	5
<i>Electronic Receipt of Cattails</i> .....	5
<i>May Trivia Answers</i> .....	5
<i>Dates to Remember</i> .....	6
<i>SJCERA CEO's Corner</i> .....	6
<i>In Memoriam</i> .....	7
<i>Members Financial Services</i> .....	8

## ACTIVITIES REPORT – By Carol Carson



### BLACK OAK CASINO

**A**s we approached the weekend before the outing, a little drama developed regarding the weather forecast of heavy rain and high and gusty winds. Fortunately, the weather cleared on March 14th, and we were able to proceed with a full bus, well driven by Mike

Walker of All West. We had not been to Black Oak since before the pandemic, but they welcomed us back with food and gambling credit, telling us we were the first bus to come up since the Covid shut down began. The casino had a large smoke free room with plenty of machines. The food was good and reasonably priced.

We played 4 games of bingo, 2 on the way up and 2 on the way home. Winners were awarded \$15 each. Winners were: LaVerne Gondry, Georgia Mills, Marie Morelli, Andrea Rojas, and Loretta Scott. Congratulations!

On the way home we stopped at the Oakdale Cheese Factory and loaded up on their goodies! Everyone seemed to have a good time.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS V. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES (MAY 17, 2023)

Attention baseball fans, here's your chance to wear your baseball regalia and root for the Giants. Be at the Hammer Ranch Center by 8:00 a.m. to depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp for San Francisco. Be prepared for either cool or sunny San Francisco weather. Enjoy the club level seating and a choice of various places to eat.

#### 2023 MICKE GROVE PARK PICNIC: (JUNE 8, 2023)

The reservations form is in this issue of Cattails. It must be received by RPESJC by May 26, 2023. It's at the same location (Micke Grove - Delta Shelter). We're serving the same great menu of tri-tip and teriyaki chicken and giving out an array of raffle prizes.

#### RED HAWK/APPLE HILL (THURSDAY, 10/19/23)

We are going on a THURSDAY this year. The reason is

that the buffet is not served on Wednesday. Many retirees have indicated a desire to eat at the buffet. Be aware that the buffet is currently priced at \$25, and you must make a reservation with Red Hawk in advance with your credit card in order to dine there.

THANK YOU for your participation with RPESJC. I will not be joining you on the San Francisco trip due to my role in another organization. Instead, I'll be in Palm Springs. As my other commitment allows, I'll join in our RPESJC trips. It has been an enjoyable experience planning and accompanying you on these trips. I wish you all continued good health and enjoyment in all your retirement activities! ❖

## LUNCHEON LOCATION CHANGE!!

**B**EGINNING MAY 11TH, THE MONTHLY LUNCHEONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, 8806 DON AVE, STOCKTON. The RPESJC Board has explored alternative venues for the luncheons. Some of the key criteria include centrality of location, the ability to accommodate the size of our group in a private space, abundance of parking, and reasonable prices. The cost has remained at \$16 for many years, but the restaurants and clubs that we've visited so far have far exceeded that price. Churches and service organizations in which outside catering is allowed were the next best options. If you know of a site that would meet the criteria noted above, please send an email to [rpesjc@gmail.com](mailto:rpesjc@gmail.com) with your suggestions. A new venue will likely be needed beginning in 2024. ❖

## 2023 RICHARD CALLISTRO SCHOLARSHIPS

**T**he application and instructions for the 2023 Richard Callistro Memorial Scholarship are now posted on the RPESJC website at [www.rpesjc.org](http://www.rpesjc.org). Eligible applicants are graduating high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of dues-paid RPESJC members. There are significant changes this year: awards are being increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and there will be up to 5 scholarships instead of three. The application deadline has been extended to June 1st. Let your families know about this wonderful opportunity! ❖

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT REPORT – By Steve Moore

## NEW RPESJC BOARD MEMBER TRISH HUARTE-PECAN

## MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

**P**lease refer to the article on Page 2 regarding future monthly luncheons.

Rachel DeBoard, Clerk of the Board for San Joaquin County, was the keynote speaker at the February 2023 luncheon. She described the many boards and commissions that are ripe opportunities for retired County employees to volunteer and lend their expertise. Andrene Mazzanti, a 25-year veteran of the Office of the Assessor was a first time attendee. Steve Moore won the gift basket provided by Tamara Langenfeld from Valley Strong Credit Union, while Bill Mitchell collected \$5 playing the marble game.

Three retirees were welcomed for the first time at the March luncheon: Roxanne Birrueta (Public Health), Trish Huarte-Pechan (County Administrator), and John Solis (Employment and Economic Development). Lucky prize winners were \$5 by Duane Delph from the marble game, and Carol Carson, who took home the basket donated by Tamara Langenfeld with Valley Strong Credit Union. The participants could not have asked for a more timely speaker! This luncheon happened to be held just a few days before another expected atmospheric river was to affect the area. Tiffany Heyer, Deputy Director of General Services for Emergency Operations, San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services, touched on a number of topics ranging from drought and floods to COVID response. A lively question and answer period followed her remarks. ❖

## HEALTH TIPS

May is Mental Health Awareness month. If you need a cheery boost, go for a walk, call a friend, join an exercise class, make time for a hobby, treat yourself to something special. If you or someone you know needs more serious help, now is the time to act. You can dial 988 for the national suicide or crisis hotline. In addition, San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services offers a variety of 24 hour support services including a Crisis Warmline for those who need an encouraging conversation, a Crisis Hotline for intervention services, and a Suicide Prevention Hotline. Go to their website for information and/or help: <https://www.sjcbhs.org>.

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT REPORT CONT.

economic storm, maintaining the safety, security and services provided to the membership into the future.

Please do go onto the association website [www.SJCERA.org](http://www.SJCERA.org) and regularly review the published agendas, meeting minutes, and other information available to all members. If you have questions, please contact SJCERA staff or a board member for additional information. Remember we have a fiduciary responsibility to all our members (including you, the current retirees, and current and former employees), in addition to our participating employers, all of whom have contributed to the organization to secure future retirement benefits. ❖

## ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF CATTAILS

You may now receive your issue of Cattails by email. This will save paper and reduce postage costs for RPESJC. Simply contact the RPESJC office by email at [rpesjc@gmail.com](mailto:rpesjc@gmail.com) or by phone at (209) 466-8566 and leave your full name, your telephone number, and your email address. Please give consideration to this electronic option. ❖

## MAY TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1) Francis Folsom Cleveland was age 21 when she married President Grover Cleveland in the Blue Room of the White House.
- 2) James Buchanan remained a bachelor all of his life.
- 3) The first lady receives no salary for work she does while her husband is President. She enjoys the benefits of free accommodations, global travel, personal security details and a life-long pension.
- 4) No they do not receive a clothing allowance. Although sometimes clothing is donated to them or, as with the Obamas, they receive a discount. Michelle Obama's secretary asked for discounts and Mrs. Obama also bought clothes off of the rack.
- 5) It is true Mrs. Lincoln considered this, per the National First Ladies Library.
- 6) True, Jackie Kennedy smoked three packs of cigarettes a day, even when she was pregnant. ❖

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, May 11, 2023	Monthly Luncheon @ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 8806 Don Ave, Stockton, 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker TBD. Reservations required. Call 466-8556 or email rpesjc@gmail.com by May 8.
Thursday, May 25, 2023	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2023	Annual picnic luncheon @ Micke Grove Park, Delta Shelter, 11:00 a.m. Flyer contained in this Cattails edition provides cost and reservation details.
Thursday, June 22, 2023	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.
Thursday, July 13, 2023	Monthly Luncheon @ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 8806 Don Ave, Stockton, 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker TBD. Reservations required. Call 466-8556 or email rpesjc@gmail.com by July 10.
Thursday, July 27, 2023	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.

## SJCERA CEO'S CORNER – By Johanna Shick



**H**ello, from SJCERA. We hope this update finds you safe and dry. As winter and spring continue their custody battle over the weather, things keep forging ahead at SJCERA. Below are just a few upcoming items but as always, find the latest, up-to-date information in the What's New

section at [www.SJCERA.org](http://www.SJCERA.org).

### COLA: 3% INCREASE APPLIED TO MAY 1 PAYMENT

SJCERA monthly retirement benefits are eligible for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of up to 3 percent. The COLA is based on the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward area, rounded to the nearest half percent. To be eligible for this year's COLA, you must have retired on or before April 1, 2023. If you are eligible for the COLA, it will be applied to your May 1 benefit payment.

### 2023 HEALTH PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS MAY 1

Open Enrollment for County-sponsored health plans is May 1-26. New premiums, and any changes you make during open enrollment, will be effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Your current plan selections and covered dependents will remain in effect if you do not submit a form requesting changes.

Similar to last year, you will be able to access open enrollment information at your convenience. The County's Human Resources Division is providing an online video, which is accessible any time during open enrollment at [www.sjgov.org/department/hr/employee/retirement](http://www.sjgov.org/department/hr/employee/retirement).

The County plans to mail enrollment forms, including new insurance rates, after April 25. If you wish to change plans or dependent information, you must submit your completed forms to SJCERA no later than May 26. Look for links to open enrollment information in the What's New section of [www.SJCERA.org](http://www.SJCERA.org) or visit the County's Retirement Benefits page at [www.sjgov.org/department/hr/employee/retirement](http://www.sjgov.org/department/hr/employee/retirement).

### INSURANCE RATE CHANGES AFFECT JULY 3 BENEFIT PAYMENT

Beginning with the retirement benefit paid on July 3, you may see a change in your overall net pay because of insurance rate changes. Insurance rate information will be included in your open enrollment materials and online at the Retirement Benefits page of the County Human Resources Division site: [www.sjgov.org/department/hr/employee/retirement](http://www.sjgov.org/department/hr/employee/retirement). ❖

**IN MEMORIAM**

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who meant so much.



Ollie Anderson	Health Care Services
Anna Ashby	Human Services
Emelia Barger	SJ General Hospital
Diane Barrick	Public Health
Elizabeth Boyd	SJ General Hospital
Virginia Crosby	SJ General Hospital
Chester Davisson Jr	Community Development
Maria Duenas	SJ General Hospital
Margaret Eastburg	SJ General Hospital
Flora Fay-Bullock	SJ General Hospital
Adrian Fondse	Board of Supervisors
Gloria Gonzales	Behavioral Health
Ronald Gott	Human Services
Emma Haas	
Robert Hall	Human Services
Yolanda Hernandez	Public Health
Gloria Howard	SJ General Hospital
Domenic Ippolito	Sheriff
Marianne Isaacs	Cooperative Extension
Richard Jimenez	Parks - Recreation
Rosa Lopez	Human Services
Richard Moreno	District Attorney
Ruth Morris	Human Services
Marcia Oppman	Assessor
Susan Owen	Probation
Marilyn Polonio	Sheriff
Mildred Preeo	Behavioral Health
Gracelyn Preston	Human Services
Jon Rice	Human Services
Mauro Sanchez II	Public Works
George Stewart	Public Works
James Stockman	EEDD
Arlin Watson	SJ General Hospital
John Yost	SJ General Hospital ❖

**Published quarterly for the  
Retired Public Employees of  
San Joaquin County**

Member comments and suggestions should be directed to Staff Advisor, RPESJC Newsletter. Email: rpesjc@gmail.com, or contact

RPESJC  
P O Box 8556  
Stockton, CA 95208-0556  
Message Phone (209) 466-8556

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Officers

Bill Mitchell, President 466-8556  
Jerry Herrmann, Vice-President 466-8556  
Adrian Van Houten, Treasurer 466-8556  
Sally Tanaka, Secretary 931-6653

Directors

Carol Carson 466-8556  
Joseph Cbelli 466-8556  
Trish Huarte-Pechan 466-8556  
Mike Miller 466-8556  
Joe McKee 466-8556  
Stephen Moore 466-8556  
Scott Onweiler 466-8556  
Chris Rose 466-8556  
Lois Sabyoun 466-8556  
John Solis 466-8556  
Diane Schultz 466-8556

Retired Member, Board of Retirement

J.C. Weydert 466-8556

Alternate Retired Member, Board of Retirement

Stephen Moore 466-8556

Newsletter Committee

Tammy Williams-Ankorn, Edit Services  
Trish Huarte-Pechan - Staff Advisor  
Tim Ankorn - Layout & Design  
George Hong- photographer  
ABS Direct - Print & Mailing Services

The RPESJC Newsletter is published four times each year. The information published in it is believed to be reliable. However, the newsletter staff assumes no responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.

**Editorial Correction**

Our sincerest apologies to Lucy Valverde and her family. Ms. Valverde's name was incorrectly listed in the "In Memoriam" column of our last newsletter. We apologize for any stress or discomfort this may have caused to her or her family and friends.

**MEMBERS FINANCIAL SERVICES — By Frank Feng**

Frank Feng, CFP®, ChFC®, CRPC®  
Financial Advisor,  
Valley Strong Retirement &

filing separately see their phase-out range remain at \$0-10,000.

3. Those with 401(k), 403(b), 457 plans, and similar



wealth Management Group  
Tel: 209-518-2801  
Insurance License: CA 0B68988

Question: Hi Frank, could you summarize the new 2023 contribution limits for various retirement accounts? I know I am retired but still would like to know so I can share the information with my children, family and friends. Thanks!

Answer: The Internal Revenue Service has released new retirement account contribution limits for 2023. The following is a summary.

1. IRA contribution limits are up \$500, raised from the previous \$6,000 to \$6,500 in 2023. Catch-up contributions for those over age 50 remain at \$1,000, bringing the 2023 total limit to \$7,500.
2. The income phase-out range for Roth IRA contributions increases to \$138,000-\$153,000 for single filers and heads of household, a \$9,000 increase. For married couples filing jointly, phase-out will be \$218,000 to \$228,000, a \$14,000 increase. Married individuals

accounts will see a \$2,000 increase for 2023, the limit rising from \$20,500 to \$22,500. Those aged 50 and older will now have a catch-up option of extra \$7,500, bringing their total limit to \$30,000.

4. For SIMPLE accounts, a \$1,500 increase in limits for 2023 gives individuals contributing to this incentive match plan a \$15,500 stop light.
5. The IRS also announced several other changes for 2023, including an increase to the annual exclusion for gifts to \$17,000 per person and an increase to the estate tax exclusion threshold.

Keep in mind that this update is for informational purposes only, so consult with your tax professional before making any changes in anticipation of the new 2023 levels. You can also contact your trusted financial professional, and they can provide you with information about the pending changes.

If you would like more information on this topic or any other financial issues, please call me at (209) 518-2801 or email me at [frank.feng@valleystrong.com](mailto:frank.feng@valleystrong.com). ❖

Frank Feng is a financial advisor with and securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Valley Strong Credit Union and Valley Strong Retirement & Wealth Management Group are not registered as a broker/dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using Valley Strong Credit Union and Valley Strong Retirement & Wealth Management Group may also be employees of Valley Strong Credit Union. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of, Valley Strong Credit Union or Valley Strong Credit Union Retirement & Wealth Management Group. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are: Not Insured by FDIC or Any Other Government Agency. Not Bank Guaranteed. Not Bank Deposits or Obligations. May Lose Value.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Newsletter for the  
Retired Public Employees  
of San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 8556  
Stockton, CA 95208-0556



