



# Cattails

For the Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County

Member of CRCEA (California Retired County Employees' Association)



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – by Trish Huarte-Pechan



An ancient Greek philosopher said there is nothing permanent except change. Well, we at your RPESJC Board are proof of that. In the May Cattails you were introduced to two new Board members and in this edition you will meet three more: Evelyn Oliveira, Michelle Scott-Casale, and J.C. Weydert. All four of our officers are also new to their roles: Vickie Delph as Secretary, Edwina Byrd as Treasurer, Lisa Knight as Vice President, and me as President. I think we all know we have big shoes to fill, and we plan to do our best to continue the great work done by our previous Board.

When I retired, I immediately signed up for RPESJC. I couldn't imagine a better investment: \$2/month to belong to an organization dedicated to promoting the general welfare of retirees and advocating on our behalf with local and state policy boards. I think we can all agree that this organization has lived up to its mission. Our Immediate Past President's farewell message in the May Cattails listed some of the important work done during his tenure. He remains on the board to provide continuity and the benefit of his historical knowledge and wisdom. As a newcomer to this role, I greatly appreciate his input.

The annual June picnic, attended by 196 of our retired friends, also served as the annual meeting of our association and the installation of the new Board. We were pleased to have three County Board of Supervisors members stop by: Miguel Villapudua, Steve Ding, and Tom Patti. Supervisors Villapudua and Patti spoke about the strength and increased funding of the retirement system. The new CEO of the San Joaquin County Employees Retirement Association, Renee Ostrander, attended our picnic and administered the oath of office to the new Board members. The recently appointed County

Administrator, Sandy Regalo, also dropped by. RPESJC will continue to maintain strong relationships with these policy representatives.

I hope you are planning to attend our August luncheon to meet your new Board and share some fun and food. In the meantime, in the words of one of my favorite newscasters (Lester Holt), take care of yourselves and each other! ❖

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## ACTIVITIES REPORT — By John Solis



### SPRING LUNCHEON- APRIL 11, 2024

**O**ur Spring Luncheon on Thursday, April 11, 2024 was attended by 80 members and guests.

The guest speaker was Phillip Hon, founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Unbound Stockton Community School. Phillip is passionate about working with at-risk youth and children. He started the program as a non-profit organization. His latest accomplishment was the creation of the school chartered by the San Joaquin County Office of Education. The school's focus is on civic engagement, social participation, and community interaction. Every week students are engaged in fieldwork at visiting community based organizations.

Congratulations to Mary Serano for winning the gift basket donated by the Valley Strong Credit Union. Elsa Fulton was the winner of the Marble Game. She did not pick the black marble for the grand prize of \$40, but did get \$5. The grand prize for the next game goes up to \$60.

A special welcome was given to our guest, Renee Oslander, the new Chief Executive Officer of the San Joaquin County Public Employees Retirement Association. She gave an overview of her new position and her vision for the agency in the years to come.

### SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS BASEBALL GAME - APRIL 24, 2024

Our latest bus trip adventure was the Giants Game against the New York Mets in San Francisco on April 24, 2024. Two buses were secured with 78 individuals in attendance.

John M. Solis was captain on bus number one, assisted by Steve Moore. Sally Tanaka was captain on bus number two, assisted by Lois Sahyoun and Alfonso Fillon.

Four Bingo Games were played on each bus, two on the way to San Francisco, and two on the return trip. The prizes included a RPESJC luncheon gift certificate for members or \$10 cash for guests. Winners in bus number one were Francesca Vera, Carol Lerner and Jason Lino,

who each won \$10, and Bill Mitchell who received a luncheon certificate. Bus number two luncheon certificate winners were Jill Jacoby and Helen Berry, while Robert Stevens and Joe Rodriguez both received \$10.

### RPESJC ANNUAL PICNIC - JUNE 13, 2024

The Annual Picnic at Micke Grove Park, held on June 13, 2024 was an overwhelming success. With over 196 individuals in attendance, everyone enjoyed the company of old friends and had the opportunity to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. The variety of music was also outstanding and enjoyed by everyone.

As always the food was outstanding. The menu included tri-tip steak and sesame teriyaki chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed green salad with feta cheese and fruit, green beans with almonds & sauteed mushrooms and plenty of beverages for everyone.

There were lots of raffle prizes, a tradition enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the many raffle prize winners. We especially want to congratulate all the winners of our cash prizes: Ann Rollins, \$100; Lydia Gill, \$25; Debbie Wilson, \$25; and Jackie Bagatta, \$25.

The picnic is also the Annual Meeting of the RPESJC general membership. It was called to order by Trish Huarte-Pechan. By acclamation, the Board and its new slate of officers was approved, including Trish Huarte-Pechan, President, Lisa Knight, Vice-President, Edwina Byrd, Treasurer, and Vickie Delph, Secretary. New Directors At-Large include Evelyn Oliveira, Michelle Scott-Casale, and J. C. Weydert. The existing and new board members were sworn in by San Joaquin County Employees Retirement Association CEO, Renee Ostrander.

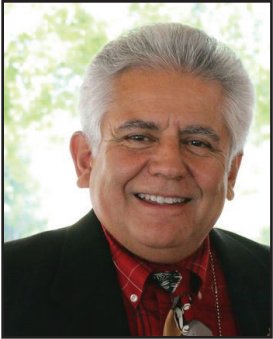
### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The event flyer for the upcoming August 8 luncheon was in your May Cattails. Your check and reservation need to be received by August 5. Details are on the flyer which is also posted on the RPESJC website.

Our Fall luncheon is scheduled for October 10 at Micke Grove. The event flyer with cost and reservation details is included in this issue of Cattails and posted on the RPESJC website.

Our annual trip to Apple Hill and Red Hawk Casino is scheduled for October 16. The event flyer with cost and reservation details is included in this issue of Cattails. Be sure to mark your calendar. ❖

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT REPORT — By Steve Moore



**A** SJCERA's new offices are located at 220 E Channel Street, Stockton, CA. 95202 and are adjacent to the Coy Parking facility for ease of use.

I attended my first SJCERA Board meeting in the new SJCERA Boardroom on Friday June 7th at 9:00 in the morning.

The new Board room is open, full of natural light, and very functional.

The meeting was followed by a Grand Open House beginning at 1:00 pm, complete with a formal Ribbon Cutting and office tours. Staff had invited members, employers, and stakeholders to the event so they could familiarize themselves with the new location.

The SJCERA team conducted tours of the new office including a view of staff work areas, the conference room, café and the brand-new board room. The SJCERA Board members also stayed after the scheduled board meeting to participate in the festivities. Our own RPESJC President-elect Trish Huarte-Pechan along with Supervisors Patti and Canepa and other guests attended the event.

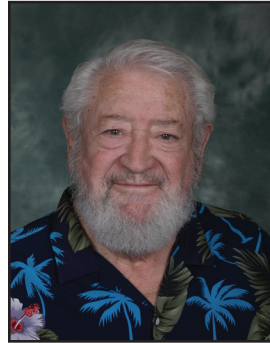
Supervisor Robert Rickman, substituting for Board of Supervisors Chair, Miguel Villapudua, participated in the official ribbon cutting along with Board President Mike Restuccia and presented SJCERA CEO Renee Ostrander with a proclamation commemorating the opening. After the tours and interaction with invited guests, light refreshments were served in the boardroom.

I wish to thank all SJCERA staff for such a well-planned and executed Grand Opening, and I hope that you, the members, will enjoy the accommodations of the new office when you need to see us regarding your retirement benefits.

A final reminder that the temporary satellite office located on the fifth floor of the County Administration Building was closed at the end business on June 6th, 2024.

Thank you also for your patience during the months of transition to our new office! ❖

## J.C. WEYDERT NEW RPESJC BOARD MEMBER



**J**. C. Weydert retired from San Joaquin County as a Deputy District Attorney. He was assigned to various felony departments involving the prosecution of criminal cases. He served as a General Member Trustee on the San Joaquin County Employee Retirement Association (SJCERA) from

1999 until 2020; then in 2021 until the present he has served as a Retiree Member Trustee. J.C. brings a broad range of experience to RPESJC, including work as an avionic engineering computer specialist, a private sector attorney, and part owner in a Midwest business venture. He was also a commissioned U.S. Air Force flight officer. J.C. looks forward to bringing his past experience and education, as well as his on-going education with SJCERA to good use as a member of the RPESJC board. ❖

### AUGUST TRIVIA—ENTERTAINMENT

- 1) In which city did the famous film Lady Bird take place?
- 2) Who provided the voice of Groot in the Guardians of the Galaxy movies?
- 3) How old was Rose in the Titanic movie when she was recounting her story?
- 4) What is the longest-running Broadway show?
- 5) What is the highest-grossing romantic comedy movie?
- 6) What singer holds the most Grammy nominations?

*Answers on Page 5*

## WELCOME NEW RPESJC MEMBERS!

Name	Department	Name	Department	Name	Department
Stephen Adams	Superior Court	Suzanna Gardea	Public Works	Aida Pizano	Not Given
Theresa Amador	Probation	David Gorton	Public Works	Deborah Pruter	Human Services
George Baker	Sheriff	Lorieann Herzog	Human Services	Lori Pursey	Behavioral Health
Lisa Biocini	Sheriff	Nonna Kay	Public Health	William Richina	Public Works
Angel Carrazco	District Attorney	Anthony Knapp	Sheriff	Ramona Sajor	Child Support Svcs
Cesar Cerna	Probation	Larry Lane	Sheriff	Mary Salazar	Sheriff
Iona Charles	Human Services	Wanda Lenhardt	Human Services	Rodney Seba	Human Services
Carla Coleman	SJ General Hospital	Carolyn Lepisto	Not Given	Kevin Stamper	Human Services
Diana Constancio	Superior Court	Matthew Lindemann	Sheriff	Linda Stirm	EEDD
Robert Day	Human Services	Tamara Mar-Buckley	Human Services	Staphanie Teczon	Assessor
Kathy Dearmin	Not Given	Leslie Martin	District Attorney	Lohit Tutupalli	Behavioral Health
Darin DeOliveira	Information Systems	Susan Martinez	Child Support Svc	Shirley Uso	Human Services
Susan Facaros	Behavioral Health	Priscilla Mikaio	EEDD	Carolina Villanueva	Superior Court
Luella Farinas	SJ General Hospital	Guadalupe Nava	Public Defender	Edward Wanket	EEDD
Dena Galindo	Health Services	Keith Nienhuis	Mosquito Vector	Cynthia Want	SJ General Hospital
Stacey Garcia	SJ General Hospital	Timothy Novetzke	District Attorney	Keith Wight	Public Works
		Raymond Paganan	Probation	Patricia Wisniewski	Public Health
		Valentina Pigg	Public Health	Donna Yim	Behavioral Health ❖

## NEW RETIREES

Name	Department	Years
Griselda Alberto	Probation	24
Theresa Amador	Probation	29
Joseph Augusto	Deferred	9
Miguel Avila	Probation	20
George Baker	Sheriff	27
Julia Bashaw	Deferred	7
Donna Bellamy	SJ General Hospital	18
Rishel Bellamy-Burtram	Deferred	9
Gurjeet Bhalaru	SJ General Hospital	22
Lisa Biocini	Sheriff	23
Katherine Boykin	Deferred	14
Victoria Brown	Public Health	30
Tamara Buckley	Human Services	34
Angel Carrazco	District Attorney	23
Sharon Carter	Sheriff	26
Mary Casao	Superior Court	26
Kimberly Cassady	Deferred	8
Cesar Cerna	Deferred	3
Max Cervantes	Behavioral Health	37
Iona Charles	Human Services	23
Athena Chase	Public Defender	20
Billy Chavez	Registrar of Voters	26
Kenn Chiong	Probation	21
Carla Coleman	SJ General Hospital	15
Diana Constancio	Superior Court	34
Robert Carrier	Information Systems	25
Dawn Custer	Public Health	22
Adam Dampier	Deferred	2
Lavern Davis	Sheriff	24
Robert Day	Deferred	17
Darin DeOliveira	Information Systems	26
Soudavanh Duangmala	Human Services	22

Kelly Dufall	Sheriff	21
James Duffy	Sheriff	25
Susan Facaros	Behavioral Health	10
Luella Farinas	SJ General Hospital	21
Dena Galindo	SJ General Hospital	25
Mary Gamboa	District Attorney	33
Saul Garcia	Public Defender	4
Stacey Garcia	SJ General Hospital	21
Suzanna Gardea	Public Works	32
Susan Gooden	Probation	30
David Gorton	Public Works	18
Anthony Goulart	Sheriff	23
Ruben Gusman	Parks & Recreation	25
LorieAnn Herzog	Human Services	10
Nonna Kay	Human Services	21
Ping Kitzberger	Sheriff	15
Anthony Knapp	Sheriff	19
Christopher Ky	Human Services	34
Lakina Ky	Human Services	30
Larry Lane	Deferred	6
Wanda Lenhardt	Human Services	34
Matthew Lindemann	Sheriff	26
Xia Lo	Public Health	30
John Loduca	Public Works	20
Louie Lozano	Sheriff	24
Miriam Lyell	Public Defender	33
Patricia Manuse	Behavioral Health	10
Christina Martin	Human Services	34
Leslie Martin	District Attorney	28
Lori Meseke	Child Support Svcs	22
Matthew McCauley	Sheriff	24
Daniel McNeil	Public Works	11
Priscilla Mikaio	EEDD	22
Yvette Monje	Human Services	6

## NEW RETIREES CONTINUED

Name	Department	Years
David Morrow	Deferred	8
Guadalupe Nava	Public Defender	40
James Nelson	Sheriff	28
Rith Ney	Deferred	10
Keith Nienhuis	Mosquito Abatement	36
Timothy Novetzke	District Attorney	15
Raymond Pagarán	Probation	23
Patricia Parker	Deferred	6
Ezequiel Pena	Sheriff	17
Valentina Pigg	Public Health	31
Carlos Prieto	Sheriff	33
Deborah Pruter	Mary Graham Shelter	21
Lori Pursey	Behavioral Health	18
Hector Quintero	EEDD	22
Ruh Quintanilla	Public Health	7
William Richina	Fleet Services	26
Joseph Rizzi	Probation	24
Julia Salas	SJ General Hospital	22
Mary Salazar	Sheriff	21
Mark Schlegel	Sheriff	22
Shannon Scott	Deferred	22
Rodney Seba	Human Services	12
Johanna Shick	Retirement Office	7
Toumo Song	Human Services	25
Raymond Stockman	Public Works	21
Jack Tadlock	Sheriff	16
Stephanie Teczon	Assessor	27
Donna Thomas	Deferred	10
Tomi Thurston	Revenue and Recovery	10
Jody Towers	Sheriff	24
Lohit Tutupalli	Behavioral Health	14
Shirley Uso	Human Services	21
Charlene Valdivia	Human Services	29
Thomas Valtierra	Facilities Management	24
Carolina Villanueva	Superior Court	32
Edward Wanket	EEDD	13
Debra Wallace	Superior Court	24
Cynthia Want	SJ General Hospital	26
Patricia Wisniewski	Public Health	8
Dollymar Zarzuela	Auditor-Controller	40

## EVELYN OLIVEIRA NEW RPESJC BOARD MEMBER



**E**velyn Oliveira retired as a personnel analyst from the San Joaquin County Human Resources Division in July 2022 after 15 years of service. She was first hired with what was then called the Personnel Division in 1989 and then took a deferred retirement in 1994 to stay home with her newborn son. At the

time, she jokingly said she would return when he started college. So in 2012, that became a reality when her son started college and she returned to the county workforce with Human Resources again. She is enjoying her free time with her husband Greg (who retired from the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department), taking care of parents, pets, and traveling. She looks forward to reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones while serving on the RPESJC board. ❖

## MICHELLE SCOTT-CASALE NEW RPESJC BOARD MEMBER



**M**ichelle Scott-Casale has a BS degree in Nursing. She retired in March 2020. She started working at San Joaquin General Hospital in 1988 and worked in the Cardiology Department the majority of her time there. She then transferred to Public Health Services and worked

approximately the next 20 years in the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs. She wore many hats but her primary ones were MCAH Director and Nursing Program Manager. Although retired, she continues to be a Commissioner on the Children’s Services Coordinating Commission. Michelle is married, has one grown adult daughter and one stepdaughter. She has a passion for traveling and can do much more now retired. What’s on her bucket list? Everywhere! She’s excited to serve on the board and bring fresh ideas. ❖

## AUGUST TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1) Sacramento (California)
- 2) Vin Diesel
- 3) 100 years old
- 4) The Phantom of the Opera
- 5) My Big Fat Greek Wedding
- 6) Beyoncé (88 nominations, including the 9 with Destiny's Child) ❖

## Dates To Remember

Thurs., Aug. 8, 2024	Summer Luncheon @Julia Harrison Memorial Building in Micke Grove Park 11793 N. Micke Grove Rd, Lodi 11:30 am. Guest speakers Laura and Efrain Garcia, owners of Terra Coffee Shop. Advance reservations required. A flyer with reservation and cost details were included in the May Cattails edition and a copy is on the website: rpesjc.org.
Thurs., Aug. 22, 2024	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.
Thurs., Sept. 26, 2024	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.
Thurs., Oct. 10, 2024	Fall Luncheon @Julia Harrison Memorial Building In Micke Grove Park 11793 N. Micke Grove Rd, Lodi 11:30 am. Guest speaker Michael Riddle, Disaster Program Manager, San Joaquin/Stanislaus Counties, American Red Cross. Advance reservations required. A flyer with reservation and cost details is included in this Cattails edition and a copy is on the website: rpesjc.org.
Wed. Oct. 16, 2024	Red Hawk Casino/Apple Hill bus trip. Advance reservations required. Event flyer with cost and deadline details is included with this edition of Cattails.
Thurs., Oct. 24, 2024	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 Renee Ostrander



**A**s I sit at my desk and write this column for you, I'm amazed we are already in the throes of summer. I hope as you read these latest updates, you are enjoying your retirement and staying cool.

I first want to thank those of you that turned out for our Open House on June 7th. It was wonderful to be able to meet with several of you and open our new facility to you. We are now fully transitioned to 220 E Channel Street and are here Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 to help you as needed with your retirement issues.

I also want to say how honored I was to attend your annual picnic and perform the swearing in of this year's board. Thank you for the opportunity. I also enjoyed spending time chatting with several of you and hearing of your adventures in retirement. It's excellent to see so many of you staying connected to each other long after you leave county employment.

If you attended the picnic, you likely also heard Supervisor Patti share our latest information. SJCERA net return for last year was over 9%, well above the actuarial assumption of 6.75%. We also moved our funded status to over 70%.

Both indicate we are headed in the right direction and that we, the Board of Retirement and the SJCERA team, are fully committed to our mission of administering pensions to provide members a secure retirement benefit for their future.

I also wanted to share the outcome of the elections for your Board of Retirement. Both of your representatives for the retiree seat and alternate retiree seat, JC Weydert and Steve Moore, respectively, ran unopposed in the latest election and will remain on our board through June 2027. However, we do have one new board member. Sam Kaisch will be joining the board in July as one of the two active, general member representatives. He has been with the county for 17 years and brings to this role a wealth of relevant experience from multiple departments, including the County Administrator's Office, Treasurer's Office, and currently Human Services Agency.

Some exciting news to share! SJCERA has embarked on an effort to replace its pension administration system. The new system, we have named it PRIME, has been successfully implemented in other central valley counties. For the SJCERA team, the new system will provide increased efficiency and accuracy by automating repetitive processes. Another significant enhancement that will be of direct benefit to all of you is the self-service features available to both our active and retired members. Continue to keep an eye on this column. We'll post updates and share more about the new functionality as we move forward. ❖

IN MEMORIAM

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



Charles Baker	Government Buildings
Lyle Boon	Information Systems
James Buchanan	Behavioral Health
Cynthia Bulmer	Probation
William Burke	Public Works
Gerald Burkhardt	Public Works
Judy Campbell	SJ General Hospital
Dennis Dearmin	Sheriff
Barbara Devaney	Human Services
Virginia Dew	SJ General Hospital
Vivian Dorville	Human Services
Erwin Eby	Agriculture
Dora Fleck	Superior Court
Claudia Fortney	Human Services
Janice Galanos	District Attorney
Thomas Guebara	Public Works
Maxine Henderson	Human Services
Robert Henry	Sheriff
Frank Hernandez	Human Services
Pete Herrera Jr.	Public Works
Lesley Jack	District Attorney
Larry Kimball	Public Works
Linda Lucero	Probation
Arjeanne Mc Daniel	Superior Court
Salvador Mendoza	Pubic Works
Ray Moon	Public Works
Manjila Narayan	Correctional Health
Robert Oneto	SJ General Hospital
Rosalin Ortega	SJ General Hospital
Frank Ramalho	Agricultural Commissioner
Sandra Rigdon	Human Services
Ernest Rodriguez	Sheriff
Judith Rong	SJ General Hospital
Margaret Sanchez	Behavioral Health
Florence Sanguinetti	SJ General Hospital
Edna Satake	Human Services
Stacey Smith	Human Services
Eloise Steward	Public Health
Russell Tyler	SJ General Hospital
Phillip Urie	District Attorney
Frances Virginia Rock	Public Works
Marie Westerman	Agricultural Commissioner
Jean Witcher	Human Services
Rickie Zehner	Sheriff ❖

**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

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Retired Member, Board of Retirement

J.C. Weydert

Alternate Retired Member, Board of Retirement

Stephen Moore

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## MEMBERS FINANCIAL SERVICES — By Frank Feng



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Question: Hi Frank, I have been hearing many different ages when it comes to retirement benefits. Could you talk about them. They seem quite confusing to me. Thanks!

Answer: Here are a few critical birthdays and "half-birthdays" that you want to understand because they have importance regarding your retirement income.

At **age 59½**, individuals are able to start making withdrawals from qualified retirement plans without incurring a 10% federal income tax penalty. This applies to workers who have contributed to IRAs and employer-sponsored plans, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Keep in mind that distributions are still subject to ordinary income taxes.

At **age 62** workers are first able to draw Social Security retirement benefits. However, if a person continues to work, those benefits will be reduced. The Social Security Administration will deduct \$1 in benefits for each \$2 an individual earns above an annual limit. In 2024, the income limit is \$22,320.<sup>1</sup>

Between **ages 65 and 67**, individuals become eligible

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to receive 100% of their Social Security benefit once they reach their "full retirement age". The specific time varies, depending on birth year. Individuals born in 1955, for example, become eligible to receive 100% of their benefits when they reach age 66 years and 2 months. Those born in 1960 or later need to reach age 67 before they'll become eligible to receive full benefits.<sup>1</sup>

At **age 65**, individuals can qualify for Medicare. The Social Security Administration recommends applying three months before reaching age 65. It's important to note that if you are already receiving Social Security benefits, you will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Part B (medical insurance) without an additional application.<sup>2</sup>

In most circumstances, once you reach **age 73**, you must begin taking required minimum distributions from a traditional Individual Retirement Account and other qualified retirement plans. You may continue to contribute to a traditional IRA past age 73 as long as you meet the earned-income requirement.

Understanding key birthdays may help you better prepare for certain retirement income and benefits. But perhaps more importantly, knowing key birthdays can help you avoid penalties that may be imposed if you miss the date. ❖

Notes: <sup>1</sup> SSA.gov, 2023 <sup>2</sup> SSA.gov, 2023. Individuals can decline Part B coverage because it requires an additional premium payment.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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