

**RPEN - WASHOE COUNTY**

**P.O. BOX 12531  
RENO, NV 89510-2531**



**October 2016**

# Washoe Wrangler



## **President Elaine's Message**

So much has transpired over the nine months of this year, including Board meetings (both State and local Chapter), candidate interviews, the primaries, our annual meeting – held this year in Elko, chapter elections, PERS and PEBP meetings, and visitations to other chapters. A new CEO and a Financial Officer were hired, and folks, all this was a year without the legislature in session. Our chapter held elections in August and your new board members and State President Jack Harris performed the swearing in ceremony during our October meeting. Terri Laird, our new CEO has kept us updated with very informative newsletters. Information included the candidates' answers to questions concerning our health benefits and pensions issues. Please read all the responses and remember to vote! In addition, what has happened that is new? All delegates in Elko were given new T-shirts (very nice by the way) and a limited number are available to members who will be attending various functions for PERS, PEBP and membership activities, or if you prefer, we still have a supply of buttons to wear to at these events. Speaking of Elko, I must say there were 9 different workshops held this year in addition to the general assemblies. We divided ourselves up to attend each, and will be reporting on them to you during the coming months.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Chapter Officers

**President** Elaine Steiner  
**Vice President** Betty Squires  
**Secretary** Ellen Marston  
**Treasurer** Don Timmerman  
**Past President** Sue Durst

### Chapter Directors:

Don McMillen, Mary Lou Elicegui,  
Stan Jones, Marsha Osloond, Evelyn  
Wagner

Newsletter Editor: Brad Truax

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

**A** hippo's lips are about  
two feet wide!

**A** newborn kangaroo is  
just about as long as a pa-  
perclip.

**A**mericans on average eat  
about 18 acres of pizza a  
day.

**T**here are more plastic fla-  
mingos in the USA than  
real ones.

**T**he first email was sent in  
1971.

**S**tarfish don't have brains.  
(Bet you're thinking you  
know at least one starfish.)

## Washoe Chapter Annual Report 9/19/16

Our chapter newsletter The WASHOE WRANGLER made its debut this year. We felt that in addition to the statewide newsletter, purely local news might inspire more members to attend our monthly meetings. We also instituted "green" copies for those who expressed a desire to receive their information via email. While all members now receive more information, both from the State office and us, than ever before we are still having approximately only 35 members in attendance each month. Guest speakers included Cheryl Price, PERS representative, Nancy Spinelli from PEBP, Kurt Mische, CEO of KNPB, Ernie Strobel of EJS Insurance Services, Tim Nelson & Lecia Nichols of Evans, Nelson and Co. CPA's, John Slaughter, Washoe County Manager, Jeff Thompson KOLO TV meteorologist, Colleen Barnum, District Manager, Washoe County Parks and Recreation, Heather Haslem from Sanford Center for the Aging. Our annual luncheons were held at the Atlantis in July and December. We usually have 85-90 members at the luncheons. The two luncheons are in the format of luncheon and lessons.

We have also welcomed to our meetings our new CEO Terri Laird and our State President Jack Harris. Washoe Chapter of RPEN also thanks Kerry Armanasco our new Director of Finance for all her assistance. Marlene Lockard our RPEN legislative advocate keeps us up to date via the Internet.

Chapter members have been in regular attendance at the monthly meetings of both PERS and PEBP. We have also enjoyed visits to other chapters.

Membership is always at the forefront of our efforts. We had to say goodbye to 41 members this year. Among those were board members and also those who volunteered on committees. While the Internet now affords information to anyone that was once available to members only, those who benefit from our organization and lobbying efforts feel that we can carry their burden. Such is not the case. We have to somehow get through to both retired and active personnel that while we advocate for them, numbers are important to the legislature. We will press again for new, more active members.

President's Message (from Page 1)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016. The Nevada Legislature's Interim and Benefits Committee will have a meeting. They only meet twice a year. The meeting will be held in Carson City, and a good showing of RPEN members is imperative. In addition to the regular members I would like to see some new faces — a few of you new and younger members will be a reminder to the committee that we will be around for a long time, and that they will have to take notice.

Congratulations go to our own past president, Sue Durst, recipient of the Pat Fladagar award. She was presented the award during the Elko meeting.

Stacy Nelson, from Towers Watson, will be available the second full week in the Carson City office of PEBP. (November 14, December 12, and January 4.) You can call ahead AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A ONE-TO-ONE MEETING. She can be reached by phone at 1-844-266-1395. Take advantage of this offer and receive the assistance you have long requested.

**The December 7th reservation mailing deadline for the Christmas luncheon will be strictly enforced, so please plan ahead!**

For those of you with computers, remember to check with RPEN.org for the latest news, and also for membership applications for friends who are not yet RPEN members.



## CLIP AND SAVE

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO POSTCARD NOTICE OF THESE MEETINGS**

**Second Monday of each month at 2:00 PM**

**Washoe Senior Center  
1155 E. Ninth street,  
Reno, NV**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2016:  
Marci KupperSmith, Alzheimer's Association.**

**DECEMBER 12, 2016:  
WASHOE CHAPTER'S  
CHRISTMAS  
LUNCHEON.**

**ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT SPA, RENO –  
11:30 A.M. .  
SEE NOTICE CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017: JEN HUNTLEY, ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIAN, WILL PRESENT "THE MAKING OF YOSEMITE" AND THE ORIGIN OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE NATIONAL PARK.**



# Members' Voices

## Why do our members value their membership in RPEN?

“It was the only representation in state government to allow the retired employee a means of control on what the state government does to our retirement, retirement pay, benefits, and in keeping the retired employee informed.”  
— Don Timmerman

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“Attend chapter meetings? Me? Why should I? Well let’s see. There’s good fellowship and conversation to be had, maybe you’ll see some of your retired coworkers and friends at the meetings! Our president makes a point to keep everyone advised of what’s happening with the insurance program (PEBP) that most members have, as well as any news that develops with our retirement system (PERS). We always have a guest speaker with interesting programs happening around town or health issues, or ideas on travel, volunteering or activities offered. There are opportunities open to become active on the chapter board, or perhaps a state delegate. When the Legislature is in session you might find that it’s quite an eye opener to sit in on some of their committee hearings — especially when they’re dealing with our benefits! Your input at the chapter meetings is always welcomed—we need your views and ideas—we need YOU! Without active members who care about our organization and the benefits we worked so hard to have when retirement became possible, we are lost. If you haven’t been coming to the meetings, please try it. You might like it!”  
— Pat Keough

“I joined the fall, eight wee course, FIT AND STRONG, offered by the Sanford Center for Aging at UNR. Small classes, with walking and dancing for aerobic exercise & strength training also. People with any level of ability do well, and the instructor makes class fun. You must check your agenda and commit to attending every class, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday except holidays. Because I no longer have a yard to care for, was not out and about as often, I started watching too much TV. This class is a definite tune-up for my body and provides tools for the rest of my life. Please consider any exercise class to keep you all healthy. I learned about this class from one of our speakers.”

— Linda Church

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Though the 2017 legislative session doesn’t begin until February, anti-PERS lobbyists are already laying the groundwork for yet another attack on our benefits. An email from NPRI was forwarded to me just the other day in which they contend that the PERS system is too expensive and not sustainable. RPEN stands ready to fight back against anti-public employee groups that seek to weaken PERS, making RPEN membership an excellent investment in our future and that of Nevada PERS.

— Brad Truax

**Help us save paper and mailing costs by having your newsletter sent via email. Type “RPEN GREEN” in the subject line and send your name and email address to either:**

**ebs@pyramid.net or  
rpen.washoe@gmail.com**

# R.P.E.N. CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016**

**12 NOON (Seating starts 11:30 a.m.)**

**ATLANTIS CASINO BALLROOM**

**COST: \$21.00 per member - \$24.00 per non-member/guest**

**PROGRAM: Speakers representing RPEN and PERS**

## MENU

**SESAME CHICKEN-ORANGE TERIYAKI GLAZE** — Fried Rice & Snow Peas

*-OR-*

**NORTHWEST SALMON** — Pacific Salmon Charbroiled, Dill Chardonnay Sauce, Basmati Rice & Grilled Vegetables

*-OR-*

**VEGETARIAN PLATE**—Chef's Choice

\*All Entrees accompanied with Salad, Bread, Dessert, Coffee & Tea

**DESSERT: TIRAMISU LAYER CAKE**

**NOTE TO OUR NEIGHBOR CHAPTERS:** Any interested members are cordially invited to attend at the member price (\$21.00). Please call Don Timmerman to make reservations. **Be sure to include your menu choice!**

**Information: Don Timmerman @ 626-7673 or Pat Keough @ 358-2352**

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**Please send this coupon with your check payable to "RPEN Washoe Chapter" to:**

**Don Timmerman 5761 Crooked Stick Way Sparks, NV 89436**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu Choice:**  Sesame Chicken #\_\_\_\_  Northwest Salmon #\_\_\_\_

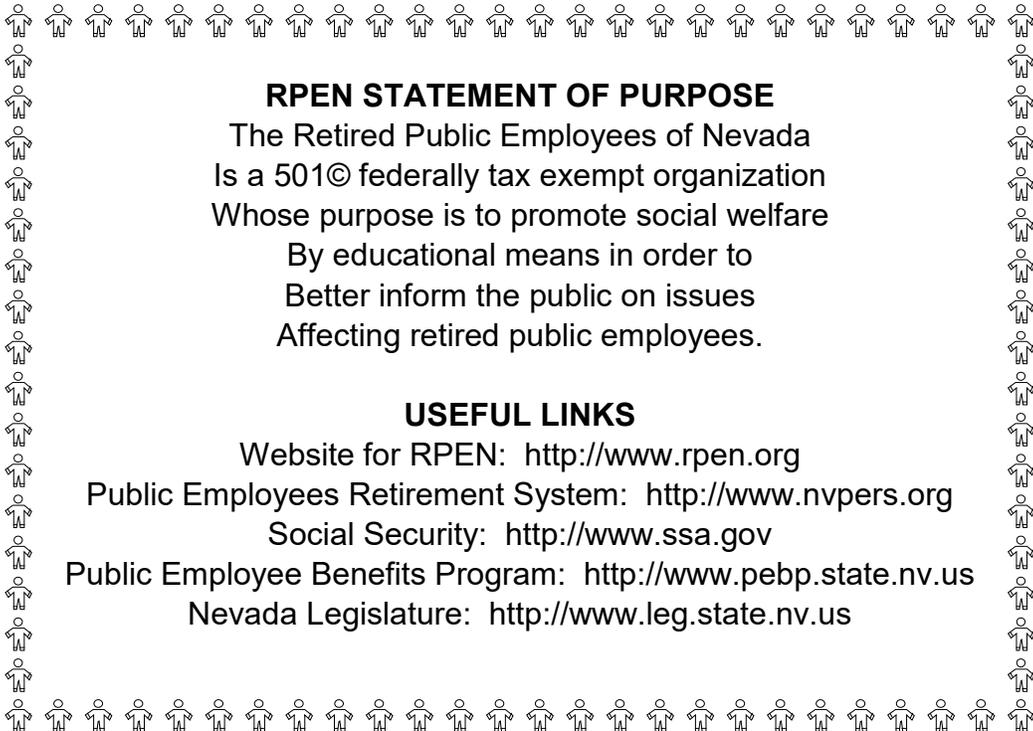
Vegetarian Plate #\_\_\_\_

**MAILING DEADLINE: December 7, 2016, 2016**

Retired Public Employees of Nevada  
Washoe Chapter  
P.O. Box 12531  
Reno, NV 89510-2531

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Reno, NV  
Permit No. 118

Return Address Requested



**RPEN STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**  
The Retired Public Employees of Nevada  
Is a 501© federally tax exempt organization  
Whose purpose is to promote social welfare  
By educational means in order to  
Better inform the public on issues  
Affecting retired public employees.

**USEFUL LINKS**  
Website for RPEN: <http://www.rpen.org>  
Public Employees Retirement System: <http://www.nvpers.org>  
Social Security: <http://www.ssa.gov>  
Public Employee Benefits Program: <http://www.pebp.state.nv.us>  
Nevada Legislature: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>