

RPEN - WASHOE COUNTY

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



November 2017

Washoe Wrangler



For me the most challenging portion of our newsletter is the opening sentence. What can I write that will really grab your interest? Should I be a gambling person I would place myself below the 40% mark for a stimulating start but above 80% for the old college try – so here we go. Let's get going with **MEMBERSHIP**. Betty Squires ran a membership analysis for the past 12 months and the results indicate we acquired 42 members (not too bad). That figure has to be balanced against 31 deceased and 20 stop and 4 drops. The 20 figure is what intrigues me most. Are we not performing well enough for those members – Are they perhaps surviving spouses who do not realize they may remain members. We still advocate for them thru their receiving PERS benefits. This is something you should be discussing with your better half so when the time arrives he/she is aware of this benefit. Now just a few more words on membership. Your current Board of Directors has guided the ship well and **FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME**. Unlike the Supreme Court they did not sign up for a lifetime appointment. Unless we continue to grow and expand there is a possibility we can fold. We need new young blood participation. It is time for some new faces. Begin by coming to the monthly meetings, get a feeling of the group, see what it offers, perhaps run into prior fellow workers and enjoy the monthly speakers. That leads me into the next subject matter. **PROGRAMS** Since the last newsletter we have had a variety of speakers: In June we had Ginger Fenwick who had an interesting twist on "Bees for Vets", our July luncheon found 72 of us receiving great reports from Tina Leiss, CEO from PERS, Marlene Lockard, our chief lobbyist had a great synopsis concerning the legislature (and all the ins and outs that you heard nothing about), Kerry Armanco our Director of Finance gave an overview of the meeting to be held in Summerlin in September, other guests included Don Bailey an RPEN member and a member of the PEPB Board, Stacey Nelson from Towers Watson was introduced and had a few remarks. We rounded off the Program when Jack Harris, now former Chairman of State RPEN was introduced and had some closing

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,
Linda Church, Melanie A. Daniel,
Marsha Osloond, Evelyn Wagner

Newsletter Editor: Brad Truax

DID YOU KNOW?

Supposedly, honey does not spoil. You could feasibly eat 3000 year old honey.

Woolly mammoths were still around when the pyramids were being built.

Reno is farther west than Los Angeles.

Alaska is the only state that can be typed on one row of keys.

The sum of all the numbers on a roulette wheel is 666.

President Elaine's Report (continued)

remarks for us. August found us receiving program by the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation (private foundation and very interesting). Although we had the State Board of Director's meeting in September we still held our usual monthly meeting. I found this program to be one of the more interesting programs this year so one never knows what will grab your interest. Come and make your own decision.

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas luncheon at the Atlantis. **Please note the cutoff date for reservations is November 30th.**

Members' Corner: There were some inquires as to our meeting place, time and dates. We are always open to suggestions and if we have enough interest we can try and address these issues. For a meeting place we need accommodations that include ample parking, and easy access.

Let's Help Our Veterans: When you travel and stay in hotels and motels, do you arrive home with those small packets of soap, shampoos and hand lotions? If you do not already really use them yourself or give them to your favorite charity, we would like to collect them and donate them to the Veterans House in Reno. They receive no public funding and these donations though seemingly small, are well received. Each person who stays at this facility receives these when they arrive. Let's see what we can gather.

Sue Durst has been busy. The Board requested that she look into a loud speaking system for the chapter and she did us proud. Come to a meeting and discover her find.

September 2018 is coming and so is the next State Board meeting. The Washoe Chapter and the Sparks Chapter will be cohosting the event. It will be an opportunity for many of you to attend and to see and hear how your delegates attend to your association. It's a good way to get your feet wet. We will also be requesting your assistance with registration, table decorations, gathering for items that represent our area. Workshops are always instructive and some offsite activity is planned. So mark your calendars. More on this later.

Members' Corner

Switzerland and Tuscany, Italy 2017

Brad Truax, RPEN Member

A trip in September to Switzerland and the Tuscany region of Italy provided an adventure to remember! We landed in Frankfurt, Germany, but rented a car and headed for Interlaken, Switzerland the next morning. We stayed in Wilderswil, a village just outside Interlaken, and from there took trains up into the Alps to the mountain, Jungfrau. At an elevation of 11,333 feet, the visitors' center overlooking the mountains and the Aletsch Glacier is known as the "Top of Europe." That high up, one can see why!

The next morning, we went back into the mountains in a van, but not so high up, and got back to town by **PARAGLIDING!** Thankfully, I flew in tandem with a trained pilot. We were in the air for about a half hour! (That's me, in front.) Oh, to be a bird!



Italy was wonderful as well, though I promise you, the element of danger in paragliding is **nothing** compared to driving in Italy! We rented an awesome villa outside Florence through Airbnb, toured the Tuscan wine country, and visited the towns of Siena and San Gimignano. My travel partner wanted to spend a day shopping in Florence, so I did a full day bus & train tour visiting the villages of Cinque Terra, on the Mediterranean coast. Gorgeous! Of course, we visited museums in Florence, including the Galleria dell'Accademia to view Michelangelo's statue of David, and went to the Uffizi Gallery, which had been closed the last time I was there.

Tuscan food is incredibly delicious, and we ate plenty of it, but we also got lucky and managed to be in Florence for the Gelato Festival being held at the Piazzale Michelangelo, a square with a panoramic view of Florence. Who knew that there's a competition among gelato makers from all over Europe? My favorite may have been one from Poland, but after sampling so many, I lost track. All in all, a great trip.

CLIP AND SAVE

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

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

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

**December 11, 2017:
Christmas Luncheon
Atlantis Hotel Casino
11:30 AM — Menu in news-
letter**

**January 9, 2018: Brandy
Alexandra "Alex" Smith
Public Information Officer,
Nevada DMV
The new driver's license!**

**February 8, 2018:
Ky Sisson, Traffic News Re-
porter, Channel 2, KTVN
Ky will speak on traffic
flows, changes, etc. in the
Reno-Sparks area.**



Members' Corner

State Board Meeting Experience

Don McMillen, Washoe RPEN Member

I retired from the State Department of Taxation 14 years ago. I believe in the idea of joint associations representing groups advocating for like-minded causes, so I joined RPEN right before my retirement date. However, I was a silent member until a colleague who was also a member of RPEN convinced me to attend a few chapter meetings. By doing so, I have been awakened to the importance of this association.

RPEN's mission is to "advocate, educate, support, and protect active and retired Nevada public employees regarding PERS, PEBP, health insurance programs and other member benefits."

I was asked to be a delegate representing the Washoe Chapter at the State annual meeting in Las Vegas in September. Besides meeting and visiting with many active RPEN members from around the state, attending this meeting opened my eyes to the many functions of RPEN and all the time and talent its members contribute. Did you know that RPEN has only three paid staff; Terrie Laird, our Executive Director, Kerry Armanasco, our Director of Finance and Operations, and Marlene Lockard, our Legislative Liaison? Everyone else working tirelessly for RPEN's causes are volunteers. There are the State officers of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as various State committees; such as the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Finance Committee, Legislative and Insurance Committee, Membership Committee, Resolutions and By-Laws Committee, and the Long Range Planning Committee. I hadn't realized or thought about the magnified scope of RPEN before attending this annual meeting.

The meeting was a two day affair with the first day having breakout sessions on various topics of interest to the attending members. I attended a workshop on PERS post retirement increases presented by Tina Leiss, Executive Officer, and Cheryl Price, Operations Officer of PERS. Calculating post retirement increases is a complicated process that they effectively explained, yet would be doubly difficult to calculate without technology! I also attended an Internet and Cyber Computer Security workshop presented by RPEN member Claudia Hayden of the Bi-Valley Chapter. She gave us some good tips on protecting our personal information in our digital age. Then there was a panel discussion on legislative matters attended by three State Senators and one Assemblywoman that was a real eye opener. They shared the political process involved in the legislative passage of AB384, later vetoed by the governor.

There are over 1600 members in our local Washoe chapter. We meet the second Monday of the month at 2:00 pm at the Senior Center at Ninth and Sutro Streets. I hope you'll come by and meet some of your fellow RPEN members. We have a short (very short) business meeting, interesting speakers on various topics, and good refreshments. Also, attending an annual State meeting would be very informative for any RPEN member and would allow you to show non-members the importance of the work RPEN is doing on their behalf. Since next year in September the annual meeting will be at the Sparks Nugget, hosted by our local chapters, I am encouraging all members of the Washoe and Sparks chapters to keep open the dates of September 19 and/or 20 to come and see how well RPEN represents all public employees of Nevada and works to support, protect, and advocate for our various benefit programs.

WASHOE RPEN CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

MONDAY, December 11, 2017

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

ATLANTIS CASINO BALLROOM

COST: \$25.00 per member - \$32.00 per non-member/guest

PROGRAM: Speakers representing RPEN, PERS and PEBP

MENU

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

-OR-

CHARBROILED NEW YORK STEAK — Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables

-OR-

VEGETARIAN PLATE—Chef's Choice

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

DESSERT: Chocolate Cup Raspberry Mousse

NOTE TO OUR NEIGHBOR CHAPTERS: Interested members are cordially invited to attend at the member price (\$25.00). Please call Don Timmerman to make reservations. **Be sure to include your menu choice!**

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

.....

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: Northwest Salmon #____ New York Steak #____

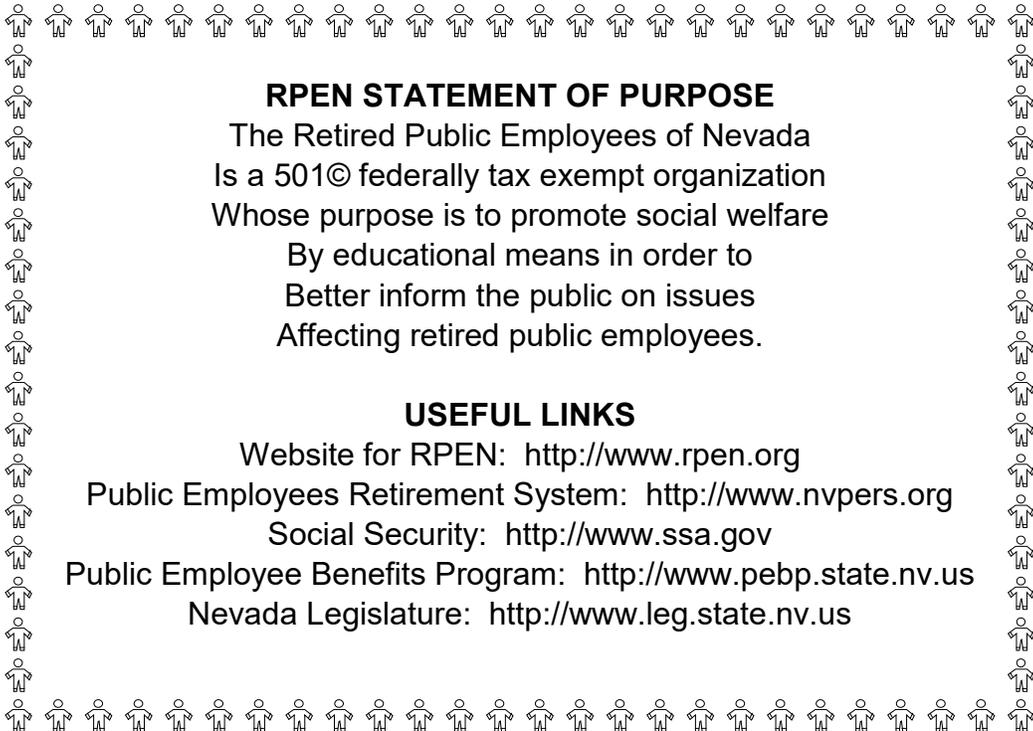
Vegetarian Plate #____

MAILING DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2017 — FIRM!

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 Service 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>