RPESJC
Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County

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



According to Jim Rohn, a motivational speaker, "Life is not just the passing of time. Life is the collection of experiences and their intensity." At our age, we are all more aware of the passing of time, and the people we meet and share experiences with along the way. The RPESJC Board continues to look for ways to bring experiences to our members that offer each of us an insight to the world around us. Flyers for two luncheon activities, both the annual Holiday luncheon and the February 2027 luncheon, are included in this issue of Cattails. These are just some of the events planned to keep you active, motivated, and connected to your friends and fellow retirees. We look forward to seeing you there, so please pay careful attention to the reservation deadlines. Our Holiday luncheon especially leaves us with little flexibility to give a final count for each meal to the Hilton hotel, so please be timely.

By the time this November issue of Cattails reaches you, we will be well into the Fall season. Almost another year has gone, making us all aware of the passage of time and the changes we need to adapt to. The County's health insurance program will begin its second open enrollment November 9, 2026 - December 9, 2026 to transition to a calendar year. Also, last November we began a search for a Board member to replace Vickie Delph who moved out of state. This past month we welcomed Kathy Parker to our Board. You can see her picture and read her bio in this issue. We are still searching for one more Board member so if you want to be part of planning and implementing our activities, reach out to rpesjc@gmail.com and someone will get back to you.

This issue of Cattails also highlights some of our good works: six scholarships were awarded and information about the students who received them is included in this issue. Take a look at what you have made possible through your membership in this organization.

As we near the end of the year, our families and friends will be planning holiday get togethers. Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are traditionally times for families to celebrate their past, present and future together. I wish you all a happy, peaceful holiday season and encourage you to celebrate with those you hold dear. ❖

Retiree Open Enrollment - Health Insurance
November 9, 2026 - December 9, 2026
Changes effective January 1, 2027
More information coming soon!

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ACTIVITIES REPORT — By John Solis



SUMMER LUNCHEON

Our luncheon was held on Thursday, August 13 at the Julia Harrison Memorial Building at Micke Grove Park. Eighty-six people enjoyed the picnic-style menu consisting of hamburgers and hot dogs, chili beans, sweet corn on the cob, garden salad with dressing, and an assortment of sugar and chocolate chip cookies. Fifth District Supervisor Robert Rickman donated the coffee and his representative, Scott Tyrell, attended the event and spoke on his behalf.

RPESJC President Trish Huarte-Pechan welcomed the attendees, introduced our guests and announced the August Cattails newsletter was recently mailed, which contained flyers for the Fall Luncheon that was scheduled for October 8, 2026, and the Apple Hill & Red Hawk Casino Bus Trip that was scheduled for October 14, 2026.

Our featured speaker was Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Manager Trinidad Newcomb. CASA is recruiting individuals interested in becoming advocates for children in foster care. All volunteers go through a 32-hour comprehensive training. Once approved, all CASA volunteers are matched with a dedicated advocacy supervisor to support them. You can also schedule an information/recruitment session with your organization. Contact Trinidad: phone (209) 644-5319; tnewcomb@nochildabuse.org; or www.nochildabuse.org/casa/.

Rene Ostrander, CEO of the San Joaquin County Retirement Association, presented information on this year's second Open Enrollment for health insurance. She will also have information regarding the investment portfolio performance at the next meeting.

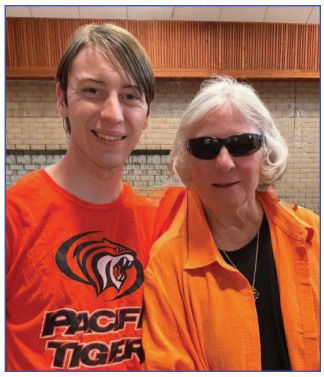
Scott Onweiler won the door prize donated by Frank Feng and Tamara Langenfeld of the Valley Strong Retirement & Wealth Management Group and Rachael Carbajal was the winner of the $5 Black Marble prize.

Congratulations to our quarterly luncheon attendees: Mimi Duzenski, Glenda Bail, Ramona Sajor, Teresa Smith, Rhonda Fideldy, Richard Sanguinetti, Joyce Weber, Kathy Parker, and Tammy Nelson. They each received a luncheon certificate and will be our guests at our next quarterly luncheon. ❖

RICHARD CALLISTRO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS — By Miriam Lyell

The Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County (RPESJC) is devoted to improving the quality of life and well-being of its members and to investing in its future generations. Earlier this year, the opportunity to apply for $2,500 college scholarships was offered to high school seniors who are children and grandchildren of current RPESJC members. The following are the biographies and photographs of the top six scholarship recipients in alphabetical order:

John "JD" Cardinalli is the grandson of Karen Rankin. JD graduated from California High School in San Ramon, California. He maintained a 4.37 GPA while participating in marching band, history club, and his church youth group. He achieved Eagle Rank in Boy Scouts and earned the Distinguished Conservation Service Award. He enjoys working in his Lego studio and playing Dungeons & Dragons. He will be attending the University of the Pacific and majoring in pharmaceutical sciences.



John Cardinalli and his grandmother Karen Rankin

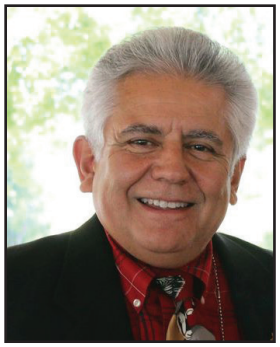


Daniel Gozales Sanders and his grandmother Dorothy Klishevich

Daniel Gonzalez Sanders is the grandson of Dorothy Klishevich. He graduated from West Campus High School in Sacramento, where he was a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Physics Club, and the founding president of the school's robotics competition club. He also played tennis and

Continued on Page 5

BOARD OF RETIREMENT REPORT — By Steve Moore



For the very first time in SJCERA history, eleven seats authorized for the SJCERA Board of Retirement are now filled.

The following members have recently been added to the board of directors:

Sgt. Steve Baxter of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office has taken Sgt. Whelen's place representing Safety members.

Mr. Steve Dougherty has been appointed to the Board of Retirement by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dougherty is a member of Dougherty CPAs, Inc. He is a CPA, and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from San Diego State University in 1983 and earned his Certified Public Accountant and Real Estate License in 1986. He received his Master's Degree in Taxation from Golden Gate University, San Francisco in 1997.

Mr. Jesse Escotto has been elected by the general members to represent them. Mr. Escotto currently serves as the Facilities Manager at San Joaquin General Hospital, in French Camp.

Ms. Emily Hammond is filling the Alternate Safety seat. Ms. Hammond is the Assistant Chief Probation Officer for San Joaquin County. Ms. Hammond began her probation career in 2001 and was hired by the San Joaquin County Probation Department in 2022.

Assistant Chief Hammond was previously selected for the Probation Officer of the Year and Supervisor of the Year awards. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Stanislaus and has received a number of professional certifications.

We welcome these new additions to the SJCERA Board of Retirement. Their experience and professional skills will enhance the Board's ability to provide retirement, disability, and death benefits to employees of San Joaquin County and other participating employers.

We look forward to their input as we review SJCERA's asset allocations in order to attain our target return of 6.75 percent over the long term, while reducing global public equity risk, generating income, and providing downside protection.

The fresh perspective of these new members will enhance our review of the draft Strategic Plan for the calendar years of 2027-2035.

They will provide a broader view in updating our Mission, Vision, Values, Objectives, Goals, and Stewardship in continuing to provide a lifetime defined benefit retirement plan in accordance with the provisions of the County Employees Retirement Law (CERL) of 1937, the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) of 2013, and the Internal Revenue Code. ❖

NEW RPESJC BOARD MEMBER KATHY PARKER



After 25 years of service, Kathy Parker retired from Human Resources as a personnel analyst in 2021. Kathy was first assigned to the Health Plan of San Joaquin. Later, she was assigned to San Joaquin General Hospital, and then she retired from the central Human Resources office, where she supported the recruitment team for various departments, including SJGH.

Kathy enjoys traveling with her daughter, spending time with friends and family, and participating in yoga and pilates classes. She looks forward to serving on the RPESJC board to reconnect with old friends and help in any way needed. ❖

NOVEMBER TRIVIA - 50 YEARS AGO

1) What was the highest grossing film of 1976?
2) Which song spent the most number of weeks in the top ten of Billboard's Hot 100 in 1976?
3) Who won the World Series in 1976?
4) Who won the decathlon at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal?
5) Which currency was re-introduced on Thomas Jefferson's 233rd birthday as part of the United States Bicentennial celebration?

Answers on Page 5

WELCOME NEW RPESJC MEMBERS!

Name	Department
Maria Alcantar	Behavioral Health
Aileen Arlegui	SJ General Hospital
Troy Botts	Public Works
Susan Campos	Public Health
Donna Escotto	Treasurer -Tax Collector
Steven Ferreira	Sheriff
Jennifer Goodman	Human Resources
Richard Johnson	Sheriff
Alice Juarez	Superior Court
Jennifer Kline	Sheriff
Christy Little	Behavioral Health
Angela Mercier	SJ General Hospital
Daniel Madden	Human Services
Fermin Perez	Probation
John Quigley	Public Works
Maria Ramirez-Laodenio	SJ General Hospital
Irene Rodriguez	Public Health
Ari Sanders	Sheriff
Esperanza Scurini	Superior Court
Hadi Tabatabaee	Public Works
Teresa Trigg	Superior Courts
Kelly Wilson	Information Systems
Virginia Wimmer	Veterans Services ❖

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 or by phone at (209) 468-8746 and leave your full name, your telephone number, and your email address. Please give consideration to this electronic option. ❖

Congratulations

NEW RETIREES (JULY-SEPT)

Name	Department	Years
Maria Alcantar	Deferred	9
Blanca Amador	Sheriff	17
Marisol Arellano	Human Services	18
Aileen Arlegui	SJ General Hospital	18
Charla Banta	Deferred	18
Dolfa Bomar	Deferred	19
Troy Botts	Public Works	34
Lorelee Cyr	Medical Examiner	23
Debbie Daniels	Probation	24
Donna Escotto	Treasurer-Tax Collector	27
Steven Ferreira	Sheriff	7
Celeste Fosgate	Human Services	35
Jennifer Goodman	Human Resources	28
Michel Habbestad	Deferred	3
Jon Heinz	Human Services	12
Christopher Holden	Human Services	24
Selena Jackson	Deferred	5
Maria Jochimsen	Deferred	12
Jennifer Kline	Sheriff	25
Michael Lee	Deferred	5
Christy Little	Behavioral Health	28
Thomas Machado	Information Systems	29
Deborah Maffei	Probation	23
Kristine Maxwell	Human Services	38
Renay Meggerson	Human Services	14
Angela Mercier	SJ General Hospital	5
Toua Moua	SJ General Hospital	35
Chandra Om-Dedonatis	Deferred	12
Jessica Pantoja	Deferred	23
Stacey Pehl	Deferred	18
Fermin Perez	Probation	21
Maria Ramirez	SJ General Hospital	17
Esperanza Scurini	Superior Court	20
Pir Shah	Behavioral Health	34
Trisha Shelton	Deferred	18
Gaye Solari	Deferred	3
Robert Steele	Deferred	10
Hadi Tabatabaee	Public Works	25
Teresa Trigg	Superior Court	24
Raquel Trujillo	Probation	11
Janice Turner	SJ General Hospital	5
Chong Vang	Behavioral Health	7
Lydia Vasquez	SJ General Hospital	26
Lisa Vega	Superior Court	14
Noum Vetvong	EEDD	26
Virginia Wimmer	Deferred	7

❖

RICHARD CALLISTRO SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED

was a lifeguard for four years. He is studying mechanical engineering at the University of California, Merced, with the goals of working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA, or at a job that challenges him mentally and improves the wellbeing of others.



Ryan Hanker and his grandmother Tola Eley

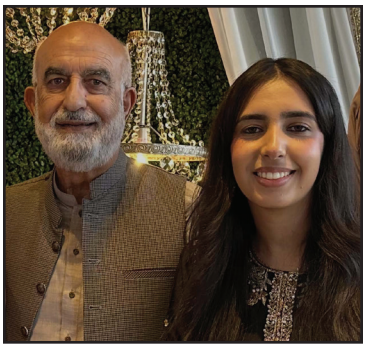
Ryan Hanker is the grandson of Tola Eley. Ryan graduated from St. Mary's High School and participated in water polo and swimming, and volunteered as a peer tutor. He enjoys spending time outdoors backpacking, rock climbing, boating and waterskiing. His annual trips with his grandparents to Santa Cruz, Silver Lake, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite helped shape his love of the outdoors. He is attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, majoring in experience and event management, to combine travel and outdoor recreation into a meaningful career.



Julian Hernandez and his grandmother Tina Romo

Julian Hernandez is the grandson of Tina Romo. Julian graduated from Linden High School and participated in band, track and field, basketball, AVID and Link Crew. In Future Farmers of America, he showed breeding chickens, market chickens, and turkeys at the San Joaquin County AgFest. Julian is attending San Joaquin Delta College and majoring in nursing, even taking a summer class to get a jumpstart on his classes. He credits his grandmother for her encouragement and support.

Hafsa Hina graduated from Middle College High School and San Joaquin Delta College, earning dual Associate of Arts degrees in Math & Science and Humanities. She has received multiple Academic Decathlon awards at the regional and state level and the California State Seal of Civic Engagement. Her experience includes leadership in youth health initiatives, the Red Cross, volunteering at San Joaquin General Hospital, and participation in the Decision Medicine program with clinical exposure. She is attending the University of the Pacific to study pre-med and plans to be a physician serving underserved communities in Stockton.



Hafsa Hina and her grandfather Shabbir Kahn

Nathan Wong graduated from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in Rolling Hills Estates and is the grandson of Sim Lim. He studied as a classically-trained pianist from age 5 and teaches piano. He has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall and studied at the Tanglewood Institute. As president of the Music Students' Service League, he organized monthly recitals at senior healthcare centers. As president of the National English Honor Society, he curated an anthology of student work and wrote a music history blog. He is passionate about the intersection of music and neuroscience and is attending Yale University. ❖



Nathan Wong and his grandmother Sim Lim

NOVEMBER TRIVIA ANSWERS

1) Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky*, which also won the Oscar for Best Picture (awarded in 1977).
2) *Silly Love Songs* by Paul McCartney and Wings.
3. The Cincinnati Reds won the 73rd Edition of the World Series, sweeping the New York Yankees in four games.
4) Bruce Jenner.
5) The $2.00 bill, which featured Thomas Jefferson on the front and an engraving of John Trumbull's painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the back. ❖

Dates To Remember

Thurs., Nov. 19, 2026	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.
Thurs., Dec. 10, 2026	Holiday Luncheon @Stockton Hilton, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** by Thurs., Nov. 19. See flyer insert in this edition for reservation details
Thurs., Dec. 17, 2026	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.
Thurs., Jan. 21, 2027	Board Meeting @ 10:00 a.m. – Send an email to rpesjc@gmail.com and request a Zoom invitation link to join the meeting.
Thurs., Feb. 11, 2027	Quarterly Luncheon @Julia Harrison Memorial Building in Micke Grove Park 11793 N. Micke Grove Rd, Lodi 11:30 am. Guest speaker, representative of Sacramento FBI regional office (if schedule can be accommodated). Reservations required. See flyer insert in this edition for reservation details.

SJCERA CEO'S CORNER — By Renee Ostrander



Happy Fall to all our retirees! I am so excited about this fall season, as it marks a happy occasion for me and my family. I will soon be a grandmother come October and a second grandbaby on the way in the new year! Autumn is shaping up to be an exciting one, and as always, we have a few things to share with you.

MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENTS

If you're part of the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Program, **documents are due January 2nd** to receive a full Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, up to the amount remaining in your sick leave bank. Just as a reminder, you must enroll every year moving forward to receive your reimbursement, even if you have enrolled in previous years.

Not part of the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Program? You may be eligible if you meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- I am a retired County Employee or eligible beneficiary.
- I was hired before August 2001.
- I am enrolled in Medicare Part B.

If you wish to join the Reimbursement Program, you must submit a completed Medicare Part B Reimbursement form and proof-of-premium documentation (issued by Social Security or Medicare) by January 2nd.

SJCERA will mail forms and instructions to eligible retirees by early December. As it's a busy time of year with the holidays rolling around, please keep an eye on your mailbox so you do not miss the deadline. Visit the Retired Members Forms and Publications page on www.sjcera.org for more information on the form, and Medicare Part B Reimbursement fact sheet.

1099-R FORMS

With the new year a little over a month away, we will be issuing 1099-Rs* in the new year. Like last year, they will be available online using our Yearli portal. The link to the portal is on our website. Visit the Retired Members 1009-R page to view login instructions and FAQs.

If you have not logged into the portal before, we encourage you to visit the portal page and access your profile before 1099-Rs are released.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Open enrollment for the 2027 calendar year is almost here. Regardless if you change health plans or not, new health insurance premiums will go into effect January 1st, 2027.

*Note: *December's check will be issued December 31st and appear on your 1099-R form this year.*

❖

IN MEMORIAM

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



Name	Department
Deborah Banez	Behavioral Health
Mary Boroughs	SJ General Hospital
Armando Cardenas	SJ General Hospital
Raul Chavarria	Farm & Home Advisor
Alice Cooper	SJ General Hospital
Deborah Davenport	Sheriff
Darryl Davis	SJ General Hospital
James Davis	Stockton Metropolitan Airport
Toni Earp	Sheriff
Janis Feland	Human Services
Deborah Foster	EEDD
Ernest Fujimoto	Public Health
Jack Gianelli	Agricultural Commissioner
Karen Greenberg	County Counsel
Cruzita Harris	SJ General Hospital
Roger Hench	Assessor
Sharon Hendrix	Behavioral Health
Tara Huebner-Spafford	Human Services
Joan Jordan	EEDD
Robert Kane	Public Health
Yovonda Knight	Human Services
Alan Lee	Public Works
Nancy Massy	Human Services
Arlene Miller	Human Services
Virginia Quihuiz	Human Services
Fredda Reed	Superior Court
Michael Riddiford	Mountain House
Sambo Ros	Behavioral Health
Margaret Salas	SJ General Hospital
Deborah Scott	Historical Museum
Nuiko Shimozaki	SJ General Hospital
Richard Spruell	Escalon Fire
Denise Stafford	Correctional Health
Marla Stricler	Information Systems
George Swofford	Stockton Metropolitan Airport
Nancy Syslo	Sheriff
Patricia Velez	EEDD
George Weaver	Public Works
Catherine Wood	Public Health
Robert Zipf	Community Development ❖

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

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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.

MEMBERS FINANCIAL SERVICES — By Frank Feng



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Hi Frank, Pickleball has been very popular, especially among retirees. I know this is not a financial question, but could you still tell me about it? Thanks!

Answer: Good health is good business, so pickleball is totally relevant.

Over the years doctors have made clear the benefits of regular physical activity, especially for older adults. In addition to physical benefits, regular exercise also lowers the risk of dementia and reduces the symptoms of anxiety and depression. The challenge has been finding an activity that is suitable for retirees yet still fun, mentally challenging, and physically demanding. Pickleball fits the bill perfectly.

A standard pickleball play area is about ¼ of a tennis court with the net set at tennis court height. There are a number of easy-to-grasp rules, but the biggest difference between pickleball and tennis is the "serve" and the "kitchen."

In pickleball, the serve is made underhand, and paddle contact with the ball must be below waist level. Much like tennis, the serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court. "The kitchen" is a colloquial term for the non-volley zone. This is a 3.5-foot-wide section of the court closest to the net and extends to each sideline. It's not uncommon to hear yells of "Kitchen!" followed by roars of "Ohhhh!" or bellows of laughter during a game. Even seasoned players can find themselves celebrating a great volley (when a player hits the ball in the air before it hits this side of the court), only to realize they're standing squarely in "the kitchen" where volleys are a big no-no.

Pickleball is played either as doubles (two players per team) or singles. This doesn't mean you have to bring a partner, though. Many leagues and communities have members that are more than happy to play with new teammates.

Play some pickleball. Have fun and enjoy your golden years!

If you 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. ❖

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