



# THE INTERCOM

Newsletter of the California Retired  
County Employees Association (CRCEA)

October 2023

[www.crcea.org](http://www.crcea.org)

Issue #4-2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The months fly by. I just finished writing a message for July and now I'm late getting this one off to be included with the October *Intercom*.

Summer was supposed to be slow, but I know that I'm not the only one who kept busy with a host of things during this period. First of all, I took some time with my wife, and we made a week in Hawaii to celebrate our birthdays; a few weeks after hers and a few weeks before mine.

I mention this because that vacation was in Maui and in Lahaina.

We enjoyed all the things one could expect to enjoy in such a wonderful place. And, who would have thought that just a couple of weeks after our return that Lahaina would suffer the devastation of just about being wiped off of the map. As I watched the news we exchanged thoughts and comments like, "we were right there....." It brings reality to everything when you can directly relate to a place.

As a result, I will find myself thinking differently when I see tragedies from wildfires, floods, or other disasters.

But, back to the busy schedules. Since the last message, I have been involved in 29 different meetings for various different things I am involved with. Okay, I did it to myself and I admit it.

I did also manage to sneak in another trip to Florida to visit with my granddaughter. I think I've mentioned before that she works at Disney World. It was good to visit since we haven't actually seen her in person since Christmas 2021. She received a promotion about a year ago and now she is in a management position with all the benefits and extra work that goes with it and she is adapting well. A little bragging, you betcha.

As you read this, we will be in San Joaquin County at our Fall Conference. As we meet in Stockton, a number of both educational and informational sessions will be presented. The agenda looks like a great blend of both.

As mentioned in the last issue, there will be some major discussion relative to the future direction of



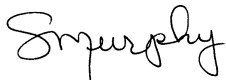
our CRCEA conferences. CRCEA Vice-President Doug Fletcher chaired an ad hoc committee to really dig into the issue and make some recommendations to the Executive Committee, and then ultimately place in front of the delegates for discussion and action at the Business Meeting on the last day.

I hope to see many of you at the Conference, and at future meetings of the Executive Committee that are generally held via video conference on Zoom.

Thank you all for your assistance in making CRCEA the premier organization for '37 Act retirees.

If anyone wants a visit to talk about CRCEA to let your board and/or membership know more, please let us know and we will try to accommodate.

Until next time.....



SKIP MURPHY, President

**The Ultimate Test  
(author unknown)**

**The Story:**

One night, four college students stayed up late partying, even though they knew they had a test the next day. The next morning, they came up with a plan to get out of having to take their test.

Each student rolled around in dirt and then went to the teacher's office.

They told the teacher that they had gotten a flat tire the night before, and they spent the *entire night* pushing their car back to campus.

The teacher listened, and to the students' delight, he offered a retest three days later.

On the day of the test, the students went to their teacher's office. The teacher put all four of the students in separate rooms to take the test. The students were okay with that because they had been given a chance to study.

The test had 2 questions:

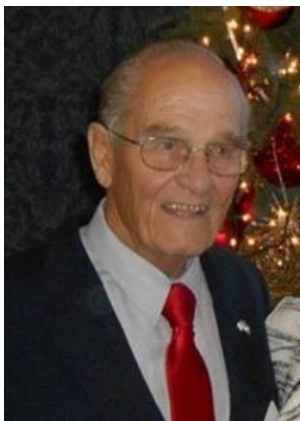
- 1) Your Name (1 Point)
- 2) Which tire was flat? (99 Points)
  - Front Right
  - Front Left
  - Back Right
  - Back Left

**The Moral:**

Aside from making wise decisions, you always need to take responsibility for your actions.

This means not blaming other people for your mistakes, not complaining about the reality of the present moment, and not giving in to other people's pressure.

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**James W Feeley**  
**8 March 1930 – 5 June 2023**

James W Feeley (Jim) retired, after 24 years of Naval Service, as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8) in 1972. He received his bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and then completed a second career working for the County of San Diego; retiring in 1995, 22 years with the Department of Welfare, Veterans Service Officer, and Appraiser with the SD County Assessors' Office. Jim was a consummate employee advocate; as president of the San Diego County Employees Association (SDCERA). In 1996, Jim was elected Second Vice-president of RESDC, serving until his resignation in 2006. Jim was elected Retiree Representative on the Board of Retirement, stepping down to successfully run for Alternate Retiree Representative in 2011. He ended his second term as the elected Alternate Retiree Representative on the Board in June. A dedicated and faithful husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, and leader to many. His colleagues in the retirement community have enjoyed and benefited from his wisdom and experience.

Jim, 93, passed away June 5, 2023. After religious services on June 27, at St Thomas Moore Catholic church, Vista, California, a full military burial ceremony was conducted at Miramar National Cemetery.

Jim was born in Jackson, Pennsylvania, and grew up with one sibling, William. Jim joined the Navy in Philadelphia after high school. He met the love of his life, Mary Feeley, at a USO dance. They married in 1951 and celebrated 69 years together before her passing in 2020. In 1966 the family moved to California, settling in Imperial Beach in 1969. Jim and Mary raised a family of three children. Jim enjoyed traveling with Mary in retirement and being with family. He will remain in the heart and mind of friends and family for generations. Jim was preceded in death by his wife Mary and son James Jr, and is survived by his daughter Patricia, and his son Michael, six grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

Today, we pause to reflect on, and celebrate the life of James W Feeley. He lived a great life with many friends and family. We are grateful for, "good memories of a special person."

**Most Medicare Advantage Plan Premiums Won't Increase in 2024**  
About half of all Medicare beneficiaries will be enrolled in MA plans next year

**by Dena Bunis, AARP**

The average monthly premium for Medicare Advantage (MA) plans is projected to increase by 64 cents in 2024, but officials at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) say that nearly 73 percent of enrollees will not see any increase in the monthly charges for their current plan next year.

The average premium for Medicare Advantage, the private insurance alternative to original Medicare, is projected to go from \$17.86 a month this year to \$18.50 in 2024. But the actual monthly charge that beneficiaries will pay will vary, depending on which plan they select and where they live.

CMS officials estimate that enrollment in Advantage plans will continue to climb, from 31.6 million this year to 33.8 million in 2024, representing about half of all Medicare beneficiaries.

Premium projections for MA plans, also known as Part C, are being released before the Medicare open enrollment period that begins on October 15. The program's nearly 66 million enrollees will have until December 7 to review their coverage and make changes that would take effect in January 2024.

**What's in store for Part A, B and D premiums?**

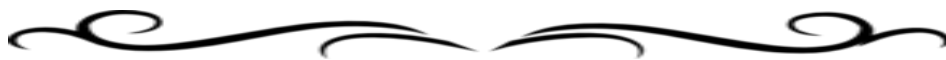
CMS had previously announced that the average monthly premium for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage would decrease by an estimated 1.8 percent in 2024, from \$56.49 this year to \$55.50 next year. Actual premiums for those plans also vary, depending on where someone lives and what plan they pick. Most MA plans include prescription drug coverage.

The 2024 premiums and deductibles for Medicare Part A, which covers hospital care, and for Part B, which covers doctor visits and other outpatient services, have not yet been set by CMS.

Most Medicare beneficiaries are not required to pay a Part A premium because they paid enough in Medicare taxes while working. All Medicare enrollees pay Part B premiums, which are automatically deducted from the Social Security benefits of enrollees who have signed up for their retirement payments. MA members then pay any premiums levied by their plan, and original Medicare beneficiaries who buy supplemental — or Medigap — coverage pay a premium for those policies.

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

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