



# Newsletter

Retirees  
Working For  
Retirees

Retired Public Employees Association, Inc. Vol. 47, Issue 1 February 2015 Page 1

## NEW YEAR STARTS ON ENCOURAGING NOTE

**BY: Ed Farrell, Executive Director**

One of the ways RPEA kicked off the New Year was with a meeting with members of Governor Cuomo's staff. Paul Moore, Tony Cantore and I were encouraged by the meeting, as it was an opportunity to speak directly with the Governor's staff about two important issues for our members. The meeting was triggered by our letter to Governor Cuomo regarding the Executive Budget. The issues discussed were a roll back of the increase in NYSHIP premium that was extended to retirees in 2011, and the failure of the Executive Budget to reimburse all Medicare premiums, specifically the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA).

The NYSHIP premium increase was the subject of a lawsuit filed by RPEA on behalf of our members. That suit was not successful, and now our tactic is to look for a legislative remedy.

The meeting has already yielded some positive outcome (see below) and it is encouraging to have a dialog with key members of Governor Cuomo's staff. It created a relationship that we can build upon over time. This is a good thing.



**BREAKING  
NEWS**

### A BUDGET VICTORY

Governor Cuomo's recently released Executive Budget contains some good news for RPEA members. The budget does not cut the IRMAA reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums, as had been the case in previous budgets. This is a victory for RPEA, as we do not have to fight to get those funds restored.

We will continue our efforts to have Part D (prescription coverage) premiums reimbursed.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

BY **Paul Moore**  
*President*

As we begin 2015 I'm pleased to report significant progress has been made on several initiatives refocusing RPEA on its core mission to protect, promote, develop and improve the pensions, and related income, health benefits and quality of life of New York State and local government retirees. Foremost among these are the first overhauls of our legal foundation in almost 10 years; new and expanded support of Chapter operations; a complete overhaul of our "public face" and membership development strategies, and significant investment in our administrative and informational assets.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of the proposed changes to the RPEA Constitution; our By-Laws; and the Model By-Laws. The full text of the changes is now available on the RPEA web site. Please begin to familiarize yourself with these proposals since you'll be asked to vote on the Constitution and By-Law changes later this year. Chapter leadership is reviewing the proposed changes to the Model Chapter By-Laws.

More resources are being provided to the Chapters, with the first round of formula-driven, quarterly block grant payments made in January. This is an effort to provide greater equity in the allocation of fiscal resources to support chapter operations and membership development initiatives. We will continue to work with the Chapter Chairs and Treasurers to assess this new process and see if it should be made permanent.

Support of Chapter membership development goes well beyond more money. RPEA is revamping member benefits, most recently offering a vision plan through VSP and discount on cell phone service through Sprint. We continue to review other member benefits and anticipate adding new programs in the future. RPEA is also expanding ways for members to get involved in promoting our legislative program. We started last year with a phone and letter campaign and will build on that effort this year. We are also testing a new web site that will feature more information and easier navigation. The goal is to make RPEA membership more relevant to retirees – to make us your organization for life.

We are also developing ways to help Chapters promote and advertise your meetings using crisp, new materials and savvy media placements. These new support activities should be ready to institute this fall. In January we emailed a short survey to members seeking their input on a few ideas for new tag lines that reflect the RPEA mission. Of the four options that were tested, the one that resonated most was "You earned your retirement – We protect it." Beyond tag lines will be a new set of brochures, presences on social media, and new approaches for reaching potential members.

The bottom line is that we are making a concerted effort to up our support of Chapter activities. We increased direct fiscal support (cash payments) to the chapters by 15 percent; while also increasing our indirect fiscal support (such as new membership recruitment materials and outreach plans) by over 20 percent. In total, we are budgeting more than \$22,000 (up 25% over last year) in additional funding to help chapters recruit and retain members.

Progress is being made on our database redesign. We are on schedule, and expect it to be fully functional by this summer. Investing in our informational infrastructure is vital to maintaining the high level of service our members expect.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



BY **Tony Cantore**  
RPEA Legislative Representative

## 2015 RPEA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### PROVIDE INCOME SECURITY:

- Reform COLA law to more accurately account for increases in inflation by raising the base amount or by allowing for higher CPI percentage to be applied.
- Enact a supplemental benefits bill for retired public employee veterans who were unable to buy back three years of service credit.
- Increase the maximum allowable public service earnings for public service retirees under 65 who return to government service.

### PRESERVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE INSURANCE:

- Assure that Medicare charges are reimbursed when public retiree is paying full premium contribution and Medicare is used for primary coverage.
- Guarantee NYSHIP contribution percentages for State retirees as of the date of retirement.
- Guarantee local government retirees health care benefits available upon retirement.
- Require 90 day notice before a locality may change provisions of a health care plan.

### PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION SYSTEM:

- Support reform efforts to eliminate pension system abuse.
- Oppose elimination of defined benefit pension plans.
- Keep the State Comptroller as the Sole Fiduciary of the Common Retirement Fund.
- Oppose efforts to eliminate constitutional pension contractual guarantee.

### RECOGNIZE THE VOICES OF PUBLIC SERVICE RETIREES:

- Establish a public service retiree advocate in the State Office for the Aging.
- Permit retirees to allow voluntary dues deduction from pension checks for membership in non-profit public retiree organizations.



## YOU CAN BE AN ADVOCATE !

There are many different ways to get involved with RPEA. Find an opportunity that interests you and contact your chapter or call RPEA-Albany to receive more information and get started!

### HAVE A MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Your local Chapter Advocacy Team will help you organize a small group to meet with your New York Assemblyperson or Senator in their local office to inform her/him on the issues and concerns of retired public employees of New York.
- It is important to build relationships with your legislators and get to know them in order to influence their votes on the issues important to us as retirees. Speaking directly with your legislator about how they plan to vote is the most effective way to influence decision-makers.
- Elected leaders notice when constituents take the time to speak with them about an issue. *We have seen how individuals can favorably impact our legislator's actions. This is why it is so important for you to stand up now.*

### TALK TO OTHER RETIREES AND VOTERS IN NEW YORK

There is a distinct retiree bias in the State and nation resulting in cuts in retiree benefits and abandoning its obligations to its retired workers. Don't let an opportunity go by without making clear the realities *that we earned what we receive by working hard.*



## CHANGES TO THE RPEA CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, MODEL CHAPTER BY-LAWS AND REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

It has been just over 45 years since the Retired Public Employees Association was founded to “protect, promote, and advance the interests of retired public employees . . .” During that almost half-century span, the Association’s Constitution and By-Laws have been amended periodically to better reflect the needs of members and the realities of the times.

In fact, such a review is required by Article X, Section 3 of the current By-Laws. The changes proposed now are the result of substantial work by the Board and Chapter Chairs and were approved for adoption by the Board at their September 18, 2014 meeting. If approved this will be the fourteenth revision of the Constitution and the eleventh revision to the By-Laws. Both documents were last revised ten years ago.

The changes being presented to the membership for adoption are extensive and available for inspection on the RPEA website. They are necessitated by the reality of a prolonged decline in membership; a growing reluctance of members to serve in leadership capacities; and challenges in maintaining an effective network of chapters.

A central theme of the proposed changes is a “reset” of our relationship with the nineteen RPEA chapters. RPEA wants to be more supportive of chapter membership development and relieve the chapters of organizational, operational and financial administrative overhead. This will help to focus more directly on supporting the overall goals of RPEA. In addition, the level of support to help the chapters succeed has been simplified and expanded.

- The fiscal support model has been simplified from one based on meeting attendance to one focused on increasing membership development functions. Each chapter will receive at least a five percent increase in the amount they received in 2014; and some substantially more as a closer relationship is established between a chapter’s membership level and the fiscal support they receive.
- Requirements for reimbursement forms and pre-approval of expense items will be eliminated and replaced by a quarterly “block grant” of funds. Reports of meeting attendance and membership development activities will still be made to RPEA to support membership development incentives and satisfy audit requirements.

Additionally, the Model Chapter By-Laws have been updated.

- Organizational requirements for leadership positions are relaxed to reflect the difficulty in attracting members to serve. The minimum number of membership meetings is standardized at: (1) an annual meeting plus three membership meetings for chapters in New York; and (2) an annual meeting plus one membership meeting for all other chapters.
- A process is provided for allowing Chapters to become “inactive” for a period of up to five years, rather than dissolve, if they need additional time to transition leadership. This removes the “red tape” required to reestablish a chapter and return assets in the short run.

Changes to the RPEA Constitution . . . , (continued from page 4 )

Concurrently, RPEA will provide additional technical and logistical support to the chapters. Modernization of our database and website should provide greater access to membership lists than the current practice of mailing hard copy. Moreover, the changes should allow for wider use of research tools so membership trends and opportunities can be more quickly identified and acted upon.

We have also begun an initiative with a media solutions group to develop new ways of targeting our message to potential RPEA members and supplying chapter-specific support to such events as pre-retirement seminars.

Organizational change is always met with apprehension, and the changes contained in the proposed Constitution, By-Laws, and Model Chapter By-Laws are probably the most extensive ever. To ensure a full and open discussion, these changes were discussed at the meeting of the Chapter Chairs on October 15<sup>TH</sup> (preceding our Annual Meeting on October 16<sup>TH</sup>), and based on their comments, revised proposed changes to the Chapter reimbursement guidelines were also be discussed at a Chapter Chairs conference call. The change to a block grant to the Chapters was approved in early December for a one year trial and commenced on January 1, 2015 (retroactive to October 1, 2014). All the proposed changes were also presented to the RPEA Board of Directors.

A vote for approval of the Constitution and By-Laws changes will be included on the ballot for Board elections in late summer.



## CALL RPEA FIRST 800-726-7732



For retired NYS or local government employees - Real Answers From Real People. When you have a question or concern call RPEA first. You won't get caught in an endless automated voice loop – you will be connected to a friendly, knowledgeable Member Services Representative. It's just one of the ways to show you that you are our only business. Call RPEA and get a live Member Service Rep to answer many of your questions.

Our Member Services Reps answer/or get answers to your questions concerning:

- Health Insurance
- Dental, Vision, Hearing, Long Term Care, etc.
- Medicare
- Social Security
- NYS Pensions
- RPEA Benefit Programs

Call us at 1-800-726-7732 where there is a real live person who will listen and respond. Our dedicated member services staff are knowledgeable, pleasant, patient and very happy to assist you.



President's Corner, (continued from page 2)

This year I will be attending meetings of each of our Florida-based chapters and thereby fulfilling my promise to visit all of the Chapters at least once during my two-year term. The visits to chapters in New York and the Carolina chapter have reinforced my feeling that your meetings are an important and powerful recruitment tool. Meetings that are fun and offer social contact, that have knowledgeable speakers focusing on timely topics, and that offer an opportunity to keep abreast of news about their retirement and health benefits are apt to convince guests to join.

One of the things I hope to bring with me to share at these meetings is a few examples from other chapters that seem to work. The Westchester/Putnam Chapter, for example, had a "book swap" at their last meeting. Members brought in books they were willing to swap for books other members brought in. It was almost like watching shoppers at sales on the day after Thanksgiving. The Northeast Florida Chapter asked that Ed Farrell and I participate in a "teleconference" at the start of their fall meeting to provide an update from Albany and an opportunity for their members to ask questions. This seemed to go very well, and there is no reason why it couldn't be extended to other chapters.

Kathleen Liberty (kliberty@RREA.org) is compiling a list of meeting ideas that can be shared, and if you have any to share we would love to hear from you.



## SIGN UP A FRIEND

# NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

## RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

JOIN ONLINE: [WWW.RPEA.ORG](http://WWW.RPEA.ORG)

OR MAIL THIS FORM TO:

435 NEW KARNER RD ♦ ALBANY, NY 12205-3833

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF SPOUSE/DOMESTIC PARTNER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY OF RESIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

RETIRED FROM:  STATE  COUNTY  TOWN  SCHOOL DISTRICT  OTHER

RETIREMENT YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ STILL WORKING \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF BIRTH (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES OPTIONS (SELECT ONE)  \$30 ANNUAL  \$80 3 YEARS  \$125 5 YEARS  \$500 LIFE

PAYMENT OPTIONS  CHECK PAYABLE TO RPEA  MASTERCARD  VISA

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



# RPEA CHAPTER NEWS ♦ 2015

## CAPITAL DISTRICT

The Chapter held a post-holiday party on January 8<sup>TH</sup> at the Italian-American Community Center with 102 members and friends in attendance. RPEA Executive Director Ed Farrell was our speaker and DJ Sal Cannavo played great music. We are happy to report that 72 pounds of food was collected for the food pantry at this event. Thanks to all who contributed.

Our Annual Meeting is going to be held in May. More information will be sent to Chapter members in the next Chapter newsletter.

## CENTRAL NEW YORK

Our members enjoyed our Chapter's Annual Holiday Party at the Ramada Inn on December 15<sup>TH</sup>. Music was supplied by Ann Barnes. Several gift cards were given along with raffles for baskets and our annual Christmas tree. Each member received a small bag of candy with a pen.

The Chapter Annual Meeting will be held on April 6<sup>TH</sup> at the Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd, Syracuse, NY 13212. (I-81-Exit 25, I-90-Exit 36) which will also be when we hold our elections. Please contact Donna DeSiato for information for vacancies on the Steering Committee.

More upcoming meeting dates, including our picnic, will be announced soon.

Trips for 2015 are being scheduled and more information will be announced soon. For more information contact Dawn Bennett at 315-437-7464.

We look forward to seeing you at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## FINGER LAKES

The Finger Lakes Chapter ended 2014 with a fun and interesting Holiday Party held in December. We had musical entertainment provided by Bernie Rosplock and his enhanced accordion along with Jackie Eakin joining in with singing an array of holiday songs. The game winners received fun dollar store prizes and we exchanged \$5.00 gifts. We were also

Chapter News, (continued on page 8)

Wed	February 25	Western New York	Membership Meeting
Wed	February 25	Florida Central	Membership Meeting
Thurs	February 26	Northeast Florida	Membership Meeting
Mon	March 2	Florida East Coast	Membership Meeting
Wed	March 4	Florida Gulf Coast South	Membership Meeting
Thurs	March 5	Florida West Coast	Membership Meeting
Tues	March 17	Mid-Hudson West	Membership Meeting
Mon	April 6	Central New York	Membership Meeting
Tues	April 14	New York City	Membership Meeting
Tues	April 14	Rockland/Orange	Membership Meeting
Fri	April 17	Carolina	Membership Meeting
Fri	April 24	Long Island	Membership Meeting

# RPEA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### CAPITAL DISTRICT

Myrtle Major, Chapter Chair  
518-399-0493

### CENTRAL NEW YORK

Louis A. Falvo, Chapter Chair  
315-725-6297

### FINGER LAKES

Edna C. Smith, Chapter Chair  
607-776-3241

### GENESEE VALLEY

Gayle Pyke, Chapter Co-Chair  
585-453-0635

Philip H. Mancini, Chapter Co-Chair  
585-359-2751

### LONG ISLAND

Vincent Crimauo, Chapter Chair  
631-427-7978

### MID-HUDSON EAST

Anne Richer, Chapter Chair  
845-462-3311

### MID-HUDSON WEST

Donald Peck, Chapter Chair  
845-331-3386

### MOHAWK VALLEY

Tina Fahringer, Chapter Chair  
315-839-5522

### NEW YORK CITY

William C. Moore, Chapter Chair  
212-876-0930

### ROCKLAND/ORANGE

Florence Langer, Chapter Chair  
845-634-5058

### SOUTH CENTRAL NEW YORK

Vacant  
Call RPEA At 518-869-2542

### WESTCHESTER PUTNAM

Judith Bernstein, Chapter Chair  
914-962-4545

### WESTERN NEW YORK

Michael Martin, Chapter Chair  
716-877-5515

### CAROLINAS

Marsha Orndorff, Chapter Chair  
843-215-0277

### FLORIDA CENTRAL

George Clark, Chapter Chair  
352-509-4570

### FLORIDA EAST COAST

Helen Goldenberg, Chapter Chair  
877-288-9838  
when prompted enter pin# 4241

### FLORIDA GULF COAST SOUTH

Kenneth V. Moore, Chapter Chair  
941-661-2710

### FLORIDA WEST COAST

Sue Juliano, Chapter Chair  
727-372-9755

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA

John J. Grexa, Chapter Chair  
904-797-6324

Chapter News, (continued from page 7)

treated to a visit from RPEA Representative Alan Dorn. Our members always enjoy visits from our RPEA leaders. Alan passed out newsletters and little note pads with the RPEA logo which we all appreciated.

We want to thank our members for their support and assistance with our activities held in 2014. We have not completed our plans for 2015 as of this writing but as always we welcome suggestions from our members for programs and meeting places. Please contact any of our Chapter members with your suggestions. We look forward to seeing everyone in the spring after the winter season has ended. We added one new member to our Chapter during the last quarter of 2014. Welcome to Edward Pasto of Ithaca. Please join our chapter activities and events for 2015.

#### GENESEE VALLEY

We were delighted to see so many people, including some new members, in attendance at our Holiday Party at Glendoveers in Rochester. A big thank you to RPEA Representative Alan Dorn who joined us and help make the event a success.

A thank you also goes out to our guest speaker, John Gleason who en-

tertained and enlightened us about the workings of The Salvation Army.

Our Steering Committee is busy working on our spring/summer schedule which will include a Pre-Retirement Seminar. More information will follow in our future flyers.

We welcome any input you might have for our chapter. New members are welcome to join our Steering Committee. We meet at Jay's Diner in Rochester the first Wednesday of the month with exceptions so please call if you would like to attend. Please contact: Co-Chair Gayle Pyke at 585-453-0635 or Co-Chair Phil Mancini at 585-359-2751.

#### LONG ISLAND

We hope all of our members are well after the long cold winter. We are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of spring when we will kick off the new season with our April 24TH Membership Meeting and luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Plainview.

Our speaker will be a representative of the Suffolk County police department who will speak to us about scams, computer fraud and identity theft which particularly affect senior citizens. Of course, we will be holding our raffle and 50/50 drawing. You

will be getting your flyer shortly and we urge you to make your reservations early. Please call Vinnie at 631-472-7978 if you have any questions. Friends and relatives are always welcome to join us.

The Long Island Chapter is in need of volunteers to join the Community Lobby Committee (CLC). Because of the number of legislators on Long Island, the current Steering Committee needs help. RPEA/Albany notifies the Chapter of any upcoming legislation that could affect your retirement benefits or health insurance. We will then notify the members of the CLC to contact local legislators. It is a simple job to call, email or visit the legislator to ask them to support or not support the upcoming legislation.

Please become part of the Community Lobby Committee. In Nassau County, contact James Carswell at 516-735-7058 or in Suffolk County, contact John Smith at 631-751-3859.

This Committee is a very important part of this Chapter and we need your help.

#### MID-HUDSON EAST

Happy New Year To All . . . may there be peace, happiness and good health in 2015.

Chapter News, (continued on page 9)

## FREE SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES



**SOME BUSINESSES OFFER SOCIAL SECURITY NAME CHANGES OR CARDS FOR A FEE.**

**SOCIAL SECURITY PROVIDES THOSE SERVICES AND MORE FOR FREE.**

**THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IS THE BEST PLACE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT "SOCIAL SECURITY".**

**CALL 1-800-772-1213**

Chapter News, (continued from page 8)

Our members were delighted to have Dutchess County Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson as our speaker at our Holiday Luncheon of 2014. Sheriff Anderson spoke on the numerous scams that are currently happening in our area and exactly what one should do to avoid being a victim of these crimes. We were fortunate to have him ask if anyone had any questions. This was wonderful for the 100 plus persons attending with many questions being answered.

We are busy discussing with members the revised Constitution and By-Laws for their input and support. Our search is ongoing for new RPEA members to join, be united and have a say in our future.

Our next Membership Meeting/Luncheon will be held in March 2015. A flyer with complete details and reservation form will be mailed to Chapter members closer to the date of the event.

### **MID-HUDSON WEST**

Our next Membership Meeting will be held on March 17, 2015 at Daxxon Chinese Restaurant in Walden. A flyer with complete details and reservation form will be mailed to Chapter members closer to the date of the event.

### **MOHAWK VALLEY**

Our Chapter is hoping that 2015 will be as successful and rewarding as last year when average attendance at general meetings surpassed 100; the Spring Pre-Retirement Workshop drew 70-plus new and prospective retirees, netting over a dozen new members; four local legislators participated in our Fall Legislative Panel and we were successful in our "Make a Difference Day" efforts.

Our Holiday Party at Club Monarch, coordinated by Phil Nowakowski, was a wonderful event, although we were sorry RPEA guest speaker Kathleen Liberty was "snowed in" and unable to attend. As always, Kay Garfield

and the Social Committee outdid themselves with a fantastic 11-day land-sea excursion to Alaska, along with 3 other trips throughout the year.

So how do we top this: by increasing the active member count for general meetings, by continuing our Legislative Panel in September, adding a second fall Pre-Retirement Workshop, hope we can once again "Make a Difference" for a local Human Service Agency and, barring bad weather, getting RPEA Representative Kathleen Liberty to our June Picnic.

Four trips are on the 2015 agenda, including an 8-day Hawaiian cruise. However, the greatest endeavor for the New Year will be our Membership Campaign, "Take One, Get One", coordinated by Gloria Koslofsky, Membership Chair, in hopes of greatly increasing our local membership.

### **NEW YORK CITY**

RPEA Executive Director Ed Farrell was the primary speaker at our November 18, 2014 "Town Hall Meeting". He discussed current issues and trends affecting RPEA and its members. He also responded to member questions, concerns and suggestions.

We held our Chapter's Holiday Party on December 9TH at Langan's Restaurant near Times Square. Although the weather outside was terrible with torrential downpours, everyone inside had a great time.

The Annual Valentine Bash was held on February 11TH at Park Plaza Restaurant in Downtown Brooklyn.

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14TH starting at 12 noon at the Manhattan PEF Office, 225 Broadway, 14th floor. The speaker will be Attorney Steven Kramer from Feldman, Kramer and Monaco who will speak on wills, power of attorney and healthcare proxy. For further information or to RSVP for the April 14TH meeting, contact Chapter Chair Bill Moore at 212-876-0930.

### **ROCKLAND/ORANGE**

The Rockland/ Orange Steering committee met in December to plan for 2015. The first event on our calendar will be a General Meeting/Luncheon on April 14TH at our favorite meeting place, La Terrazza in New City. Our featured guest speaker will be Thomas P Zugibe, District Attorney of Rockland County. He will talk about scams and frauds which especially target seniors and retirees. A flyer with further details and reservation form will be mailed closer to the date of the event.

We would like to extend our wishes for a great year to one and all. May you all get through this cold winter in good health.

### **WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM**

As this is being written, old man winter is planning another storm; can spring be far behind? We can only hope for the best and look forward to upcoming Chapter events.

There are four luncheon meetings in the planning stages and we hope to have a spring trip to a jazz festival on the agenda, too. Check the Chapter newsletter for updated information.

Chapter Chair Judy Bernstein attended Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's Inaugural Ceremony at Hofstra University.

Our Holiday Meeting/ Party on December 4TH was a great success, with a good turnout, a good speaker from the Mt Kisco Library and RPEA President Paul Moore who brought us up to date on many issues. The book swap was a popular addition to the program.

The Steering Committee would appreciate your input of ideas for future events; we depend on you to help us out. Please write to us at:

Westchester/Putnam Chapter, RPEA  
PO Box 452  
Shrub Oak, NY 10588

Chapter News, (continued from page 9)

## WESTERN NEW YORK

The Holiday Party at Salvatore's Italian Restaurant was a huge success with over 300 members attending. It was a day spent with good friends; enjoying excellent food, and hearing the news from Albany as presented by RPEA representative Alan Dorn. Raffles and prizes rounded out the day. The beautifully decorated setting put everyone in a holiday mood. We collected 285 items of food and \$100.00 in donations for the Food Pantry. Thank you to all who participated.

A reminder that we are still looking for candidates to run for election to fill the positions of: Chapter Chair; Vice-Chair; Treasurer; Secretary and three Members at Large. You can submit your name at the February 25TH General Meeting and there will be another opportunity at the May 27TH Annual Meeting, at which time the ballots will be cast. Please consider joining the Steering Committee ... we need volunteers.

Our 2015 calendar has been set: General Meetings are at the Leonard Post on February 25TH, May 27TH the Annual Meeting, September 23RD; the Annual Picnic is still in the negotiation stages and the Holiday Party will be held at Salvatore's on December 2ND.

The trips that are planned are as follows, Cape Cod, Massachusetts - May 4TH to 8TH; The Best of Michigan - July 13TH to 17TH and Wildwood, New Jersey plus the Pennsylvania Amish Lands - September 14TH to 18TH. Information will be available at our February meeting or you may call Mike Martin at 716-877-5515.

## CAROLINAS

It was our hope to hold informational meetings in March. However, due to the inability to timely schedule the meetings in Wilmington, Myrtle Beach and Charleston, we have decided to hold only the Annual Meet-

ing in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina at the Inlet Affairs Catering and Banquet facility.

The tentative date for the Annual Meeting is April 17TH. As in the past, there will be a hot buffet luncheon beginning at noon.

Please put April 17TH on your calendar as the tentative date for this very important meeting. We will be seeking input from members attending regarding the future of the Carolinas Chapter. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please contact Marsha Orndorff at morn-dorff@sc.rr.com or 843-215-0277.

## FLORIDA CENTRAL

Change is in the air for the Central Florida Chapter!! At the November 6th meeting new officers were elected: George Clark is the new Chapter Chair and Marilyn Clark is the new Treasurer. The attendees thanked outgoing Chair/Treasurer Kathie Rivenburg for her dedicated service and hard work on behalf of the Chapter.

Our Steering Committee met in The Villages January 8TH to put the final touches on plans for the Membership Meeting. The February 25TH Membership Meeting will be held at a new location, the Palm Grove Center, Oak Run, Ocala. We have lots of questions for RPEA President Paul Moore and are looking forward to his reports, especially the proposed changes to the association governing documents; the 2015 Legislative Program and health insurance.

Contact George Clark or Marilyn Clark at 352-509-4570 with questions about the February 25TH meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all!!

## FLORIDA EAST COAST

Thanks to the many of you who came to our March 2ND meeting with RPEA President Paul Moore. Many thanks to all of the folks on our Steering Committee who made this meeting such a nice experience for all who

attended. The Steering Committee will be meeting soon to plan the program for our fall Membership Meeting. We need ideas from all of you.

Also, please make it your business to get more members for our Chapter and for the Chapters up north if you see people there during the summer.

Please call Helen Goldenberg at 1-877-288-9838, pin 4241 with any RPEA questions or problems.

## FLORIDA GULF COAST SOUTH

This message offers an opportunity to extend greetings to our regular members and to our winter guests that are enjoying the alluring southwest Florida climate.

By the time this is published, twenty-four of us will have attended the matinee buffet and "Crazy For You" show at the Broadway Palm theater in Fort Myers. This was the first "extracurricular" activity by our Chapter in recent memory and, with its success, we hopefully will try more.

Our next Membership Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4TH at the Kings Gate Golf Club in Port Charlotte. The Chapter is eagerly anticipating the visit from RPEA President Paul Moore. Paul will present timely information on several subjects, including RPEA's 2015 legislative agenda and health insurance issues.

These are critical times as our retirement is threatened by rising costs and co-pays, and it would do each of us well to be informed as to how we are affected. Our meeting also includes the election of officers for the ensuing year. Unfortunately, in recent years, this has been merely little more than the reappointment of the sitting officers. Please consider stepping up and serving as an officer or at least on a committee. All organizations benefit from new perspectives that are offered by new officers and committee members.

We look forward to seeing you in March at our meeting. Hopefully, you

Chapter News, (continued from page 10)

have already received a copy of the meeting flyer in the mail. If not, email me and I will send a return email with a copy of the flyer attached. Also, if you wish to receive an occasional email update, please send your email address to me and I will add it to the Chapter email file.

### FLORIDA WEST COAST

The Chapter is looking forward to our March 5TH meeting at Seven Springs Country Club. Our speaker will be RPEA President Paul Moore who will update us on what is going on in Albany.

With the holidays over and enjoyed, we are all hoping 2015 will be a great year. Our members and Steering Committee members are comparing aches and pains and let's face it, I hate to bring this up...AGE!!!

Sometimes our lives are complicated by many things and we have to sort out what is important, and hope our choices are right.

We are so glad that our membership in RPEA has seen us through some interesting times; getting our COLA, new Executive Directors; and now reorganizing, to update and keep us up with the times.

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Our next Membership Meeting is scheduled for February 26TH at The Hilton Garden Inn in St. Augustine Beach. The breakfast meeting will start at 8:30AM, and the program will include RPEA President Paul Moore, plus a representative from the Florida office of the Attorney General and a former CIA officer turned standup comic. Further details will appear in the next newsletter, of course, if you attend the meeting, you'll already know how it turned out.

That's all for now, but remember, while I'm enjoying another day in paradise, you can always reach me at 904-797-6324. See ya.



## FLORIDA CHAPTER MEETINGS ... JOIN US!

Please Join RPEA President Paul Moore at the Florida Chapter Meetings. Also attending will be a representative from CVS/Caremark. Paul will be speaking about the following:

- › Proposed Changes To The RPEA Constitution, By-Laws And Model By-Laws
- › 2015 Legislative Program, And How They Can Help
- › New RPEA Website, Database And Public Face
- › Membership Efforts
- › Turmoil in Health Insurance

### FLORIDA CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Florida Central Chapter (Ocala) › February 25th \* Wednesday

Northeast Florida Chapter (St. Augustine) › February 26th \* Thursday

Florida East Coast Chapter (Delray Beach) › March 2nd \* Monday

Florida Gulf Coast South Chapter (Port Charlotte) › March 4th \* Wednesday

Florida West Coast Chapter (New Port Richey) › March 5th \* Thursday

**IF YOU ARE IN FLORIDA PLEASE ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME !**





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## RPEA VISION PLAN WELL RECEIVED



LAST FALL WE ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL DISCOUNT PLAN WITH VSP VISION CARE. THE RPEA MONTHLY RATE IS ONLY \$9.50 FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM WITH GREAT BENEFITS.

IF YOU HAVE YET TO SIGN UP, OR WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, GO TO [VSP.COM/GO/RPEA](http://VSP.COM/GO/RPEA) OR CALL 800-400-4569 TO SPEAK WITH VSP MEMBER SERVICES.

THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN RPEA.

