



# The Billy & Spanner



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Mike Alford

By now everyone on the Police side who was to be notified of receiving retirement overpayments should have been notified. With all the lead up and discussion by the Association on the matter, I find it hard to believe people were surprised.

An important item I want to address, because it reflects on us all, is that some members were less than professional to the Retirement Services employees who provided the initial notification phone call. After my explanation to one member, I was told that they were going to apologize to the employee from Retirement services for the way they treated her upon hearing the news. We have been very clear as it related to the overpayments that the mistake was made by the City Finance Department, NOT Retirement Services. From what I understand there were several members that treated the messenger rudely. If you were one of those, I would urge you to please call and apologize to her. After all, she had nothing to do with creating the problem and was following orders by making the calls.

That being said, there is one thing that each member needs to do if they were told that their overpayment was due to miscalculation using out of class pay. You need to obtain a copy of the retirement contract that applies to the time you retired to verify that under that contract the out of class pay was in fact not pensionable. It seems that a few were told that it was pensionable when they retired. The only way to be sure it to check the retirement contract that pertains to you and the time you retired. There will be more on this issue in the near future.

On another note, the Folsom BBQ was a great success. There were almost 80 members in attendance and a good time was had by all. I would like to extend a thank you to all who were involved in putting that event together.

The next event will be the association BBQ at Coyote Ranch on August 10th. Signups will begin soon. Our next association lunch meeting will be on June 8 at 11:00.

### INSIDE:

- ASSOCIATION AUGUST BBQ

## UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES!

Some retirees received a postcard from Voya (the city deferred compensation vendor) informing them they needed to update their beneficiaries for their holdings. It is very important they respond back to Voya as soon as possible. Over the years, people have changed in our lives and we fail to update who gets what from our estate at the time of death. Just like filing taxes once a year, if a retiree has other holdings of life insurance, property, stock, etc., a review of these holdings will make sure the retiree's wishes can be easily administered. If you have questions, you can contact the local representative, Peter Ng, at 408-884-0116.

### Association of Retired San Jose Police Officers and Firefighters 35th Annual August 2017 BBQ

#### PLACE:

Coyote Ranch  
just off of Monterey Highway in the Coyote Valley

#### WHEN:

Thursday, August 10, 2017  
Time: 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Dinner will be served at 5:00 PM

#### FOOD CHOICES:

BBQ Ribs & Chicken,  
Corn on Cob, Salad, Garlic Bread,  
Soft Drinks, Beer & Wine

#### COST:

\$10 for Members  
\$15 for Spouse  
\$15 children between ages 12-16  
\$20 for Non-Members

#### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AORSJPOFF

Mail checks to:  
Jerry Ellis  
PO Box 28041  
San Jose, CA 95159-8041

## NEED TO RSVP NOW!

#### Save money, save paper.

Sign up for E-Newsletter. By signing up to receive the newsletter through e-mail, you will get the same content, only you will help the Association save money on printing and postage costs. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail versus regular mail, please send an e-mail to [treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org](mailto:treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org)

## PENSIONS. PENSIONS. PENSIONS.

The rhetoric around pension “reform” is heating up again in California. A new California Constitutional Amendment, ACA 15, was submitted, a few weeks ago. In a nut shell this new proposed constitutional amendment would prohibit CALPERS agencies and certain California counties (known as 1937 Act Counties) as well as Charter cities and counties from providing any benefit enhancement to any public employee without voter approval.

Further, this proposed constitutional amendment would prohibit these agencies from providing any new hires a “defined benefit pension” without voter approval. Defined benefit pensions are what we have, where a specific benefit is promised based on pre-agreed to formulas, criteria and calculations. The alternative is usually a “defined contribution” program which functions like a 401K program in the private sector. Essentially, a “savings” program versus a benefit program. Moreover, the proposer would restrict government employers from paying more than 50% of the cost of the pension benefit cost unless approved by voters.

ACA 15 also has a provision that could be financially ruinous to public agencies, and that is prohibiting retirement boards from imposing any financial conditions, including accelerating payments to pay off the fund’s debt, on an employer who closes their defined benefit contribution plan.

The backers of ACA 15 have learned from lessons in the past. Their initial rhetoric is that they are looking out for employees and retirees. Don’t bet on it. Is this relevant to us? Yes. Anytime a group of anti-public employee activists being to propose new laws, what they are also doing is trying to push the envelope on creating new case law in California with an aim at weakening our vested rights. So, what happens in Marin County, for example, can absolutely impact the guarantees that we retired with. Stay tuned.

In other pension news, Governor Jerry Brown is proposing to have the State pre-pay \$6 billion in the State’s pension debt, a move that his office estimates will save the State \$11 billion in the long term. The funds are targeted to come from a little known cash account the State keeps to fund the short-term cash needs of various State departments.

The targeted account currently has a balance of over \$50 billion and earns approximately 0.88% a year in interest. Compare that with the \$6 billion payment into CALPERS which would earn approximately 7% a year over 20 years. The proposal does not yet have the support of the Legislature. Again, as in the story above, the Governor’s maneuvering is placing pensions in the headlines again. At least in this case, the solutions being discussed do not involve harming public employees and retirees.

### CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

Bridgette A. Blahut, Police Officer, 25.03 years of service.

William H. Griffith, Fire Engineer, 26.46 years of service.

Gregory J. Grothaus, Police Officer, 21.76 years of service.

Kevin Holston, Fire Captain, 25.10 years of service.

Wendy Hoskin, Police Officer, 26.73 years of service.

Kenneth J. Siegel, Police Officer, 25.32 years of service.

Dwight S. Stevens, Fire Engineer, 25.09 years of service.



P.O. Box 28041  
San Jose, CA 95159-8041

visit our website:  
[www.retiredsjpoff.org](http://www.retiredsjpoff.org)

Volume 25  
No. 5  
May 2017



# The Billy & Spanner

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**6/8 ASSOCIATION MEETING, 11AM TO 1PM**

**AT THE SAN JOSE P.O.A. HALL, 1151 N. 4TH ST SAN JOSE**

6/14/16 City Diner - Tan, 2951 Monterey Rd., SJ, 408- 269-5490

6/14 Police Benevolent Association, 5PM

at the San Jose POA Hall, 1151 N. 4th St., San Jose

6/21 Burger Pit - Blue, 120 Blossom Hill Rd., SJ, 408-225-6030

6/28 Goodies - Wine, 2201 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell 408-369-1236

7/5 Holders Country Inn. - Green, 1424b Saratoga Ave. SJ., 408-378-6022

**7/13 ASSOCIATION MEETING, 11AM TO 1PM AT THE**

**SAN JOSE P.O.A. HALL, 1151 N. 4TH ST SAN JOSE**

## CONDOLENCES

Richard M. Tush, Police Officer, retired February 3, 1988, died April 22, 2017.

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Mike Alford, President

[president@retiredsjpoff.org](mailto:president@retiredsjpoff.org)

John Shuman, VP of Police

[vppolice@retiredsjpoff.org](mailto:vppolice@retiredsjpoff.org)

Ray Storms, VP of Fire

510 507-1136  
[vpfire@retiredsjpoff.org](mailto:vpfire@retiredsjpoff.org)

Dale Foster, Secretary

[secretary@retiredsjpoff.org](mailto:secretary@retiredsjpoff.org)

Larry Samarron, Jr. Treasurer

[treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org](mailto:treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org)

## DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Jerry Ellis, Mike Moffett, Paul Schmidt, Jerry Boyer, Pat Boyd  
Tim Miller, Walt Bugna, John Shuman, Jim Spence, Don Bartels

## WIDOWS & ORPHANS OFFICERS

President (COA) Jeremy Wise

831-566-7624

VP (SJA) Larry R. Chua

408-926-2709

VP (COR) Bill McCluskey

408-985-7563

Secretary (SJR) Luis Chacon

408-642-0385

Treasurer (SJR) Jerry Ellis

408-730-9974

Treas. Emeritus (SJR) Mike Moffett

408-867-0405

## POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President - David Wysuph, Vice President - Steve Windisch, Sec-Treasurer - Larry Lundberg,  
Sgt at arms - Bob Moir [www.sjpba.net](http://www.sjpba.net)