

Members of the Commission

My name is Ted Rose. I am the President of the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA). We represent about 35,000 members. Our members have retired under the CalPERS retirement system. Our members include those from Contracting agencies, classified school employees and State retirees.

The differences between the benefits to our members is large; some benefits rather high and some very low. It makes it difficult to find the truth when many in the media continue to make statements about all government retirees having excessive incomes and benefits. That is just not true.

I retired in 1992 from the City of Santa Clara Fire Department after 30 years. I have an adequate retirement. I thought I had planned well understanding that the City of Santa Clara pays only the minimum required by PEMHCA for medical benefits. I pay the balance. As you know, those costs have rocketed up. My wife and I now pay over \$550 month and that is for supplemental insurance since we both are on Medicare.

We did have a program where the City of Santa Clara supplemented our health care benefits by \$86.00. However, when the PEMHCA minimum payment was increased, our City decreased their payment by a similar

amount.

Many confuse the City of Santa Clara with the County of Santa Clara. The County of Santa Clara pays the full medical costs to their retirees. People come up to me all the time and make comments about public employee retirees and their extravagant retirement benefits; especially for police and fire. In many cases, even most cases, this is not true.

I am concerned about our members who have small retirements to live on. Let me read testimony from one retiree who would like to testify, but now lives in Iowa.

“My name is Ted Gascoigne and I am a PERS retiree since 1993. My PERS benefit is \$1082. After deductions, employee association dues \$3.00, Health Insurance \$812.39 and taxes \$75.00, my net check is \$192. I live on \$192 plus my Social Security check of \$1050. If anyone thinks I’m living the highlife I would like to see them try on this paltry amount.”

And, I cringe when I see the large increases in health care costs impacting on people like this.

Thank you for your time.

CSEA Retirees, Inc.

Analysis of Pension Benefits Received by Members

March 2007

<u># of Members (approx.)</u>	<u>Monthly Benefit</u>	<u>Yearly Benefit</u>
3,000	\$400 or less	\$4800 or less
4,100	\$400 - 800	\$9600 or less
5,000	\$800 - 1200	\$14,400 or less
3,500	\$1200 - 1600	\$19,200 or less
2,300	\$1600 - 1899	\$23,000 or less
2,200	\$1900 - 2300	\$27,600 or less
1,700	\$2300 - 2699	\$32,400 or less
1,300	\$2700 - 3099	\$37,400 or less
1,000	\$3100 - \$3499	\$42,000 or less
2, 800	\$3500 +	more than \$42,000

Total Number of Members (approx.): 26,900

Percentage of members with annual benefit under \$19,200: **58%**

Percentage of members with annual benefit under \$14,400: **45%**

Percentage of members with annual benefit under \$9,600: **26%**

NOTE: The figures used above are taken from an analysis of member dues payments. Dues for CSEA Retirees Inc. members are based upon their monthly PERS pension allowances.