



REAL SCOOP

January-February 2025
Volume 133

John Keane, President

The President's Report

VICTORY. After over 30 years of hearings, promises, and debate urging Congress to repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), we reached "victory lane" early in the morning of December 21st, 2024, when the Senate voted to pass HR 82. The vote was 74 - 20 to approve the Social Security Fairness Act repealing the WEP and GPO. These provisions unfairly target government retirees who are eligible for benefits they have paid for and also receive a governmental pension. The House passed the Social Security Fairness Act by a vote of 327 to 75 on November 12, 2025. The bill will be sent to the President, who has pledged to sign the legislation. We thank all who supported the enactment - FOP, IAFF, NARFE, NLCU, AFT, AFL-CIO, and others.

A "full house" of REA members and guests enjoyed socializing and listening to the background sound of holiday music at the December Quarterly Meeting. A brief Membership Meeting and installation of Officers for 2025 was followed by a delicious holiday meal of seasonal favorites - smoked turkey and ham - with all the trimmings, finished with assorted desserts. See photos of the event elsewhere in "The Scoop." Thanks our hosts - Jacksonville Firefighters, and the award-winning "cooking crew." Over 40 Members left smiling after winning a Door prize drawing.

Earlier this year, the REA Offices moved from the City and Police Credit Union to the Police and Fire Pension Fund Building at 1 West Adams Street: same telephone number and the same excellent service from our staff.

Continued on page 2



President John Keane addressing the Annual membership meeting.

Continued from page 1

During 2024, the Board began expanding our social programs with a proposed bus trip to New Orleans that has been postponed until early 2025; a day train trip to Winter Park that was a great success and will be repeated; (See story on page 7); special pricing and seating for dinner shows at the Alhambra that will be unveiled in the Spring; offshore fishing trip for the anglers; the idea of a trip to the Tampa area with major league baseball training games, and many other ideas. We invite suggestions for different activities and have room on our committee for all who want to serve.

We are planning a Board retreat to review our Annual Plan. One of our most important projects is to expand and strengthen our membership with the "Each One Get One" program, which will be discussed in the next edition.

Our top legislative priority for 2025 is the introduction of a "one-time" pension supplement for qualified City retirees. We have spent many months laying the groundwork and seeking the support of our elected officials.



President John Keane presents The Betty and Marvin Boos Lifetime Achievement Award to Al Saffer pictured with wife Judy.



Swearing in of 2025 REA Board Members by Judge Flower.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

November-December 2024

ALAN AIINSLEY
 TAMERA BRANAM
 CLIFFORD BUCKLEY
 TRACY BUTLER
 MARISA CARTER
 PHYLLIS CLAYTON
 DERON DUKES
 KATHLEEN EDWARDS-MITCHELL
 ROSEMARY HINES
 MARY HOLTON
 KATHERINE JOHNSON
 PATRICK JOHNSON

DEBORAH LECOUNT
 SHEILA LOMAN
 NEIL MCCORMACK
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From the Secretary's desk...*Greg Radlinski*

2025 has the potential to be outstanding for our organization, and REA is always looking for new members. This year will be no different. When you speak with your retired colleagues, please consider encouraging them to join you in REA. The bigger our organization, the more powerful we, the retired community, can be.

I'm sure you've noticed that Second Vice President Darryl Patterson, who chairs the Social Committee, has rolled out a new initiative to offer short trips to nearby attractions. If you were on the train trip to Winter Park, you got a taste of the possible. A trip to Biloxi is in the works. Over the years you have enjoyed visits to area attractions. REA welcomes your suggestions for future destinations.

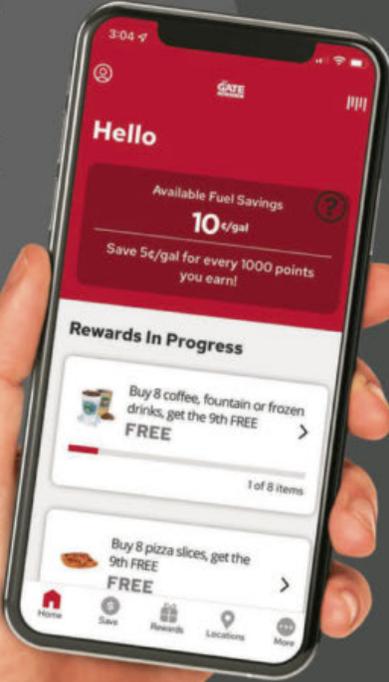
At the Annual Members' Meeting/Christmas Party, the officers and directors elected at the September Quarterly Meeting were sworn in to their 2025 offices. There is still a vacancy on the Board--the REA Historian. In the case of vacancies, the President, with the concurrence of the Board, may fill the vacancy by appointment. If you are interested in serving, please call the REA Office or any Board member. Give us the opportunity to appoint you to the Board.

While the Historian curates our organization, The Real Scoop welcomes articles from REA members about their experiences working for the City. If you have stories to tell—humorous, insightful, historically significant, etc.--and you'd like to see your name in print--put pen to paper and send the tale to the REA Office. The 2000+ members of REA would love to reminisce with you, and the newsletter editor is always looking for articles the members would enjoy reading.

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Eric Smith, Immediate Past President

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On a very serious note...CAVEAT EMPTOR ..see this short note below and have no doubt for all the good your computer can be for you as well as your cell phone, the rotten thieves are after you and those you love.

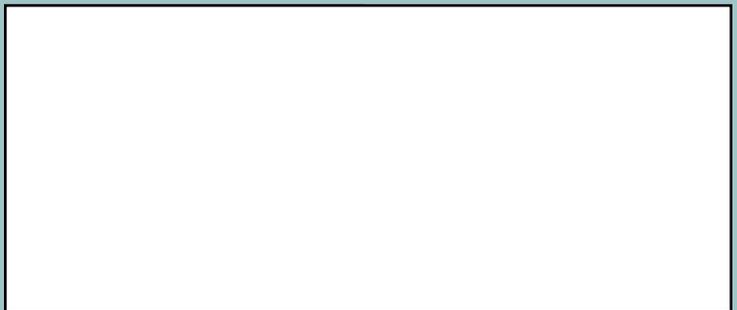
About two weeks ago a lady who had a durable power of attorney for a wonderful elderly lady in memory care called me in a panic. She had received a call from her lady friend demanding that she bring her check book so she could give her banking information to a very nice person whom she met over the phone who was going to gift her a substantial amount of money and deposit it in her bank account. She asked if I would come over and visit with this sweet lady since she knew I had worked with her and they both trusted me. When I got there this lady had no recollection of the incident so I converted what I was going to say into a tutorial stressing that if any strangers called it would be wise to contact her lady Power of attorney and her lawyer (me). With the facts I had you can bet they we, in fact, averted the potential theft of our friend's life savings. I could not divulge names or all of the facts. I can tell you that this lady served Jacksonville as a public employee for many years, is a widow, an exceedingly smart and loving person. Here's the takeaway...if you for a minute think this cannot happen to you or someone in your family, your love, you are hovering on the periphery of a devastating financial theft for which there is in all probability no likelihood of a recovery. Be sure to call me if I can ever help you. See you soon, God bless. Eric Smith (904)635-2973; eric@ericsmithlaw.net

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New Year Resolutions From The Wisest Man Who Ever Lived

Proverbs 3

All New Year Resolutions (Principles) basically fall into 3 categories, they deal with:

1. Things to make us look better and live longer. (Longevity)
2. Things to make us have more. (Prosperity)
3. Things to help us to get along with everyone. (Peace)



Solomon starts off this 3rd chapter,

1. My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
2. For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

He gives very specific details of 10 principles (Resolutions) that we should live by in order to have long life, prosperity, and peace:

- Resolution 1. Let Love and Faithfulness Never leave you. V 3-4
- Resolution 2. Trust In The Lord With All Your Heart. V 5-6
- Resolution 3. Do Not Be Wise In Your Own Eyes. V 7-8
- Resolution 4. Honor The Lord With Your Wealth. V 9-10
- Resolution 5. Do Not Despise The Lord's Discipline. V 11-12
- Resolution 6. Search Diligently For Wisdom And Find It. V 13-24
- Resolution 7. Have No Fear. V 25-26
- Resolution 8. Do Not Withhold Good From Those Who Deserve It. V 27-28
- Resolution 9. Do Not Plot Harm Against Your Neighbor. V 29-30
- Resolution 10. Do Not Envy a Violent Man Or Choose Any Of His Ways. V 31-32

May this be your challenge for year 2025.

Chaplain: Leona J. Spann



February is American Heart Month: How to save your own life

Your family and co-workers may never know, but steps you take now could save a life -- your life. That would definitely make you their hero.

Doctors at the Mayo Clinic say heart disease is often preventable. Their recommendations include:

Don't smoke or use tobacco products. Smoking is the most powerful risk factor for heart disease. No amount of smoke is safe. Women who smoke and take birth control pills are at even greater risk, especially after age 35.

Exercise. Regular exercise can reduce the risk of a fatal heart attack by nearly a quarter. Exercise also reduces stress, another significant risk factor. Though federal guidelines call for up to 60 minutes of exercise a day, even small amounts of exercise can help.

Control cholesterol and eat a heart-healthy diet. Saturated fat and trans fats raise blood cholesterol levels and increase cardiovascular disease risk. Cholesterol is particularly worrisome because foods containing this type of fat are common in the American diet. Major sources include beef, butter, cheese, milk, and coconut and palm oils.



The American Heart Association can help you calculate your cholesterol intake and give important advice on how to control it. Visit cholesterollowerdown.org to see how to lower your cholesterol.

Vegetables and fruits are an important part of a heart-healthy diet. They help prevent heart disease, cancer, and other diseases.

Maintain a healthy weight. Weight gain as an adult is mostly fatty tissue, and is a risk factor for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and heart disease.

Get regular health screenings. Healthy adults should have cholesterol levels and blood pressure checked every two years, or more often if their numbers are high.

A heart-healthy lifestyle doesn't have to be complicated. Just find ways to put heart-healthy habits into your life.



ALL Aboard. The first REA train trip to Winter Park will leave the Amtrak Station on January 29th at 7 AM. We will head south on train # 41. The train station is in the heart of Winter Park, with numerous stores, shops, and restaurants within walking distance. We will return on train # 98, leaving Winter Park at 1:50 and arriving in Jacksonville at 4:40. Call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL and make your reservation for a very enjoyable day trip.

Other Events and Meetings coming in 2025

Day Bus Trip to Hard Rock Tampa

Alhambra Dinner Theatre night

April 20, 2025 Quarterly Meeting—Annual Fish Fry 1:00PM

June 22, 2025 Quarterly Meeting 625 Stockton Street at 10:00AM

September 21, 2025 Annual BBQ & Quarterly meeting at 625 Stockton Street at 1:00PM

December 07, 2025 Annual Christmas Party at 625 Stockton Street at 1:00PM

Update your information

What's new?

January is a good time to consider changes that may have occurred in your life during the past year. It's important to keep your information up to date, including:

* Change of physical address, change in email addresses, landline and cellphone numbers.

* In a more personal matter, does the beneficiary named on your life insurance reflect your current wishes? Have you been married or divorced, or should your beneficiary be changed for some other reason?

Across

- 1. Hippie's hangout
- 4. Like thick smoke
- 9. Carnival site
- 10. Fancy feather
- 11. Commercials
- 12. Kind of colony
- 13. Wobble
- 15. Yours truly
- 16. Sink feature
- 18. Therefore
- 20. Upward slope
- 23. Slur over
- 25. Stable diet
- 26. More upscale
- 27. Tear
- 28. Go-getters
- 29. Roswell sighting

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18	19		20				21	22
23		24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

Answers on page 11

Down

- 1. Kind of fall
- 2. White House staffer
- 3. Gave medicine to
- 4. Pacifiers
- 5. Church official
- 6. Jog
- 7. Prayer leader
- 8. Expunge
- 14. Wall Street figure
- 17. India's first P.M.
- 18. Dispatch
- 19. Assortment
- 21. Inexperienced
- 22. AutoCorrect target
- 24. Rink surface



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7							8	4
3						8	7	

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5	7	1	9	8	2	4	6	3
2	4	6	1	5	3	9	7	8
1	8	9	5	4	7	3	2	6
7	6	5	3	2	9	1	8	4
3	2	4	6	1	8	7	5	9

Reminder: Free Notary Services Available!

Do you have documents needing to be notarized? FREE notary service is one of the benefits of being an REA member!

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Answer key to SUDOKU puzzle on page 8

Answer key to Crossword puzzle on page 8

Happy New Year 2025!



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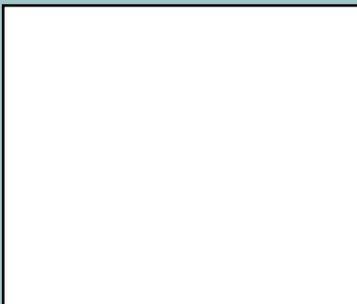
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Check the REA website often for up to date news about our next meeting, when it will take place and where it will be. Also, call the office for information at 904-353-2400. 9:00 am-2:00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

REA Real Scoop Staff

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