



Hi Everyone—your PACRA Board hopes all is going well with each of you! Amazing how time flies and we are already into June! Some of the information you may already know; some of it is as timely as of June 5! Have a great summer—we will be back in the Fall with the latest and greatest from your PACRA Board (Becky, JudyC, Tom, JudyD, Katherine)!

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*We received the following email from HR Benefits [benefits@palomar.edu](mailto:benefits@palomar.edu) on May 6.*

*Although retirees were not affected by the negotiations, we thought you would like to know—per Wendy, it has concluded successfully for all active employees and under 65 Anthem members!!*



### **Anthem and Scripps have successfully negotiated a contract!**

We are thrilled to announce that Scripps Health is officially back in the Anthem Blue Cross network!

As you know, the contract between Anthem Blue Cross and Scripps Health terminated on January 1, 2025. We want to acknowledge the difficulties that this provider network interruption may have created—we appreciate your patience. We are thankful that both parties continued active negotiations, which led to the successful establishment of a commercial contract effective retroactively to January 1, 2025. In the event that you are unable to obtain resolution through the Anthem Member Services team (information on your member ID card) please reach out to [benefits@palomar.edu](mailto:benefits@palomar.edu).

#### **Next Steps for Anthem Members:**

##### **Anthem HMO Members**

Members interested in re-enrolling with Scripps Health HMO Medical Groups can contact Anthem using the toll-free member service number on their current ID card.

##### **Anthem PPO Members**

Members can resume scheduling appointments with their Scripps providers.

#### **Scripps Health Network Overview:**

Scripps Health encompasses the following entities:

##### **Scripps Health Hospitals:**

- Scripps Green Hospital (050424)
- Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas (050503)
- Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla (050324)
- Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego (050077)
- Scripps Mercy Chula Vista (005520)

##### **HMO Medical Groups:**

Scripps Clinic Torrey Pines (AAB)

- Scripps Coastal Medical Center Hillcrest (ABA)

##### **PPO Medical Groups:**

- Scripps Clinic
- Scripps Coastal Medical Center



*WE REMEMBER*  
*Arthur "Tony" Lynds*



*Dear Colleagues,*

*It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of former Palomar College employee Arthur "Tony" Lynds on March 26, 2025. Tony Lynds started his career with Palomar College on July 1, 1967, and he retired on May 24, 1997. As an Associate Professor and Football Coach for 30 years and Chair of the Kinesiology Department for 10 years, he was recognized as a passionate enthusiast of his profession and one who held a strong commitment to the success of his students. Tony was known to improve course curriculum as the field of college athletics and kinesiology evolved so that Palomar College students had the very best opportunities as they completed their degree programs. Throughout his time at Palomar, Tony did extensive work with the Disability Resource Center. His friendly demeanor and collaborative nature resulted in long standing relationships with students, colleagues, administrators, and the community.*

*Joe Early, PC Professor / Head Football Coach, shared his thoughts on Tony:*

*"Tony was one of the coaches that recruited me to come play football at Palomar. Realistically, if it wasn't for him, I would have gone to another school to play. He was instrumental in me getting hired at Palomar as a full-time coach and instructor. As a young instructor with little lecture experience at this level, he mentored me in the classroom. We spent a lot of time together here at Palomar up until he retired. One thing that he said to me over 30+ years ago, and I think about it daily—if you can affect 1 person in a positive way each semester, in 30 years, you would have been a positive influence in almost 100 young people's lives. He was a champion for doing the right thing and helping make young people's lives better through education, compassion, and having empathy for students that may have life struggles. There are times when we must be educators, psychologists, therapists, and mentors and I learned that from him. I appreciated knowing Tony as my coach, my mentor, my peer, and most of all as a true friend."*

*With Sympathy, Nick Mata, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services*

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 *WE REMEMBER*   
*SUSAN (SUE) GRIFFIN*

*Dear Colleagues,*

*It is with sincere sympathy that I share the recent passing of Professor Susan A. Griffin. Professor Griffin began teaching at Palomar College in 1979 in the Nursing Education Department. After twenty years of teaching, she retired in 1999. Professor Griffin was known as an outstanding role model and for her ability to build extensive meaningful relationships with students, colleagues, and the healthcare community. During her time at Palomar, she chaired the Nursing Education Department for 5 years and served on at least a half dozen committees, in addition to being a faculty mentor.*

*Below are remembrances of Professor Griffin gathered by Professor Julianne Van Houten.*

Sue was one of my nursing instructors when I went to Palomar in the early 90's. Over the years, I stayed in contact with her. When our new building was completed, she visited and was deeply impressed by the facility. Her impact on Palomar Nursing and our students was profound. When she passed, my colleagues shared heartfelt words about her legacy.

*Professor Van Houten*

*Other comments from her peers spoke of her dedication to women's empowerment and nursing:*

Judy Eckart recalled that Sue had trained her and was always supportive of our students.

She will always be remembered for her kindness and compassion toward both students and patients.

As a teacher, she was not only knowledgeable, but also a caring friend to all of us.

Sue's unwavering support for Palomar Nursing made a lasting difference, and her love for teaching was evident in everything she did. She gave so much to Palomar, and her presence will be greatly missed.

*With Sympathy,*

**Tina Recalde, DPT, MS, ATC, CSCS/** Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction  
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**UPDATE ON SSA REIMBURSEMENT RE THE SSFA**

[www.calrta.org/](http://www.calrta.org/) Courtesy of the CalRTA (California Retired Teachers Association) website; click on



**Information added 6/4/25**

### Important Update on WEP/GPO Benefit Adjustments

As of June 3, 2025, the SSA has reported that **91% of those affected** by the WEP/GPO have had their accounts adjusted. Anyone whose monthly benefit is adjusted, or who will get a retroactive payment, will receive a mailed notice from Social Security explaining the benefit change or retroactive payment.

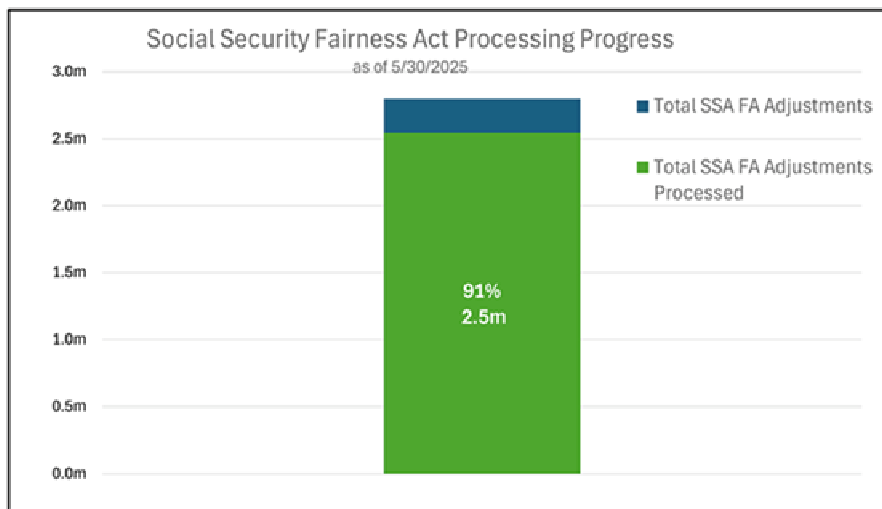
**NOTE:** A beneficiary may receive two mailed notices:

Ø the first when WEP or GPO is removed from their record, and

Ø a second when their monthly benefit amount is adjusted for their new monthly payment amount

Beneficiaries may receive the retroactive payment before receiving the mailed notice.

The chart below shows SSA's progress with processing adjustments since February 25, 2025.



**Information added 6/2/25**

*If you have not received your adjusted benefit, retroactive payment, or have been denied spousal or survivor benefits, please review the two attachments (courtesy of the CalRTA website, Members Only section.)*

**For more details:**

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html?>

**BE SURE TO CLICK ON THE UPDATES OR NEW LINKS**

**GOOD LUCK FOR EACH OF US!!**

**JUDY** Judy Dolan, Secretary (on behalf of the PACRA Board)



***Attachments***

***Ø Request for Reconsideration***

***Ø Request for Reconsideration Form SSA-561-U2***