

**Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting**  
Retired Employees of Alameda County  
Monday, March 14, 2022  
Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting

The annual meeting was called to Order at 09:34 by Marian Breitbart, President of the Board. Paul Reeves, Board Secretary, certified the presence of a quorum for the transaction of business. It was moved by Nancy Reilly, REAC member and ACERA Alternate Retired Board Member, and seconded by Connie Land, Director and member, that the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Annual Membership meeting be approved as presented. The motion was approved.

Election of Directors – Paul Reeves, Chair of the nominating committee, reported that Suman Sharma and Liz Koppenhaver have agreed to serve another term on the REAC Board of Directors. Paul reported that Marian Breitbart has decided to not seek another term, and will be stepping down at the end of March 2022. Paul also reported that REAC received no other applications from members who wanted to serve on the Board. Connie Land motioned that both Suman Sharma and Liz Koppenhaver be elected to serve another term on the REAC Board of Directors. Crystal Hishida Graff seconded the motion and Paul called for a voice vote of the members in attendance. All members voted yea, and there were no nay votes. Suman and Liz were unanimously elected to serve another term on the REAC Board of Directors.

Guest Speakers – Before Kathy Foster began her report Liz Koppenhaver introduced her as ACERA's Assistant Chief Executive Officer. Liz also mentioned how helpful and supportive Kathy has been, and continues to be, to REAC.

Kathy and Mike Fara began their update by talking about the April 1, 2022 COLA Adjustment, Tiers 1 and 3 will receive a 3.0 % COLA increase and Tiers 2 and 4 will receive a 2.0% COLA increase. The COLA increase will appear in the April 29, 2022 payment. The Bay Area Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.0% which means that Tiers 1 and 3 will bank 1.0 % for future years and Tiers 2 and 4 will bank 2.0% for future years.

For Tier 1 retirees who retired on or before 4-01-1981 and Tier 2 retirees who retired on or before 4-01-2001 will receive a Supplemental COLA paid for out of the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR). The Supplemental COLA is provided to those retirees who have an accumulated loss of purchasing power of 15% or more due to inflation.

Kathy reported that during the pandemic, ACERA adjusted their hours and were not open for in person visitors. As of March 21, 2022 ACERA will be open for in person visitors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30am – 3:30pm. Members are still being encouraged to continue connecting with them virtually. Their phone hours are 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Mike began his report by explaining Kaiser's Silver & Fit program. The program is a 1-year trial program ending on January 31, 2023. Members who are enrolled in Kaiser's Senior Advantage plan are automatically eligible to participate in the Silver & Fit program. The program includes a no cost 1-year gym membership, or up to 2 of 35 different no-cost home workout fitness kits, or both. In order to participate in the program members just need to go to [www.silverandfit.com](http://www.silverandfit.com) and register.

Sometime in July ACERA will send out a survey regarding the program and the results will be given to the Retirees Committee and the Board of Retirement who will then decide whether or not to continue the program for plan year 2023. Steve Scheinman mentioned that he used the link noted above, but only saw one piece of exercise equipment being made available. In addition, it did not appear that you could have both, the gym membership and the exercise equipment. It appeared that you could only have one or the other. Mike will check with their Kaiser representative.

Mike reported that ACERA was preparing to do a new benefits survey. ACERA wants to know how members would rank their non-vested retiree benefits like subsidies for medical, dental, vision, and Medicare Part B. ACERA will use those rankings to set benefit levels as well as consider enhancing benefits. It will be an on-line survey and must be completed no later than March 30, 2022. There will be a retiree health planning meeting with ACERA, REAC, ACRE, and Plan Representatives on April 6, 2022, so they hope the results of the survey are available for that meeting.

Mike then reported on ACERA's use of DocuSign. ACERA began using DocuSign in the fall of last year. It has allowed members to complete and sign ACERA documents on their computers and smart phones. It eliminates having to print out paper forms, copy them, and then mail to ACERA. It increases accuracy, increases security, reduces time, doesn't require the use of a printer, etc. They began to use it with their health care forms, which worked very well, and they will next begin using it for Service Retirement applications. Their long term goal is to eliminate all paper forms and convert them to DocuSign forms. Connie Land asked what options were going to be available for non-computer users. Kathy mentioned that they were still going to keep some paper forms in order to serve those members who were non-computer users.

Janet Waring asked what was the current number of retirees and what percentage were members of Kaiser? Kathy mentioned there were 9,000 payees, 4,200 were Kaiser Senior Advantage members, and about 1,200 were in the early retiree Kaiser Plan.

Pete Albert asked if the survey ACERA was going to conduct was online. Mike said yes, in fact it was only online.

Alicia Baptista introduced Aliyah Walker, who was from the UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center-East Bay. Aliyah began her presentation by explaining that they had two research clinics, one in Sacramento and one in Walnut Creek. She is based in the Walnut Creek clinic. Her clinic offers personalized care and diagnostic services, clinical research programs and advanced clinical trials. Their staffing includes neurologists, psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, nurses and social workers.

They are a patient-centered clinic which provides assessments, diagnostics, and advanced treatment of all the dementias. They also have community education programs and a website called "The Good Life Program" which has free healthy living zoom classes and they include healthy cooking and exercise. She is the studies coordinator and one the most interesting is the longitudinal study which is available to individuals age 65 and over. Participants come to the clinic once a year, meet with a neurologist, go through memory and cognitive tests and have an MRI. It allows the participant to establish a base line and track how they are progressing. If anyone is interested in participating in any of the studies they conduct, they can contact her through their website.

## Committee Reports

Retirement Board – Liz Koppenhaver wanted to encourage retirees to complete the 2022 Benefits Survey. Even though the global financial market is going through a difficult time at the moment, ACERA will still need to know how our retirees prioritize their non-guaranteed benefits. At some point, when the financial market is back to normal, ACERA will begin the discussions regarding those benefits.

Health Care Committee – Renaye Johnson reported that the CDC is still recommending that everyone should continue to get their vaccinations and to continue wearing masks. She also reported that the US Postal Service is continuing to send out free COVID-19 test kits. They send out four test kits per family and they can be ordered through their website at USPS.com. She also encouraged members to sign up for the Silver & Fit program. She found it easy to sign up online and to look for a gym. She also reported that Pfizer is developing a 4<sup>th</sup> booster shot which they hope will cover all COVID-19 variants.

Membership – Charo Panesi-Guerra reported that as of February 28, 2022, REAC membership stood at 3,873.

Old Business - There was no Old Business to report.

New Business – There was no New Business to report

Good of the Order – Paul reminded the Board that this month was Marian's last month on the Board. He went on to say how much we would miss her, her humor, and her contributions to the Board. Liz also added how much she appreciated Marian's contributions to the Board. Everyone on the Board thanked her for her efforts on behalf of all retirees and her contributions to the Board. Marian, in turn, thanked the Board and ACERA for their service, commitment and help, and she encouraged others to run for the Board and become part of this smart and dedicated team.

Marian adjourned the annual meeting at 10:35.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Reeves, Board Secretary