



The Official
Monthly Publication of the
Retired Employees of Alameda County, Inc.
P.O. Box 302, Oakland, CA 94604

REAC NEWS

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DECEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — BY ALICIA BAPTISTA, PRESIDENT

If you have not yet voted in the election to fill Seat 8 on the ACERA Retirement Board, please find your ballot and vote today. Seat 8 represents us, Retired Members. You will recall that the REAC Board has endorsed Elizabeth Rogers for this seat and every vote matters. We also endorsed Cynthia Baron for Alternate Seat 8, but her name does not appear on the ballot because she is running unopposed. The same is true for George Wood who we endorsed for Seat 3 representing General Members. In order for your vote to be counted, your ballot must be received by the Registrar of Voters by 5:00 pm, December 21, 2022. Please vote!

At our most recent Board Meeting, we welcomed John Ta, Investment Officer at ACERA. He presented numbers that show that ACERA's portfolio continues to outperform other public sector retirement portfolios. This is good news. John stated that ACERA is prepared to weather the storm.

The See's Candies Volume Savings Program for REAC Members has been renewed for another 14 months. To get your 15% discount (not 10% as mentioned in last month's newsletter) go to the See's Candies Store in the West Gate Shopping Center in San Leandro and present your REAC Membership Card. If you need a replacement card, please send a message to reacwebsite@gmail.com and include your name and

ACERA Performance Report

The Performance Report for the month of October was not completed in time to be included in this newsletter. That information will be included in next month's newsletter.

mailing address. A new card will be sent to you forthwith.

Next month I will not be able to attend our Board meeting on December 12th, so I want to take this opportunity to thank our Vice President, Renaye Johnson, for facilitating the meeting on that date. That means that you will get a rest from my President's Messages and read a message from Renaye. Change can be a good thing.

Finally, as winter descends upon us, take care of yourselves by following CDC recommendations: wear a mask indoors, wash your hands frequently and get your vaccinations. Viruses continue to spread and this flu season is expected to hit us especially hard. There is a lot of celebrating to be done in December and we want to be healthy enough to enjoy it. No matter which Winter Solstice holiday you choose to celebrate, may it be peaceful, happy and healthy, and Happy New Year to you all!

Join the REAC Board meeting on the second Monday of the month at 9:30 am.

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8185454951?pwd=dG1pTWNPmjhBMEtGQ0Y0aXNLaDdLUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 545 4951

Passcode: REAC

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 818 545 4951

Passcode: 529503

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8185454951>

REAC BOARD MEETINGS

December 12, 2022

(Monday) 9:30 AM

Zoom

ID 818 545 4951

password REAC

January 9, 2023

(Monday) 9:30 AM

Zoom

to be scheduled

<http://reacsite.org>

reacwebsite@gmail.com

ACERA TRUSTEES MEETINGS

December 15, 2022

(Thursday) 2:00 PM

see ACERA.org for

ID and password

January 19, 2023

(Thursday) 2:00 PM

see ACERA.org for

ID and password

www.acera.org

Welcome New Members

Kendall Carrigan

Virgilio Lacap

Elinor Perez

Valarie Rice

Velma Rollerson

David Vandagriff

Lawanda Wiltz

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting

Alicia Baptista, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M.

ROLL CALL: Alicia Baptista, Renaye Johnson, Paul Reeves, Suman Sharma, Connie Land, Linda Slater, Liz Koppenhaver, and Dawn Stevenson were present. John Ta, ACERA Investment Officer, Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, Pete Albert, ACRE Board President and Rosemarie Thorne, REAC Member, were also present.

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 10, 2022 REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie moved that the October 10, 2022 REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Renaye mentioned that she was contacted by a REAC member who was concerned that the 3% and 2% Annual Cost of Living increases that ACERA provides does not keep pace with the actual Cost of Living. Renaye mentioned that Liz also responded to the member's concern by explaining how our annual COLA is calculated.

Alicia received an email from one of the individuals running for one of the vacant Board of Retirement Trustee positions, asking if REAC would be able to send out a special reminder notice to our members regarding the elections. After some discussion, the Board decided it would not send a separate notice regarding the election, and that the election, and our recommendations, were already mentioned in the two previous Newsletters. The Board did decide to again mention the election, and our recommendations, in the President's Message portion of the next Newsletter.

ACERA: John Ta, ACERA Investment Officer, began his report by discussing the ACERA Quarter-End Market Values for the period March 2009 thru June 2022. The First Quarter 2022 returns posted a loss of -3.21% and the Second Quarter 2022 Returns posted a loss of -8.83%. While there have been losses, when looking at our

long term goals, we are still doing very well. The most recent losses were a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and unusually high inflation over the last six months.

John next reported on ACERA's Total Fund Performance over the period. The report breaks down investment returns over time and compares those results with other similar sized portfolios. Alicia asked for clarification regarding the small red numbers on the report. John explained that those numbers reflected the percentile rankings amongst similar Funds (1 Billion plus) in the InvestorForce Universe over time. As an example, looking first at the 1 year numbers, ACERA is ranked 51st in total Fund performance and 36th in the Policy Index (The Policy Index is a weighted average of the Funds Asset Classes and their respective benchmarks.). However, when looking at the fund's performance over the last 25 years, ACERA is ranked 2nd in total Fund performance and 2nd in the Policy Index.

John then reported on ACERA's Current Allocation by Asset Class. This report reflects how the total Fund is allocated compared to the target amount. For example, in the previous report, they wanted to lower the amount invested in International Equity to reduce risk. The target amount for International Equity was 24% and the actual amount invested is now 23.5%. They were able to reduce the amount invested in International Equity and increased the amount invested in Real Estate, Private Equity, and Absolute Return. They still have to make some adjustments, but they have been able to reduce the risk.

For the YTD period ending June 30, 2022, the total portfolio returned - 11.69%, the Policy Index returned -10.73%, and the Median Plan returned -12.03%. Despite near-term volatility, the ACERA portfolio is performing well on long-term time horizons. The 25-year annual return is 7.54% which is ranked in the top 2% among all pension plans of similar size. The ACERA Total Fund continues to increase its exposure to alternative asset classes to enhance portfolio diversification and returns.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Suman presented the October 2022 Treasurer's Report. Receipts totaled \$8,194.42. Disbursements

totaled \$4,924.43. There were no unusual receipts or disbursements. He mentioned that Red Arrow is catching up in their invoicing. Total Assets were \$230,317.93. Linda moved that the October 2022 Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Connie seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CRCEA (CALIFORNIA RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION):

Connie gave her report on CRCEA's Fall Conference. The CRCEA Fall Conference took place from October 9, 2022 thru October 12, 2022 and was held in Sacramento at the Embassy Suites Sacramento-Riverfront Promenade. Connie felt the conference was well organized and informative. There were 62 attendees from the various counties. A number of counties had more than 1 attendee. Contra Costa County had 6 attendees. There were sessions of serious importance, sessions of general interests and interactive sessions to give and receive ideas to help County Associations with the way they do business. Some of the sessions of serious importance were: Retrospective on Pension Reform Before and After PEPRA (Public Employees' Pension Reform Act) and Legislative Updates.

The presenter was Eric Stern, CEO Sacramento County Employees Retirement System (SCERS). The key points of Mr. Stern's presentation were: Defined Pension Plans are here to stay, PEPRA delivered results, too soon for any changes to PEPRA and legislators realize they must handle with care.

Legislative Update - The presenter was Amy Brown, Advocacy and Contracts Officer for ARC Strategies Lobbyist Consultant for CRCEA. The key points were: this is an election year-get out to VOTE and encourage others to VOTE, surplus in the State's budget, rebate cards going out before the election, indications we're heading for a recession, counties have done a great job paying down unfunded liabilities, other legislation that pertained to Ventura County and CalPERS only.

General Interest Sessions: ScholarShare 529 California College Savings Program, Fraud Prevention for Seniors, Wills and Trusts, Levels of Care in Nursing Homes

and Skilled Living Facilities, Staying in Your Home Safely. Each of these we need to provide information to our membership at our upcoming luncheons.

During the Roundtable discussions, each County shared concerns they're having. The majority of counties are experiencing problems with increased membership and Board recruitment. Many counties are now having hybrid meetings (in person and virtual) and a large number are having in-person luncheons.

The Executive and Business Meetings were very informative. There were extensive discussions about upcoming conferences and counties willingness to participate. The majority are not interested in a virtual conference; mainly because of the costs. Kern County is not willing to host a conference. Their Board of Directors said No, yet there are Delegates and others who are willing to do the work and to make it happen. CRCEA President and the CRCEA Conference Chair plan to reach out to Kern County's leadership.

The responses to the Conference Committee survey were met with mixed reviews. Many counties stated that they did not have ample time to respond. Another survey is forthcoming.

The Membership Committee distributed a list of Recruitment and Retention Ideas. There were some very good ideas. Connie will send out the list to Board members for their review and to see if REAC would like to implement any or something similar.

Some examples include:

Recruitment - Offer incentives to current members who bring a potential member to a luncheon or other function and give that same incentive to the guest who joins your organization.

Retention - Print a member's name randomly in your newsletter, and when the person contacts your office, when they see their name, they receive an incentive gift.

Include a "Letters to the Editor" section in your newsletter and/or website for members to write in. Include a "Did you know" section to your newsletter/website giving information about Aging & Veteran's Services for Assisted Living, Preventing Falls, etc. that might be helpful to members.

REAC's turn to host a CRCEA Conference

is in the Fall of 2025. We need to start planning now.

There are guidelines on the CRCEA's website to help us. Many counties start 2 years in advance getting sponsors, negotiating hotel room rates, budgeting the event, etc.

The CRCEA 2023 Spring Conference will be held April 23, 2023 thru April 26, 2023 at the Ontario Airport Hotel. The host county is Retired Employees of San Bernardino (RESBC). Hotel room rates are \$119 per night, plus taxes, breakfast and parking included. Must reserve by April 1, 2023. They have sponsors already, and the agenda and registration are being worked on. There's a flyer on the CRCEA website for your viewing.

CALPERS LAWSUIT UPDATE: The November 07, 2022 website update stated that Copies of the Courts updated Scheduling Order and the parties' recent Joint Status Conference report are available for interested individuals to view. The trial is set to start May 15, 2023 (scheduled to last 25 court days).

Policyholders are encouraged to check the website frequently to stay updated or they can contact the Settlement Administrator at: 1-(866)-217-8056 <https://calpersclassactionlawsuit.com>.

SACRS (STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS): Paul reported that he was not able to attend the Fall Conference. He contacted one of his counterparts in San Diego, and he will be sending us some information regarding the conference and their assessment. The SACRS Spring Conference will take place in San Diego. It will be held from May 9-12, 2023. SACRS is open to suggestions regarding the type of information counties would like to discuss, subjects they would like to hear about, or suggested guest speakers. Paul asked Pete if he was able to attend the Conference. Pete was also not able to attend. However, when he spoke with Sulema, SACRS's Executive Director, six months ago, she said some of their sessions would be available for streaming. He will follow-up.

RETIREMENT BOARD: Liz reported that the request for improved eye and dental care benefits was approved. Those additional

benefits will be effective at the beginning of the next Plan Year.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: There was no additional information to report.

HEALTH CARE (CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION): Renaye reported that both Contra Costa County and Alameda County still have low COVID-19 levels. If you come down with the symptoms of COVID-19, you should be tested for it. CDC recommends that you continue to keep your vaccinations updated, still wear masks if you are concerned, or if you are using or planning to use mass transit.

Renaye also reported that the virtual ACERA Health Fair went very well. ACERA did a great job in getting presenters, and providing timely and valuable information. If you missed the event, you can access the information from the ACERA website. They have the information set up by segments so you can select any individual segments you might find interesting. They had a segment on DocuSign, and a segment on Delta Dental, because the benefits have been expanded. They also had a segment on VIA Benefits, VSP, and at the end, Kaiser did a presentation on balance. Many seniors begin to have balance issues as they age, Kaiser presented some exercises you could do to improve your balance.

She also reminded the Board that the Silver&Fit program is still on going, so members should sign up, if they have not already, and take advantage of the various options including the available kits.

ACTIVITIES: REAC Board Holiday Luncheon. The Board discussed the December 2022 holiday luncheon. In the past, the holiday luncheon was always celebrated immediately following the December Board meeting. However, that will not work for many of the Board members. The Board tentatively selected Wednesday, December 14, 2022 as the date for the luncheon.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT: Charo reported that as of October 31, 2022, membership stood at 3,854 members, which was a slight decrease from the September 2022 numbers.

Charo began her update on Zoom access. Alicia wants to have several Board members given the ability to host a meeting,

irrespective of the device they use to access the web. At the very least, she wants the Board Officers given the ability to start and host a meeting. That way, there will always be someone available to begin and host the meetings. When Zoom does not recognize the device being used by the individual who tries to start and host the meeting, it sends a code to an email address that Board members can't access.

Alicia formed a Zoom subcommittee and asked for volunteers. Dawn volunteered to chair the subcommittee and Linda, Suman, and Charo volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. The specific charge of the subcommittee is to figure out how best to allow Board members access to Zoom, such that they have the ability to start and host a Zoom meeting. Issues to consider include members using multiple devices, members having access to any codes sent by Zoom in order to allow verification of a new device, how to resolve error messages sent by Zoom, etc. Alicia wants access given to at least the four REAC Board Officers to start. The subcommittee will also create specific instructions on how to open a meeting, how to host a meeting, and how to allow a presenter to share the screen during a presentation. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board as to the easiest and simplest way to allow access so that any regularly scheduled Board meeting can always take place, as well as any special Board meetings called by the Board. The subcommittee will report back at the December 12, 2022 Board meeting.

REAC WEBSITE REDESIGN: Connie reported that the Website Redesign Committee met on October 24, 2022 to discuss their next steps. At the previous meeting, it was suggested that perhaps Mike

Fara, who took the photos for the Retirement Board, would be able to take the photos needed for the REAC Website. They were able to contact Mike, and unfortunately, he will not be able to take the photos. Linda sent an email, plus a follow-up email, requesting copies of each Board Members bio for inclusion on the REAC Website. She would like the bios sent to her by November 18, 2022. They are still waiting for a response from ACERA regarding several of our questions.

They received a draft of the new website design from Lori, our web designer, and they will review and discuss the draft at their next committee meeting which will take place on November 21, 2022. After their review they will schedule a meeting with her. Lastly, they will be prepared to give a status report at the December 12, 2022 Board Meeting.

REAC NEWS: The REAC Newsletter will include the Trustee election and our endorsement of Beth Rogers, a See's Candy Update, and John Ta's report.

OTHER REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS: Charo mentioned that a member gave her an account number when they requested a lost membership card. Charo asked if the See's Candy Benefit Program requires an account number in order to use the program. The general consensus was no, no account number is probably required, only a valid REAC membership card or a copy of their pay information which reflects their REAC membership. However, Alicia will clarify.

NEW BUSINESS: Rosemarie Thorne, a REAC member, had a question regarding the COLA given by ACERA. She wanted to know if REAC had any input on the percentage increases granted by ACERA. She was aware that the CPI was over 4%, yet our percentage increases were limited to just 3% & 2%. She wanted to determine how our COLA amounts are determined and how to have it increased so that it keeps pace with inflation. Liz explained that the COLA given to Alameda County Retirees was established by State Statute and was therefore beyond the control of REAC, the Board of Supervisors, or ACERA. She further explained that we did have some influence on the types and scope of the benefits retirees receive, and have been successful in increasing the benefits retirees receive which, in many cases, reduces their out-of-pocket expenses.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Alicia mentioned that she will not be able to attend the December 12, 2022 Board meeting and that Renaye, as Vice President, will chair the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM

*Respectfully submitted by
Paul Reeves, Board Secretary*

Next Meeting:

Next Board Meeting: Monday,
December 12, 2022, 9:30 am

Zoom Video Conferencing
Board Meeting

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CREDIT UNION

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

ATKINS, Robert
General Services Agency

BAKER, Karen
Probation Department

BREWER, Roberta
Alameda Health System

BROWNE, James
Public Works Agency

CALDERON, Humberto
Probation Department

CHAN, Winnie
ACERA

CHHIM, C. Raymond
Social Services Agency

CUENCA, Olivia
Social Services Agency

ISHIDA, Yumiko
Community Development
Agency

KNAPP, Dawne
Non-Member

KROLL, Daniel
Superior Courts

LEONARD, Edwin
Health Care Services

MALONE, April
Probation Department

MARAPAO, Erich
Sheriff's Office

PEREZ, Elinor
Alameda Health System

POLLAK, Judith
District Attorney

RICE, Valarie
Social Services Agency

RODRIGUEZ, Michael
Probation Department

RYAN, Andrew
Sheriff's Office

SIU, David
Auditor-Controller

STENSON, Jon
Health Care Services

WHITTAKER, Phyllis
Social Services Agency

WILTZ, LaWanda
Social Services Agency

IN MEMORIAM

In deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following retirees:

BAUER, Hans
General Services Agency
10/26/2022

BELTRAN, Roy
Public Works Agency
10/17/2022

BROWN, Yvonne
Non-Mbr Survivor of
Gordon Brown
10/2/2022

CUNDIFF, Donna
Social Services Agency
8/8/2022

DEVER, Leslie
Public Works Agency
9/23/2022

HANSEN, Richard
Non-Mbr Survivor of
Janelle Hansen
10/14/2022

HUME, David
Alameda Health System
10/14/2022

JORDAN, Albert
Public Works Agency
10/14/2022

KING, Cynthia
Alameda Health System
10/24/2022

KOBERNUS, Norma
Non-Mbr Survivor of
Gilbert Kobernus
10/5/2022

MANGLICMOT, Carmelita
Treasurer - Tax Collector
10/2/2022

MARTINEZ, Kimberly
Child Support Services
9/26/2022

MAY, Lee
Social Services Agency
10/20/2022

MORRISON, Connie
Alameda Health System
10/26/2022

MORRISON, Joyce
Social Services Agency
9/21/2022

MOTON, Selbert
Social Services Agency
10/10/2022

REDMOND, William
Probation Department
10/3/2022

RIO, Shirley Ann
Superior Courts
10/11/2022

TERRY, Kenneth
Behavioral Health Care Services
10/10/2022

VOIGT, Karl
Zone 7
10/15/2022

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for REAC membership.
To enroll, send an email to reacwebsite@gmail.com.

REAC Officers and Directors

- President:
Alicia Baptista..... alicia.baptista@comcast.net
- Vice President:
Renaye Johnson..... doublera@aol.com
- Secretary:
Paul Reeves bongosaw@gmail.com
- Treasurer:
Suman Sharma..... reactreasurer@comcast.net
- Directors:
Liz Koppenhaver..... (510) 579-3319
Connie Land.....landcon@comcast.net
Linda Slaterslaterl@sbcglobal.net
Dawn Stevensondawnrzs2@comcast.net
- Administrative Assistant to the REAC Board:
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- Directors Emeriti:
Barbara Jean Hallisey Steve Scheinman
Emily Shea Janet Waring
Jon Orellana

Editor: Gina Palmer
 Editorial Committee: Connie Land, Alicia Baptista
 Printing and Mailing: Red Arrow Printing
 Membership questions: reacwebsite@gmail.com

REAC'S Mission

The purpose of the Retired Employees of Alameda County (REAC) is to promote the common good and general welfare of Alameda County retired employees, subject to the County Employees Retirement Act of 1937, by promoting the interests of its members throughout the community by means of social, political, and educational activities that advance the social welfare of such retirees.

Moving? Please fill out and mail this notice to the following address:

REAC, P.O. Box 302, Oakland, CA 94604
 or e-mail reacwebsite@gmail.com

Name: -----
 New Address: -----
 City/State: ----- Zip Code: -----
 Date of Move: ----- Telephone: -----
 Old Address: -----
1/2018

Also send change of address to ACERA:

Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA)
 475 14th St., Ste. 1000, Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 800-838-1932 or 510-628-3000

Select Option 1 for the Retiree Benefits Unit (health, vision, dental, etc.)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2022
 P.O. Box 302-Oakland, CA 94604
 Retired Employees of Alameda County



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