

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday, March 11, 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton
7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, California

The Annual Membership Meeting was called to Order at 11:00 AM by Alicia Baptista, President of the Board. Board members present included Alicia Baptista, Dawn Stevenson, Liz Koppenhaver, Paul Reeves, Connie Land, Cynthia Baron, Kathy Foster, Marsha Rice, and Linda Slater. Paul Reeves, Board Secretary, certified the presence of a quorum for the transaction of business. It was moved by Renaye Johnson, former REAC Board member, that the Minutes from the March 13, 2023 Annual Membership Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jon Orellana, REAC Director Emeritus. Alicia called for a vote of the members present and the motion was approved.

Election of Directors – Paul Reeves, REAC Board Secretary, and Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that Alicia Baptista, Dawn Stevenson, and Linda Slater, have all agreed to serve another term on the REAC Board of Directors. Paul also reported that REAC received no other applications from members who currently wanted to serve on the REAC Board. Paul motioned that Alicia, Dawn, and Linda be elected to serve another term on the REAC Board of Directors. Cecilia Leon, REAC member, seconded the motion. Paul called for a voice vote of the members in attendance. All members voted yea, and there were no nay votes. Alicia, Dawn and Linda were unanimously elected to serve another term on the REAC Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report – Liz Koppenhaver, REAC Board Treasurer, presented REAC's 2023 Annual report. Budgeted income was \$103,530.00 and actual income was \$102,054.66. Budgeted disbursements were \$103,530.00 and actual disbursements totaled \$80,739.64. In addition to membership payments, REAC received \$6,000 from the 1st United Credit Union for their Newsletter advertisement. The most significant disbursements included: REAC Newsletter printing costs which totaled \$20,125.30, Membership and Administrative Support costs which totaled \$12,416.80, D&O Stipend costs which totaled \$10,200.00, Newsletter postage costs which totaled \$7,028.21, Newsletter layout (Creative Circle) costs which totaled, \$3,625.00, Audit and Legal Services costs which totaled \$2,500.00, Conference expenses which totaled \$2,369.97, and D&O Insurance costs which totaled, \$1,244.00. Renaye Johnson, former REAC Board member, motioned that the 2023 Annual Treasurer's report be approved as submitted. David Melander, member, seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Committee Reports

Retirement Board – Cynthia Baron, Retirement Board Trustee, Alternate Seat 8, and member, and Kathy Foster, member, provide a brief report on the Retirement Board.

Kathy and Cynthia reported on the 2024 Annual Cost of Living increase. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) resulted in a change of 2.62%. Government Code sections require that percentage changes should be rounded to the nearest one-half percent, which is 2.5%. Tier 1 and Tier 3 retirees/payees who retired on or before April 1, 2023 would receive a COLA increase of 3.0%, due to carry over banked from prior years. Tiers 1 and 3 retirees/payees who retired on or after April 2, 2023 would receive a COLA increase of 2.5%. Tier 2 and 4 retirees/payees would receive a COLA increase of 2.0%, and would then bank the .5% for a future year.

In 1998, by the Board of Retirement action, the Supplemental Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) benefit was restructured to provide a benefit that maintained retiree purchasing power at no less than 85% of the member's original benefit. Therefore, those retirees who have an accumulated loss of purchasing power of 15% due to inflation are eligible to receive this benefit. There is an average of 622 retirees/payees (158 Tier 1 and 464 Tier 2) receiving the Supplemental COLA. The cost of this benefit for 2023 was \$1,124,944.65. The cost of this benefit is paid for out of the SRBR (Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve). One of the current proposals shifts funding that benefit back to the County. If approved, the funding for this benefit shifts from the SRBR, to the Pension fund.

In 2023, the dental package included \$1,300.00 to be used for reimbursement. In 2024 that amount has been increased to \$1,900.00.

Kaiser's Silver&Fit program will be continued at least through 2024. ACERA is looking at actual usage to determine if the program is cost effective. If members have questions regarding the program, they can call ACERA's main line phone number and ask to speak to someone about the program.

ACERA's 2025 Health Care Planning Meeting with Trustees, retiree representatives, Benefits Consultants, and County representatives will take place on April 9, 2024. If members have ideas or suggestions for enhancing our health care benefits, they can send them to Cynthia or to the REAC website.

The next ACERA Health Fair will be a hybrid, with both In-Person and virtual options. It will include provider vendors, ACERA staff, and REAC staff will be available to answer questions.

Health Care Committee – Linda Slater provided a brief report on health care information. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), COVID-19 rates remain low for Alameda County. The CDC also reported a nationwide increase in sexually transmitted diseases. The CDC's 2022 STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) Report underscores that STI's must be a public health priority.

Linda also reported that the East Bay Regional Park District provides many fun activities for individual and families to enjoy. They have free, self-guided, hiking and bicycling programs. Each year, the Trails Challenge includes 20 detailed trail descriptions available for all levels of fitness, from easy to challenging. There are many trails open to hikers, bicyclists, dogs, and equestrians, and some trails are wheelchair accessible.

Membership – Charo Panesi-Guerra reported that as of February 29, 2024, REAC membership stood at 3,781 members, which is down from the 2023 number of 3,834.

Old Business - There was no Old Business to report.

New Business – David Melander, member, enjoyed today's meeting and stated that he learned a lot.

Good of the Order –

Alicia adjourned the Annual Membership meeting at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Reeves, REAC Board Secretary