

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday February 13, 2023, 9:30 A.M.
Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting**

Alicia Baptista, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:30AM

Roll Call: Alicia Baptista, Renaye Johnson, Paul Reeves, Suman Sharma, Connie Land, Liz Koppenhaver, Dawn Stevenson, and Linda Slater were present. Cynthia Baron, REAC Member and Retirement Board Trustee, Alternate Seat 8, Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, Pete Albert, ACRE Board President, and Norma Williams, REAC Member, were also present.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 9, 2023 REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie moved that the January 9, 2023 REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: There was no additional information to report.

ACERA: Michael Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, was unable to attend today's Board Meeting. He will report on both the February and the March Retirees Committee meetings at the March 13, 2023 REAC Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Suman presented the January 2023 Treasurer's Report. Receipts totaled \$8,160.48 and Disbursements totaled \$4,114.74. There were no unusual receipts or disbursements. The beginning check book balance was \$99,488.27 and the ending balance was \$103,534.01. Total Assets were \$234,440.87. Renaye moved that the January 2023 Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Suman presented the final REAC Annual 2023 budget. There were no changes to the proposed budget which was approved by the REAC Board during the January 2023 Board Meeting. Total Receipts were projected to be \$103,530 and Total Disbursements were projected to \$103,530. Connie moved that the REAC Annual 2023 budget be approved as presented. Paul seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Suman presented the Final 2023 Stipend amounts. Paul motioned that the Final 2023 Stipend amounts be approved as submitted. Connie seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Suman informed the Board that effective January 1, 2023 the IRS mileage rate was increased to .65.5 cents. Linda motioned that the REAC Board adopt the increased mileage rate of .65.5 cents effective January 1, 2023. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association): Connie led a discussion on the CRCEA survey request. At the fall 2022 CRCEA conference, hosted virtually by Sacramento County, there were numerous discussions about whether there is a need for CRCEA to host two in-person conferences per year. Currently this is a requirement written into the CRCEA Bylaws. CRCEA earlier sent a survey to

each Association requesting that each Association discuss the survey with their Boards, and then send the completed surveys back to CRCEA. Unfortunately, there was some confusion regarding some of the questions asked in the survey, and not all Associations discussed the survey with their Boards.

With that in mind, CRCEA's Executive Committee asked that the survey be resent to all Associations giving them an opportunity to discuss the survey with their Boards. The survey questions and the REAC Board's responses are as follows:

1. CRCEA Bylaws require two conferences per year. Should the Bylaws be changed to reflect one conference per year or kept at two? The Board recommended only one conference per year.
2. If it is determined that two conferences should be held each year, in what format should these conferences be held – both in-person, both virtual, or one in-person and one virtual? The Board recommended that one be held in-person and one be held as a virtual conference.
3. If only one conference is held, in what format should it be held – in-person or virtual? The Board recommended that it be held in-person. In addition, the Board also recommended that if possible, a hybrid conference format, i.e. an in-person conference which also included a virtual component, be considered.
4. How should the location of the conference be determined? Should the current North/South format be continued? Should there be a consideration of a “Central” State location for conferences year after year? Should there be one location in the North and one location in the South? The Board recommends that it be held in a “Central” location.
5. Should nearby counties consider grouping together to sponsor a conference? Should a formalized group from the North, South and Central parts of the State be formed to consider hosting conferences? The Board recommended that nearby counties should group together to sponsor the conferences. The Board also recommended the creation of formalized groups.
6. How would such an endeavor be accomplished? The Board recommended that each Association form a committee to make those decisions.
7. Should the same format for sponsoring and paying for the conferences be maintained? Should an alternate format be considered, i.e., paid for and organized by CRCEA? Would your Association agree to an annual “stipend” to fund the conferences? The Board recommended that the conferences be paid for and organized by CRCEA and that our Board would agree to an annual “stipend” to fund the conferences.
8. Who would provide the work force necessary to plan and execute the conference if organized by CRCEA? The Board recommended that each Association provide volunteers, and that the volunteers would include several individuals who had participated in prior conferences.
9. Using this format, how would any consistency be maintained from year to year? The consistency would be maintained by always having a volunteer or volunteers who participated in prior conferences.
10. Should CRCEA form a regional conference committee and who would plan and execute all conferences? The Board recommended that CRCEA should form a regional conference committee and that CRCEA, along with the volunteers from the Associations, should plan and execute conferences.

11. Would your Association be willing to provide volunteers and funding, on an annual basis, for such a committee? The Board was willing to provide volunteers and was willing to pay a “stipend” to fund conferences. The Board also recommended that the current hosting rotations be kept, so that each Association would be required to provide the volunteers in order to maintain consistency.

Connie reminded the Board that it will be REAC’s turn to host the CRCEA Conference in the Fall of 2025. She also reminded the Board that the CRCEA 2023 Spring Conference will be held April 23-26, 2023 at the Ontario Airport Hotel.

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): Paul reported the registration is now open for the SACRS 2023 Spring Conference. The Conference will be held May 9-12, 2023 in San Diego, CA. The SACRS website now includes information regarding the Conference registration, hotel reservations, and a preliminary Agenda.

Retirement Board: Cynthia gave a report. Items discussed included the Annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) calculation resulted in a change of 4.88%. Government Code Sections 31870 and 31870.1 require that the percentage change should be rounded to the nearest one-half percent, which is 5.0%. All Tier 1 and Tier 3 retirees/payeess will receive a COLA increase of 3.0%. Tiers 2 and 4 retirees/payeess will receive a COLA increase of 2.0%. Tiers 1 and 3 will bank 2.0% and Tiers 2 and 4 will bank 3.0%.

Cynthia reported that the Annual Health Care Planning meeting with retiree representatives will take place on April 5, 2023. ACERA Staff hosts the annual Health Care Planning meeting with Trustees, ACRE and REAC Board Members, ACERA’s Benefits Consultant, and the County Benefits Management team. The meeting is designed to discuss global issues, affecting multiple members, who are enrolled in a medical, dental and vision plan offered through ACERA or Via Benefits.

Cynthia also reported that ACERA currently provides, through Via Benefits, individuals medical and prescription drug plan coverage to Non-Medicare eligible retirees (early retirees) living outside ACERA’s group plan carriers service areas and to Medicare eligible retirees regardless of location. The Board of Retirement’s Service Provider Policy requires contracts such as these go to bid every five years in order to determine if ACERA is receiving services that are competitive and appropriately priced. The current contract will reach the end of its term in 2023. As a result, ACERA’s Benefits Consultant, Segal, will conduct a Request for Information (RFI) before moving forward with a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Lastly, Cynthia also provided an update on the results of the 2022 ACERA Virtual Health and Wellness Fair. The event included 5 wellness presentations including an interactive balancing presentation by Kaiser Permanente, plus the virtual expo hall website. This event was the largest health fair ever, with 405 attending the virtual live event.

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 were now considered to be in the low COVID-19 level, which reflects a decrease in the number of reported cases for both counties. She encouraged everyone to continue to

wear masks when appropriate. She reminded the Board that Kaiser's Silver&Fit program is ongoing. She encouraged everyone to sign up and take advantage of the many options which are available.

Activities: Alicia provided a brief report on the REAC Spring Luncheon. The committee, which included Dawn, Alicia, and Charo, has made great progress. The Spring Luncheon will be held immediately following the Board's Annual Membership meeting on March 13, 2023. The menu has been set, and the guest speaker will be Carlos Barrios who is the Assistant CEO for Benefits for ACERA. He will speak on all COLA increases and how banking COLA increases actually work. Invitations will be going out today to those individuals whom we invite to be our guests at the luncheon.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of January 31, 2023, membership stood at 3,844 members, which was a slight decrease from the December 2022 numbers. She also reported that she sent close to 150 emails to members whose Newsletters have been returned to us. Out of that total, 82 did not respond, she received 32 who changed their email address, 10 were wrong email address, and 66 did not have an email address.

Linda presented the Nomination Committee Report. Connie and Paul have agreed to serve another term. Unfortunately, Renaye has decided to step down from the Board and will not be serving another term. As of today, Paul has not received any requests from REAC members who wish to join the Board. Paul reminded the Board that during the Annual Membership meeting, which takes place immediately following the regular Board of Directors meeting, the members in attendance will vote on whether or not they want him and Connie to serve an additional term. Paul also mentioned that the Bylaws require the Board to appoint the REAC Board Officers during the April 2023 Board meeting. Since Renaye is leaving the Board, one of the remaining Board members will need to be appointed as Vice President.

The REAC Bylaws require that a minimum of twenty members must be present at the Annual Membership Meeting in order to conduct REAC business at that meeting and to vote on the Board membership. Alicia also mentioned that we will have Safeway Gift Cards to give to the first 20 members who show up for the Annual Membership Meeting. Renaye suggested that we might want to move the meeting, if necessary, to the actual luncheon room if we were unable to have 20 members in our meeting room.

REAC Website Redesign: Connie mentioned that she has received no negative feedback on the Website redesign. Connie motioned that the Website Test Site be approved as presented by the Website Redesign Committee. Suman seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Connie reported that they were still waiting on a few documents Paul was working on and she hoped to have them shortly.

REAC News: The REAC Newsletter will include the Cost of Living Increase which will be effective April 1, 2023, the passing of Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle, the vacancies on the REAC Board, and the Spring Luncheon.

Other Reports: No information to report.

Old Business: No information to report.

New Business: Administrative Staff COLA – Alicia reported on the results of the Administrative Support Staff compensation recommendation. The subcommittee recommended that the position be given the same COLA increases that ACERA Retirees receive. Linda motioned that the Administrative Support Staff position

be given the same Cost of Living Adjustment percentage that is given to Tier 1 and Tier 2 retirees effective April 1, 2023. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

The REAC 2023 Goals and Objectives will be carried over to a future Board meeting.

For the Good of the Order:

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted by Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2023, 9:30 am

**In-person Board Meeting at the Fairview Metropolitan Golf Course
10051 Doolittle Drive, Oakland, CA**

Annual Membership Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2023, 11:00 am

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