

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday January 9, 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, Dawn Stevenson, and Linda Slater were present. Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, 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 December 12, 2022 REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie moved that the December 12, 2022 REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved with one abstention.

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

ACERA: Michael Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, began his report on the December 7, 2022 Retirees Committee meeting. There were two Action Items and three Information Items.

The first Action Item was a discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement continue to provide Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (MBRP) benefits to current eligible retirees at the lowest standard monthly premium rate. Medicare deducts payment for Medicare Part B from those members who are enrolled in Medicare Part B. The Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan reimburses eligible members for that deduction at the lowest standard monthly premium rate. The MBRP benefit is a non-vested benefit funded by contributions from ACERA Employers to the 401 (h) accounts. After contributions are made, in accordance with the County Employees Retirement Law, ACERA treats an equal amount of Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) assets as employer contributions for pensions. This allows those members enrolled in Medicare Part B, to be reimbursed at the lowest standard monthly premium rate which is now \$164.90. The Retirees Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Retirement continue to provide the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan.

The second Action Item was a discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt revisions to 401 (h) Account Resolution 07-29, Appendix A, amended to reflect Plan Year 2023 benefit amounts. The Retirees Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt the revised and updated Appendix A to Resolution No. 07-29, which reflects the changes approved by the Board to the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) amounts for Group and Individual Plans as well as the Retiree Health Benefit contribution amounts for Plan Year 2023.

The first Information Item was the Annual Retired Member (Lump Sum) Death Benefit Report. In July 1992, the Board of Retirement adopted Government Code Section 31789.12 to provide a one-time Retired Member (Lump Sum) Death Benefit payment of \$1,000 to beneficiaries of retirees. For reciprocal members who did not render their last active service with an ACERA employer before retiring, ACERA will consider the death benefit payable by the reciprocal agency. If that agency pays less than \$1,000, ACERA will supplement that amount up to \$1,000. This is a vested benefit, per

Government Code Section 31789.12, as long as there are funds available in the Supplement Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR).

Over the twelve-month period December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022, there were 312 retired member deaths with a total of 230 retired member lump sum death benefits paid. Out of that total, there were seven retirees with reciprocity who did not render their last active service with an ACERA employer before retiring. The total amount of retired member lump sum death benefits paid from the SRBR was \$186,038.33. The reciprocal agencies paid a total of \$25,000.00 for the seven retirees with reciprocity.

The second Information Item was a report on the Virtual Retiree Health and Wellness Fair and Open Enrollment activity. The October 27, 2022 Health Fair had the largest number of attendees who logged on for the virtual event. The event included presentations from Kaiser, VSP, Delta Dental and Via Benefits. In addition, there was an ACERA presentation on ACERA's DocuSign Forms presented by Retirement Benefits Specialist Keven Weller. The Health Fair averaged 405 viewers for the live stream presentations, which was a 66% increase over last year's event. The ACERA Virtual Health and Wellness Fair 2022 Survey showed that 53.4% of respondents preferred the Virtual Fair, 20.9% preferred the in-person Health Fair, and 25.7% would like them both.

The third Information Items included an update on the Kaiser Permanente's Labor Agreement. Kaiser reached a settlement with its Mental Health Therapists in a four-year agreement. This agreement will benefit Kaiser patients, and drive collaborative efforts aimed at improving access to mental health care, while at the same time recognizing and better supporting mental health therapists in their important work.

There was also a report on ACERA's transition from using Wells Fargo bank as their financial bank, to begin using J.P. Morgan as their financial bank. The transition has been going well. ACERA's IT, Fiscal Services, and Benefits Departments have been testing for the last several months to ensure this transition occurs seamlessly.

Michael also reported that George Wood, Seat 3, Elizabeth Rogers, Seat 8, and Cynthia Baron, Alternate Seat 8, were all elected to serve on the Board of Retirement. Pete mentioned that almost 25% of those eligible to vote voted in that election.

Pete asked if there was a presentation of the Board's Strategic Plan. Michael mentioned that there was no presentation regarding the Board's Strategic Plan. However, he mentioned that you could see information regarding the Strategic Plan in the December 2022 Board information.

Treasurer's Report: Suman presented the December 2022 Treasurer's Report. Receipts totaled \$8,174.43 and Disbursements totaled \$7,162.50. There were no unusual receipts or disbursements. Red Arrow is catching up on their billing, and they expect to be current by February 2023. The beginning check book balance was \$98,476.34 and the ending balance was \$99,488.27. Total Assets were \$230,331.58.

Suman then presented the October – December 2022 Quarterly Report. For the 4th Quarter, receipts totaled \$24,561.24 and Disbursements totaled \$21,402.55. There were no unusual receipts or disbursements. Suman then reported on the 2022 Year End numbers. Receipts totaled \$98,510.20 and Disbursements totaled \$70,607.14.

Suman presented the REAC proposed 2023 Stipend budget. There are no changes projected for 2023. Alicia asked if there were stipends for the Membership Chair, and the Spring and Fall Luncheon Coordinators. Paul explained that there were no specific stipends for those individuals. However, the Board previously voted to approve a small amount which recognizes the efforts required for each of the three individuals performing those tasks. The Board agreed to have a small work group meet to discuss the item further. The Board approved adding an additional \$100 for each of the Coordinators in the Stipend Line Item.

Suman presented the REAC proposed 2023 budget. Total Receipts were projected to be \$103,530 and Total Disbursements were also projected to be \$103,530. Suman made small increases in several line items, but there were no substantial increases in income or disbursements. Suman did include \$4,000 in income from member contributions for the Spring and Fall Luncheons. Suman also included a few moderate increases in disbursements, in recognition of the cost of living increase for 2023.

Paul moved that the December 2022 Treasurer's Report, the October – December 2022 Quarterly Report, and the proposed 2023 Annual Budget be approved as submitted, and that the 2023 Stipend amounts be approved as modified, Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association): Connie reported on the CRCEA Long Term Care Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee will be meeting to develop a petition which urges the Governor and the State Legislature to enact a program providing compensation to CalPERS policy holders who have been harmed by CalPERS mismanagement of the Long Term Care Insurance program. Connie volunteered to help obtain online petition signatures through emails and newsletter articles, etc. At this point, Connie and two other volunteers have begun to obtain the email addresses for each of the 37 Act Counties. Currently there are only three volunteers, a Chair, a Vice Chair, and Connie.

Connie reminded the Board that it will be REAC's turn to host a CRCEA Conference in the Fall of 2025 and that we should be setting aside funds in 2024 and early 2025 to offset the costs of hosting the Conference. She also reminded the Board that there are guidelines on the CRCEA website that we can use to help facilitate our planning process. She also recommended that at least two or three of our Board members attend the 2023 Spring and Fall Conferences to see what it takes, and what is required, to successfully host a CRCEA Conference. The CRCEA 2023 Spring Conference will be held April 23, 2023 thru April 26, 2023 at the Ontario Airport Hotel. The host county is the Retired Employees of San Bernardino County (RESBC). Hotel room rates are \$119 per night, plus taxes, breakfast and parking included. You must reserve rooms by April 1, 2023. Both Connie and Alicia are planning on attending the next CRCEA Conference.

Connie also reported that there was no new information regarding the CalPERS Lawsuit.

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): There was no new information to report.

Retirement Board: There was no additional information to report.

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 are still considered to be at the medium COVID-19 level, which reflects an

increase in the number of reported cases for both counties. She encouraged everyone to continue to wear masks when appropriate.

She reported that she contacted ACERA to see if the Kaiser Silver&Fit program is still on-going for 2023. She also encouraged everyone to sign up, if they have not already, and take advantage of the various options including the available kits. Members can get a new kit each year.

Activities: Alicia suggested that we should consider having an in-person Annual Membership Meeting and an in-person Spring Luncheon. Connie outlined what needs to be done to have both, an in-person luncheon and an in-person Annual Membership Meeting. The Board decided to move forward with having the in-person events. Alicia suggested, as a speaker, someone from ACERA who could provide a comprehensive explanation on how the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase is determined, how the “COLA Bank” actually works. Connie suggested that the DA’s Office might be willing to give a short presentation on Scams targeting seniors and how to avoid them.

Alicia asked Norma what she thought of the idea of having an in-person luncheon. Norma was very supportive, in fact, she stated that she attended the last one, and was looking forward to having a Spring luncheon. Connie suggested that a committee be formed to help with the planning, etc. The committee will include Dawn, Alicia, and Charo. Connie suggested that we should supplement the cost of the Spring Luncheon for our members. This is provided for in the 2023 Budget. Alicia will contact the Metropolitan Golf Course, since they gave us a discount for holding our luncheon at their venue, and see what they would be willing to do this year.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of December 31, 2022, membership stood at 3,851 members, which was a slight decrease from the November 2022 numbers. Charo mentioned that she has received 40 to 42 requests from members who needed a new membership card. She also received around 200 plus Newsletters which have been returned as non-deliverable. She will send a copy of the letter she developed to Alicia, and when approved, she will send them out.

Linda reported that the Nomination Committee Report will be available later this week.

REAC Website Redesign: Connie walked the Board through the draft of the new REAC Website. The options and suggested changes are creative, thoughtful, and the Board was very pleased with their progress. Connie encouraged the Board to further review the changes and additions and then send them changes or suggestions we thought might be both useful and helpful. Connie mentioned that they now have a picture and bio for each Board member, with the exception of Dawn. Dawn will make arrangements to have her photo added to the website.

Connie wanted to know if we had the REAC Bylaws available in a Word document. She noticed that the Bylaws currently on the Website were in a PDF document and they needed to be updated. If the Bylaws were in a Word document, it would be easier for us to make updates. Once the Bylaws are converted to a Word document we could make the necessary changes and updates, and then convert the updated Bylaws back to a PDF document to be added to the new Website. Paul reported that no, the Bylaws were not in one Word document. The Bylaws have been changed and updated over time, and were in several different documents. However, he said he could probably consolidate them all, in a relatively short time, to one document. He thought he could do that sometime this week or next week.

Connie also asked Paul if he could create additional documents, or content, for use on the Website. For example, in the Members Only section of the new Website, there is a “Join the Board” Tab. The committee felt it would be useful to add content to that Tab which explained the requirements, the process for running for the Board, the responsibilities as a Board Member, etc. Paul agreed to create any content the committee needed. He would work on the Bylaws first then he would do the content.

The Board was very pleased with the results thus far and felt they did a remarkable job on the Website. The Board is really looking forward to seeing the next changes.

REAC News: The REAC Newsletter will include the results of the Retirement Board election, the Nominating Committee information, the Silver&Fit information, the March 13, 2023 Annual Membership Meeting and the March 13, 2023 Spring Luncheon.

Other Reports: No information to report.

Old Business: No information to report.

New Business: Administrative Staff COLA – The Board decided to have a subcommittee meet on 01/12/2022 to discuss options.

Board of Director’s Vacancy – Information carried over to the next Board meeting.

Annual Membership Meeting – The Board agreed to hold an in-person meeting & luncheon.

REAC 2022 Goals and Objectives – Item carried over to the 02/13/2023

For the Good of the Order:

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM

Respectfully submitted by Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023, 9:30 am
Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting