

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday, May 11, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting

Alicia Baptista, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM

Roll Call: Alicia Baptista, Dawn Stevenson, Cynthia Baron, Linda Slater, Kathy Foster, Marsha Rice and Connie Land were present. Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, and Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant were also present.

Minutes: The Minutes of the April 13, 2026, REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Marsha moved that the April 13, 2026, REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Cynthia seconded the motion and the motion was approved

Announcements & Communications: Alicia reported that a member responded to the ongoing discussion about budgeting and balancing costs. He noted that many magazines have shifted from monthly to bimonthly or quarterly issues due to financial pressures. He also expressed concern about the length and dryness of the current meeting minutes. He recommended a summarized version of the minutes in the newsletter and keep a full detailed version on file to meet legal and procedural requirements. On the topic of outreach, he urged us to continue connecting with recent retirees by sending a welcoming letter that introduces REAC, highlights our history, and outlines the benefits and protections we've helped secure over the years. He closed by affirming that REAC is indispensable.

ACERA: Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, reported that the Retirees Committee did not meet in May, so there were no new actions to share. He noted that ACERA approved a higher VIA Benefits reimbursement for Medicare retirees, effective February 1, 2027, while keeping eligible expenses the same. ACERA is also still considering expanding VIA Benefits to non-Medicare retirees.

On standby pay, refunds were approved for members incorrectly charged contributions, but ACERA has not yet decided whether retirement benefits will be recalculated.

Treasurer's Report: Connie presented REAC's April 2026 Treasurer's report. The beginning Interest Privilege Account balance was \$29,948.48. Total receipts were \$7,926.70. We received \$7,376.00 in membership dues, \$500 from our 1st United Credit Union advertisement, and two payments from the Spring Luncheon. Disbursements totaled \$5,887.67 resulting in a surplus for the month of \$2,039.03.

Connie reported that there were two unusual disbursements. IONOS, our Website host for an annual payment of \$222.77. The other items are for Creative Circle invoices for three months for the newsletter layout. There are two small payments to Select Staffing for adjustments for REAC's Administrative Assistant's salary raise. The ending check book balance was \$31,987.51 and total assets were \$256,615.82.

Linda moved that April 30, 2026, Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Dawn seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association): The CRCEA 2026 Spring Conference was held on April 19, 2026, thru April 22, 2026, at the Marriott Hotel in Buellton, Ca. The host was Retired Employees of Santa Barbara County (RESBC). Connie attended the conference.

The conference was well organized and informative. There was sponsorship from CRCEA Affiliates My Senior Health and PGA/AMBA and RESBC. There were about 68 attendees from various counties. A number of counties had more than 1 attendee.

There were sessions of serious importance, sessions of general interest 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 California Insurance Crisis, Understanding Cal Fire, Danish America-Venture Capital Firm, California Economic Forecast, Legislative Updates, etc.

Sessions of General Interest were: US Space Force-Outer space Launch Program, Shelter Box (provide shelter after disaster), etc.

The Business Meeting was informative. There were 16 of 20 counties in attendance. An update was provided on the change in hosting conferences.

The new conference rotation schedule starts this Fall 2026 with a virtual Business Session to be scheduled by the CRCEA Secretary and continuing each Fall thereafter.

Starting Spring 2027, the first full conference under the new structure hosted by CRCEA, planned by Division 1 and continuing in the Spring of each ODD year. REAC is in Division I.

Continuing Spring 2028, the second full conference under the new structure hosted by CRCEA, planned by Division II and continuing in the Spring each EVEN year.

Planning is underway for the Spring 2027 Conference with Division 1's primary focus on a venue location and sponsorship. The plan is to continue use of the existing Conference website for conference registration and payment thereof and direct access for hotel registration. Division I meets monthly and forms sub-committees for a successful conference.

Division 2 meets as needed; recently leadership resigned for health reasons and now needs to identify new/replacement leadership.

CRCEA Treasurer and President recently opened a new bank account for the Conference Funding with First Citizen's Bank, transferred funds on hand.

Bylaws Sub-Committee may be able to draft amendments to the Bylaws to address the new conference structure by the Fall 2026 Conference Virtual Business Session.

Planning continues with updates at each meeting.

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): Cynthia, Kathy and Connie will be attending the spring conference from May 12 -15, 2026. Former U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle is the keynote speaker.

Retirement Board: Kathy reported that the Investment Committee met, but no action items were taken.

Investment Committee: Kathy reported that the Operations Committee met, but no action items were taken. Discussion continued on delegated authority, specifically the limits placed on staff in making investment decisions, including investment amount thresholds. She noted that this will likely remain an ongoing topic for Board discussion.

Health Care (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): Linda reported that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Activities: The luncheon committee may have something in the next few months.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of April 30, 2026, our membership stood at 3,712 members, which was a slight decrease from the previous month.

Administrative Staff: There was no new information to report.

REAC Website: Charo reported for the last two months she has been receiving SPAM emails for website access. Charo will reach out to Beth to see if she can ascertain what is occurring.

REAC News: The REAC News will include information regarding reformatting the minutes.

Other Reports: There was no additional information to report.

Old Business: There was no additional information to report.

New Business: There was no additional information to report.

For the Good of the Order: There was no additional information to report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Stevenson, Vice President

Next Board Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026, 9:30 am

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting