

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday, July 13, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting

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

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

Minutes: The Minutes of the June 8, 2026, REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie moved to approve the June 8, 2026, REAC Board Minutes as submitted. Liz seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: Alicia reported that an account manager for Select Staffing has been identified. Her name is Sandra Carrion. Alicia also reported that at the last Retirees Committee meeting she met the new ACERA Fiscal Services Officer David Puente. He is from Imperial County and is looking forward to working with us.

ACERA: Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager reported on the July 1, 2026, Retirees Committee meeting. There was one Action item and a few Information items. The Action Item was the possible increase of the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) for 2027. The Retirees Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Retirement that the MMA for Group Plans, Early Retiree Individuals Plans, and Medicare Eligible Retiree Individual Plans, be increased by 3.75%, making the new amount \$712.98.

The first Information Item was a report on the claims experience and plan utilization for ACERA retirees enrolled in ACERA-sponsored Dental and Vision Plans. The total utilization of individuals who have used all the maximum is 6.7% for the previous year, and 6.8% for last year, which is just a slight change. Alicia mentioned that the number of individuals who do not utilize their dental benefits remains a concern. Since regular dental care is linked to overall good health, there is a concern that individuals who do not utilize their dental benefits may be facing serious health issues later. The top four defined utilization categories were: Crowns & Inlays/Onlays, Diagnostic Services, Implant Services, and Preventive. The top four defined utilization categories comprise about 63% of all approved claims.

Members without utilization remain consistent with the prior period and represents 26.5% of the covered population. Delta Dental research indicates that members with extended periods of “No Utilization” could require more complex procedures and experience between \$100-\$400 in higher dental expenses

The next information item contained information on the VSP plan experience. We have roughly 9,600 to 9,700 individuals enrolled. Of that number 7,500 of those individuals are in the standard plan, and about 2,200 in the buy-up plan. About 92% of members are using in-network providers.

The next Information Item was a report on the implementation of the redesigned direct deposit forms, undated service retirement applications, and new stand alone trust forms developed to ensure compliance with recent California legislative changes regarding pension disbursements. The updates were implemented to improve the member experience and modernize our standard form layouts. The standard direct deposit form was redesigned from the ground up. The primary goal of this redesign was to clarify the language, make the form more member-friendly, and transition it to their new standard design layout. As a result of this redesign, the standard direct deposit form is now fully integrated into DocuSign, allowing members to complete and submit their deposit instructions electronically.

Following the implementation of California Government Code Section 31452.6(d), effective in 2025, ACERA is now permitted to direct deposit a member's pension payments into two specific types of trust accounts: Revocable Living Trusts and Income-Only (Miller) Trusts established for Medi-Cal or Medicaid eligibility. The direct deposit section of the Application for Service Retirement has also been updated to seamlessly incorporate the new trust options and procedures. All updated forms are currently live on the website, fully available for members to use in DocuSign.

The last Information Item was a report on the finalized design of the optimized benefit estimate. The project aim was to standardize the retirement estimate format across their systems, to provide their members with a clearer, more comprehensive tools for retirement planning, and to dramatically improve administrative efficiency.

Treasurer's Report: Liz presented REAC's June 2026 Treasurer's report and REAC's 2nd quarter, April 2026 – June 30, 2026 Treasurer's report.

REAC's June 2026 Treasurer's report. The Beginning Interest Privilege Account balance was \$33,760.08. Receipts included \$7,432.00, from membership and \$500.00 from the 1st United Credit Union advertisement. Total receipts were \$7,932.00. There were no unusual receipts this month. Total disbursements were \$6,617.01. Disbursements included \$1,668.69 reimbursement to Cynthia for her attendance at the SACRS conference, \$1,721.31 for Red Arrow for Newsletter printing, and \$587.30 for postage. There were no unusual disbursements this month. Ending Interest Privilege balance was \$35,075.07. Total assets were \$260,754.16. Connie moved that the June 2026 Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Kathy seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

REAC's 2nd Quarter, April 2026 – June 2026, Treasurer's report. The total receipts for the 2nd Quarter \$23,743.48. Receipts included \$22,192.00 Membership, and \$1,150.00 Newsletter advertisement. Disbursements included \$5,176.21, Red Arrow Printing, \$1,771.31, Newsletter Postage, Conference Expenses, \$1,668.69, and \$3,319.09 for Membership and Clerical Support – Select Staffing. Disbursements totaled \$18, 616.89 Net Surplus for the 2nd Quarter \$5,126.59.

Alicia had a question regarding CD interest. On the 2nd Quarterly Report, Line 3 under Income, the line item reflects CD interest in April, but no interest in May or June. Are we supposed to receive interest on the CDs and report it as a budget line item? Liz mentioned that the interest CDs receive are added back to the CD automatically. Line 4, which reflects the interest which the checking account receives, seems to make sense, but Line 3 raises questions. Liz agreed to research the issue.

Alicia also asked if anyone knew why our membership numbers are declining, yet looking at our payroll membership for April, May and June, our payroll membership seems to be increasing every month. Charo will look into it and report back. Connie moved that the 2nd Quarter Treasurer's report be approved as submitted. Linda seconded and the motion was approved.

CRCEA: Connie presented her CRCEA (California Retired County Employee Association) Report. The June 17, 2026, Executive Committee meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is July 15, 2026, which is after our meeting. An update will be provided next month. Other: Planning for the 2027 CRCEA Spring Conference, under the new structure, is in full swing. Division 1, for which REAC is a member, is responsible for the planning. Progress is being made as we're close to narrowing down an affordable venue. As stated previously, the process is moving slower than expected but progress is expected to pick up speed in the coming months. Another update will be provided at the next meeting.

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): Cynthia provided her SACRS report. The Annual SACRS Fall Conference will be held from November 10, 2026 - November 13, 2026, at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa, Rancho Mirage, CA. SACRS is just following up with some suggestions for speakers that they are trying to get for the meeting. No speaker confirmation at this point.

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): Linda reported that this is now tick season. The CDC recommends that campers and hikers be extra careful while they are out and about. If they also take their dogs with them on their hike, make sure they check them carefully, so they do not have any ticks. If people go hiking, they recommend wearing long pants, and good shoes. There has been an increase in the number of people affected by tick-borne disease this summer.

Activities: Alicia asked if any of the Board members were going to be able to join her at ACERA's Retirees Health and Wellness Fair on October 22nd. Alicia will attend. Connie and Linda will attend, and Cynthia will be able to attend part of the day.

The Fall luncheon will take place on October 12, 2026. It will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton. The Luncheon Committee will get together in the next couple of weeks or so, to continue planning. Alicia has been in contact with the facility, and they will offer a salad this year. So, the meal options will include a fish dish, a vegetarian option, and a salad dish.

The Luncheon Committee is also looking for venues which can host larger luncheon groups on this side of the Dublin grade, like Castro Valley, San Leandro, Oakland, Alameda, etc. They have found several places, but they have a cap of 100 attendees.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of June 30, 2026, our membership stood at 3,703 members, which was an increase from the previous month.

The Recruitment Committee continues to work on several suggestions which look promising. Mike, on his own time, is working on a new flyer. Mike will also check on how much it would cost to include that new flyer in the enrollment guide information.

Administrative Staff: Charo reported that she needs additional letterhead paper. Alicia will remind Red Arrow to send us the additional letterhead.

REAC Website: Dawn will start using her new “reacvicepresident@reacsite.org” email address.

REAC News: The REAC news will include the 2026 Fall Luncheon to be held on Monday, October 12th at the DoubleTree in Pleasanton. It will also include various member options for registering for the luncheon. Lastly, it will include information about the guest speaker who will be a representative from Delta Dental,

Other Reports: There was no additional information to report.

Old Business: Linda has been working on a new reimbursement form, and it is a vast improvement over the current form. It is still a work in progress, so everyone should look at it and make suggestions as appropriate. It would be nice if it can be made to fit on one page. The instructions are simple. Fill it out, attach your receipts, and email it to the REAC Treasurer with a CC to the REAC President. Reimbursement requests from the President must CC the REAC Vice President. This will help ensure that there’s no questions of impropriety.

New Business: There was no new information to report.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2026, 9:30 am
Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting