

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday, November 10, 2025, 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, Paul Reeves, Connie Land, Liz Koppenhaver, Linda Slater, and Marsha Rice were present. Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager and Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, were also present.

Minutes: The Minutes from the October 13, 2025, REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie Land moved that the October 13, 2025, REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Marsha Rice seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: There was nothing new to report.

ACERA: Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, provided his report. He began by reminding the Board that there was no Retirees Committee meeting this month. He then reported that ACERA now has the official SRBR lifespan numbers. The lifespan number is down 4 years from the previous report. The previous projection was 24 years. ACERA has been graphing projections on their website, on the SRBR page, which goes back to 2007. There was a period in 2009 and 2010 where the projections were 7 years, in 2011, and 2012 it was 15 years, in 2013 it moved back to 19 years and ever since then, it's been above 20. It was 20 years in 2019. It did get as high as 27 years in 2022, but then the Board did a rebalancing between Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) and the non-OPEB benefits. Over time the OPEB and non-OPEB become unbalanced, and the Board periodically rebalances them. In the most recent SRBR financial status report, more money went into the SRBR than came out of the SRBR in the previous 6-month period. So as of June 2025, the balance continues to climb. As of June 30th, the total balance was \$1.2 billion.

Alicia asked Mike if he had any preliminary numbers for the Health Fair. The attendance was up over last year's hybrid fair. There were 24 more people than last year, which was 393 between the in-person and zoom. This year the number was 417, so we gained twenty-four more people. The in-person attendance was up, and the Zoom attendance was down slightly. Last year they had 193 people in person and this year they had 234 in person, so they had forty-one more people join us in person. The Zoom declined from two hundred down to 183.

It was a very successful Health Fair. Alicia mentioned that ACERA already has a link up for people who want to view some of the presentations. Alicia also mentioned that the new location is much better than the Emeryville location in terms of space. Alicia also mentioned that fourteen people signed up for REAC.

Mike mentioned that November is open enrollment month. ACERA already mailed open enrollment packets. Additionally, they sent out an email reminding people that it is now open enrollment and giving them access to the electronic versions of all the packet materials. They will send out a reminder, or a couple of reminders this month about open enrollment.

Paul asked if they had any numbers about how many members change their providers during open enrollment. Mike said that very few members make a change. They have over 11,000 retirees, and of that number, only about two hundred will make a change.

Treasurer's Report: Liz presented REAC's October 2025 Treasurer's report. The beginning Interest Privilege Account balance was \$34,493.09. Total receipts were \$42,873.80. Total disbursements were \$45,005.19. At this point in time, she does not have the final numbers from the CRCEA Conference Committee. There was one unusual receipt. Liz transferred \$32,951.59 from the Free Checking account, which was being used for the CRCEA Conference funds, to our Regular checking account. DoubleTree used the debit card number we were using in 2024 for the CRCEA Conference to charge their expenses. Liz had to move funds to cover the costs DoubleTree charged against that debit card. There were no other unusual receipts. There are several unusual disbursements and all of them are related to the CRCEA Conference REAC hosted. The largest disbursement was \$31,951.59 and that was to replace the funds transferred to the Free checking account.

Alicia asked if the six notes at the bottom of the report could also have the number for each note, listed on the line item corresponding to the note. For instance, number one, could you put the number one (in parenthesis) on the line item corresponding to the transfer of the \$32,951.59 which was a transfer of funds which is the second line item under Receipts? Liz said that she can do that and would make that change starting with the December Treasurer's report. Liz hopes to also have the final CRCEA Conference report ready for the December Board meeting.

The ending balance of the Privilege Account was \$32,361.70; the ending balance of the Free checking account was \$19,583.26 and total assets were \$256,845.61. Linda motioned that the October 2025 Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Connie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

CRCEA: California Retired County Employee Association Connie presented her CRCEA monthly report. The October 15, 2025, Executive Meeting was cancelled. The next monthly meeting is set for November 19, 2025. The remaining conference schedule under the existing structure is:
Spring 2026: Santa Barbara County-April 19-22, 2026, Marriott-Buellton, Ca.

REAC 2025 Fall Conference Planning Committee Update:

The conference is over. The debrief meeting was held and some areas of concern were identified. Most were beyond our control, but as a whole, there was agreement. It was a very good conference and well attended.

The Planning Committee will schedule a work session soon to select conference photos to post to REAC and CRCEA websites. An update will be provided at the December meeting.

An accounting of income and expenses is being worked on to present at the December 2025 meeting.

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

Retirement Board: There was no new information to report.

Investment Committee: There was no new information to report.

Health Care (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): Linda reported that the CDC is stressing the importance of getting your Flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

Activities: The REAC Spring Luncheon and the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Pleasanton. The Annual Membership meeting starts at 9:30 AM and the luncheon begins at 11:30 AM. The luncheon committee will soon start work on their luncheon preparations. Alicia wanted to know the Board's thoughts about increasing the luncheon price from the current \$25.00 to \$30.00. Costs on everything continue to increase, so perhaps we should think about increasing the cost of luncheon meals. ACRE charges \$65 for their luncheons, which is more than double the cost of our luncheon. If we were to increase the amount to \$30, we would still be subsidizing the cost our members pay. Alicia also mentioned that the DoubleTree has agreed to not increase their meal charge for our Spring 2026 luncheon. The Board agreed to leave the cost for the Spring luncheon and Membership meeting at \$25.00.

Alicia mentioned that she will be purchasing gift cards to give to the first 20 members who come to the Membership meeting so that we can have a quorum for conducting business.

The other activity is the REAC Board's holiday lunch which will be held on December 9, 2025, at Trabocco, in Alameda. Lunch starts at 11:30 AM.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of October 31, 2025, our membership stood at 3,722 members, which was a one person increase from the previous month. We also had 14 individuals sign up for REAC at the Health Fair so next month's report should have more members. One of the members who attended the Health Fair filled out a form because she said, "I know I'm a member, but I'm not getting the Newsletter." Charo checked and found that the member had accidentally unsubscribed. We have found that several members have accidentally unsubscribed. We are working on a method to identify members who have accidentally unsubscribed. We want to know how that happened, why we were not notified, and how best to put them back on.

Administrative Staff: There was no new information to report.

REAC Website Report: Connie provided her monthly website update. In October, there were 192 unique visitors to the website. We are finding more and more people who are going to the website because this represents a 5.7% increase from last month, which was 181. The average time spent on the site was one minute and 38 seconds, which was an increase from last month. The most visited pages continue to be the member resources.

Connie also reported that our website designer mentioned that there is a significant amount of traffic coming from Asia. Beth will try to develop a program to screen out those contacts yet allows our members who live out of the country to visit the website.

Alicia mentioned that now that we have had more experience with our website, and that we have a new website designer, perhaps it is now time to consider how often we request information from the website, and what type of information do we really need. Should it continue to be every month, every other month, quarterly, just when there is a problem, or when something unusual occurs? After some discussion, the Board agreed to no longer request a monthly report. Connie will let our website designer know that we are changing the frequency of that report.

Last month, there was an error on the calendar section of the website regarding the starting time of the luncheon. It said the luncheon started at 9:30 AM when it should have been 11:30 AM. While Connie has graciously taken the lead on helping us to modernize the website, we should designate another Board member to monitor, review, fact check, look for what's missing, look for what is incorrect, look for what needs to be removed when an event, or the time, has passed, etc. This discussion will be carried over to the December Board meeting.

REAC News: The REAC News will include a Happy Holiday comment, an update on the Health Fair, and a save the date, March 9, 2026, for REAC's Annual Membership meeting and Spring luncheon. Alicia thought including an option in the Newsletter to switch from receiving a paper to an electronic Newsletter, would make it much easier to switch from a paper copy to an electronic copy. She requested the Board give some thought about how that would work. Alicia will also add a question about our membership. What would the membership like us to do? What sort of activities would they like us to do, and what should we be working on in 2026? What are we not doing that they would like us to start doing and what are we doing now, that they have no interest in.

Other Reports: There was no additional information to report.

Old Business: Several months ago, the Board discussed using email addresses which would only be used for REAC communications. The Board would start using REAC email addresses that were not their personal email addresses. Beth was able to create email addresses for Board Officers to use, and Alicia will begin using reacpresident@reacsite.org as her new REAC email address. Dawn will start using reacvicepresident@reacsite.org next.

Alicia & Linda will work on modernizing the Reimbursement Form.

The Board will also work on updating the Invitation letter which REAC uses for people to sign up for REAC.

Lastly, the Board will review other options for printing some of our printing needs.

New Business: There was no new business to report.

For the Good of the Order: Alicia reminded the Board that she will be taking her vacation from November 25th thru December 9th, which means she will miss or December 8th Board meeting. Dawn will chair the meeting in her absence.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2025, 9:30 am
Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting