

Minutes of the Meeting of Board of Directors

Retired Employees of Alameda County

Monday, August 11, 2025

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, Liz Koppenhaver, Connie Land, Cynthia Baron, Kathy Foster, Linda Slater, and Marsha Rice 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 from the July 14, 2025, REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie Land moved that the July 14, 2025, REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Liz Koppenhaver seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: Connie received a communication from a member with two concerns regarding their ACERA MemberDirect account. The first issue was that benefit statements were set to default to email, while the member preferred to receive them by mail. The second concern involved beneficiary data that did not transfer electronically; ACERA requires individuals and retirees to manually complete a beneficiary form for updates. Mike was contacted and facilitated communication between the member and the ACERA staff to address these issues.

Despite the site being live for almost a year, Mike was unaware of the beneficiary data problem. Connie noted that her account also lacked a listed beneficiary. Kathy mentioned that there were issues with retirees' beneficiary information in MemberDirect. There is an ongoing request for changes to fix the issue. Mike will further investigate the matter and provide updates.

Liz was contacted by a member regarding issues with VIA benefit reimbursements. She received an overpayment and is now being asked to repay it, which has left her confused. Liz referred her to ACERA for assistance.

ACERA: Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, reported that the Retirees Committee meeting has been moved to August 21, 2025, which is the Board Meeting day. There are several important updates to share:

****Board Election**:** A notice for the upcoming board election was posted on the ACERA website last week, with an email also sent out. The nomination period runs from September 2nd to September 29, 2025, with five open seats, including a third member representing General Members, two Retired Member seats (one Retired Member and one Alternate), and two Safety seats (one Safety Member and one Alternate). More information can be found at [ACERA.org/election](https://www.acera.org/election).

****Annual Financial Report**:** The Popular Annual Financial Report is currently being printed and will be mailed out soon.

****Transition to Secure Messaging**:** Starting September 1, 2025, ACERA will move to secure messaging for member communications. ACERA is retiring its current contact method, which involves emailing ACERA at info@ACERA.org or using the contact form on the website. Anyone with an ACERA account will be prompted to answer some questions when visiting the contact page and then directed to log in to their account on web member services. The primary reason is that email is less secure than the message center in MemberDirect.

If you go to the contact page on September 1, 2025, you will be directed to log in or create a MemberDirect account. Nonmembers and non-account holders will still be able to email ACERA through the contact page because they don't have access to MemberDirect.

Treasurer's Report: Liz presented REAC's July 2025 Treasurer's report. The beginning Interest Privilege Account balance was \$29,648.94. Total receipts were \$7,930.68, and total disbursements were \$8,050.18. There were no unusual receipts. Liz pointed out two disbursements to Select Staffing; there was a payment made in error at a lower rate. The correct amount was paid to Select Staffing, and Liz will consult with Select Staffing for the reimbursement. REAC is now responsible for paying the annual website licenses. Five had to be purchased. The Interest Privilege account ending balance was \$29,529.44. Total assets were \$269,116.88. Kathy moved that the July 31, 2025, Treasurer's Report be approved. Connie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Liz then presented REAC's 2nd Quarter – April – June 2025 Treasurer's report. For the 2nd Quarter, Receipts totaled \$23,887.41 and Disbursements totaled \$27,024.64. There were no unusual receipts or disbursements. Connie moved that the 2nd Quarter, April to June 2025, Treasurer's Report be approved. Kathy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

CRCEA: California Retired County Employees Association. The July 16, 2025, Executive Meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025.

The remaining conference schedules are: Fall 2025: Alameda County-September 28-October 1, 2025, DoubleTree Hotel-Pleasanton, Spring 2026: Santa Barbara County-April 19-22, 2026, Marriott Hotel-Buellton.

REAC 2025 Fall Conference Planning Committee: The Committee met on August 08, 2025. Meeting highlights include updates on (1) conference website training on registration, payment process and reports, (2) program agenda, firming up speakers and bios, (3) conference program brochure design and layout (4) sponsorship amounts received (\$14,500); identifying the organizations who committed but not yet paid and follow-up actions needed, (5) goody bags contents, items received/committed, possible remaining items for inclusion, (6) finalizing the conference program survey form, (7) entertainment, (8) photography, (9) name badges, etc.

The Conference Website launched for online registration on August 07, 2025. So far, at least 8 have registered and more expected in the coming weeks. There is a special registration rate for REAC members i.e. \$50 for the Monday half day session, \$75 for the Tuesday full day session. REAC members are encouraged to attend.

Conference registration is online and the payment for registration choices are by debit/credit cards only. Some key dates to remember:

August 29, 2025- Deadline for DoubleTree Hotel reservation for reduced group rate. Book hotel through the DoubleTree Hotel website via <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/plepcdt-crr-24b0869b-00fc-4799-b387-350cc490676f/> OR CRCEA Website via <https://crcea.org>.

September 17, 2025: Final conference registration deadline. Register via the CRCEA Conference Website via <https://crcea.wildapricot.org> OR CRCEA Website via <https://crcea.org>.

Things are taking shape for a successful conference.

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 19, 2025, and biweekly thereafter via Zoom until the conference begins

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): Kathy Foster reported that the next SACRS conference would be held from November 12, 2025, to November 15, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach.

Retirement Board: Alicia mentioned the Retirement Board's upcoming elections. She received a statement from Elizabeth Rogers, who sits in Seat 8, asking for an endorsement from the REAC Board that Alicia read. Alicia moved that REAC provide the endorsement. Liz Koppenhaver seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Investment Committee: There was no additional information to report.

Health Care (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): Linda mentioned that the 22nd Annual Healthy Living Festival is coming up on Thursday, September 5th, 2025, at the Oakland Zoo, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The festival is free. The President's Message will include details from Linda about this event.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of July 31, 2025, our membership stood at 3,734 members, which was a decrease from the previous month.

Administrative Staff – Updates: There was no new information to report.

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.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Stevenson, Vice President

Next Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

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