

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday, February 12, 2024, 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, Liz Koppenhaver, Paul Reeves, Connie Land, Cynthia Baron, Kathy Foster, and Linda Slater were present. Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, Pete Albert, ACRE President, Brenda Scott, member, James Lee, member, and Jerry Jacobs, member, and former REAC Board Member, were present.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 8, 2024 REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie Land moved that the January 8, 2024, REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Linda Slater seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: Alicia reported that a Process Server came to her house and gave her a Garnishment Order for an employee she knows nothing about. REAC has no employees and we have never heard of this person. So, she filled out the paperwork the process server left her, and sent it back to the Sheriff's Department, informing them that we have no employees, and we have never heard of this individual

Alicia also reported that she received an invitation to attend the April 9, 2024 ACERA annual Health Care Planning meeting. ACERA Staff hosts an annual Health Care Planning meeting with Trustees, ACRE and REAC Board Members, ACERA's Benefits Consultant, and the County Benefits Management team. The meeting is designed to discuss global issues, affecting multiple members, who are enrolled in medical, dental and vision plans offered through ACERA or Via Benefits (Willis Towers Watson). The Health Care Planning meeting is a precursor to the annual renewal letters ACERA Staff send to the County of Alameda as well as ACERA's dental and vision carriers for the next plan year. Concerns raised by the retirement associations are often included in their renewal letters.

The Health Care Planning meeting will be held virtually. Alicia requested that the Board send her any questions, concerns, or suggestions that we might have regarding the upcoming meeting. Alicia and Pete Albert will both attend. Pete mentioned that he had heard that Carlos Barrios, ACERA's Assistant Chief Executive Officer, is doing some research on how to best manage an increase in the hearing aid benefit. Kathy mentioned that the discussion was actually how best to fund an increase. Should it be funded through Kaiser, in which case all Kaiser member's would share the cost, or perhaps fund it through an HRA account through VIA Benefits in which case only those individuals who actually used the increase would be paying for it. However, if they were to use the HRA approach, we would still have to pay a monthly fee to VIA Benefits for the administration of that process. Kathy mentioned that REAC should consider which process seemed the best, and then let them know before the planning meeting.

Paul asked if the Silver&Fit program would be extended another year? According to Kathy and Cynthia, since Kaiser does not provide usage information, it is difficult to determine how many of our retirees actually use the program, and that makes the decision to extend or not to extend, more difficult. Kathy suggested that if this is something we felt we should support, we should also provide our feedback.

Liz mentioned that she received a call from a retiree who had recently retired and did not receive his Newsletter. She let Charo know, and Charo quickly sent him the current issue and several past issues. The member called Liz back to say how pleased he was with the great service. Liz just wanted Charo to know how much she appreciated Charo's quick response.

ACERA: Today is a County holiday, so no ACERA representatives were able to attend today's meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Liz presented the REAC 4th Quarter Treasurer's Report. Total receipts were \$93,978.01 and total expenditures were \$80,739.64. Red Arrow is still behind in their billing, but she hopes they make a concerted effort to catch up. Connie moved and Kathy seconded, that the REAC 4th Quarter Treasurer's report be approved as submitted.

Liz presented the January 2024 Treasurer's Report. Total receipts were \$7,991.75 and total expenditures were \$3,791.90. Total assets were \$257,664.77. Red Arrow is still behind on their billing. They have not billed for November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024. Liz has also been trying to get our web hosting to accept a credit card for payment of our monthly costs, which would streamline and expedite our payment process.

Liz reported that she was able to purchase the gift cards needed for the See's Discount program, so we are good through the end of 2024. Liz also reported that we have finally received the correct billing information for Charo and she has now been paid the correct amount. Linda motioned that the January 2024 Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Dawn seconded the motion and the motion has been approved.

Alicia reported that she heard from a member who wanted to purchase the See's discount gift cards. Alicia contacted See's to check, and See's informed her that our gift certificates and are not good for See's discount cards, they are only good for See's candy. The Board purchases 20 gift certificates every 14 months, and that allows our members to go to a See's discount store and purchase their candy at a 10% discount.

CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association): Connie provided her February CRCEA report.

The January Executive Committee meeting was held on January 24, 2024. During the Roundtable discussion, San Bernardino County stated that they have established an Organizational Review Committee in light that it has been a few years since an organization structure review has been done. They have a new President and the Association wants to query other county associations regarding their organizational structure i.e. 501(C) 3 vs 501(C) 4 status. The CRCEA Executive Committee supported San Bernardino reaching out to other county associations with a letter and a survey. REAC received the survey, and we are working with the Treasurer to complete the survey by the stated deadline.

The Conference Brainstorming Subcommittee – The Chair of the Ad Hoc Conference Committee had to leave the January 2024 Executive Committee early. It was decided the issue of the upcoming April 2024 event be discussed as soon as possible to afford prompt notification to association counties. Consensus was reached to meet via a Zoom meeting on Tuesday January 30, 2024 at 2:30 PM for the Executive Meeting and Ad Hoc Conference Committee to make a decision.

The CRCEA Executive Committee and the Ad Hoc Conference Committee met on January 30, 2024. After discussion, the Ad Hoc Conference Committee recommended that The CRCEA Spring 2024 Conference be scheduled as a virtual Business Session, with the suggestion that it be expanded somewhat to afford deeper/continuing discussion of issues of mutual benefit, including, but not limited to, conferences. Based on the Ad Hoc Conference Committee recommendation, and after further discussion, the CRCEA Executive Committee approved the recommendation to schedule a virtual Business Session on Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 9:00 am-Noon.

REAC 2025 Fall Conference Planning Committee Update: The Planning Committee met on January 26, 2024 to tour Doubletree Berkeley and Hilton Garden Inn in Emeryville. They are waiting for proposals from both. They also contacted Marriott Fremont but have received no response. Visits are scheduled to Doubletree in Pleasanton, Livermore and Newark in March, 2024. Plans are to continue review of the CRCEA Conference Manual and visit other area hotels. Once again, we are seeking volunteers who are comfortable with soliciting funds. This committee meets monthly via Zoom.

CalPERS Lawsuit Update. The January 12, 2024 CalPERS website update states that settlement checks were issued to most settlement class members on January 11, 2024. It also informs them to please allow up to two weeks for delivery. It also requests that once they receive their checks, to please deposit or cash their checks promptly as they will expire 90 days after its issue date. If they have questions, to please feel free to call the Settlement Administrator at 1-(866) 217-8056 (Toll Free). With the issuance of the settlement checks, this matter is now closed and thus there will be no further reporting on it.

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): Paul provided his SACRS report. In 2024, SACRS commemorates 70 years of their unwavering support of educating those individuals that provide retirement security to California's public employees. SACRS planning teams have been hard at work thinking of ways to mark their Platinum Jubilee. SACRS hopes that member organizations will consider monetarily supporting them during this special time in their history.

SACRS has also posted some additional information regarding their 2024 Spring Conference, which will be held at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort. The Conference takes place from May 7-10, 2024. The Conference registration and Hotel reservations will be open in March 2024. At this point there is no information regarding specific topics. They are requesting suggestions for a presentation, topic or speaker during a session at the conference. Paul plans on attending, and he will let everyone else who also wants to attend, know when the documents for attending are released.

Retirement Board: Cynthia provided a brief report on the Retirees Committee meeting which took place on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The first Action Item was a discussion regarding the annual COLA for 2024, which if approved, would be effective April 1, 2024. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) resulted in a change of 2.62%. Government Code sections require that percentage changes should be

rounded to the nearest one-half percent, which is 2.5%. Tier 1 and Tier 3 retirees/payees who retired on or before April 1, 2023 would receive a COLA increase of 3.0%, due to carry over banked from prior years. Tiers 1 and 3 retirees/payees who retired on or after April 2, 2023 would receive a COLA increase of 2.5%. Tier 2 and 4 retirees/payees would receive a COLA increase of 2.0%, and would then bank the .5% for a future year.

Cynthia also reported that this year ACERA utilized a third party vendor to print and mail all 1099-Rs instead of printing in-house. The printing of the 1099-R forms began the week of January 8, 2024. All forms were mailed on January 19th by the third party vendor, which was prior to the IRS issuance deadline of January 31st.

Cynthia also mentioned that ACERA was still working on the pre-designation of active employees. They do have a completed draft of the Pre-Filed Disability Application form which could be used depending on any subsequent changes. They are still working on the programming and hope to have that completed by the end of February or March.

Investment Committee: Alicia reported that she was able to briefly attend the February 7, 2024 Investment Committee meeting. She found the meeting to be very interesting and very informative. She was impressed with the level of knowledge and expertise displayed by the members of the Committee. She plans on attending additional Committee meetings, time permitting.

Health Care (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): Linda provided her Health Care report. Linda reported that COVID-19 rates across the country seem to be leveling off which is good news. Of not so good news, the CDC reports a sharp increase in sexually transmitted diseases, specifically syphilis. The CDC suggests that the increase may be linked to the reduced frequency of in-person healthcare services as routine visits decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Linda also reported that Kaiser has three Apps which will help with issues related to mental health. The first App is called Calm, which is the number one app for sleep and meditation. It is designed to help lower stress, anxiety, and more. The second App is called Headspace Care. This app allows you to text one-on-one with an emotional support coach anywhere, anytime. The third App is called myStrength. It's an app which assists you in developing a personalized plan to strengthen your emotional health.

Activities: Charo reported that 31 individuals have currently registered to attend the March 11th Spring Luncheon and Membership Meeting. She also reported that she has three volunteers to help with the luncheon. She announced that everyone who attends will be given a notebook with a pen. She also reported that Kaiser will provide the guest speaker who will talk about Fall Prevention.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of January 31, 2024, membership stood at 3,793 members which was a slight decrease from month.

REAC Website: Connie provided the REAC Website Sub-Committee Update. After the January 8, 2024 Board meeting, the Power Point presentation showing the recommended changes from the Sub-Committee were sent to the Board for review and feedback. To the best of their knowledge, they received no feedback. Connie asked if the Board had any feedback at this time. The Board was

impressed with the presentation and requested they proceed to work with the Web Designer to implement the recommended changes.

Connie also provided a report on the REAC website activity. Over the past 28 days, there have been 160 unique visitors (different) to the REAC website. The average time spent on the site is 3 minutes and 25 seconds. The most-visited section on the website was the Members Only section, followed by the Membership page, and the Calendar page. The Calendar page has been updated with the REAC Board Meeting dates and the 2024 Spring Luncheon information. Connie thanked Charo for working with our Web Designer to provide this important information.

Alicia wanted to make Special Events stand out on the website and suggested that we add the 2025 REAC Fall CRCEA Conference to the website. She was pleased with the progress they have made thus far, and looks forward to seeing what's next.

Alicia wanted to know if the REAC Reimbursement Request Form has been updated. She found the old form to be confusing. Linda is familiar with the current form and will take the lead in having it redesigned.

REAC News: The REAC News will contain information on the 2024 COLAs, and the Health Care Planning meeting. Linda will create a report on the Kaiser Apps, and include that as well.

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: As a reminder, Paul mentioned that he will be sending out two agendas for the March 11, 2024 meetings. One agenda will be for the actual Board meeting, and one will be for the Annual Membership meeting. In addition, we will have a quorum for the Board meeting, but we will still need 20 members, not including Board members, to have a quorum for conducting business during the Annual Membership meeting. The members will be voting on the three Board members who have agreed to serve an additional term, Alicia, Dawn and Linda.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024, 9:30 am

In-person Board Meeting at the Double Tree by Hilton

7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton

Annual Membership Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024, 11:00 am

In-person Meeting at the Double Tree Hilton

7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton