

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday March 14, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting

Marian Breitbart, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

Roll Call: Marian Breitbart, Paul Reeves, Suman Sharma, Renaye Johnson, Alicia Baptista, Connie Land, Liz Koppenhaver, and Linda Slater were present. Nancy Reilly REAC Member and ACERA Retiree Alternate, Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, Rosalie Masuda REAC Member, Janet Waring REAC Member, and Pete Albert ACRE Board President, were also present. Diane Kindel REAC Member, Mary Amos REAC Member, and Bonaire Le REAC Member were also present.

Janet took a moment to thank REAC for all the work they do on behalf of all retirees. She also wanted to give special recognition to Marian who worked as both President and Vice President of the Board of Directors.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Suman moved that the Minutes from the February 14, 2022 Board meeting be approved as submitted. Alicia seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: There was no new information to report.

ACERA: There was no March 2022 Retirees Committee Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Suman presented the February 2022 Treasurer's Report. Receipts totaled \$15,940.24 and Disbursements totaled \$3,425.51. The February 2022 Disbursement amount does not include the Red Arrow payment for February 2022. Red Arrow failed to send us a billing statement for that month. Suman sent them a reminder and he anticipates making both the February and March Red Arrow payments later this month. ACERA did not provide us with January's membership dues payments until February 1, 2022 resulting in a much higher than usual total receipts for February 2022.

The beginning check book balance was \$65,629.76 and the ending check book balance was \$78,144.49. Total assets were \$208,362.33. Connie moved that the February 2022 Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Marian asked for a report from REAC's Finance Committee. Paul reported that they have sent questionnaires to each of the 37 Act County Retirement Associations and that they were now just waiting for the questionnaires to be returned. As a reminder, the Finance Committee was created to review REAC expenditures, receipts, and reserves, in order to identify various options for reducing the rate of increase and, where appropriate, to increase expenditures to enhance member services. Given the current times, and the staffing issues created by the pandemic, Paul was unsure how quickly those retirement associations would be responding.

Rosalie Masuda felt that many of the 37 Act County Retirement Associations did more for their retirees than did REAC. As an example, she felt that those associations were doing more social type activities for their members and she felt that would make it easier to attract new members.

CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association): Connie began her report by reminding the Board that CRCEA was a non-profit corporation which was comprised of Associations representing the twenty counties constituted under the 1937 Retirement Act (REAC is a member). CRCEA provides a forum for educating members and promoting retiree benefits and issues. The next regular meeting is Wednesday March 16, 2022. The executive committee members will meet in person in San Diego, and all other attendees will meet virtually via zoom.

The CRCEA Spring Conference, which will be the first ever Virtual Conference, is being held from May 1-3, 2022. The host county is the Retired Employees Association of Orange County. (REAOC) The agenda is not yet available but will be available soon. The CRCEA Fall Conference will be hosted by the Sacramento County Retired Employees Association (SCREA). Specific dates, location, agenda, are not yet available.

Connie was asked, last month, to find out when it was REAC's turn to host a CRCEA Conference. REAC will be hosting the CRCEA Fall Conference in 2025. Connie was also asked if she could find out a bit more information regarding the CRCEA dues we pay. She reported that every member pays their dues based on the number of members in their association. At last check it was .55 cents per member. So, since we currently have 3,873 our annual fee would be \$2,130.15. She was not able to directly verify what the dues covered, but she was able to get a ball park figure by looking at their budget. Their budget includes transportation, lodging, etc. for their staff to attend conferences and meetings. They also retain the services of a lobbyist, and they contribute a small amount towards the cost of each of the two major meetings, the Fall and Spring conferences.

Pete mentioned that CRCEA does not have a lot of money, and as such, is unable to underwrite the full cost of the two annual conferences. However, they do contribute a small amount to each host county, but given the large amount needed to fund the conferences, their contribution is more of a kind gesture, than a significant amount. Pete suggested that we might want to consider shifting some of our current or future resources into a dedicated Conference account that can only be used for hosting future conferences. He thought our financial burden as the host county last time, was around \$10,000.00. ACRE contributed a small amount, and some of his members helped out. He also mentioned, as a reminder, that we will need to create a Host Committee which would make all the arrangements for Hotel room use, meals, parking, etc.

Connie also reported that there was no new update on the CALPERS website. On the lawsuit itself, all of the deadlines have passed, except for the June 8, 2022 date which will be when there is a final approval by the court.

SACRS (State Association of County Retirement Systems): Paul reported that the SACRS Annual Spring Conference was still moving forward and will still be held from May 10-13, 2022. The Conference will be held at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Rancho Mirage, California. SACRS has yet to post any updates regarding topics and in the absence of that information, he does not think it would be worth travelling to Rancho Mirage to attend the conference. Paul also mentioned that SACRS is really designed for Trustees rather than non-Trustees, so Liz and Nancy would probably benefit more from the conference. Pete mentioned that he spoke to Sulema Peterson, SACRS Executive Director, and she informed him that the conference will be live, it will not be a hybrid, and there will be no streaming, so the only way to attend the conference is to go there.

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): Renaye reported that she will be attending the April 6, 2022 Health Care Planning Meeting. If anyone has specific concerns or questions, please let her know.

Activities: There was no new information to report.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of February 28, 2022, membership stood at 3,873. She also mentioned that we have been getting 10 to 12 new members each month, but we have also been losing more than that each month, so our numbers are decreasing. Charo wanted to know if anyone received the post card we had mailed to our members. Most of the Board did receive their post cards, and we all thought it was great. It was very well done, and straight to the point. Linda suggested that we might want to consider sending a similar post card to our members more often, with perhaps a different picture, and perhaps a different headline.

Paul mentioned that we occasionally receive a notification from a relative informing us that their close relative has passed away. We express our sympathy on their loss and we remind them to also contact ACERA if they have not already done so. Recently, Paul received such a call from a daughter informing us that her mother had passed away and she wanted to know when her mother's name would appear in the REAC Newsletter. Paul reported that he sets a tickler on those types of calls, to make sure the name eventually appears in the Newsletter. There is currently no formal process in place to insure that happens. The Board discussed various options, and decided that a policy should be developed and brought back to the Board.

Administrative Staff Updates: No additional information to report.

Nominating Committee: Paul reported that he received written responses from each of the three Board members whose terms expire at the end of March 2022. Suman Sharma and Liz Koppenhaver have agreed to serve another term in office. Marian Breitbart has decided to not serve another term, which means there will be two vacancies on the Board.

REAC News: The REAC Newsletter will have information from Kathy Foster's presentation and information from Aliyah Walker's UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center presentation. It will include the names of the individuals who won the \$25 Safeway gift card, and it will have Charo's contact information.

Other Reports: There was no other information to report.

Old Business:

April 11, 2022 - Board Meeting & Board Vacancies – Paul reminded the Board that the Bylaws require the Board to appoint all REAC Officers in April. He mentioned that he and Suman have agreed to continue serving in their positions, assuming the Board wants them to. Therefore the remaining members of the Board need to decide who should fill the role of President and the role of Vice President. After some discussion, he asked the Board members to give some additional thought to filling those roles and then send him an email. He will add that information to the April 11, 2022 Board Agenda.

Goals and Objectives – This item was carried over to the April 2022 Board meeting.

New Business: There was no information to report.

For the Good of the Order: There was nothing new to report.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am

Respectfully submitted by Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2022, 9:30 am

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