

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Retired Employees of Alameda County
Monday, May 8, 2023, 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, Connie Land, Dawn Stevenson, Suman Sharma, and Liz Koppenhaver were present. Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Rogers, Retirement Board Trustee, Seat 8, and REAC Member, Cynthia Baron, Retirement Board Trustee, Alternate Seat 8, and REAC Member, Kathy Foster, REAC Member, Marsha Rice, REAC Member, Barbara Becker, REAC Member, Darryl Walker, REAC Member, and Pete Albert, ACRE President, were also present.

Minutes: Minutes of the April 10, 2023, REAC Board meeting were reviewed. Connie moved that the April 10, 2023, REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Liz seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: Alicia reported that the See's discount store in San Leandro has closed. There are two other stores in the East Bay where we should be able to use our discount. One in Livermore and the other in Pleasant Hill.

ACERA: Mike Fara, ACERA Communications Manager, was unable to attend today's Board meeting, so he will present both the May, 2022 and June, 2022 Retirees Committee report at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Suman presented the April 2023 Treasurer's Report. The beginning balance was \$101,531.33. We received \$500 from 1st United Credit Union for their advertisement, \$7,610 from membership dues, and \$2.43 in interest, for a total Receipts of \$8,112.43. For monthly Disbursements, we paid out \$92.95 for mileage and postage reimbursement to Maria Guerra, \$850 for REAC Officer Stipends, \$362.50 to Creative Circle for Newsletter layout, \$5,746.72 to USPS for bulk mailing of the Newsletter, \$17.19 to Pay Pal for our Zoom Meeting, \$1,198.88 to Select Staffing for our Admin Support. Red Arrow billed us for February and March, so now they're outstanding for April, that's a big improvement. 1and 1.com is for the domain fee we pay to our web hosting agency of \$166.58, billed annually. Total Disbursements for April 2023 were \$6,843.58, and the surplus was \$1,268.85. Adding all the certificates of deposit, we have a nice sum of \$233,889.64.

Connie moved that the April 2023 Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Barbara seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The full Treasurer's Report is posted on the REAC Website (<https://reacsite.org> in the Members Only section).

CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association): Connie and Alicia attended the CRCEA conference. Connie provided her CRCEA report. The CRCEA spring conference was held from April 23rd through April 28th in Ontario, CA. The host county was Retired Employees of San Bernardino County. The conference was held at the Ontario Airport Hotel. The

conference was well-organized and informative. There was exceptional sponsorship from the affiliates and credit union. There were 67 attendees from various counties and several counties had more than one attendee. There were sessions of serious importance, general interest, and interactive sessions. Some of the sessions of serious importance were *Public Finance and Your Retirement*, *The Market and Your Money* and *Legislative Updates*. Items of general interest were *Digital Safety and Avoiding Online Scams as a Retiree*, *Living Longer and Living Better*, *The Best and Worst of America*, and *Senior Travel*. There was a lively discussion about the CRCEA conference survey. There were 16 counties responding to the survey. The responses favored 2 conferences a year, and the responses to the format varied. The survey responses were met with mixed reviews. There was a lot of discussion concerning the cost of hosting a conference. There will be more discussions, so there will be more to come.

The fall conference for the CRCEA, October 1 through October 4, 2023, will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Stockton. The host county is Retired Public Employees of San Joaquin County. The hotel room rates are \$159 per night plus tax. The agenda and registration information are not yet available.

This is a continuous reminder: It will be REAC's turn to host the Fall 2025 CRCEA Conference. It's not too early to start planning, because there are several items that are needed for review, such as the location and deciding on the venue.

CalPERS Lawsuit Update: By now, those eligible should have received their individual settlement award letter stating the settlement terms and action needed. In case they haven't received this information, they need to check the website (<https://calpersclassactionlawsuit.com>) or they can call the Settlement Administrator at 1-866-217-5086.

The following dates have been established under the court order: 1. **June 6, 2023**, Last day to (a) opt out of the settlement, (b) complete elections form, and (c) written objections to the settlement. 2. **July 26, 2023**, Final Fairness Hearing.

Retirement Board: Elizabeth mentioned that there was a report from the actuaries. They will vote on the valuation report next meeting, and it looks like contribution rates are going up. Because of the smoothing process, they're still funded at a decent level at this point. Right now, as far as the actuary is concerned, and because of the smoothing, they're just putting in the losses a little bit at a time. The next retiree's committee meeting is in June.

Kathy reported on the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) financial status. Coming up in June they'll be presenting (MMA) monthly medical allowance information, and one of the biggest benefits is the SRBR. It would be good to get feedback from ACRE and REAC early on because that will be a difficult decision. The board will decide to increase the monthly medical allowance or leave it be. Information will be gathered over the next few weeks and presented to the retiree's committee in June. The actuaries will be presenting a report on the SRBR with the projections. They will let us know how many years, based on current information, the SRBR will last. ACERA does have an SRBR policy where the most that they can increase the monthly medical allowance is by 50% of the healthcare trend factors that our benefits consultants provide, and that information will also be presented on those trend percentages at the June meeting, so

we'll know then what the maximum amount is that the monthly medical allowance can be increased if the board decides to do so.

It may be good for anybody, who can, to attend the retiree's committee meeting. It's still a hybrid. It's good to get information and feedback from the retiree association, to assist the trustees in their decision-making process.

Kathy mentioned that there will be a presentation in June on the current cost of the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA), and what it would go up to if they did approve an increase based on the healthcare trend. July is when the board would normally act. Last year, it was decided that they wanted to wait until they saw the premiums from the county to act. During the year, the retiree's committee meeting is every other month, except for the summer months when they're looking at renewals and subsidy recommendations, so there will be retiree's committees in June, July, and August, and possibly September if they need to review any carryover items.

Activities: Alicia mentioned that the REAC luncheon is coming up in October. A committee will be formed in July for luncheon success.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of April 30, 2023, membership stood at 3,821 members, which is a decrease from the March 2023 numbers.

Cynthia asked if we knew why we lost members and if there is any type of retiree follow-up if they don't join, do we then reach out to those people personally to remind them this is a great benefit, and you can join at any time? This question prompted a lengthy discussion.

It was mentioned that ACERA, because of privacy issues, is unable to provide REAC with contact information for those individuals who do not join. REAC is not given information on a retired employee until they join. Maybe ACERA can send out email reminders. Alicia will follow up with the membership chair, Charo, and find out where we are.

REAC News: Alicia mentioned that the minutes for the REAC Newsletter last month, were exceedingly long, and it added two entire pages to the regular length of the newsletter. There was a lot of conversation about how to deal with it. Red Arrow was instructed to apply the cheapest and fastest way to print it and get it out. It took a really long time, so that's another argument for the electronic copy because that's already out there. Fewer than 300 members receive the electronic copy. She thinks it would be a good idea, to say in the minutes, for lengthy discussions that members refer to the website for details.

Dawn suggested including a little snippet link, along with the time in the recording, that the lengthy discussion appears, for electronic and hard copy, to keep the standard newsletter length of six pages.

Connie in advocating for REAC members, indicated that many of them receive a hard copy of the newsletter. REAC needs to provide members with a detailed copy of the minutes. We need to make sure that our members have a clear understanding of what goes on if they don't attend the meetings. They shouldn't be referred to another place to get more information. This is the first time that she

recalls that the newsletter minutes were more than the usual number of pages. She would advocate, to continue to do what has been done.

Barbara said if REAC is trying to attract more members, she thinks limiting the methods by which they can read the newsletter is counterproductive. She thinks that it takes no extra space in the newsletter to give an electronic link or whatever it is that would help people, but the fact is you still have to have the paper newsletter, especially if the number of people receiving electronic newsletters is so small.

Charo mentioned that many members have commented on how much they enjoy reading the newsletter. If links are added, those members will be lost because they're not going to be able to access the other information.

Alicia will have a discussion with the regular secretary about the content and length of the newsletter.

Old Business: Alicia mentioned that last month officers were elected. We elected Paul as Secretary. We did not have a Vice President. We elected Connie as an interim Treasurer. Dawn has agreed to fill the Vice President slot. She moved that we elect Dawn Stevenson as our next Vice President. Connie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Alicia relayed information regarding the Treasurer position. The Treasurer is vital, critical, and important. Suman has been the Treasurer for three years. He's ready to move on. Last month we were unsure how we were going to proceed. During the last month, Liz has stepped up. It's going to be a lot of work for her, but she is currently being mentored by Suman to learn the position. It's going to take some time to learn all the different parts of what the Treasurer does and when she's ready, then Suman will go ahead and leave the position. Suman is returning to the position of Treasurer while he trains Liz. As soon as Liz feels comfortable and able to proceed, Suman will step down as Treasurer, and at that point, we will vote on a new Treasurer.

Connie has resigned from the interim Treasurer position and so we now need to vote for a new Treasurer. Connie moved to keep Suman on until such time that Liz is trained, and then we will take action on Liz's position. Liz seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Alicia mentioned that the board now has a full slate of officers. But there are Board vacancies to fill, and we are absolutely overwhelmed with the quality of people who have stepped up to fill these positions. Barbara Becker, Elizabeth Rogers, Cynthia Baron, Kathy Foster, Marsha Rice, and Darryl Walker have come forward to say yes, they want to serve our retired members. We only have two vacancies. We do expect to have these vacancies filled by the time of our next meeting.

For the Good of the Order:

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Stevenson, Acting Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023, 9:30 am

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting