



The Official
Monthly Publication of the
Retired Employees of Alameda County, Inc.
P.O. Box 302, Oakland, CA 94604

REAC NEWS

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — BY MARLAN BREITBART, PRESIDENT

As of 11/8/2021, the CDC recommends, people who received a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series and are 65 years and older, 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions, or 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot at least 6 months after completing the primary series (which may include an additional primary dose in persons with moderate to severe immunocompromise). Further, people who received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and are 18 years and older should receive a booster shot at least 2 months after receiving their primary vaccine dose.

ACERA's website: <https://www.acera.org/vaccine> has links for information on finding a vaccine, vaccine eligibility, and COVID-19 testing.

ACERA's virtual health fair was well attended. If you were unable to attend, you can view the event at <https://2021acerahealthfair.cargo.site>

There has been no real update on the CalPERS long term care program. Please check the CalPERS class action website at <https://www.calpersltcclassaction.com> for the latest information or call 1-866-217-8056 (Toll-Free) with any questions. The deadline for Settlement Class Members to (i) Submit Requests for Exclusion; (ii) Return their Award Acknowledgment Form; and (iii) Submit any Written Objections to Settlement has been extended to January 28, 2022.

In Memoriam

As many of you may be aware, Supervisor Wilma Chan passed away on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, after being struck by a vehicle in Alameda. Supervisor Chan devoted her life to public service. At the time of her passing, she served as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, representing District 3 which included the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, a portion of Oakland, including

Chinatown, and the unincorporated communities of San Lorenzo, Hayward Acres and a portion of Ashland.

In addition to her service on the Board of Supervisors as well as on the ACERA Board, she previously served as a member of the California State Assembly, and then as the majority leader of the California State Assembly. During her 30-year career in public service, she worked tirelessly on behalf of children and families, the elderly, and the uninsured. She was devoted to creating health care for the uninsured and promoting programs that advance children's health. She supported a wide range of senior services, early childhood education, public protection, and services designed to help lift people out of poverty. Her leadership and support of those programs and services will continue to change lives and are part of her lasting legacy of community service. She was an inspiration and role model to many, and her support and guidance will be deeply missed.

You can find us on Zoom, the 2nd Monday of every month at 9:30 am. The next meeting is December 13. A representative from ACERA's investment staff will attend our December meeting as part of their quarterly presentation to REAC. If you have any questions, please join us.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2142196949?pwd=aUtMWG1UTTd2UkdGbFVpa3Vrd3BmZz09>

Meeting ID: 214 219 6949

Passcode: REAC

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 214 219 6949

Passcode: 880639

Be well out there. Enjoy the holidays.

REAC BOARD MEETINGS

December 13, 2021

(Monday) 9:30 AM

Zoom

ID 214-219-6949

password REAC

January 10, 2022

(Monday) 9:30 AM

Zoom

to be scheduled

<http://reacsite.org>

reacwebsite@gmail.com

ACERA TRUSTEES MEETINGS

December 16, 2021

(Thursday) 2:00 PM

see ACERA.org for

ID and password

January 20, 2021

(Thursday) 2:00 PM

see ACERA.org for

ID and password

www.acera.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Dunleavy
Virginia Murphey
Timothy Murphy
Sharonne Rogers
Janice Thomas

ACERA Performance Report

ACERA reported in their October 2021 performance report that the fund had increased \$368,574,076. The total fund returned 3.23 %. The value of the fund at the end of October was \$11,749,997,146.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Marian Breitbart, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

ROLL CALL: Marian Breitbart, Paul Reeves, Suman Sharma, Renaye Johnson, Alicia Baptista, and Connie Land were present. Nancy Reilly REAC Member and ACERA Retiree Alternate, Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, and Gilbert Jenson, REAC Member, were present.

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Marian moved that the Minutes from the October 11, 2021 Board meeting be approved as submitted. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS: Paul suggested that we include, in the next REAC News, some comments regarding the passing of Supervisor Wilma Chan. Paul agreed to create a draft for the Board's review and approval. Once approved, the comments will be contained in the President's Message portion of the REAC News.

Nancy reported that there were 179 attendees at the ACERA Health Fair. Renaye mentioned that even if you missed the Health Fair, you could still view the presentations and other valuable information on the ACERA website. Once you open the ACERA website, click on "Retirees", then click on "Wellness" and lastly, click on "2021 ACERA Virtual Retiree Health & Wellness Fair". That will open the Health Fair page and allow

you to view, and listen to, the valuable presentations made during the Health Fair. The presentations included: ACRE and REAC Introductions, VIA Benefits: Helping You Prepare for Medicare Enrollment, Refresh! – An Interactive Wellness Experience with Kaiser Permanente, VSP: 5 Surprising Reasons Not to Skip Your Annual Eye Exam, and Delta Dental: Are You Maximizing Your Dental Benefits? Tips to Squeeze Max Benefits Out of Your Dental Plan

ACERA: There was no November 2021 Retirees Committee Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Suman presented the October 2021 Treasurer's Report. Receipts totaled \$7,709.56 and Disbursements totaled \$4,491.22. The beginning check book balance was \$62,808.46 and the ending check book balance was \$66,026.80. Connie moved that the October 2021 Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Alicia seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Over the last few years, an increase in the REAC dues has led to an unanticipated increase in the amount of REAC's Financial Reserves. The Board began discussing their concerns over the increasing balance. When the dues were \$1.00, REAC's monthly expenditures left little room to make enhancements to the website, to hire administrative support staff, and to refine or expand our service to retirees. With those additional costs in mind, the Board voted to increase the dues from \$1.00 to \$2.00. At this point, we

have not made a great deal of progress in updating the website, and therefore those anticipated costs have not materialized. The additional costs we anticipated in retaining administrative staff support have also been lower than expected. Lastly, the COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in a sharp decrease in overall expenditures. No luncheons have taken place; working from home has decreased a number of our expenditures; and fewer critical conferences have been attended.

As the Country emerges from the Pandemic, and our expenditures begin to increase, the Board believes that an increase in expenditures may not appreciably slow the rate of increase in our reserves. The Board is therefore concerned about the rate of increase in our reserves. We have sufficient reserves to cover our expected costs if we were to face litigation regarding our retirement benefits. REAC also set aside funds to contribute to any ongoing litigation experienced by other 1937 Act County Retirement Associations, if a negative ruling in that litigation might impact us as well. Unfortunately, retirement benefits remain a target. Efforts to reduce our benefits, or eliminate our benefits, have thus far been unsuccessful.

With all that in mind, the Board began to discuss a wide variety of options for reducing the rate of increase and or reducing the level of our Reserves without putting our retirees at risk. However, since this directly affects our members, surveying our membership for ideas, thoughts,

concerns, etc., should be our first step. We will also be surveying other 1937 Act County Retirement Associations.

Alicia asked if Suman could add, to the next Treasurer's Report, the Maturity dates for each of the Certificates of Deposit. He agreed to add that information.

CRCEA (COUNTY RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION): Connie reported that the CRCEA Fall Conference was underway in Long Beach, California. (November 7-10, 2021) and was being hosted by Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC). REAC chose to not send a representative.

Connie also reported that there were no new CalPERS updates to their website (<https://www.calperslongtermcare.com>). There were changes to the Important Dates for the CalPERS Lawsuit which were approved by the Court on 10-21-2021.

January 28, 2022 is the deadline to submit the Award Acknowledgement and Election Form-Refund of All Premiums (Category A); to submit a Lapse Claim Form (Categories D and E); to Exclude Yourself from the Settlement; and to Submit a Written Objection to the Settlement. June 08, 2022 will be the date of the Final Approval Hearing.

Category A Policyholders, who submitted an Election Form indicating they were interested in the option of obtaining a replacement Long Term Care (LTC) policy, Option 2 on the form, were notified of a new date for the brokers' decision to secure a replacement policy. The new deadline is December 6, 2021. Policyholders will be notified on or before December 13, 2021 advising whether the brokers are successful in their efforts to secure a replacement policy. If they were, information about the policy, its benefits, comparison of the benefits to CalPERS will be provided. This group will have until January 28, 2022

to make a decision. Policyholders must continue to pay premiums on their CalPERS LTC Policy until the Settlement becomes final to be included in the Settlement.

The website: <https://calpersclassactionlawsuit.com> is updated frequently. Policyholders are encouraged to check the website frequently for current information and to stay updated. They may also contact the Settlement Administrator at 1(866) 217-8056.

SACRS (STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS): Paul reminded the Board of the SACRS Fall Conference, which begins tomorrow, November 9, 2021, and runs through November 12, 2021. REAC chose to not send a representative.

RETIREMENT BOARD: There was no additional information to report.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: There was no new information to report.

HEALTH CARE (CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION): Renaye reported that she did attend the 2021 ACERA Virtual Retiree Health & Wellness Fair and found the information presented to be very helpful. In addition to the information previously mentioned under "Announcements & Communications" ACERA reported that retirees will be able to take advantage of the "Silver and Fit" program which will begin in February 2022.

Renaye reminded the Board that ACERA's Open Enrollment is currently going on and that any changes must be completed by the end of November 2021, unless you have a VIA plan. The last day to make changes to VIA Benefits Non-Medicare Plans is December 15, 2021 and the last day to make changes to VIA Benefits Medicare Plans is December 7, 2021.

Renaye reported that the CDC is now recommending all three booster

shots, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. Pfizer and Moderna booster shots are now available for individuals who are:

- 65 years and Older
- 18+ who live in Long Term Care Settings
- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- 18+ who work in high risk settings
- 18+ who live in high risk settings

The Johnson & Johnson booster is a little different. It is recommended for anyone 18 years and older, but the shot should be given no sooner than 2 months after the initial dose. Paul asked if the CDC was still saying you can get both your Flu shot, and your COVID-19 Vaccine shots, at the same time. Renaye said yes, that was still the recommendation. Renaye also mentioned that the CDC was reporting that your booster shot did not have to be the same vaccine as your original shots. For example, if your initial shots were Moderna, your booster shot could be Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson.

The CDC is also recommending that everyone get their Flu shots. As the weather gets colder and the rains come, people will be spending much more time indoors and typically with more friends and family, increasing the risk of getting the Flu or COVID-19.

ACTIVITIES: Connie asked if the Board was considering a resumption of the Board's Annual Holiday lunch. We skipped the 2020 Holiday lunch because of COVID-19. It is beginning to look like it now is safe enough to resume that lunch. After some discussion, the Board agreed to go ahead and hold the Board's Holiday lunch. In the past, the Holiday lunch was always held immediately following the December Board meeting. However, since the Board is now meeting virtually, having everyone get to a restaurant on time becomes problematic. It was therefore decided

to have the Board's Holiday lunch on the Tuesday immediately following the Monday Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT: Charo reported that as of October 31, 2021, membership stood at 3,872.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF UPDATES: Charo reported ACERA currently uses DocuSign on their website. Lori can create a link on our website, which will automatically connect our members to the ACERA DocuSign, and allows them to join REAC and initiate the monthly dues payment. The cost of the link would be a one-time payment of \$100. Marian motioned that we authorize a one-time payment of \$100 for the creation of a DocuSign link on the REAC website. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Charo also reported that she will be ordering 1000 copies of the newly revised Invitation to Join REAC letter. She will also be ordering a number of copies of the "Opt Out" Post Card. Charo also asked if the Board reached a decision regarding the post card that Linda created for the Board of Director's vacancy. The post card will be sent to all current REAC members. Alicia had a concern regarding some of the wording. She was concerned that the wording seemed to suggest that having financial experience was

a requirement. It did not actually say that financial experience was required, but she felt the wording seemed to be leaning in that direction.

The wording currently reads "Oversee Investments, Secure Benefits, and Advocate for Retirees". The Board agreed to change the sequence of the wording so that it now reads "Advocate for Retirees, Oversee Investments, and Secure Benefits".

REAC NEWS: The next REAC Newsletter will include information about Supervisor Wilma Chan, CalPERS, and COVID-19 Booster shots.

OTHER REPORTS: There was no other information to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Member testimonial – Initial welcome letter. Item was carried over to the December 13, 2021 Board meeting.
- 2) Google Voice Account. Item carried over to the December 13, 2021 Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: REAC received an email from Aliyah Walker, from the UC Davis Alzheimer Disease Research Center – East Bay. She wanted to connect with REAC in order to talk about what activities they did, and to share information

regarding free programming and opportunities to participate in research for Bay Area Seniors. Alicia volunteered to contact her and determine how, and if, we might work together to benefit our retirees.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: There was nothing new to report.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

*Respectfully submitted by
Paul Reeves, Board Secretary*

Next Meeting:

December 13, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
(Monday)

Zoom Video Conferencing



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APR (Annual Percentage Rate) as of December 1, 2021 and is subject to change. Visit 1stunitedcu.org/personal for more details.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

AGUILERA, David
Health Care Services Agency

BURKS, Marva
General Services Agency

CHUBA, Chudi
Social Services Agency

DANIELS, Charlotte
Sheriff's Office

DE LONG, Gregg
Alameda Health System

FOFANA SIMIEN, Ava
Social Services Agency

HALL, Theresa
Alameda Health System

HENRICKS, Gregory
Health Care Services Agency

HERTING, Susanne
Alameda Health System

HUMPHRIES, William
Sheriff's Office

JAMMALAMADAKA, Kameswari
Health Care Services Agency

KIMBROUGH, Judith
Alameda Health System

LEE, Kristen
Housing Authority

LOUIE, Elyse
District Attorney

MARTINEZ, Julio
Alameda Health System

MC COMAS, Justin
Sheriff's Office

MCGOLDRICK, Mark
Public Defender

MORRIS, Michael
Probation Department

NOWELL, Keith
Health Care Services Agency

PARISH, Brenda
Health Care Services Agency

PILOT, Melanie
Social Services Agency

PRASAD, Uma
Alameda Health System

PRYOR, Carolyn
Social Services Agency

RASMUSSEN, Jan
Human Resource Services

ROGERS, Sharonne
Alameda Health System

ROSAS, Jose
Sheriff's Office

SMITH, George
Housing Authority

SMITH, William
Superior Court

STREETER, Arthur
Sheriff's Office

SUVA, Teresite
Auditor-Controller

THOMAS, Janice
Health Care Services Agency

TORRENCE, Susan
District Attorney

TURNER, Carol
Social Services Agency

VELARDE, Andre
Housing Authority

YAFFE, Deborah
Health Care Services Agency

IN MEMORIAM

In deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following retirees:

BROOKS, Darleen
Social Services Agency
10/11/2021

CALHOUN, Ella
Alameda Health System
5/15/2021

COMSTOCK, Charles
Non-Mbr Survivor of Jean Comstock
9/30/2021

GREENHOUSE, Gretel
Health Care Services Agency
9/30/2021

MORTON, Helen
Alameda Health System
10/5/2021

RYAN, Timothy
Sheriff's Office
9/26/2021

SELF, Marie
Superior Court
10/11/2021

SIOCO, Antonio
General Services Agency
10/13/2021

STILLWATER, Kokil
Social Services Agency
9/19/2021

TSUJI, Dorothy
Non-Mbr Survivor of Kenneth Tsuji
9/26/2021

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for REAC membership. To enroll, send an email to reacwebsite@gmail.com.

REAC Officers and Directors

- President:
Marian Breitbart.....(510) 769-1604
- Vice President:
- Secretary:
Paul Reeves bongosaw@gmail.com
- Treasurer:
Suman Sharma..... reactreasurer@comcast.net
- Directors:
Alicia Baptista..... alicia.baptista@comcast.net
Renaye Johnson..... (925) 286-0716
Liz Koppenhaver..... (510) 579-3319
Connie Land.....landcon@comcast.net
Linda Slaterslaterl@sbcglobal.net
- Directors Emeriti:
Barbara Jean Hallisey Steve Scheinman
Emily Shea Janet Waring
Jon Orellana

Editor: Gina Palmer
 Editorial Committee: Marian Breitbart, Connie Land, Alicia Baptista
 Printing and Mailing: Red Arrow Printing
 Membership questions: reacwebsite@gmail.com

REAC'S Mission

The purpose of the Retired Employees of Alameda County (REAC) is to promote the common good and general welfare of Alameda County retired employees, subject to the County Employees Retirement Act of 1937, by promoting the interests of its members throughout the community by means of social, political, and educational activities that advance the social welfare of such retirees.

Moving? Please fill out and mail this notice to the following address:

REAC, P.O. Box 302, Oakland, CA 94604
 or e-mail reacwebsite@gmail.com

Name: _____
 New Address: _____
 City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Date of Move: _____ Telephone: _____
 Old Address: _____
1/2018

Also send change of address to ACERA:

Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA)
 475 14th St., Ste. 1000, Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 800-838-1932 or 510-628-3000

Select Option 1 for the Retiree Benefits Unit (health, vision, dental, etc.)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2021
 P.O. Box 302-Oakland, CA 94604
 Retired Employees of Alameda County

REAC
NEWS



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