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

REAC NEWS

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 6 *JUNE 2021*

President's Message – *by Marian Breitbart, Acting President*

Connie Land "attended" a CRCEA meeting with attorneys handling the class action litigation with Calpers regarding their long term care policy. We have previously provided the link to CRCEA's website where you can check on the latest updates on the Calpers litigation regarding long-term care policies.

Go to https://www.calpersclassactionlawsuit.com for the May 2021 update.

Information on the CalPERS website (https://www.calperslongtermcare.com/) indicates that the rate increase will be phased in over two years with the initial 52% increase "no earlier than July 1, 2021" and the second 25% increase "no earlier than July 2022." However, we now understand that the first increase has been pushed back and will take effect no earlier than November, 1 2021. Also on the CalPERS site is a banner announcing that they have suspended open enrollment due to current uncertainty in the long-term care market and are no longer accepting applications.

You are member of the class action suit if you purchased a policy between 1995 and 2004 with the inflation protection benefit. Check your CalPERS Annual Schedule of Benefits for the type of policy you have. Every policyholder should receive a statement annually. In case you are not receiving or cannot remember, contact CalPERS.

Unfortunately our membership is continuing its slight downward trend due to attrition and fewer new retirees joining our ranks. There is strength in numbers. Our current membership stands at 3,898. Please encourage your friends to join our ranks.

Although things are starting to open up "covid-wise", the Board is uncomfortable at this point scheduling a Fall in the flesh luncheon.

The Board is continuing its efforts relative to our Goals and Objectives for 2021. These include a membership drive, a potential update of both our website and newsletter and a survey of membership on how we can best serve you. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any Board member or through the website on concepts for improving the newsletter, website or organization initiatives.

Also please help us go "green" and save money by signing up for electronic delivery of the newsletter. Electronic delivery ensures timely information on activities and news from ACERA. Visit www.reacsite.org to sign up for electronic delivery.

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REAC Board Meetings

June 14, 2021
(Monday) 9:30 AM
Zoom
ID 214-219-6949
password REAC

July 12, 2021
(Monday) 9:30 AM
Zoom
to be scheduled

http://reacsite.org
reacwebsite@gmail.com

ACERA Trustees Meetings

June 17, 2021
(Thursday) 2:00 PM
see ACERA.org for
ID and password

July 15, 2021
(Thursday) 2:00 PM
see ACERA.org for
ID and password

www.acera.org

Welcome New Members

Lance Bye
Dana Castillo
Alvaro Chavez
Julyan Chow
Filomena Cruz
Marie Danner
Rodolfo Escobar
Kenneth Guffey
Melanie Jackson
Dorothy Killingsworth
Athala Mendoza
Matthew Muniz
Felicia Orange
Tonia Robinson
Rohin Saleh
MacHelle Shagovac
Bonita Vinson
Stephen Wolf

President's message continued from page 1

ACERA Performance Report

ACERA reported in their April 2021 performance report that the fund had gained $269,145,220. The total fund returned 2.75%. The value of the fund at the end of April was $10,290,250,751.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, Retired Employees of Alameda County, Monday, May 10, 2021

Zoom Video Conferencing Board Meeting

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

Roll Call: Marian Breitbart, Paul Reeves, Suman Sharma, Renaye Johnson, Mike Smart, Liz Koppenhaver, and Alicia Baptista were present. Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant, Nancy Reilly REAC Member and ACERA Retiree Alternate, Joyce Richardson REAC Member, and Alice Westbrooks, REAC Member were also present.

Minutes: Minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Marian moved that the Minutes from the April 12, 2021 Board meeting be approved as submitted. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Announcements & Communications: Liz reported that the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) lawsuit was nearing the end and that she thought some of the decisions the Court might make, might limit the amount of vacation employees can sell back prior to their retirement. At this point, no final decisions have been made; she just wanted to give our members a heads up. She will report more as it becomes available.

ACERA: Mike Fara provided a summary of the April 7, 2021 Retirees Committee meeting. There were no Action Items for discussion, but several Information Items. The first Information Item was a report on the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve (SRBR). The SRBR began 2020 with a balance of $925 Million. During the year the SRBR paid out, for the non-guaranteed benefits, $53 Million and $61 Million of interest was added to the SRBR bringing the ending total fund balance to $932 Million.

Marian wanted to know when the report which projects the life of the SRBR will be available. Mike said a preliminary report would be available next month, with the final report being ready by September or October.

The second Information Item was an annual report on VIA benefits. One of the items being reported related to how long did it take for VIA benefits to respond to their customers. It measures how long the customer was on hold before they were connected with the customer service representative. During the first quarter the average waiting time was about 2 minutes, in the second quarter the time was about 30 seconds, in the third quarter the time was about 1 minute and in the fourth quarter the time was about 7 ½ minutes, which is very good considering that's during the open enrollment season. The average time it took to handle those calls ranged from 15 to 25 minutes. VIA benefits also includes a customer satisfaction survey. The customer can rate, on a scale from 1 to 5, how satisfied they were with the process. In 2019, the Medicare plans had average rating of 4.36 and in 2020 the Medicare plans had average rating of 4.35. In 2019 the non-Medicare plans had very similar score of 4.35 and in 2020 the average score was 4.17.

The third Information Item was a semi-annual report on ACERA's Wellness Plan. ACERA's 2021 Wellness Plan will be the same as 2020. In addition, ACERA added a COVID-19 vaccine resource site to their website. ACERA partnered with the DA's office to present a financial protection seminar which will help members avoid elder and financial abuse. The next session should be given on May 25th. Lastly, ACERA will host a virtual Health Fair this year. As a result of COVID-19, ACERA will not be holding any in-person events.

Treasurer's Report: Suman presented the April 2021 Treasurer's report. For April 2021, Receipts totaled $8,284.94 and total Disbursements totaled $4,380.79. He reported that Officer stipends totaled $650.00. There were no unusual Receipts or Disbursements. Suman also reported that he has submitted all the necessary paper work to the auditor who completes our annual audits and who then files our State and Federal Taxes. He has a backlog at the moment, so he already filed for an extension and will probably submit our Taxes in November 2021. Paul moved to accept the report as submitted. Marian seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CRCEA: Connie was unable to attend today's REAC Board meeting, but she was able to provide a detailed written report of the CRCEA meeting. This item will be carried over for discussion at the June 14, 2021 REAC Board meeting.

SACRS: Paul reported that he would be attending the SACRS Spring Conference, which begins tomorrow, May 11, 2021 and runs through Friday, May 14, 2021. He also mentioned that Liz and Nancy might also attend.

Retirement Board: There was no additional information to report.

Investment Committee: Nancy provided a brief report on the Investment Committee which was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. There were 3 Action Items and no Information Items. The first Action Item was a Discussion and Possible Motion to recommend that the Board Adopt an up to $40 million Investment in CBRE Strategic Partners U.S. Value 9 as part of ACERA's Real Estate Portfolio – Value Added, pending completion of Legal and Investment due diligence and successful contract negotiations. The Investment Committee voted to approve the recommendation.

The 2nd Action Item was a Discussion and Possible Motion to recommend that the Board Adopt an up to $27 million Investment in ABRY Senior Equity VI, L.P. as part of ACERA's Private Equity Portfolio – Debt Related/ Special Situations, pending completion of Legal and Investment due diligence and successful contract negotiations. The Investment Committee split on the recommendation, so it will be carried over to the next Investment Committee meeting.

The 3rd Action Item was a Discussion and Possible Motion to Recommend that the Board Approve Changes to ACERA's Portfolio Asset Allocation. The Investment Committee had insufficient time to properly discuss this item, so it was carried over to the next Investment Committee meeting.

Health Care: Nancy mentioned that since REAC meets with both ACERA staff and Health Plan providers, we are able to share with them any concerns our retirees have, as well as any suggestions for changing or improving what health benefits are made available to retirees. She sees that access as really beneficial to our retirees.

Activities: Marian asked everyone if they felt comfortable attending a Fall Luncheon if REAC decide to host one this year. The general consensus was to wait a bit more before making any decisions regarding the possibility of having a Fall Luncheon.

Membership and Recruitment: Charo reported that as of April 30, 2021, membership stood at 3,898 members. We had 18 new members, 20 members passed away, and 1 member decided to terminate their membership.

Administrative Staff Updates: Charo reported that when she receives returned Newsletters; she removes the individual from the mailing list, and then compares that list to the mailing list provided by ACERA. After some discussion, the Board decided that Charo should wait to see if they receive another undeliverable Newsletter before removing the individual from the ACERA mailing list. Since REAC does not currently have email addresses for most of our members, there is no way for REAC to notify our members. Mike Fara mentioned that REAC can now collect members email addresses for all new members. He hopes to work out a process which will allow REAC to obtain email addresses for current members.

REAC News: The next REAC Newsletter will include information about the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), the Recruitment/Membership drive, and Updating the REAC Website.

New Business: Revisions to the REAC Bylaws - Paul distributed copies of page 12 of the REAC Bylaws. Under Article XII, Corporate Officers, Section 2, Responsibilities of Officers, the third and fourth paragraphs have been changed to reflect the Board's current practice. The Board President automatically chairs each Board meeting. In the absence of the President, the Vice President chairs, in the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Secretary chairs, and in the absence of all three, the Treasurer chairs. Alicia noted two typos, which were then fixed. Marian motioned that the changes to Article XII, Corporate Officers, Section 2. Responsibilities of Officers be approved as corrected. Renaye seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Paul distributed copies of page 6 of the REAC Bylaws. In light of the current pandemic, the Board of Directors has been conducting their meetings via Zoom. With that in mind, the Board decided to modify the title of Article VI Meetings, Section 8 Telephonic Board Meetings. The new Section heading has been changed to read, "Telephonic or Video Conferencing Board Meetings.

No longer having in-person meetings, made it more difficult for individuals to run for a position on the Board. With that in mind, the Board discussed the idea of modifying Article VII, Section 1 Election of Directors, (b) Duties of Nominating Committee, by eliminating the need for 10 signatures. One suggestion was to require the individual to provide a list of 3 regular members who support their candidacy, including their phone number and/or their email address. In addition, in order to run for a position on the Board, the individual must have attended 2 Board meetings in-person, or participated in 2 Board meetings when those meets are held via a Video Conferencing type platform. Paul agreed to make the suggested changes and bring it back for review at the June 14th Board meeting.

Election of REAC Officers – Marian has agreed to serve as the REAC Board President. Paul has agreed to serve another year as the REAC Board Secretary, and Suman has agreed to serve another year as the REAC Board Treasurer. Renaye motioned that Marian, Paul and Suman be elected to their respective Officer positions. Alicia seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Filling the Vice President position will be continued until the June 14th Board meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business to report.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Paul Reeves, Board Secretary

Next Meeting

June 14, 2021, 9:30 a.m. (Monday)

Zoom Video Conferencing

Congratulations On Your Retirement

BARKER, Joan T.
Superior Court

BRANTLEY, Idelia
Health Care Services Agency

BROCK, Bruce W.
District Attorney

BURNS, Thomas A.
Sheriff's Office

BYE, Lance R.
Sheriff's Office

CAMACHO, Ester S.
Assessor

CARTWRIGHT, Kelly B.
Sheriff's Office

CASTILLO, Dana J.
Social Services Agency

CASTILLO, Estela
Human Resource Services

CHAN, Kimberly A.
Social Services Agency

CHENAULT, Robert A.
District Attorney

CONTRERAS, Maria B.
Public Works Agency

CRIST, Frieda J.
Social Services Agency

DANNER, Marie E.
Superior Court

DAO, Joseph
Social Services Agency

DUBOWY, David R.
Superior Court

ELLISON, Carolyn A.
Health Care Services Agency

ESCOBAR, Rodolfo T.
Alameda Health System

FAKHRI, Karima
Alameda Health System

FOO, Barbara C.
District Attorney

FUENTES, Rebecca B.
Dept. of Child Support Services

GEBHART, Rebecca
Health Care Services Agency

GRESSEL, Josh
County Counsel

GUFFEY, Kenneth D.
Sheriff's Office

HINDERLIE, Norma
Non-Member

JOHNSON, Karen L.
Dept. of Child Support Services

JOHNSON, Reginald R.
Probation Department

KELLER, Michele A.
Probation Department

KIBLER, Richard
Alameda Health System

KIFLE, George G.
Alameda Health System

KILLINGSWORTH, Dorothy A.
General Services Agency

LUK, Wayne W.
Social Services Agency

MARRAMA, Gregg A.
County Administrator

MC CAFFREY, Mary Jane
Dept. of Child Support Services

MINTZ, Jonathan D.
Dept. of Child Support Services

MITCHELL, Tina L.
Social Services Agency

MUNIZ, Matthew G.
Genral Services Agency

MUNOZ, Norma
Alameda Health System

NEAL, Michele S.
Alameda Health System

NEHRLING, Paula R.
Alameda Health System

NEWTON, Ronald S.
General Services Agency

NGUYEN, Tai C.
District Attorney

OLDENHAGE, Marion E.
ACERA

PINNOCK, James
Social Services Agency

RANDALL, Oteria
Health Care Services Agency

ROBINSON, Tonia T.
Social Services Agency

ROGERS, John K.
Public Works Agency

ROWDEN, Cynthia M.
Alameda Health System

SAN JUAN, Elvie V.
Alameda Health System

SHAGOVAC, Machelle F.
Dept. of Child Support Services

SINESIO, Vincent P.
Public Works Agency

SMITH, Derek L.
Probation Department

SOUZA-BRIEN, Norma M.
Social Services Agency

STROUP, Mark C.
Public Defender

SUCHON, Susan G.
Sheriff's Office

SWIERS, Randy
LARPD

WATSON, Ricky L.
Probation Department

WESTON, Christine
Community Development Agency

WHITAKER, Betty J.
Dept. of Child Support Services

WILSON, George W.
Public Works Agency

In Memoriam

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

BEAUCHAMP, John, F.
Sheriff's Office
4/6/2021

BRIDGEMAN, Marvin
Alameda Health System
4/7/2021

BROXTON, Billie K.
Social Services Agency
4/6/2021

BURNETT, John M.
Probation Department
4/10/2021

CABALLERO, Benjamin
General Services Agency
3/25/2021

CHAPMAN, Gerald
Non-Mbr Survivor of Patricia Chapman
4/12/2021

CHRISTENSEN, Virginia L.
Alameda Health System
3/15/2021

CONCEL, Alfredo L.
Social Services Agency
4/14/2021

DEBOSE, Ernest J.
General Services Agency
4/19/2021

DICKERSON, Anna R.
Non-Mbr Survivor of Kenneth Dickerson
3/31/2021

DINH, Joseph C.
Social Services Agency
3/20/2021

EDMUNDS, Carolyn L.
Health Care Services Agency
4/4/2021

FONG, Betty W.
Social Services Agency
3/26/2021

GRAYSON- EVANS, Honey
Social Services Agency
3/25/2021

HENDRIX, Richard
Public Works Agency
3/31/2021

KITCHEN, Leaster
Auditor-Controller
3/23/2021

LEONE, Robert J.
Non-Mbr Survivor of Ethel Leone
1/29/2021

MARSH, Glenn A.
Sheriff's Office
4/3/2021

MILLER, Jerome M.
Health Care Services Agency
3/22/2021

MONEYHUN, Lorna L.
General Services Agency
12/26/2020

MULLEN, Patrick J.
Sheriff's Office
3/30/2021

NOMA, Amy
Non-Mbr Survivor of Sammes Noma
2/16/2021

OWENS, Marleasa M.
Information Technology Department
4/20/2021

PORTER, Harold R.
General Services Agency
3/14/2021

PRICE, Richard M.
Alameda Health System
3/13/2021

RAWSON, Marjorie M.
Non-Mbr Survivor of Ralph Rawson
4/28/2021

ROBERTSON, Nancy F.
Social Services Agency
4/14/2021

ROSE, Carol L.
Social Services Agency
3/12/2021

SIT, KIN T.
Alameda Health System
4/2/2021

TELLARDIN, Barbara A.
Public Works Agency
4/9/2021

WARREN, Willie M.
Alameda Health System
4/8/2021

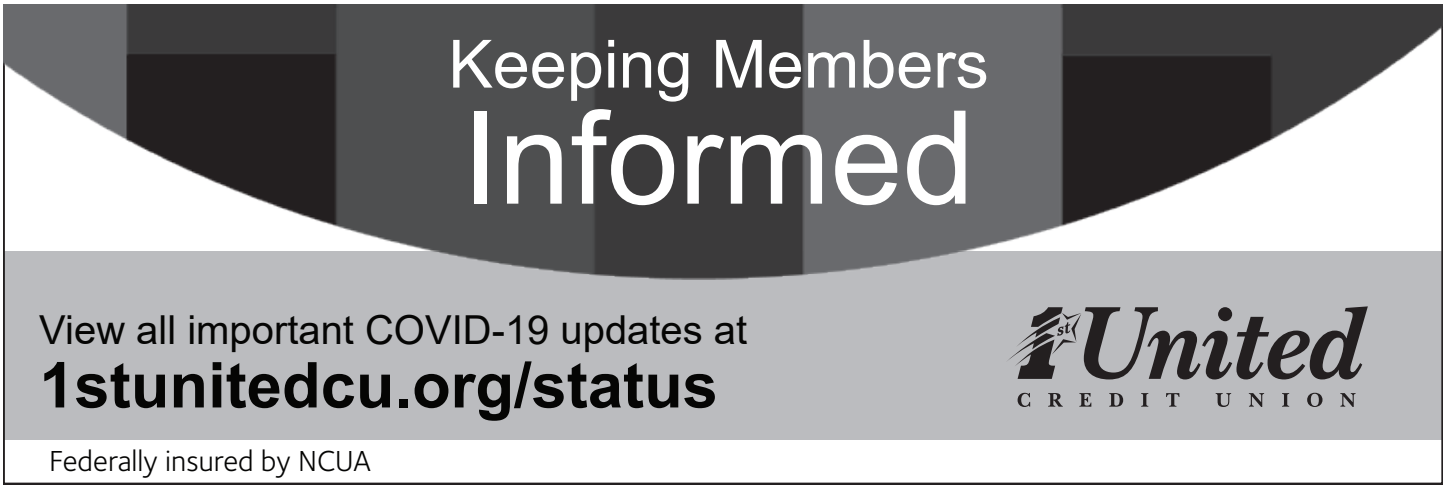
WILLIAMS, Oralean
Alameda Health System
4/15/2021

WILLSON, Maria
Non-Mbr Survivor of Albert Willson
3/12/2021

WILSON, Donald J.
General Services Agency
3/30/2021

ZORICH, Samuel A.
Health Care Services Agency
4/28/2021

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



REAC Officers and Directors

- Acting President:
  Marian Breitbart ..... (510) 769-1604
- Vice President:
  Marian Breitbart ..... (510) 769-1604
- Secretary:
  Paul Reeves ..... bongsaw@gmail.com
- Treasurer:
  Suman Sharma..... suman775@gmail.com
- Directors:
  Alicia Baptista..... alicia.baptista@comcast.net
  Renaye Johnson..... (925) 286-0716
  Liz Koppenhaver..... (510) 579-3319
  Connie Land.....landcon@comcast.net
  Mike Smart..... mgsmart@comcast.net
- Directors Emeriti:
  Barbara Jean Hallisey
  Emily Shea
  Jon Orellana
  Steve Scheinman
  Janet Waring

Editor: Gina Palmer
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.)*

REAC NEWS
Retired Employees of Alameda County
P.O. Box 302–Oakland, CA 94604
June 2021
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