



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

REAC NEWS

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — BY ALICIA BAPTISTA, PRESIDENT

The REAC Board was delighted to welcome Dana D'Arienzo to our February meeting. She is a Cybersecurity Analyst and Senior Project Manager at ACERA and will be the keynote speaker at our Spring Luncheon on March 17th. She has titled her presentation PROTECTING YOUR DATA, PROTECTING YOURSELF and I hope that many of you will be able to attend to hear what she has to say.

On February 26th, I will attend the Virtual Annual Health Care Planning Meeting with ACERA. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss issues with the medical, vision, and dental plans that affect our members. This meeting usually takes place in April, but there is much work to do this year. Both the current vision and dental plan contracts will expire at the end of this year so ACERA will soon release a Request for Proposal (RFP). Also, many of you recently received a survey from ACERA regarding the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan which I expect will be on the agenda.

The Investment Committee voted on February 5th to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt an updated Private Equity Policy. If you'd like to see what the changes are, the Investment Committee public packet is located at https://www.acera.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/02.05.2025_icm_public_packet.pdf?1738282740.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025, 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, Paul Reeves, Liz Koppenhaver, Connie Land, Kathy Foster, Marsha Rice, Linda Slater, and Cynthia Baron were present. Dana D'Arienzo, Cybersecurity Analyst and Senior Project Manager at ACERA, Pete Albert, ACRE

Last month's REAC News was extraordinarily tardy and I want to express apologies to our members for that mishap. Things happen and hopefully we learn from our errors to prevent future errors. This would be a good time to remind you that REAC provides the option to receive the newsletter electronically. The electronic version of our newsletter is always received two to three weeks before the paper newsletter. Even with the error that occurred last month, the electronic newsletter was received two weeks before the paper newsletter is usually in your mailbox. All you have to do is to visit our website, <https://reacsite.org/>, go to the Members Only section and look for the E-Newsletter Sign-up. You may also send anyone on the Board a message.

Finally, there is sad news to report. The REAC Board just learned that Emily Shea has died. Her name appears on the back of the REAC News as a Director Emeritus. Those that knew her express great admiration for who she was and for all that she accomplished as a County Employee and REAC Director. ACERA retirees are better off due to Emily's work. Please read the obituary later in this newsletter written by Paul Reeves. May Emily rest in peace as she dances with the angels.

President, and Charo Panesi-Guerra, REAC Member and Administrative Assistant were also present.

MINUTES: Minutes of the January 13, 2025 Board meeting were reviewed. Linda Slater moved that the January 13, 2025 REAC Board Minutes be approved as submitted. Liz Koppenhaver seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

REAC BOARD MEETINGS

March 17, 2025
(Monday) 9:30 AM
DoubleTree by Hilton
Pleasanton, California

April 14, 2025
(Monday) 9:30 AM
Zoom

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

ACERA TRUSTEES MEETINGS

March 20, 2025
(Thursday) 2:00 PM
see ACERA.org for
ID and password

April 17, 2025
(Thursday) 2:00 PM
see ACERA.org for
ID and password

www.acera.org

Welcome New Members

Gana L. Eason
Marilyn D. Ghiorso
Tirzah E. Given
Ralph M. Klassen
Suzanne L. Lamica
Sharleen M. Lozano
Norman Madrid
Janice Mason
Elizabeth Orozco
Fred D. Self

ANNOUNCEMENTS &

COMMUNICATIONS: Paul Reeves reported that Emily Shea, REAC Director Emeritus, passed away. Paul agreed to write a short obituary which will be published in the REAC Newsletter. Liz reported that a member called her to discuss some confusion she was having with VIA Benefits. She had also connected with ACERA and they were now helping to resolve her issue. Apparently, the issue was related to the care she needed from an ophthalmologist who was in the medical field and not in the vision field. She will call Liz next week if she is still having problems.

Alicia introduced Dana D'Arienzo, Cybersecurity Analyst and Senior Project Manager at ACERA, who will be our guest speaker at the March 17, 2025 Spring Luncheon. Dana explained that she has been with the County since 2019. Prior to 2019, she was with Sutter Health where she focused on data privacy, teaching people how to be and feel safe in an online environment, as well as protecting their personal and financial information. She also did a lot of outreach to nurses and doctors addressing their questions and concerns regarding patient privacy.

Dana wanted to know what questions and concerns we wanted her to address during the Spring Luncheon. The Board would like her cover the most common scams sent via email, text messages, phone calls, etc. That would include fake messages from relatives asking for money, calls from banks saying your accounts were overdrawn, saying that you missed deadlines and would have to pay hefty fines, and other businesses needing your personal information for a wide range of reasons, none of which were true.

Liz asked if Dana could briefly comment on ACERA's new enhanced member portal. She will give a brief overview which covers what it does, why is it necessary, some of the many advantages it offers, and some of the security enhancements.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz presented REAC's January 2025 Treasurer's Report. The beginning Interest Privilege Account balance was \$27,519.32. Receipts totaled \$7,912.66. Disbursements totaled

\$6,966.72. Creative Circle did not bill us in January so that payment will probably appear in the February 2025 Treasurer's report. There were no unusual disbursements during January 2025. The January 2025 surplus was \$945.94. An error was noted on the Red Arrow January 27, 2025 payment of \$1,760.24. The date the payment was for, should read 12/31/24 and not 12/31/25. The ending check book balance was \$28,465.26. Total Assets were \$255,764.69.

Liz reported that she and Alicia will go to the 1st United Credit Union tomorrow to convert the 36 Month Certificate of Deposit which is now maturing.

Dawn moved that the January 2025 Treasurer's report be approved as corrected. Connie seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CRCEA (CALIFORNIA RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION): Connie presented her CRCEA report.

The November and December 2024 and January, 2025 Executive Meetings were cancelled. The next meeting is February 19, 2025.

As reported last month, CRCEA Technology Committee set up a new "TEST" conference Wild Apricot website for CRCEA conferences. CRCEA is funding this new website. The next conference host county (Ventura) approved the use of the TEST website for their upcoming conference in April 2025. The website is ready to launch for the upcoming conference. Conference and hotel registration info is planned to be emailed to CRCEA Associations by the end of the month. Unfortunately, Ventura has decided to NOT use credit cards for payment for any of the events at the conference. Connie is not sure of their reason because the system is capable of handling electronic payments. All payments will be made by check only, mailed to them and processed manually by their volunteers. There will be a downloadable registration form available on the website for those individuals who would like to fill out and mail in their registration form with their check.

We are excited about this new tool because shortly after the conclusion of

the Spring 2025 Conference, REAC will proceed with the use of the TEST website including the electronic payment processing for the Fall 2025 Conference. Another update will be made at the next meeting.

The next conference schedules are:

- Spring 2025: Ventura County-April 13-16, 2025 Crowne Plaza Hotel-Ventura
- Fall 2025: Alameda County-September 28-October 1, 2025 DoubleTree Hotel-Pleasanton
- Spring 2026: Santa Barbara-dates and location-TBD

REAC 2025 FALL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Connie reported that the next regular monthly committee meeting is February 13, 2025. Since the meeting is after REAC's meeting, a progress report will be provided at the next Board meeting. This committee generally meets the second Friday of each month via Zoom.

Alicia reported that SEIU has made a \$1,000.00 donation to our 2025 Fall Conference. We are very pleased to receive their donation, and Alicia asked Pete to let her know to whom we should address the thank you note.

SACRS (STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS):

Kathy reported that the next SACRS conference will be held May 13-16, 2025 at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage, California. At this point there is no new information on the SACRS website regarding the conference. Kathy has registered and will keep the Board informed.

ACERA STAFF MEMBER: Mike Fara was unable to attend today's Board Meeting.

RETIREMENT BOARD: Alicia attended the February 5, 2025 Retirees Committee meeting and provided her report. There was one Action Item which was a discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt the annual Supplemental COLA benefit for 2025 paid to eligible retirees.

The Retirees Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt the Supplemental Cost of Living Adjustment increase for Tier I members who retired on or before April 1, 1981, and Tier 2 members who retired on or before April 1, 2007, effective with the April 1, 2025 monthly retirement allowance. This annual supplemental benefit is non-vested and is funded by the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR). The inflation rate was 2.5%. The Supplemental Cost of Living Adjustment for Tier I members will be 2.5%, and for Tier 2 members the COLA will be 2.0%.

There were several Information Items. The first item was a report on the 2025 Annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Tier 1 and Tier 3 retirees/payeas who retired on or before April 1, 2023 will receive a COLA increase of 3.0%, due to a carry-over COLA banked from prior years. Tiers 1 and 3 retirees/payeas who retired on or after April 2, 2023 will receive a COLA increase of 2.0%. Tiers 2 and 4 retirees/payeas will receive a COLA increase of 2.0%. COLA increases will be processed with the April 2025 monthly payroll.

Cynthia mentioned that the Annual Health Care Planning meeting with the retiree groups will be held on February 26, 2025, at 1:00 PM. Kathy asked if REAC wanted any items added to the meeting agenda which we wanted to discuss and support. After some discussion, Alicia asked the Board to forward any items which they felt should be included or discussed at the meeting, to her before February 26, 2025.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Alicia also attended the February 5, 2025 Investment Committee meeting. There was one Action Item, which was a discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement adopt the updated Private Equity Policy. The Private Equity Investment Policy governs all investments

in the Private Equity Asset Class made by Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association. (ACERA) The Investment Committee voted to recommend the Retirement Board adopt the updated policy.

HEALTH CARE (CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION): Alicia reported that the number of flu cases has dramatically increased to the point where the number of people dying from the flu equals the number of people dying from COVID-19. The CDC continues to recommend getting flu vaccines.

ACTIVITIES: Pete asked if ACRE could present awards, from both ACRE and REAC, to several individuals who have made significant contributions to Alameda County while on the Board of Supervisors, and while on the Retirement Board, during our March 17th Annual Membership meeting and Spring Luncheon.. The awards would be from both ACRE and REAC. The Board agreed and we will add Pete to the Agenda.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT: As of January 31, 2025, membership stood at 3,749 members, which is a slight decrease from the previous month.

REAC WEBSITE: Alicia reported that Lori will no longer be able to maintain and host our website. She has given us more the ample notification, but she will no longer be able support the website effective July 1, 2025. Alicia asked Lori for recommendations, and hopefully she will be able to give us a few names of individuals who might be able to replace her. In addition, Dawn and Linda volunteered to also do a search for individuals who would be able to support the website.

Connie provided her Website Activity report for January 2025. There were 198 unique visitors to the REAC website.

This represents a 15% increase from last month which was 169. The average time spent on the site was 4 minutes and 13 seconds, which was also an increase from last month. The most visited pages during January 2025 were the Member Resources, followed by What We Do and Membership.

DOCUMENT SHARE OPTIONS: Dawn reported that she has been researching various low cost or no cost options which might work to create REAC email address for organizational use. Once she has completed her research she will share that information with the Document Share subgroup and then with the Board.

REAC NEWS: The REAC News will include information regarding the COLA, the new date for the March Annual Membership Meeting and Spring Luncheon (March 17th), the lateness of the last Newsletter, and the Health Plan information.

OTHER REPORTS: There was no additional information to report.

OLD BUSINESS: Paul gave a brief report on the agenda items for the Annual Membership Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business to report.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: There was no additional information to report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

*Respectfully submitted by
Paul Reeves, Board Secretary*

Next Meeting:

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Monday,
March 17, 2024, 9:30 am
DoubleTree by Hilton
Pleasanton, California

ACERA Performance Report

The Performance Report for the month of January was not completed in time to be included in this newsletter. That information will be included in next month's newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

ALDER, D'Anna
Child Support Services

BACK, Earl
Sheriff's Office

BOLLES, Jaime
Sheriff's Office

CUNNINGHAM, Nancy
Superior Court

EASON, Gana
Social Services Agency

EBALANG, Merla
Alameda County Health

FRANCO, Rodolfo
Sheriff's Office

GARCIA KENNEDY, Cheryl
Alameda County Health

GOODLOE, Shirley
Sheriff's Office

GREEN, Karen
Social Services Agency

HADLEY, Randy
Probation

HERNANDEZ, Irma
District Attorney

HOVDA, Jeffery
Sheriff's Office

JUNIOR, Arleen
Superior Court

KLASSEN, Ralph
Information Technology
Department

LAMICA, Suzanne
ACERA

LEE, Maggie
Information Technology
Department

MITCHELL, Danielle
Sheriff's Office

NOMURA, Ann
Alameda Health System

OKRONGLIS, Carol
Superior Court

OROZCO, Elizabeth
Superior Court

RADIGUE, Vicky
Social Services Agency

RAY, Ronald
Zone 7 Water Agency

REYNOLDS, Patricia
Alameda Health System

SCHMIDT, Nathan
Sheriff's Office

SELF III, Fred
Social Services Agency

SINGH, Jatinder
General Services Agency

SMERNES, Despina
Social Services Agency

STONEBERGER, James
Sheriff's Office

TO, Betty
Alameda County Health

TUCKER, Jack
Sheriff's Office

WILSON, Shelley
Child Support Services

YEARGIN, Frank
Probation

IN MEMORIAM

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

BRISENO, Jo Anne
Social Services Agency
11/20/2024

CALBERT, James W.
Sheriff's Office
12/13/2024

CAMIN, Howard
Non-Member Survivor
of Beverly Camin
12/27/2024

CASSON, Denise L.
Sheriff's Office
11/18/2024

CONVENTO, Fortunata
Sheriff's Office and
Non-Member Survivor of
Abelardo Convento
12/22/2024

COYLE, Dorothy
Non-Member Survivor
of William J. Coyle
12/27/2024

CUNNINGHAM, Diana G.
Alameda County Health
12/10/2024

DE SOUSA, Gina
Probation
12/26/2024

DEAN, James O.
Alameda Health System
11/28/2024

DEMING, Kathryn
Non-Member Survivor
of Richard Deming
10/14/2023

DESMUKE-WRIGHT, Carrie
Social Services Agency
1/8/2025

FALLIS, Helen C.
Alameda Health System
12/31/2024

FOSTER, Leslie
Non-Member Survivor
of Robert Foster
1/1/2025

FREEMAN, Charles
Non-Member Survivor
of Betty Freeman
12/23/2024

HADNOT, Norma
Alameda Health System
12/20/2024

HAMLETT, Dennis
Superior Court
1/10/2025

HERUP, William
Probation
12/25/2024

HOWARD, Alicia M.
Superior Court
1/15/2025

JENNER, Mina
Non-Member Survivor
of James Jenner
1/12/2025

KAGEYAMA, Naomi
Superior Court
12/20/2024

KRETZ, Linda L.
Social Services Agency
1/5/2025

LEE, James F.
Alameda County Health and Non-
Member Survivor of Jessica Lee
1/15/2025

LEGRO, John
Sheriff's Office
1/9/2025

LIMON, Alicia E.
Alameda County Health
1/11/2025

In Memoriam continued on page 5

In Memoriam continued from page 4

LOPES, Marie F. Social Services Agency 1/9/2025	MOSMILLER, Thomas E. Alameda County Health 1/20/2025	RODRIGUEZ, Helen J. Alameda Health System 1/13/2025	SPEDOWFSKI, Jewell C. Public Defender 12/30/2024
MAG HONEY, Jack A. Public Health 12/30/2024	NEAL, Leona B. Alameda Health System 12/21/2024	SCOTT, Harry A. Public Health 1/9/2025	STRELO, La Verne Non-Member Survivor of Harry Strelo 1/2/2025
MEYER, LynA. Social Services Agency 12/11/2024	PEDERSEN, Egon A. Non-Member Survivor of Inger Pedersen 1/15/2025	SHEA, Emily A. ACERA 1/31/2025	WATKINS, Thomas K. Alameda Health System 1/3/2025
MITCHELL, Mary D. Social Services Agency 12/25/2024	QUEZADA, Henry Public Works Agency 12/20/2024	SMITH, Clara Alameda Health System 11/25/2024	WILLIAMS, Jacqueline A. Superior Court 1/20/2025

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

EMILY SHEA

Emily Shea – REAC Director Emeritus - passed away on January 31, 2025, just a few months shy of her 100th Birthday.

Emily went to work for Alameda County Social Services right out of high school, in 1943. She worked at Social Services for 5 years and then went to work at ACERA as a manager. It is important to note, that ACERA was established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors under Ordinance No. 446, dated October 21, 1947. On January 1, 1948, ACERA became operative to provide retirement, disability, and death benefits to the General and Safety members employed by Alameda County. Emily was working for ACERA, at its inception, and she continued to work for ACERA until she retired.

In addition to the day to day challenges she faced while working in a brand new organization, she worked closely

with C.G. "Bud" Quist as a founding member of REAC. During her tenure with REAC, she served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and REAC historian. She and Bud Quist were also instrumental in helping to orchestrate the creation of the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) Fund, the benefits from which we continue to enjoy today.

After Emily retired, she continued to be an active member of REAC and an active participant at many Board of Retirement meetings and its many committees. Many of the individuals who worked with Emily, remember her as being thoughtful, kind, creative, smart and passionate about her work and her friends. Those are great attributes for anyone to have. Thank you Emily for all that you did for us and for future retirees.

Submitted by Paul Reeves, REAC Board Secretary

Pass it on: Get \$50

Why keep 1st United all to yourself?
Refer your friends, family, co-workers — anyone.
You both earn \$50!

Get started at 1stunitedcu.org/referral.
Offer ends March 31, 2025. Insured by NCUA.



1st United
CREDIT UNION

REAC Officers and Directors

- President:
Alicia Baptista..... alicia.baptista@comcast.net
- Vice President:
Dawn Stevensondawnrzs2@comcast.net
- Secretary:
Paul Reeves bongosaw@gmail.com
- Treasurer:
Liz Koppenhaver.....(510) 579-3319
- Directors:
Cynthia Baron..... cynthiabaron275@gmail.com
Kathy Foster..... kfoster@acera.org
Connie Land..... landcon@comcast.net
Marsha Rice.....mshermanrice@sbcgobal.net
Linda Slater slater1@sbcgobal.net
Administrative Assistant to the REAC Board:
Charo Panesi panesi9@gmail.com
.....(510) 703-2446
- Directors Emeriti:
Jon Orellana Steve Scheinman
Emily Shea Janet Waring

Editor: Gina Palmer
 Editorial Committee: 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

March 2025
 P.O. Box 302-Oakland, CA 94604
 Retired Employees of Alameda County



Nonprofit org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit 4174
 Oakland, CA