

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY

P. O. Box 7231, Ventura CA 93006

“Dedicated to those who have already served”

Board Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2011

Four Points Sheraton, Ventura Harbor

Board Members Present: Art Goulet, Ron Janes, Will Hoag, Ray Holzer, Lauraine Effress, Betty McCollum, Maria Older Kapp, Susan Lacey, Jan Standing-Roberts, Jim Crow, Bob Riggs, Luisa Haskell, Don Wright, Maryellen Benedetto, Judy Nash-Wade

Board Members Absent: Tom Convery

President, Art Goulet, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes of the January 4, 2011 Meeting

The January 4, 2011 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer’s Report – Maria Older Kapp

A separate checking register has been established for See’s Candy transactions. The monies will be coming out of the money market account. Maria noted that she had attempted to speak to Patty Braga from the Ventura County Credit Union regarding their check but she had not heard back from her. Maria found an error on the distributed monthly report (error in reported interest earned) and said she would make the correction and redistribute to the board. Total assets of \$75,609.56 were reported. Treasurer’s report will be accepted as corrected.

Old/New Business

STAR COLA – Art was advised that VCERA will mail the letter. The letter is to be written by Ed Lacey. Art received a phone call from our previous president, Wayne Larroque, recommending we do more and that we should pursue borrowing the money from the \$27.50 Fund. He suggested contacting the unions to solicit their support. Art noted that VCERA had received only 10-12 letters from STAR COLA recipients and Will reported receiving 22 telephone calls. Art said there are approximately 365 recipients.

Board members were unable to make contact with Tim Thonis.

Linda was asked to compile a report showing how many retirees receiving STAR COLA were out of state and how many were local.

CRCEA has renegotiated with their lobbyist as to her request for a pay increase. Her job duties were revised and current fee will remain as is.

Art mentioned the report on pension reform recently issued by the Little Hoover Commission (LHC). The Executive Summary and the full report are available on the LHC website.

Committee Reports

Associate Members – Maryellen Benedetto

Maryellen reported no new Associate Members. Maryellen suggested that we include an invitation to attend one of our luncheons, as our guest, in our *Survivor* letter. She also suggested asking members at the next luncheon to bring a survivor with them to the next luncheon as our guest. She emphasized the need to reach out to these people. A motion was made to include in the *Survivor* letter an invitation to attend a luncheon as our guest. Motion approved.

Audit – Bob Riggs

Currently working with committee to complete report.

Benefits – Ron Janes

February Insurance Benefits Committee was cancelled. No report.

Communications – Will Hoag

Reported receiving 22 calls.

Membership/Courtesy – Tom Convery

We had 19 new county retirees, 10 new members and 1 new associate member. The VCERA office reported 14 deceased members. We currently have 2,805 REAVC active members.

CRCEA – Betty McCollum

Betty reminded the board of the April 17-20 CRCEA Conference to be held in San Diego. She also notified the board of the tentative CRCEA fall conference dates of October 17-19, in Sonoma-Mendocino Counties. Art mentioned that the organization, as a whole, is in good hands and doing well. Art said the San Diego conference committee was working on getting the legislative presentation via satellite/television.

Legislative – Susan Lacey

Art reported the deadline for bills to the house is February 17 and the “drop dead” date is February 18, 2011. Art reported there are approximately 250 bills in each house to be presented. Susan reported SB 203 is still in the works.

Newsletter – Lauraine Effress

Has 2 possibilities for guest columnists.

Nominations/Elections - Maria Kapp

Nothing new to report at this time.

Program/Social – Judy Nash-Wade

Judy felt the last luncheon speaker, Susan Speers, was well received and that a lot of useful and interesting information was given to our members. In keeping with the “wellness theme” Judy has invited the Master Gardener’s from the University of California Extension, as well as Food Share to present at our next luncheon to be held Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

Scholarship – Lauraine Effress

Lauraine reported the new guidelines and application are on the web and up and running. She noted there might be an issue that will need to be handled by a “professional” web master. Maria noted that the cost would be approximately \$150. Motion was made to okay the \$150 expenditure, if needed. Motion approved. Lauraine said that Tom needed someone to takeover setting up the hyperlink for the website. It was suggested putting something in the newsletter to ask for volunteers.

Retirement Board – Art Goulet

Art reported that Tier 1 and Safety retirees would be receiving at least a 1.5% COLA and as much as a 3% COLA, depending on their COLA bank. The County Taxpayers Association is still attempting to get names and salary amounts for anyone receiving in excess of \$100,000 per year. The issue will be going to court.

A new job specification and job brochure are available for the recently vacated VCERA Retirement Administrator position.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wyatt Jorgenson
Executive Assistant

6/13/11