

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY

P. O. Box 7231, Ventura CA 93006

“Dedicated to those who have already served”

Board Meeting Minutes

October 4, 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, Bob Riggs, Luisa Haskell, Maryellen Benedetto, Judy Nash-Wade, Tom Convery, Don Wright, Jim Crow

Board Members Absent

None

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

Minutes of the August 2, 2011 Meeting

The August 2, 2011 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer’s Report – Maria Older Kapp

Maria reported that revenues were down primarily due to purchase of 400 See’s Candies gift certificates. See’s Candies shows an YTD loss of \$786 which includes the September purchase of 400 gift certificates for \$5,206. The cost per certificate is now \$13.02, an increase of 57 cents over last year. Factoring in the actual cost per certificate, this year’s sales have netted \$187. We have total assets of \$77,560.72 and \$350.08 interest earned. Our July/August 2011 Newsletter cost totaled \$2,041 with a cost per issue of 76 cents. The biennial Statement of Information was filed with the State August 28, 2011. A \$52 check for purchase of See’s candy was returned for insufficient funds and the Association was charged a \$10 NSF fee. Check was resubmitted and cleared. After some discussion it was decided to send a letter to the member to request reimbursement of the \$10 NSF fee.

Old/New Business

STAR COLA- We have had very few issues. The County has said they will assist recipients to find resources to help them.

PAC Presentation-Tom advised that he has spoken with Rick Schimmel at the Sheriff’s Association regarding our establishing a Political Action Committee (PAC). It was decided to ask Rick to give the Board a presentation after the first of the year.

Union Coalition – There was a discussion about REAVC’s participation in meetings of the Union Coalition. It was deemed to be a good idea.

Committee Reports

Associate Members – Maryellen Benedetto

Maryellen reported that we have an average of 5 deceased members per month.

Audit – Bob Riggs

Nothing to report.

Benefits – Ron Janes

Ron reported that the Ventura County Health Care Plan (VCHCP) will be reopened to previous members who had reached Medicare age and that they will be notifying these individuals as soon as possible. The new rates are expected to be announced October 13th. The contract between VCHCP and Simi Valley Hospital has expired. VCHCP is negotiating a new contract, which is expected to be completed soon. VCHCP participants should be able to receive care there in the meantime. The Orange County lawsuit has gone to the Supreme Court. The question is whether there could be an implied contract entitling the retirees will stay in co-mingled group for premium setting. The implications of this suit could affect our early retirees.

Communications – Will Hoag

Very little activity.

Membership/Courtesy – Tom Convery

Tom advised Linda to have 1,000 of the tri-fold flyer printed. Copies of the flyer will be given to VCERA for their pre-retirement meetings and Linda will enclose one with each new retiree letter. Tom was unable to video tape our last luncheon because of equipment difficulties. He advised the board that we need to purchase a video camera (approximate cost range of \$400-\$1000) and that we also need a tripod and microphone. Tom will write an article for the newsletter soliciting someone to videotape the luncheons. Tom also suggested that we insert a hyper-link on our website. Maria was asked to investigate how many hits we have received on our website and report to the board. It was suggested that an article be written explaining how to get on our website. Maria was also asked to report to the board the cost of having a hyper-link developed for it.

CRCEA – Betty McCollum

The fall conference is to be held in Sonoma County, Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel in Santa Rosa, October 24-26, 2011. Dave Jones, California State Insurance Commissioner, is the scheduled keynote speaker and Valerie Brown, Past President National Association of Counties, Member of White House Forum on Health Care and Sonoma County First District Supervisor will be giving a presentation on Impact of National Health Care Policies. Denis Poggio, AARP representative, will be giving a presentation of current Social Security & Medicare Issues.

Legislative – Art Goulet

There are bills in the legislature regarding “intent” to do pension reform, but little real action.

The federal limit on annual benefit from a defined benefit plan was increased from \$195,000 to \$200,000 and the annual compensation limit was increased from \$245,000 to \$250,000 for 2012.

Newsletter – Lauraine Effress

No new issues to report.

Nominations/Elections – Maria Kapp

Maria distributed the list of board members whose terms will be ending December 2011 and a list of the nominated retirees for the new term beginning January 2012. The names will be presented to the membership at the December luncheon.

Program/Social – Judy Nash-Wade

Judy reported they had 25 inquiries requesting more information on the September ER Response presentation. It was also reported that our Food Share contributions have increased. Judy thanked Ray for his, Mike and Judy's assistance.

After a brief discussion it was decided to only play music at the December luncheon. No program will be scheduled to allow retirees time to converse with friends and members.

Scholarship – Lauraine Effress

Lauraine reported sending information regarding our Scholarship program to the *Star*, *Acorn* and *Reporter* in hopes of generating more interest in the program.

Retirement Board – Art Goulet

There have been continuing drops in investment markets. More public complaints can be expected. It was reported that 6% of the County retirees receive \$100,000+ in retirement payments. The Taxpayers Association has demanded that VCERA pay over \$30,000 in attorney fees expended in getting VCERA to release names and other information on \$100,000+ retirees.

Two active employees have requested purchase of their military academy time to be credited to their retirement calculations. VCERA has denied their request. The military (under certain circumstances) and some other county retirement systems do count academy time for retirement credit. It is expected that the employees will pursue legal action.

The Retirement Board will be interviewing four (4) new candidates for the Retirement Administrator position.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wyatt Jorgenson

Linda Wyatt Jorgenson
Executive Assistant