



REAVC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Dedicated to those that have already served

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - BY NANCY SETTLE



I hope you had a healthy and happy holiday season! At this time last year many of our friends were devastated by the Thomas fire. Again, this year the Woolsey, Hill and Camp fires have destroyed thousands of homes and structures. We are grateful for our fire fighters and those that have assisted with recovery. Locally, many folks are beginning to rebuild their homes. May this year bring us restorative rains and respite from the fires and drought.

Three of our long time REAVC board members will be stepping down from the board, Ray Holzer, Jim Crow and Don Greenberg. In addition to serving as the REAVC Treasurer, Ray has been a stalwart supporter of REAVC and has worked on ensuring the luncheon venues and speakers have been excellent and informative. We also appreciate his wife, Linda, who has assisted with the luncheons. Jim has been our California County Employees Retirement Association (CRCEA) alternate representative for many years. CRCEA is the umbrella Association for all twenty 1937 Act Retirement Associations in the State of California. Don Greenberg has been a stalwart of the Board for several years, serving as Chair of the Scholarship and Election Committees. We will miss their dedicated presence on the board and hope to continue to see them at future luncheons.

We are pleased that we have two new board members joining us January 2019. Reddy Pakala and Cindy Schneider. You'll be learning more about them in this newsletter. We are also pleased to announce our incoming Executive Assistant, Sharon Hurault. Sharon was previously employed by Ventura County Water and Sanitation Department and the Harbor Department. Sharon will be in charge of keeping our membership data base up to date, responding to inquiries, the newsletter, and assisting with luncheons. We welcome her and hope you get a chance to meet her.

Our Holiday Luncheon at the Tower Club proved to be a popular event. The view was spectacular. The Scholarship awards was the highlight of the event. We had many deserving recipients and excellent presentations, along with heartfelt thank you from recipients and heart-warming stories about student success when faced with difficult beginnings and hardship. Our next luncheon is scheduled on March 12.at the Sterling Hills Country Club. Read on for more information on this.

We welcome our new members to REAVC. We thank you and all members for your membership which goes to support scholarships, advocacy for pensions, legislative monitoring, this newsletter, and monitoring health benefits. Many thanks go to our REAVC Board members who volunteer their time and efforts. We wish you all a healthy and happy 2019!

**Happy
New Year!**



Fair winds and following seas – and more than a few good surfing days to Ray, Jim and Don



NEWS FLASH – CHANGES TO REAVC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

At its Board meeting on December 11, 2018, the REAVC Board approved some important changes to the REAVC Scholarship program commencing in 2019.

The new, single deadline for submission of scholarship applications will be **April 30 of each year**. Award/presentations of scholarships will take place at the luncheon/general membership meeting held in June.

Among other things, this change will allow better allocation of the funds budgeted for scholarships via a single award process and provide the potential for more scholarship recipients to be present to receive their scholarship awards – before they go off to college for the beginning of the fall semester or quarter.

All other elements of the scholarship program remain the same. Be sure to check the REAVC website for the latest information and forms or contact a REAVC officer or Board member. And remember: It is perfectly OK for students to get those applications in to us EARLY --- and students should be encouraged to do that!!!! Under the new regimen, it will likely not be possible for the Board and committee to waive the strict deadline and to pass on an application that arrives late.

BOARD OF RETIREMENT REPORT - BY ART GOULET



If you recall, I last remarked that the market was kind of squirrely in October and was concerned about the implications of that. As it turned out, VCERA “gave back” its gains for the fiscal year through September, and then some, leaving us in a loss position through October. VCERA’s assets were reduced to \$5.39 billion. November was a little better, with assets increasing to \$5.42 billion, though VCERA is still in a loss position for the fiscal year. The market has been extremely volatile in December, trending down, so as of this writing, I don’t have high hopes for a positive return.

At its October 22nd meeting, the Board approved a draft of amended Bylaws. For the most part, the amendments were intended to streamline the document, eliminating unnecessary recitations of provisions of the 1937 Act, under which VCERA was created. As is required by current law, the Bylaws must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors before they can be finalized by the Retirement Board. Although the draft was sent to the County Executive Office for comment immediately after the October 22 meeting, no comments have yet been received with respect to the draft Bylaws. In my opinion (and only mine) the County approval requirement is a provision of law that should have been repealed after passage of Proposition 162 in 1992. This Proposition, known as the “California Pension Protection Act of 1992, provides that the Retirement Board of a public pension system shall have plenary authority for administration of the system.

The Retirement Board received and approved the actuarial valuation (AV) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, at its December 10 meeting. The AV indicated that the system’s unfunded accrued actuarial liability (UAAL) increased from \$744 million in the previous fiscal year to \$747 million, while the funded ratio of the plan increased from 86.95% to 87.81%. An interesting fact is that about 91.8% of the UAAL is attributable to assumption changes through the years, rather than investment losses. One of the purposes of changing assumptions is to keep the System adjusted to current reality, such as expected investment returns, demographics, and mortality rates, all of which affect the contribution rates of employers and active members and the long-term obligations of the system which must be met.

December 10, 2018 was the last meeting that will be attended by Peter Foy and Maeve Fox. Peter will no longer be a member of the County Board of Supervisors next year, and Maeve chose not to run for re-election as General

Member of the Board. If my recollection is correct, with Maeve's departure, except for the brief period from September 2011 through February 2013, it will be the first time since I've been on the Board that there will be no female member on the Board, unless the Board of Supervisors appoints one of its female members to replace Peter. Dan Shapiro will be the new trustee to serve in Maeve's vacated position and will take the oath of office at the first meeting in January.

Finally, the Board elected new officers for 2019. They are Bill Wilson and Robert Bianchi, Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. **(NOTE: See page 9 for late news on COLA adjustment April 2019)**

MARCH LUNCHEON – BY ANNE DANA



Hey, they said ugly sweater contest!

Our Holiday Luncheon was a success! Over 230 people attended the luncheon; consequently, the banquet room was overflowing. The view was beautiful. The food was delicious, and the music (including a fun singalong) added a festive touch. Celebrating with friends and "old" colleagues was a great way to start the holiday season.

MARCH 2019 LUNCHEON

Our next REAVC luncheon will be held on **March 12, 2019, at Sterling Hills Country Club**, 901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo. Please note, this is a change in venue again. We are returning to Sterling Hills where we held the January, June and September 2018 luncheons.

Detective Tim Lohman from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department will be the speaker. The subject of his presentation is "Senior Scams" a subject of significant importance for many of us.

The luncheon promises to be a very interesting, informative and enjoyable event. Hope you will join us!

RESERVATIONS:

If you would like to attend, please make your reservations no later than noon, **Thursday, February 28**, by calling or emailing:

Judy Sewell, 805/654-8304, sewellj119@sbcglobal.net or
Cindi Mathieu, 805/525-2885, cccindi66@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE:

Reservations may be cut off early, if room capacity is filled prior to February 28. Reservations requested after the cutoff will be put on a wait list.

Please remember that it is important that you formally cancel your reservation if you cannot make it, so that we can accommodate people on the wait list and provide accurate numbers to the caterer. Remember, a reservation is a commitment, if you make a reservation, and don't attend, it costs all of us, and may prevent other members from attending.

We also ask members NOT to reserve your table space by turning your chair up against the table. That makes it difficult for members, particularly those with walkers or wheel chairs, to move between tables. Just reserve your spot by placing your napkin on the back of your chair.

Food Share barrels will be outside the entrance and the check-in tables will be just inside the door. Will Hoag and Butch Britt will be set up near the entry for payment of guest fees and sales of See's candy gift certificates. Good friends, good food, and good fun make this a "must attend" event. So, come celebrate with us.

COST: Members - FREE!
 Guests - \$10



**REAVC AWARDED \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS TO EIGHT (8) DESERVING STUDENTS
AT ITS DECEMBER 4, 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

BY DON GREENBERG



Editor's Note: This is the last article penned by the irascible Don Greenberg, as he stepped down from the REAVC Board and the Scholarship Committee. We will all miss his humor, wit, hard work ethic and commitment to our scholarship program. Best wishes Buddy.

REAVC was privileged to honor eight outstanding students with \$1,000 REAVC scholarships at our recent December 4 holiday luncheon.

This brought to a total of fourteen \$1,000 scholarships we have been privileged to award this year, the most that REAVC has ever been able to award.

This is made possible by your dues, contributions, and the support we have received over the years from the Ventura County Credit Union. It is really something quite terrific, something that we can all feel very, very good about.

All of these students are very deserving --- and very grateful for the pat on the back and the financial assistance.

The eight (8) recipients on December 4, in alphabetical order, were:

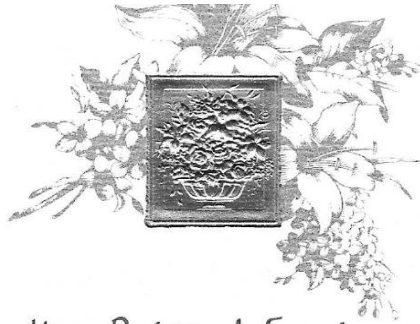
1. Cole Clawson. Cole is a graduate of Gilbert High in Gilbert, Arizona. He currently attends Mesa Community College where he has a 3.8 GPA. He will be transferring to Brigham Young University where he will be majoring in mechanical engineering. His proud REAVC grandmother is Vicki Crabtree, who is retired from the Ventura County Fire Protection District.
2. Jari Davis. Jari attends the college of Southern Maryland in Waldorf, Maryland. When she completes her work there, she plans to transfer to Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. She has a major in health science and education with a goal to be able to make a difference in the lives of young people as a physical education teacher and health counselor. Her proud grandmother is REAVC member Frances Moore, a retiree from Child Protective Services.
3. Tyler Herzog. Tyler is a graduate of Foothill Technology High in Ventura where he had a 4.8 GPA. Since September 2018, he has been attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in electrical engineering. His very proud father, REAVC member David Herzog, is retired from the Ventura County Health Care Agency.
4. Jaina Lynn Malach. Jaina graduated from Foothill Technology High in Ventura in June of 2018 with a 3.8 GPA. She is a freshman at the University of Utah majoring in kinesiology. Her very proud grandmother is REAVC member Nhu Trinh, a retiree from the Ventura County Medical Center.
5. Kenna Martin. Kenna is a graduate of Millbrook High in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she had a 3.79 GPA. She is a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, majoring in "pre-accounting". Her very proud grandfather is REAVC member Loren Blair, who is retired from the Public Works Agency.
6. Ian McSorley. Ian is a graduate of Arrowhead Union High in Hartland, Wisconsin with a 3.86 GPA. He is attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison, majoring in finance, investment and banking. His proud step-grandmother is REAVC member Carol Sanger-Lemery, a retiree from Public Health.
7. Joshua Varela. Joshua is a graduate of Rio Mesa High where he had a 4.5 GPA. He is a junior at UCLA where he has a 3.8 GPA and is majoring in political science. Among other things, he is the 'Chief of Staff' to the President of the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council, a major role at this university of over 30,000 students. His very proud mother Leesa Varela is retired from the Ventura County Probation Agency.

8. Samuel Votrian. Samuel graduated from Buena High in June of 2018 with a 4.2 GPA. He is a freshman at UC Davis where he is majoring in English. His very proud grandfather is REAVC member Jeffrey Dransart, who is retired from the VC Health Care Agency.

Each of these students is excellent and very deserving. They and their sponsors and families have expressed great appreciation for their awards from REAVC.

Clearly, this is one of the excellent things REAVC does – and one of the excellent uses to which your dues and donations contribute.

Just to give you a flavor of how much your scholarship program means to our students, attached is a copy of a note from one of our scholarship recipients.



I wish to thank the Retired Employees Association of Ventura County for this wonderful and amazing opportunity to receive this scholarship for my educational career. In a time and age when education costs are on the rise, I am ever so thankful for organizations who are willing to make college dreams more attainable. I thank my professors at Mesa Community College that have helped me develop my abilities as a student and my character as a citizen in the community. I wish to thank my family, my mom and dad, for informing me about this scholarship. She encouraged me and is one of my biggest cheerleaders. Without her, I don't know where I would be today. I am going into this next year at Brigham Young University, ready to work hard and excited for the new things to come. Thank you R.E.A.V.C. for presenting to me this scholarship and I will take it into good hands and continue to work hard towards my educational goals and career.

Thank you!

Cole Clawson



2019 REAVC Board Members

President – Nancy Settle	Colleen Bruns
1 st VP - Roberta Griego	Reddy Pakala
2 nd VP - Ken Cozzens	Jim Crow
Secretary – Will Hoag	Anne Dana
Treasurer – Paul E. Callaway	Tom McEachern
Past Pres. – Art Goulet	Colleen House
Butch Britt	Maryellen Benedetto Associate Member Representative
Cindy Schneider	Sharon Hurault Executive Assistant

Note: Names and phone numbers have been removed to reduce scamming. To send a message to any Board member use info@reavc.org or leave a message at: (805) 644-7814

REAVC CALENDAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019

<u>January</u> 15 – REAVC Board Meeting Jan/ Feb Newsletter mailed out mid-month	<u>February</u> 15 Articles due for Mar/Apr newsletter 28 last day for reservations for March luncheon	<u>March</u> 12 General Membership Luncheon Mar/Apr Newsletter mailed mid-month
<u>April</u> 2 REAVC Board Meeting 14-17 CRCEA Conf. San Diego 15 Articles due for May/Jun Newsletter 30 DEAD LINE for 2019 Scholarship Applications NOTE!!!	<u>May</u> 22 last day for reservations for June luncheon May/Jun Newsletter mailed mid-month	<u>June</u> 4 General Membership Luncheon Scholarship Award Presentation 11 REAVC Board Meeting 13 Articles due for Jul/Aug Newsletter
<u>July</u> Jul/Aug Newsletter mailed mid-month	<u>August</u> 6 - REAVC Board Meeting 16 - Articles due for Jul/Aug Newsletter 21 last day for reservations for September luncheon	<u>September</u> 3 General Membership Luncheon Sep/Oct Newsletter mailed mid-month
<u>October</u> 1 REAVC Board Meeting 16 Articles due for Nov/Dec Newsletter	<u>November</u> 20 Last day for reservations for December luncheon Nov/Dec Newsletter mailed mid-month	<u>December</u> 3 General Membership Luncheon 10 - REAVC Board Meeting 13 Articles due for Jan/Feb Newsletter



***Will Hoag and Butch Britt, sitting down
on the job again***

Welcome to New REAVC Board Members and Executive Assistant

This month we welcome two new REAVC Board members Reddy Pakala and Cindy Schneider. We also have a new Executive Assistant, Sharon Hurault. Here's a short bio on each. As you see these folks at our luncheons please take a moment to say – HELLO and THANKS. It takes a lot of effort to put on the luncheons, organize the scholarship program, publish this newsletter, represent your interests at State and local retirement forums, and generally support you - the REAVC members. Due to Don Greenberg's unanticipated retirement, we have a vacancy on the Board. If you are interested, please let one of the Board members know. We welcome new members. We can't promise anything but hard work, but you might also find the experience fulfilling, pleasant comrades and a way to give back to the



BOARD MEMBER REDDY PAKALA

Reddy Pakala migrated to United States in 1974 from India with a degree in Civil Engineering.

He completed his graduate studies in Environmental Engineering and moved to Ventura in 1980.

He started working for Ventura County in the Public Works Agency, starting in what was then known as the Flood Control District. He later moved to the Engineering Services Department and retired as Director of Water & Sanitation Department in 2014 after 34 years of County service.

Reddy and his wife currently live in Moorpark spending their time with three grand children ages between 2 and 13.

Reddy loves travelling, reading and enjoying time with family and friends.



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SHARON HURALT

Sharon Hurault is a skilled professional with over 30 years of experience in the field of administrative support.

Having worked for both the public and private sectors, Sharon was employed for 11 years by the UCLA Medical Center, collecting and reporting data for physicians and organizing physician review meetings. She also worked for the LCMS Foundation, where she established the Foundation's Ventura office, coordinated and monitored mutual projects, as well as the closeout of gifts totaling over \$2 million.

In 2001, Sharon joined the County of Ventura, working as the assistant to the director of marketing for the Harbor Department and staffing the Channel Islands Harbor Visitor's Center. In 2003, Sharon became the management assistant for the County's Water and Sanitation Department, where she performed a variety of complex administrative duties in support of the director, deputy director, and managers; coordinated the Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings for four water districts; and helped to design and update the Department's website.

Sharon retired from County service in September 2018.

During her career, Sharon was awarded a Challenge Coin from the County of Ventura and received the Team Spirit Award from the LCMS Foundation.

NOTE: INFORMATION ON CINDY SCHNEIDER WILL BE INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT EDITION. BUT YOU CAN CONGRATULATE HER WHEN YOU SEE HER NEXT ANYWAY.



NOTE: NO INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED THIS PERIOD ON RECENT RETIREES OR RECENTLY DECEASED RETIREES. I ALWAYS GO TO THIS SECTION FIRST TO MAKE SURE I'M STILL ALIVE. I'M SURE THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE. WE'LL TRY TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

GOOD NEWS! I'M STILL ALIVE!

I tell you, in this world being a little crazy helps to keep you sane – Zsa Zsa Gabor

A well-cooked steak, Jack on the rocks, and comfortable shoes don't hurt either – B. Britt

SEE'S CANDY CERTIFICATES: BY BUTCH BRITT

REAVC will NOT raise the price of SEE's Candy Certificates in 2019.

The cost of each certificate is \$16. This is below the market cost at most locations. The certificates make excellent gifts for Christmas or other holidays. No hassle with holiday crowds, wrapping or shipping. They are easy to mail, and the certificates do not expire.



REAVC sells SEE's Candy Certificates to members solely as a benefit to our membership, generally at or below our cost. They are redeemable for one pound of candy or a standard SEE's candy box at any SEE's store or outlet.

You can acquire certificates one of three ways:

Purchasing at our luncheons

Via the postal service @ REAVC, PO Box 7231, Ventura CA 93006

Placing your order over the phone @ 805/644-7814

Remember if you order by mail or over the phone, include extra postage for mailing large orders.



EDITOR'S NOTES: BY BUTCH BRITT

I know I promised to pass on my picky pen last issue, but I was wrong – again. Lots of changes are coming in 2019. We will have to deal with the retirement of three experienced and hardworking Board members. Fortunately, we welcome the arrival of two new Board members with new energy and viewpoints. We were also lucky to land a

very talented Executive Assistant. Change is good. Best of luck, Ray, Jim and Don. Welcome aboard Reddy, Cindy and Sharon.

Look forward to seeing a lot of you at the next REAVC luncheon. It's good to see old friends. If you're not there, we'll try not to talk about you too much.

In the interim if you have problems with the content of the newsletter, you aren't getting your copy etc., let me know at wbritt@gmail.com. We continue to suggest you get your newsletter by email. It's a lot less expensive for all of us, and you can get the newsletter a week earlier than the printed copy.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!! - COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR 2019

The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics has just issued its Consumer Price Index Report. It is used to determine the change in cost of living in various areas of the country for various time intervals. For the Los Angeles Region, of which Ventura County is a part, an educated guess is that VCERA's Actuary will report that the change locally, from December to December will be between 2.5 and 3.5%, rounded to the nearest half percent. It is possible that the eligible retirees will receive as much as a 3% COLA, but the exact amount won't be finalized until the Actuary's report is received. To the extent the change in CPI exceeds 3%, in half percent increments, that amount will be added to COLA banks. If the change in CPI is less than 3%, the COLA will be increased using any funds in an individual's COLA bank to up to 3%. Pension payments will be increased beginning with the April checks.

At my age "Getting Lucky" often means finding my car in the parking lot! - Anonymous

INFORMATION ABOUT COLLETTE TRAVEL:

Happy 2019! Here is the upcoming information for the next show:

When: January 29, 2019, at 1pm

Where: Camarillo Library

Trips being presented:

Taste of Vietnam

- September 2019 - 14 Days
- Hanoi • Walking Food Tour • Halong Bay • Choice on Tour • Hue • Hoi An • Cooking Class • Mekong Delta • Reunification Palace



Northern Lights of Finland

- October 2019 - 8 Days
- Helsinki • Senate Square • Helsinki Cathedral • Ivalo • Lapland Region • Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort • Finnish Sauna • Meet & Greet with Santa • Reindeer Excursion • Northern Lights Searches • Husky Safari • Glass Igloo Accommodation



For more information about Collette Travel Tours, please contact:

Ginny Wooten • (805) 889-9752 or Carol Yung • (805) 987-5952

Disclaimer: REAVC has no financial or other interest over Collette Travel. The information above is provided to REAVC members solely for information, and REAVC does not guarantee or represent that Collette Travel is a preferred or otherwise endorsed travel service.

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