

REAVC NEWS



Retired Employees Association of Ventura County - "Dedicated to Those who Have Already Served"

July/August 2019

President's Message

By Nancy Settle, REAVC President

Greetings, REAVC members!

You should have received an information packet from Pacific Group Insurance, Inc. (PGA) regarding dental, travel, pet insurance, and more. The special open enrollment ends August 5, 2019. A regular open enrollment period will occur October/November 2019. Please direct any questions you may have to PGA. Their contact information is provided in the booklet.



• The Luncheon Survey

The luncheon survey results are in! You may recall, REAVC has been deliberating on the issue of luncheon costs. We thank those of you who have contributed suggestions regarding less costly venues. Costs have risen significantly over the many years that REAVC has offered a "hosted" free lunch. We've researched many options while trying to offer excellent meals in a pleasant venue. However, we continue with a budget shortfall each passing year. The choices we considered were to 1) reduce the number of luncheons, 2) charge a fee, or 3) change the venue. Please read the article by Anne Dana for further information and details for survey results and upcoming luncheons.

• Scholarship Award Recipients

We were greatly impressed by our scholarship award recipients. The Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU) was there to present the VCCU check that helps fund our scholarship program. The largest contributors to our REAVC scholarship program are you, our REAVC members, who help sustain (*Continued on Page 2*)

"We were greatly impressed by our scholarship award recipients at the June 4 luncheon. REAVC members have an impressive group of aspiring students, and we are happy to help them achieve their educational goals and endeavors."

**Nancy Settle, President
REAVC**

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See's CANDIES Certificates

2019 is over half gone, but there is some good news on the See's front. We don't plan to raise the cost of See's certificates next year. They will still be \$16 each, through the rest of this year and through 2020.

See's CANDIES certificates make great gifts for Christmas or other occasions. They don't spoil, expire, and are easy to mail or wrap.

See's CANDIES gift certificates are available to purchase at any of the REAVC Membership Luncheons or by mail order. Just look for the "Candy Man" table at our luncheons.

To order by mail:

- Make check out to "REAVC."
- Include a self-addressed envelope, (each gift certificate weighs about 1/2 ounce).
- Send check and self-addressed envelope to REAVC, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006

For more information, please call **(805) 644-7814**.



(President's Message - Continued from Page 1)

this program into the future. Many thanks to you! Read on in this newsletter for a review of the award recipients.

- **The Upcoming September General Membership Luncheon**

Note that our speaker for the September luncheon is REAVC member, Don Price. Previously an engineer with APCD, Don has some very timely information to share with us on the [Climate Disruption Challenge](#).

- **Travel**

It looks like there are some great travel opportunities being offered by Collette Travel, such as USA Southern Charm and South America. Let us know if you have traveled with Collette and how you liked it by emailing us at info@REAVC.org.

I end with one of my favorite quotes:

*"Do not let what you cannot do
interfere with what you can do."*

I remind myself of this Coach John Wooden quote. When confronted with things one can't do, the feeling of futility can seep over into other areas of life. Stay focused on what you can do! We thank you for your support and wish you a very enjoyable summer.

***Retirement . . . is when
you stop living at work
and begin working at
living.***

-Anonymous-

Board of Retirement Report

By Art Goulet



There is a new vacancy on the Retirement Board.

Dan Shapiro, a General Member who began his

term in January 2019, informed the Board at its meeting of June 17 that he was being laid off as part of the Health Care Agency's reduction in force, and submitted his resignation from the Board effective July 1. An election will be conducted in the near future to replace him for the remainder of his term.

As it turned out, May's investment losses were followed by extraordinary gains in June. The investment portfolio's market value increased to an estimated \$5.72 billion. Although it appeared at the end of May that it was unlikely we would attain our targeted return of 7.25% for the fiscal year, a preliminary report projects a total portfolio one-year net of fees rate of return of 7.3%, absent the not yet available June real estate valuations. I will update the fiscal year rate-of-return in the next newsletter after Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association (VCERA) receives the final quarterly report from our consultant, NEPC. For information, at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, VCERA's assets were valued at approximately \$5.36 billion.

On a preliminary basis, the fiscal year rate of return for their comparable fiscal year ending June 30, CalPERS reported net earnings of 6.7% and CalSTRS reported net earnings of 6.8%. If NEPC's preliminary estimate holds, VCERA will have outpaced them both.

Final agreement with the County Executive Office over Bylaw revisions remains elusive. Meetings are still ongoing. VCERA staff expects to make a final recommendation to the Board in September.

At its July 15 meeting, the Retirement Board committed \$50 million to HarbourVest Partners Real Assets Fund IV. VCERA has been investing in various HarbourVest funds since 2013, with favorable results. With this

"As it turned out, May's investment losses were followed by extraordinary gains in June."

Art Goulet

action, the total committed to them is \$282.5 million. The drawdown from other real assets will take place over time as the new investment is funded.

Contact Us

For more information about who we are and to learn how to join.

**Retired Employees
Association of Ventura
County (REAVC)
P.O. Box 7231
Ventura, CA 93006-7231**

(805) 644-7814

info@reavc.org

Visit us on the web at
www.reavc.org

Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

At the June 4, 2019, General Membership Luncheon, 14 worthy recipients were each awarded a REAVC scholarship of \$950. These scholarships recognize and support qualified students in their pursuit of higher education or training at an accredited institution. To qualify, all scholarship candidates must either be a member or associate member of REAVC; or a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member or associate member of REAVC; and meet the scholarship requirements (for further information, go to <https://reavc.org/scholarship-program>).

Pattie Braga, Sr. Community Development Director from VCCU (middle of the photo behind the check), makes a donation to the REAVC scholarship fund, and some of our scholarship recipients.



Photo courtesy of Javier López, Jr., Ventura County Credit Union

The following are brief, biographical statements in alphabetical order for 7 of the 14 scholarship recipients. ***Due to space constraints, statements for the remaining 7 scholarship recipients will be published in the next newsletter.***

Alisa De Los Santos (Daughter of REAVC member, Mike De Los Santos)

Alisa is a graduate of Rio Mesa High School, and will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UCLA with a 3.5 plus GPA. Alisa has been accepted into Harvard's Graduate School of Education and Policy. Alisa wrote after graduation that she plans to lead an advocacy organization which develops innovative educational strategies that will effectively engage students, be respectful of teachers, and work to enroll families and the community in the process of education. In one of her recommendation letters, a teacher wrote, "Given the opportunity, I believe Alisa will be a valuable leader in public policy to improve education and learning for all students." Her brother, Nicholas, also received a REAVC scholarship five years ago.

Katelyn Dembowski (Daughter of REAVC member, Jim Dembowski)

Katelyn is a graduate of Buena High School and California Lutheran University, and is currently in her second year at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco majoring in civil litigation and dispute resolution. In addition to academic recognition, Katelyn has been a sailing coach, editor-in-chief of a campus publication, and a member of a dispute resolution team. She has interned in Washington D.C., Ventura County Counsel's office, and worked on a state senate campaign. In addition, Katelyn has volunteered as a legal aide, is founding president of the UC Hastings Consumer Attorney's Society, and works as a law clerk.

Madison Francis (Daughter of REAVC member, Steven Francis)

Madison attended Moorpark High School and graduated from Moorpark College with a 3.92 GPA. She has been admitted to UCLA and UCSB for the (Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4 - "Madison Francis")

Fall semester. At the same time that Madison worked to complete classes and maintain a high GPA during high school and college, she found time to volunteer at Catholic Charities where she fed low-income families; Many Mansions, where she delivered food; and worked at part-time jobs to help with tuition. One of her professors described Madison as a student with motivation, dedication, and commitment to her education. She has the passion to learn from others and at the same time, to give to others what she has learned.

Delaney Gallimore (Granddaughter of REAVC Member, Christine Weidenheimer)

Delaney attended Cabrillo High School in Lompoc, and is currently a student at Sonoma State University with a 3.6 GPA. Delaney's sister, Lorie, had previously been awarded a REAVC scholarship. In one of her recommendation letters, Delaney's coach stated that along with softball, Delaney is also able to excel in the classroom, off campus, and in the local community. In another recommendation letter, the professor stated that Delaney is very personable, intelligent, motivated, and highly disciplined demonstrating excellent time management skills by being involved in Army ROTC. Always wanting to make a difference for her country, Delaney believes that serving in the military is the best way to achieve that goal.

Allison Guthrie (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Ariel Rose)

Allison is attending Mount Wachusett Community College in Massachusetts where she is working hard and maintaining a 3.94 GPA. In one of Allison's recommendation letters, her professor stated that Allison is very motivated, has a tremendous work ethic, and is a great team player. Another professor stated that Ali is nothing less than exceptional. She can do anything she puts her mind to and is in the top ten of his one thousand students.

Estelle Leon (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Mary Palmisano)

Estelle is a graduate of St. Bonaventure High School where she excelled in one sport after another, including basketball, volleyball, soccer, swimming, track, tennis, water polo, and baseball. Her letter of recommendation states that along with her sports, Estelle succeeded in maintaining good grades and a balanced life. She volunteered for Many Meals and received academic awards, including the Honor Roll, and the National Latin Exam award. Estelle writes that she plans to attend Franciscan University with a goal of completing a degree in medical science. She has volunteered for a program called Best Day Foundation where she had the opportunity to interact with and bring joy to special needs children.

Stratton McLeod (Grandson of REAVC member, Lawrence Bean)

Stratton is a recent graduate from Golden Valley Charter School where he graduated with a 3.84 GPA. He is an Eagle Scout and will attend BYU in Hawaii and major in biology, with minors in english and entrepreneurship. Stratton's goal is to become a dermatologist and incorporate his english and entrepreneurial skills into the making of a successful medical practice.



PapaB1's Ramblings

By Butch Britt



Old PapaB1 had been on the move again.

This time I went to Florida to donate some of Papa's hardly earned cash to Uncle Walt Disney. Walt Disney World (WDW) is certainly impressive. There are more Worlds now than Papa has aches and pains, and they are still building. And the attractions and rides are fantastic – when you get on them. If you go, make sure you try Pandora - the Land of Avatar. Without leaving your seat or moving more than a few inches, you get a 3-D experience that is sure to get the old ticker moving quicker than a dose of digitalis. I haven't been that scared since I last drove the 101 in Los Angeles. Whew. But make sure you get "FastPasses"; otherwise, you'll spend about two hours in line for a five minute ride. Although why they call them "FastPasses" is a mystery. Maybe they should call them "Half-FastPasses." You will still stand in line for a bit waiting to get into the attraction. But it

was a great time, four grand-kids just enjoying the heck out of everything and wanting to try everything at once. It was great. As they say, "Priceless."

Spoiler alert – Florida in late June and July is HOT and HUMID! The heat index said 117 degrees one day, and I believed it. Why I didn't lose 10 pounds walking and sweating, I don't know. Yes, I do. I ate constantly – and consumed more than a few libations.

"Without leaving your seat or moving more than a few inches, you get a 3-D experience that is sure to get the old ticker moving quicker than a dose of digitalis. I haven't been that scared since I last drove the 101 in Los Angeles. Whew..."

Butch Britt

The fifty year anniversary of WDW is 2021, and the Britt clan is planning to return even if we have to take out a second mortgage. Good Lord willing, I'll be there sweating and grumping all the way. And I definitely plan to try Pandora again.

You remember last newsletter how I railed on about the airport and TSA screening? Well,

this time was like night and day. Somehow we ended up on the TSA PreScreened list. Don't know how we did that; I think they have my picture posted in their break room. However, this time we sailed right through the security line. No removing belts, shoes, or emptying pockets. The marshals even smiled at us. Wow.

Voicemail hell is still active, but I'm still waiting on a call back from Social Security and the DMV. The only calls that I seem to get are folks trying to sell me medical miracles or save me millions of bucks with a new insurance plan. I'll update you on my travails with trying to reach a real person next issue – or maybe not. The only constant about PapaB1 is his willingness to grump about almost anything, and there seems to be a new something to criticize every day. And the great thing about retirement is that you don't have to be right, accurate or even fair. You can just criticize to your heart's content. Maybe next thing, I will start writing "letters to the editor."

Luncheon Update

By Anne Dana



SEPTEMBER 2019 LUNCHEON

The next REAVC Luncheon will be held on **September 3, 2019**, at the Sterling Hills Country Club, 901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo. The speaker will be Don Price, currently a REAVC member and previously an engineer with APCD. The presentation will be on climate change, which I am sure will be very interesting to all of us. We hope the appeal of being able to enjoy delicious food, while visiting with good friends and being presented with important information, will encourage you to join us on September 3.

The doors will open at 11:00 a.m., and the check-in tables will be just inside the front door. There will be a separate table setup inside for payment of guest fees and sales of See's CANDIES guest fees.

Food Share barrels will be placed outside the entrance to receive your donations.

If you would like to attend, please make your reservations no later than noon, Thursday, August 22. Because seating is limited, reservations may be cutoff early if capacity is filled prior to August 22. Reservations requested after the cutoff will be put on a wait list.

To make your reservations, please call or email:

Judy Sewell, 805/654-8304,
sewllj119@sbcglobal.net; or

Cindi Matheiu, 805/525-2885,
cccindi66@gmail.com

FUTURE LUNCHEONS

As was mentioned in the "President's Message," there is concern over the increasing costs for the REAVC general membership luncheons, and the resulting budget shortfall that has occurred over the

last several years. We have researched many venues, but have found very few that can meet our capacity, parking, and general accessibility requirements. We also felt it important to consider the cost, the quality of the meal, the general location, and appeal of the venue in our research. Based on this research, we realized that we would have to make a change in order to meet our requirements AND stay within budget. We considered several options and decided to get input from REAVC members before making any changes.

"...There is concern over the increasing costs for the REAVC general membership luncheons, and the resulting budget shortfall over the last several years..."

Anne Dana

With this goal in mind, at our last luncheon (June 2019), we distributed a survey presenting three options for consideration: 1) to change the venue, 2) to charge a fee, or 3) to reduce the number of luncheons. We appreciate and considered all comments from those who completed the survey. The surveys were tabulated and the option to charge a fee received the most votes.

Similar to other County Retirement Associations, and based upon the survey results and the actual cost of luncheons, beginning with the December 2019 REAVC luncheon, and for all future luncheons, a nominal fee will be charged: Members - \$10, and Guests - \$20. (Still quite a deal!)

FUTURE RESERVATIONS

In the next newsletter there will be more information on how to make reservations and pay for the luncheons.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make this transition.

Join us for a Special Travel Presentation on
August 20, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.
at the Camarillo Library



Southern Charm

(April 26 through May 2, 2020)

Jekyll Island • St. Simons Island • Savannah • Andrew Low House • Historic Charleston • Choice of Boone Hall Plantation or Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

***Journey Through
South America*** (August 2020)

Santiago • Puerto Varas • Bariloche • Buenos Aires • Iguassu Falls • Rio de Janeiro • Andean Lake Crossing • Tango Show • Sugarloaf • Carnival • Corcovado



*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.

Long-Term Care Litigation Update

By Art Goulet



This is an update as to the class action lawsuit against CalPERS pertaining to the 85% premium increase it announced in 2013 and implemented in 2015 and 2016 for its Long-

Term Care Insurance.

The 85% premium increase was targeted only at members who had purchased long-term care insurance from 1995-2004 (LTC1 and LTC2), and who had also purchased inflation protection and/or lifetime benefits.

The trial judge, the Honorable William Highberger, divided the trial into three phases:

- Phase 1 was a court trial as to the legal issue of contract interpretation of the Evidence of Coverage. The Phase 1 court trial took place on June 10-11, 2019.
- Phase 2 was scheduled to be a jury trial on CalPERS' statute of limitations defense where CalPERS claimed the suit should have been brought years earlier based on prior premium increases.
- Phase 3 is a jury trial involving whether CalPERS breached the contract, and the monetary damages to be awarded to the class.

If CalPERS had prevailed entirely on its defenses in either Phase 1 or Phase 2, the case would not proceed to the Phase 3 jury trial.

On July 1, 2019, the trial judge issued a tentative statement of decision pertaining to Phase 1 and Phase 2. As to Phase 1, the trial judge addressed issues of the interpretation of the Evidence of Coverage, and the permissible reasons and prohibitions in which CalPERS could increase premiums. The trial judge, after hearing and considering evidence in

Phase 1, found that while CalPERS had a general right to increase premiums on a class-wide basis, it was prohibited to do so "as a result of" the inflation protection benefit. The court found that a jury should determine whether all or part of the 85% increase was "as a result of" inflation protection. Therefore, CalPERS' breached the contract. If a jury determines CalPERS breached the contract, the jury will determine the amount of damages to the class for all or a portion of the 85% premium increase that was as a result of the compounding 5% annual benefit increases which CalPERS would be required to provide from the promised inflation protection benefit. CalPERS therefore did not prevail on its inflation protection defense.

As to Phase 2, the trial judge ruled against CalPERS as a matter of law on its defense that the suit should have been brought based on prior premium increases. This meant that a jury trial on that issue was not required for Phase 2. The trial judge found that since the only damages being sought in the class action suit were based on the 85% premium increase that was first announced in 2013 and implemented in 2015 and 2016, as a matter of law, the case could not have been filed years earlier based on the previous premium increases.

The trial judge has strongly encouraged the parties go to a mediation to try to resolve the matter. The parties have agreed to mediation on September 4, 2019, and October 7, 2019, before the Honorable Layn Phillips (retired), who is a former U.S. Attorney and Federal Judge from Oklahoma with a highly regarded mediation practice in Orange County, California and New York City. The Court has presently scheduled the jury trial on Phase 3 to begin on October 30, 2019, should the matter not settle.



Congratulations New County Retirees!

Regular Retirements**

Kathy **Aftergood**, Health Care Agency
Silvana **Boggio**, Health Care Agency
Ronald **Bresnik**, Assessor
Beverly **Conner**, Health Care Agency
Christine **Cote**, Air Pollution Control District
Ruth **Friedman**, Health Care Agency
Barbara **Hill-Mayo**, Health Care Agency
Mark **Komins**, Fire Protection District
Donna **La Cagnina**, Human Services Agency
Joanna **Lujan**, Resource Management Agency
Kurt **Marlinghaus**, Health Care Agency
Cathy **McDevitt**, Sheriff's Department
Bernadette **McDowell**, Library Services
Edward **Molina**, Sheriff's Department
Rosa **Novak**, Health Care Agency
Marianne **O'Donnell**, Sheriff's Department

Michal **Orenstein-Orpaz**, Human Services Agency

Jeanne **Pickett**, Superior Court

Monica **Ramirez**, Health Care Agency

Linda **Thompson**, Fire Protection District

Daniel **Tokeshi**, Health Care Agency

Deferred Retirements**

June O. **Chung**, Health Care Agency

Cecilia **Cuellar**, Superior Court

Corina **Guzman**, Auditor-Controller

Tamara A. **Nerdrum**, Health Care Agency

Aaron M. **Williams**, Resource Management Agency

Dimitri F. **Xavier**, Human Services Agency

Rachel R. **Yazujian**, Health Care Agency

Elia P. **Zendejas**, Health Care Agency

** Per the July 15, 2019,
VCERA Board of Retirement Business Meeting Agenda

In Memoriam

*Deepest Sympathy is Extended to the Families and Friends
of the Following Retirees who Passed Away:*

John **Brockus**

Carmie **Chapman**, 6/6/2019

Barbara **Corkill**, 6/29/2019

William A. **Grist**, 6/20/2019

O.O. **Jones**, 6/8/2019

Eulalia **Kister**, 6/14/2019

Thomas N. **Lewis**, 6/23/2019

Salvador A. **Martinez**, 6/10/2019

Virginia **Musselman**, 6/10/2019

Sheila R. **Smith**, 6/19/2019

Richard E. **Watts**, 6/6/2019

Elaine **Wright**, 6/7/2019

2019 REAVC OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF

Officers	Board Members	Staff
President - Nancy Settle	Butch Britt	Executive Assistant Sharon Hurault
1st Vice President - Roberta Griego	Colleen Bruns	
2nd Vice President - Ken Cozzens	Anne Dana	
Secretary - Will Hoag	Colleen House	
Treasurer - Paul Callaway	Tom McEachern	
Immediate Past President - Art Goulet	Reddy Pakala	
	Cindy Schneider	
	Associate Member Representative Maryellen Benedetto	

REAVC CALENDAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019

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

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