

REAVC NEWS



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

January/February 2020

President's Message

By Nancy Settle, REAVC President

Happy New Year, REAVC members!



Pacific Group Agencies, Inc. (PGA) Supplemental Insurance - You should have received a booklet of supplemental insurance offered through PGA. Although the open enrollment deadline has passed for such things as vision care, it may still be possible to sign up for certain insurance offerings, such as travel and pet insurance.

REAVC benefits can be found at <http://pgagencies.com/reavc/> or just enter REAVC@agencies.com in your browser and find out more about the options. You can also call (800) 511-9065, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

REAVC Accomplishments in 2019 - At the last 2019 REAVC Board meeting, we reviewed the year's activities and accomplishments. These included:

- Hiring a new executive assistant, Sharon Hurault;
- Contracting with PGA to offer new insurance options for REAVC members;
- Providing travel information to REAVC members through Collette Travel;
- Adding two new REAVC Board members - Cindy Schneider and Kelly Shirk;
- Initiating a fee for member luncheons, which has helped toward resolving REAVC's ongoing budget deficit;
- Utilizing member input and preferences, reviewed options, and selected the luncheon venue for 2020;

(Continued on Page 2)

"I continue to hear concerns about the future of pension security. Although there have been no immediate anti-public retirement initiatives this year, we need to keep a lookout for a future crisis..."

**Nancy Settle, President
REAVC**

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- Adding a special guest writer who creates the humorous column titled "PapaB1's Ramblings" for our newsletter;
- Awarding scholarships to 14 talented, accomplished, and worthy children and grandchildren of REAVC members; and
- Reporting the good news that the Ventura County retirement system is financially sound at 88% funding.

Holiday Luncheon - We had a beautiful and delicious luncheon at the Sterling Hills Country Club complete with The Other Reindeer Carolers. We were pleased to see at least 150 in attendance. Although we did not have quite as many folks in attendance as last year, we hope to see greater attendance at the coming luncheons as we work out the transition and details of the luncheon fee. We received some good input from those in attendance, and it should be easier to sign up, pay the fee, and receive confirmation for our March luncheon.

Continued Need for Pension Security Advocacy - I continue to hear concerns about the future of pension security. Although there have been no immediate anti-public retirement initiatives this year, we need to keep a lookout for a future crisis.

Stan Coombs, president of the Retired Employees of San Diego County (RESDC), recently reported on a November 16, 2019, AXIOS news piece by Mike Allen titled, "1 Big Thing: Retirement Becomes More Myth than Reality."

In the article, Mr. Allen reported that

- ♦ 30% of boomers had nothing saved in a retirement plan in 2014; and that
- ♦ Pensions largely don't exist anymore, replaced by 401(k)-style retirement plans.
- ♦ 43% of Americans 45 years and older expect to outlive their savings.

- ♦ The number of Americans in the workforce who are over 64 years old has tripled since 1989, yet;
- ♦ 31% of Americans ages 40 - 79 say they would continue working into retirement age even without a financial need.
- ♦ Opportunities for older folks to continue to work may dwindle as jobs are automated.

The author concluded that a comfortable retirement at age 65 is disappearing.

The AXIOS November 16, 2019, news article can be found at <https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-deep-dives>

REAVC, along with other Defined Pension Benefit Counties, will continue to monitor and take action, as needed, to protect our well-earned retirement. You, our member supporters, provide the means to continue advocacy for County retirees and other programs REAVC offers.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Board of Retirement Report

By Art Goulet



Ventura County's Employees Retirement Association's (VCERA's) assets increased to \$5.97 billion in October, and to \$6.04 billion in November. Given the

way the market moved in December, it's likely that VCERA's assets will increase in that month as well, but nothing is certain, and we won't know until we receive our investment consultants report later this month.

In my last report, I mentioned VCERA's efforts to accelerate the correction of payroll and data by the County Auditor-Controller's (A-C) Office. Pursuant to Board direction, the Retirement Administrator facilitated a VCERA meeting with the A-C and County Executive Office (CEO) to discuss and request additional County resources to address the issue. The meeting was held on November 8, during which the CEO pledged additional resources for the A-C's Office to accelerate the correction process. VCERA staff will be monitoring the progress.

At its December 9 meeting, the Retirement Board received the annual actuarial Valuation as of June 30, 2019, which establishes employer and member contribution rates for the fiscal year (FY) beginning July 1, 2020. Among other data, it identifies the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) and ratio of the Valuation Value of Assets to Actuarial Accrued Liabilities (the funded ratio) at June 30, 2019. The UAAL increased from \$747 million at June 30, 2018, to \$775 million, while the funded ratio improved slightly from 87.8% to 88.0% over the same period.

The employer contribution is comprised of two parts: the "normal" actuarially-required contribution and an additional contribution to amortize the UAAL. The member contribution does not include

any UAAL amortization. The normal contribution is the amount calculated to fund all existing pension benefits plus administrative costs, assuming earning projections and other assumptions are met. The UAAL is paid off in a manner similar to a mortgage and reflects actuarial gains, losses, and costs resulting from assumption and/or plan provision changes. The "mortgage" period was formerly 15 years for all of items, but beginning with the FY ending June 30, 2012, was extended to 20 years for subsequent assumption changes.

Prior to June 30, 2004, the UAAL was "re-mortgaged" each year; that is, a new amortization period was set for the entire UAAL. Subsequently, the Board (and the Actuary) began using a layered approach, with the first layer as the previously existing UAAL, and each succeeding gain, loss, or assumption change as another layer amortized for 15 years (until the FY ending June 30, 2012 as noted above). Because the first layer was the entire then-existing UAAL, it was quite large relative to all the succeeding layers. However, it was fully amortized (paid off) this past fiscal year which results in reducing several participating employers' UAAL contribution by around 6.5% of payroll.

It may seem inconsistent that the Employer UAAL contribution is going down, while the UAAL is increasing. That is because the most recent unfunded amortization layer (the result of an actuarial loss last FY) is larger than the final payment was on the first layer.

Also, at the December 9 meeting, the Board authorized adding a new position to manage the soon-to-be established Disability Retirement Unit, and appointed Chair and Vice-Chair (Bill Wilson and myself, respectively) for 2020.

At the end of the meeting, the Board was informed that Ed McCombs, Alternate Public Member whose term is up on December 31, will not be seeking re-appointment by the Board of Supervisors (BoS). Since the BoS has not yet appointed a replacement for Robert Bianchi, it now has two vacancies to fill.

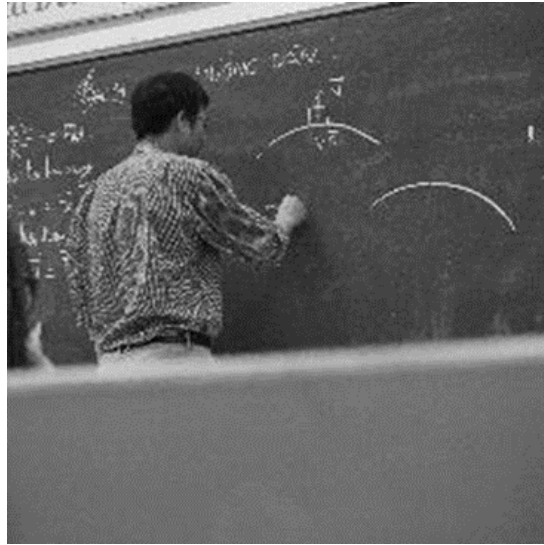
It's Time to Think About Applying for a College Scholarship Through REAVC*

Who's Eligible?

A current member or
associate member of
REAVC

~ or ~

A child, grandchild, or
great-grandchild of a
current REAVC member or
associate member



A one-time
scholarship
award of up
to \$1,500



REAVC must receive all
completed applications,
along with letters of
recommendations, by
March 31, 2020

For further details,
or to receive a
scholarship applica-
tion form, visit
REAVC.org
and click on
Scholarship Program



* The Retired Employees Association of Ventura County

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member

This month we welcome our newest REAVC Board member - Kelly Shirk.

The following is a short autobiography from Kelly:

"In 1985, I started my employment with the County of Ventura as an extra-help, intermediate clerk typist in Human Resources Benefits. Over the course of my almost 30 years of employment, I worked with all of the departments, ending my career back in CEO-HR as the Director of Human Resources. I retired in March 2015.

I had several mentors along the way who advised me about my education, career goals, and much more. I have a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from California State University Northridge, and a Master Degree in Public Administration from California Lutheran University.

My youngest daughter and I opened a bakery several years prior to my retirement. In April 2020, we will celebrate our eight-year anniversary. I enjoy baking and working with our customers. There is always something new to work on.

I look forward to working with the Board and retirees."

When you see Kelly at our luncheons, please take a moment to say – HELLO and THANKS. It takes a lot of effort to represent your interests at State and local retirement forums, put on the luncheons, organize the scholarship program, publish this newsletter, and generally support you - the REAVC members.

See's CANDIES Certificates

See's CANDIES certificates for REAVC members are still only \$16 in 2020.

These certificates make great gifts for birthdays, holidays, and other occasions. They don't spoil, expire, and are easy to mail or wrap.

See's CANDIES certificates may be purchased at any of the REAVC Membership Luncheons. Just look for the "Candy Man" table at our luncheons.

They are also available by mail order. To place your order by mail:

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

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

Join us for a Special Travel Presentation

February 4, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

at the Camarillo Library



Niagara Falls to New York City **(October 2 - October 9, 2020)**

Niagara Falls • Medina • Erie Canal • Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion • Cooperstown • Baseball Hall of Fame • West Point • New York City

Spain's Classics and Portugal **(November 4 - November 17, 2020)**

Lisbon • Fatima • Nazare • Obidos • Madrid • Royal Palace • Toledo • Cordoba • Seville • Flamenco Show • Granada • The Alhambra • Valencia • Choice on Tour • Paella Experience • Barcelona • La Sagrada Familia • Parc Güell



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.

PapaB1's Ramblings

By Butch Britt

Computer Passwords, Ugh!

How many computer passwords do you have? I would not be surprised to hear that you have over fifty separate passwords. Nor would I be surprised



to hear that most are separate, and they all have different rules. Some require six or more characters, some won't accept your

name as part of the password, and some require changing every month or so.

Once the word "password" usually meant a word or phrase given to sentries so they hopefully wouldn't shoot you by mistake. It was usually something easy to remember and supposedly, universally understood. After all, you wouldn't want to be shot by one of your own sentries. It did change regularly, so "Mickey Mouse" might work one week, but not the next; but, it was generic enough to be recognizable.

When I first started working at the County, there was no password requirement. We just started up our trusty old PC's and worked away – or played solitaire when no one was looking. Then someone decided to remove the games and start requiring passwords. At first it wasn't too bad. It was only one password, and you only had to enter it once. Later, the powers that be decided you had to change your password every few months. But that wasn't too bad, I just added the next number in sequence to my old password. That worked until I ran out of fingers.

But then came the advent of online banking,

eBay, Amazon, etc. and suddenly our lives became so much better and easier. Not so jelly bean!

Now I can't even watch Netflix without the correct password.

I must have over 100 separate computer passwords. I can't remember most of them. I even have several services that send me separate verification codes on my phone, which I have to enter before I can proceed to the Holy Grail of being logged in. Some require you to change your password once a month. The new password has to be radically different from the previous one. Some require use of special symbols; some don't. And woe be to he or she who enters the wrong password three times because the "caps lock" key was accidentally turned on. You get locked out and then have to go through voicemail hell to get reinstated! When I enter a new password, often the computer tells me my password is "weak." WEAK! That's got to be the ultimate insult.

So what do I do? I commit the ultimate in security breach and write down my user ID and passwords in a little black book. God forbid that black book falls into the wrong hands. I'd probably have to cut off a finger or toe for such an egregious violation. The family fortunes would probably fall into the black web, and I would be permanently banned from online shopping.

In the meantime, I'm standing guard over that black book with my trusty BB gun, and if you don't know the day's password when you approach my place, expect to be pelleted. In case you do come to visit, the password this week is "Daisy Duck" --- or is it --- "Daffy Duck"? If I can find my black book, I'll let you know.

PAPAB1 – AKA - Butch Britt/

Luncheon Update

By Anne Dana



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Holiday Luncheon was a festive occasion. The beautiful venue, lovely decorations, and fun entertainment seemed to get everyone into the Holiday spirit. Carolers provided the entertainment, singing a variety of holiday songs and then leading the attendees in a fun sing-a-long. The food was delicious. The gift baskets and prize drawings were a special treat, and many attendees were lucky enough to win a poinsettia to take home. A good time was had by all who attended.

MARCH 10, 2020, SPRING LUNCHEON
(Please note this is the second Tuesday of the month)

The March 2020 luncheon, originally scheduled for March 3 (Election Day), was changed to March 10 so as not to interfere with voting. **Please be sure to mark your calendars for March 10!!**

We promise to make this luncheon a fun event as well. With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, we have asked the leprechauns to provide a special "Pot of Gold" for the raffle at the luncheon. In addition, guest speakers, Detectives Ryan Shoden and Jennifer Bowie, will be giving a very informative presentation regarding senior scams.

The reservation process for the March luncheon will be the same as it was for the Holiday Luncheon. The fee is \$10 for REAVC members and \$20 for guests (a great deal based on the cost and quality of the lunch). Payment must be made by check or cash. We are working on a credit card option, but it will not be available for the March 2020 luncheon. A detailed explanation of the reason behind the fee was included in the July/

August 2019 newsletter. If for some reason you would have difficulty paying the fee, please contact Anne Dana at (805) 320-6408 or via email at ggdana@roadrunner.com.

The reservation form for the March 2020 luncheon, including the date, place, and time is included in the following flyer. **If you would like to attend, please make your reservations no later than noon, Wednesday, February 26. Because seating is limited, reservations may be cutoff early if capacity is filled prior to February 26.** Reservations requested after the cutoff will be put on a wait list.

There is no need to call or email anyone unless you have a question or need to cancel your reservation after it is made. **If you have any questions regarding the new registration process, please contact:**

Judy Sewell, 805/654-8304,
sewellj119@sbcglobal.net

- or -

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

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 sales of See's CANDIES gift certificates.

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

Hope to see you there!

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." — Mark Twain



Join the fun at the
REAVC Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

Sterling Hills Country Club
901 Sterling Hills, Camarillo, CA 93010
(Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.)

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, we have asked the leprechauns to provide a **special "Pot of Gold"** for the raffle at the luncheon. Detectives Ryan Shoden and Jennifer Bowie will be giving a very informative presentation regarding senior scams.

COST: \$10 for REAVC Members; \$20 for Guests

Reservations must be made in advance by completing the form below and mailing it, along with a check payable to REAVC, to the following address:

**REAVC - Luncheon
P.O. Box 7231
Ventura, CA 93006-7231**

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Attendees will receive an email confirming their reservation and checks will not be held.*

Be sure to send in your reservation early, as seating is limited.

Once the seating limit is reached, reservations will be placed on a wait list.

*For questions regarding reservations or cancellations, please contact
Judy Sewell at 1-805-654-8304 - sewellj119@sbcglobal.net, or
Cindi Mathieu at 1-805-525-2885 - cccindi66@gmail.com*

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Registration form for the REAVC Spring Luncheon March 10, 2020

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) of REAVC Member(s): _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: (**Required for Confirmation*) _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

Payment Included for: _____ Member(s) at \$10.00 = _____

_____ Guest(s) at \$20.00 = _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

No Refunds after Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Congratulations New County Retirees!

David **Berry**, Public Works Agency*
 Chery **Blake**, Health Care Agency
 Aurellia **Clewis**, Human Services Agency
 Michael **Culbert**, Human Services Agency
 Heradonnious **Featherstone**, Human Services Agency
 Virgilio **Garlejo**, General Services Agency
 Linda **Greene**, Assessor
 Chi **Hermann**, Regional Sanitation District
 Lawrence **Lee**, Clerk and Recorder
 Norma **Lewis**, Health Care Agency
 Carolyn **Moon**, Animal Services
 Nancy **Mount**, CEO
 Karl **Novak**, Public Works Agency
 Lysa **Plambeck**, Superior Court
 Irma G. **Ramirez**, Human Services Agency
 Julie **Rego**, Public Works Agency
 Johnny **Richmond**, Health Care Agency
 James L. **Roberts**, Sheriff's Office
 Roxanne **Russell**, Superior Court

Anthony **Sanders**, Sheriff's Office
 Gloria **Trevino**, Human Services Agency
 Mary L. **Walker**, CEO
 Sharon **Westcott**, Human Services Agency

Jolene **Cargile**, Sheriff's Office **
 Joice **Davis**, CEO
 Mila **Gilmour**, Health Care Agency
 Eva **Gonzalez**, Health Care Agency
 David **Hubenthal**, Public Works Agency
 Nancy **Littlefield**, Health Care Agency
 Gonzalo **Lopez**, County Clerk-Recorder
 Pamela **Mack**, Fire Protection District
 Maria Nava **Nunes**, Human Services Agency
 Margaret **Reyes**, Human Services Agency
 Ildefonso **Rodriguez**, Health Care Agency
 Martin **Schwartz**, General Services Agency

**From 11/18/2019 VCERA Board of Retirement Business Meeting Agenda; ** From 12/9/19 VCERA Board of Retirement Disability and Business Meeting Agenda*

2020 REAVC OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF

<i>Officers</i>	<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Staff</i>
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	
	Kelly Shirk	
	Associate Member Representative Maryellen Benedetto	

Revised 9/2019

In Memoriam

*Deepest Sympathy is Extended to the Families and Friends
of the Following REAVC Members who Have Passed Away*

Arthur **Gunderson**, November 21, 2019
William **Haydon**, October 23, 2019
Richard **Laquess**, October 23, 2019
Patricia **Larson**, October 8, 2019
Lucy **McKnight**, October 22, 2019
Frances **Pattison**, October 17, 2019
Barbara **Roth**, October 27, 2019

Paz **Sagrado**, November 26, 2019
Barbara **Spieler**
James **Tedford**, November 18, 2019
Thomas **Temple**, October 23, 2019
Fred **Treece**, November 16, 2019
Stan **Trom**, August 1, 2019

2020 REAVC CALENDAR

January 2020

Jan/Feb newsletter mailed out
mid-month

February 2020

11 REAVC BOARD MEETING
15 Articles due for Mar/Apr
newsletter
26 Last date for reservations for
March luncheon

March 2020

10 General Membership Luncheon
Mar/Apr newsletter mailed out mid-
month
**31 DEADLINE FOR 2020
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION. Must
be received by this date!!**

April 2020

6 - 8 CRCEA Conf., Visalia, CA
14 REAVC BOARD MEETING
15 Articles due to May/June
newsletter

May 2020

20 Last day for reservations for
June luncheon
May/Jun newsletter mailed mid-
month

June 2020

**2 General Membership Luncheon &
Scholarship Award Presentation**
9 REAVC BOARD MEETING
12 Articles due for Jul/Aug
newsletter

July 2020

Jul/Aug newsletter mailed mid-
month

August 2020

4 REAVC Board Meeting
15 Articles due for Sept/Oct
newsletter

September 2020

1 General Membership Luncheon
Sep/Oct newsletter mailed mid-
month

October 2020

6 REAVC BOARD MEETING
16 Articles due for Nov/Dec
newsletter

November 2020

19 Last day for reservation for
December Luncheon
Nov/Dec newsletter mailed mid-
month

December 2020

1 General Membership Luncheon
8 REAVC BOARD MEETING
13 Articles due for Jan/Feb
newsletter

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

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