

REAVC NEWS



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

July/August 2020

President's Message

By Nancy Settle, REAVC President

Greetings, REAVC members. I hope you are all staying safe and well.



COVID-19 Socially Safe Distancing
Ventura County continues with social distancing requirements to lessen the impacts of COVID-19. The REAVC Board has met twice via Zoom online meetings. Our luncheons have been canceled through

September 2020. We are hoping that we'll be able to hold the Holiday Luncheon. We'll keep you posted on the status through this newsletter and on our REAVC website.

"Ventura County continues with social distancing requirements to lessen the impacts of COVID-19. The REAVC Board has met twice via Zoom online meetings. Luncheons have been canceled through September 2020."

Nancy Settle, President
REAVC

Scholarships

Our REAVC Scholarship Committee has continued with their efforts to select a number of scholarship recipients for 2020. The Scholarship Committee is comprised of Tom McEachern, Chair, Colleen Bruns, Maryellen Benedetto, Dan Greenberg, and Ray Holzer. We thank them for their time and dedication to this worthy cause. Read on to learn about our scholarship recipients.

VCERA Board - Election of Retired County Employee and Alternate

Ventura County Employees Retirement Association (VCERA), the organization that manages your County-defined benefit pension plan, will be conducting an election of several VCERA Board members which is expected to occur on October 12, 2020. This includes the retired member and alternate. These positions are now held by past REAVC President, Art Goulet, and REAVC Secretary, Will Hoag, respectively. Fortunately for REAVC and all County retirees, both Art and Will will be seeking re-election to another three-year term. Art has provided REAVC, VCERA, California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) and State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) (Continued on Page 2)

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with invaluable legislative expertise and dedication. Will has been an excellent alternate and represents us on CRCEA.

A petition is required for a nominee's name to be placed on the ballot. A nominee must submit a petition to Elections with at least 20, but no more than 30, signatures. Normally, most signature gathering has been done at a REAVC luncheon. However, because of COVID-19, signature gathering by email and on individual copies of the petition will be allowed. It's requested that those REAVC members in support of either Art's or Will's re-election to please email them to let them know you will sign the petition. The nomination petition must be submitted to Elections by sometime in August. So, send your emails soon. Below are email addresses and information to be included in your emails:

Art Goulet, VCERA, Retired Member
artgou@aol.com

Will Hoag, VCERA, Alternate Retiree
Member
willhoag10@yahoo.com

Include in the Subject Line: **Nomination Petition**
Provide your name and phone number.

Sometime before August you will be sent a Nomination Petition for signature. **You will need a printer/scanner to sign and return the signed petition.**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at the REAVC email or phone number provided in the newsletter or website.

I finish with one of my favorite John Wooden quotes: "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do".

Thanks for your support!

"It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool, than to open it and remove all doubt. "

- Mark Twain

Welcome New REAVC Members!

Robert Berger
Suzanne Blumenfeld
Denise Castillo
Penny Fargo
Jennie Hernandez
Anne Marie Lopez
Don Miller
Arthur Perea
Cheryl Rice
Olaf Schuett

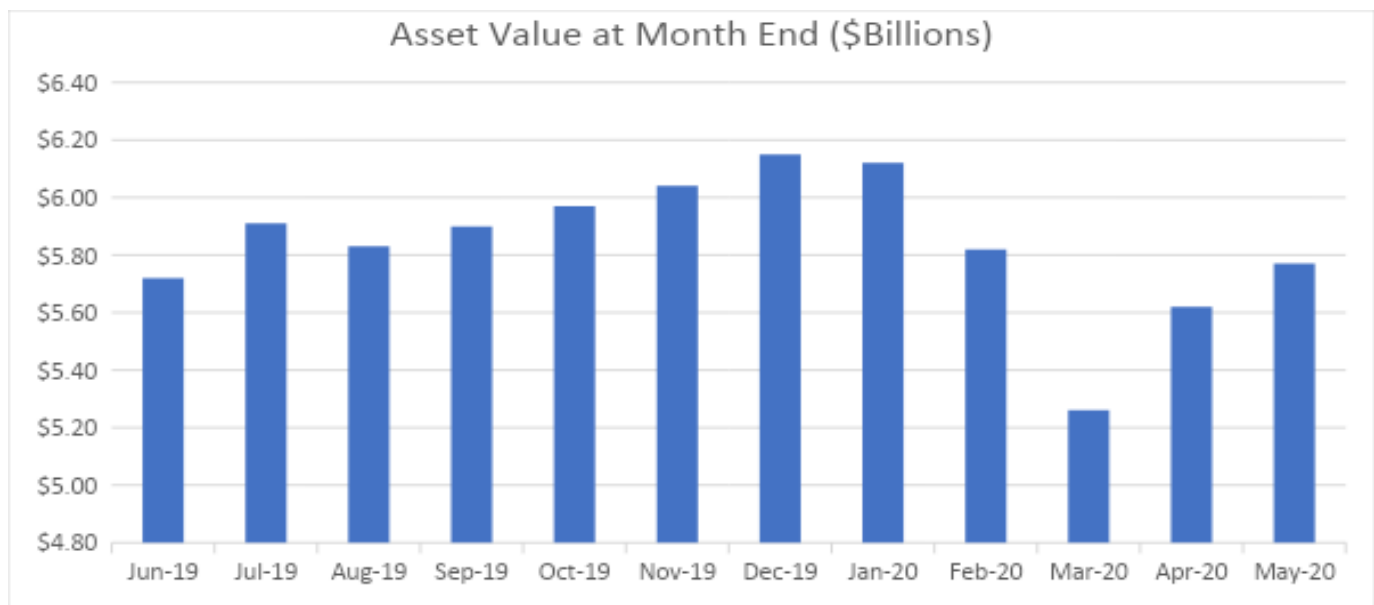
Board of Retirement Report

By Art Goulet



As previously reported, the value of VCERA's assets has been subject to the volatility of the market and its ups and downs, and the value of assets saw a substantial reduction in March. Coronavirus containment efforts virtually shut down sectors of the economy, resulting in massive unemployment. The economy's shutdown, combined with uncertainty around a clear medical solution, caused a freefall in the market. In April, growing investor optimism following the massive government monetary and fiscal stimulus packages, and signs that the economy was beginning to reopen caused the markets to rebound, increasing VCERA's portfolio value to \$5.62 billion by the month's end. Investment markets continued their upward path, and VCERA's asset value increased to \$5.77 billion by the end of May.

I thought it would be interesting for you to see the chart below, which graphically depicts the ups and downs for the current fiscal year, with a month to go. Hopefully, we will exceed the asset value existing at the start of the fiscal year. While that will not result in meeting VCERA's earnings goal, at least VCERA would not have lost money for the 12-month period.



The majority of VCERA staff has been working remotely since March 20. Recently, the Retirement Administrator developed a plan whereby a more significant number of staff can incrementally return to work at the VCERA offices beginning July 6 while maintaining proper social distancing, office sanitization, and other precautions. This will also allow for personal interaction by brief appointment with retirees and current employees whose requests or needs require in-person service.

As you will have noticed, although your retirement benefits arrived on time, whether by direct deposit or mail, the usual retiree earnings statements were not mailed in March, April, May, or June, nor will they be mailed in the future as a general rule. *(Continued on Page 4)*

*(Continued from Board of Retirement Report
Page 3)*

At its June 22 meeting, the Retirement Board decided that the statements will no longer be sent for a projected annual savings in cost of about \$55,000. These statements may easily be obtained securely online at any time. As explained in the last REAVC newsletter, retirees can go to the VCERA website, tap the Retiree/Beneficiary header and the ADP Registration Guide link at the bottom. After you register, earning statements can be viewed and printed at <https://my.adp.com>.

An election to fill the General Member seat on the Retirement Board, previously held by Craig Winter who retired recently, is scheduled to be held on July 6. There are five candidates. Because of the coronavirus, nominations for the seat were done somewhat differently than usual. Instead of all actions having been performed in person, General Members interested in being candidates for the vacant position obtained nomination documents from the County Elections Division by email only. Instead of a single nomination petition with "wet" signatures, petitions could be signed, scanned,

and returned to the Elections Division via email.

Also, a Public Member seat has been vacant since September 9, 2019, and the Alternate Public Member seat has been vacant since January 1 of this year. These seats are filled by appointment by the County Board of Supervisors.

The Retirement Board has been meeting remotely since its April 8 meeting and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Although the Boardroom, together with all the staff offices, have been completely remodeled, the Boardroom cannot accommodate the entire Board, necessary staff, and other parties having business with the Board, while maintaining the necessary social distancing in the current environment.

At its June 22 meeting, based on a joint recommendation of VCERA's CIO and the investment consultant, the Board revised VCERA's asset allocation, increasing allocations to private equity, private credit, and U.S. Treasury securities by 2% each, with accompanying reductions in large cap equities, international equities, and core bonds.



Long-Term Care Litigation Update

The judge ruled from the bench on July 6 in favor of the plaintiffs on plaintiffs' motion to specifically name the State of California as a defendant in the case. This is an extremely important development, as CalPERS does not have the funds to satisfy a judgment. It has been plaintiff counsels' opinion all along that a judgment against CalPERS can be enforced against the State because CalPERS is

an "agency" of the State. There are several cases supporting this position. CalPERS argues they are different from all the other agencies of the State. Specifically naming the State as a defendant in the case is particularly important.

At the hearing, the judge noted that there will not be any jury trials in L.A. Superior Court (where the case is pending), until at least January 2021. The judge recommended plaintiffs' request for a jury trial, and instead, conduct a bench trial. Plaintiffs' attorney is inclined to agree, believing the judge will basically control the case in any event. If the case does proceed as a bench trial, it's estimated the case could be tried within 6 months. This will likely be decided in the next couple of weeks.

In Memoriam

**We Extend our Deepest Sympathy to the Families and Friends
of the Following REAVC Members who Passed Away in
April or May 2020**

Lelia **Fisher**

Evelyn **James**

Robert **Michener**

Clifford **Pape**

Cruz **Reyna**

William **Rice**

Ellis **Sage**

Pamela **Sears**

Maxine **Smith**

Hugh **Thomas**

See's CANDIES Update - COVID-19 Strikes Again

By Butch Britt - "The Candy Man"

Currently, due to COVID-19 restrictions, most See's stores are closed. There are a few stores that are available for online ordering and "no touch" pickup only. You can get a list of stores that are open and current restrictions from their website at the end of this article. Two stores in Ventura County that are open (as of 6/13/20) are: (1) the store in Camarillo – 602 Las Posas Road; and (2) Thousand Oaks – The Promenade at Westlake.

Moreover, these stores are currently ONLINE AND CREDIT CARD ONLY. They do not currently accept CASH or See's certificates. The gift certificates are still good, and they don't expire, so don't throw them away, but if you have some, it may be a while before you can use them.

See's has also discontinued selling new certificates. Whether that is temporary or long term, we don't know, and they are not saying. What that means is that when REAVC runs out, we are out of the candy certificate business. The

Candy Man may have to retire again. We still have a few hundred certificates on hand and we will continue to sell them at \$16 per, but be aware that it may be some time before See's will start accepting them again, and when we sell what we have – we are out. Whether See's will continue selling certificates again in the future, we just do not know.

As we get updates, we will try to inform you by our newsletter, update our website, or put up smoke signals. We know that many of you really depend on the See's certificates for gifts and we hope to return to selling them again at a discounted price – we just don't know what is going to happen in the future. The website address for See's CANDIES is www.sees.com.





Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship Recipients!

This year, REAVC awarded a scholarship to 15 candidates who applied to the program. To qualify for the REAVC Scholarship Program, a candidate must be a member or associate member of REAVC; or a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member or associate member of REAVC. They must also meet the scholarship requirements (for further information, on the program, visit <https://reavc.org/scholarship-program>).

While many colleges and schools have been unable to offer scholarships this year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, REAVC was able to award these 15 qualified and worthy scholarship recipients with \$800 each. A special thanks to Ventura County Credit Union who contributed \$1,500, to the REAVC Scholarship Program this year!

The following are brief, biographical statements, in alphabetical order, for seven of the 15 scholarship recipients. ***Due to space constraints, statements for the remaining eight scholarship recipients will be published in the next newsletter.***



Samantha (Sammy) Fenton (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Carolyn Fenton) - Sammy graduated this June from Foothill Technology High School with a 4.67 GPA. She plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania and major in mathematical economics. While in high school, Sammy received many scholastic awards, excelled in golf and softball, served as a mentor for incoming freshmen, and worked as a babysitter and office assistant. Sammy credits her parents for their emotional and financial support in guiding her to this long-term goal to attend college.

Madeline Gambon (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Marciano Gambon) - Madeline completed her lower division studies in theater arts at Moorpark Community College this spring with a 3.86 GPA, and plans to transfer to university to major in theatre arts. Madeline worked on many theatre productions while in school, and was recognized on the Dean's List. She credits her grandfather for inspiring her to pursue a degree in theatre arts.

Madison Geier (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Gary Markley) - Madison plans to attend Liberty University in Virginia and major in education after having graduated from Buena High School with a 3.88 GPA this past spring. While in high school, Madison was recognized for her scholastic achievement, was active in school musicals and clubs, and volunteered at her church and the Rescue Mission. Her love of children and inspiration by her mother, who is a teacher, guided Madison toward her goal of becoming an elementary school teacher.

Tatum Harris (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Barbara Michels) - Tatum graduated from Buena High School in 2017, where she received leadership awards, helped with stage productions, and was an officer in the English Club. This spring, Tatum completed her lower division studies at Ventura Community College. Influenced to become a teacher by her mother, who is also a teacher, Tatum plans to attend California State University, Channel Islands where she will major in English/education. *(Continued on Page 7)*

(Continued from Page 6 - "Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship Recipients")

Megan Larson (Granddaughter of REAVC member, John Crowley) - While maintaining a 4.25 GPA at Rancho Campana High School in Camarillo, Megan received Silver and Gold awards from the Girl Scouts. As a volunteer with Outward Bound, she brought school supplies to underprivileged children in Panama. Megan also organized a team and raised \$5,000 dollars to revamp a dilapidated bocce court at the Ventura County Veterans Home. Following her lifetime interest in medical science, Megan plans to attend Texas Tech University's Honors College where she will major in biology.

Elisabet Lindskog (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Charles Dolan) - While maintaining a 4.13 GPA at Santa Susana High School in Simi Valley, Elisabet volunteered at Mock Trial and worked as a receptionist and case assistant at DK Law Firm. She has also been a volunteer at Boys and Girls Club and Tech Trek. Next semester, Elisabet plans to continue her goal as a political science major at George Washington University.

Naomi McDaniel (Granddaughter of REAVC member, Murray Cole McDaniel) - Naomi graduated from Advanced Christian Training High School in Paso Robles, California with a 4.08 GPA. She plans to attend California Polytechnic University or Masters University to study mathematics. During her high school years, she volunteered and performed at school events, taught swimming lessons, and refereed soccer games. Naomi plans to give back to her future community by sharing her love for mathematics and learning.

2020 REAVC CALENDAR*		
<u>January 2020</u> Jan/Feb newsletter mailed out mid-month	<u>February 2020</u> 11 REAVC BOARD MEETING 15 Articles due for Mar/Apr newsletter 26 Last date for reservations for March luncheon	<u>March 2020</u> 10 General Membership Luncheon Mar/Apr newsletter mailed out mid-month 31 DEADLINE FOR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION. Must be received by this date!!
<u>April 2020</u> 6 - 8 CRCEA Conf., Visalia, CA Canceled 14 REAVC BOARD MEETING Canceled 15 Articles due to May/June newsletter	<u>May 2020</u> 20 Last day for reservations for June luncheon Canceled May/June newsletter mailed mid-month	<u>June 2020</u> 2 General Membership Luncheon & Scholarship Award Presentation Canceled Postponed 9 REAVC BOARD MEETING – Met via Zoom online meetings 12 Articles due for Jul/Aug newsletter
<u>July 2020</u> Jul/Aug newsletter mailed mid-month	<u>August 2020</u> 4 REAVC Board Meeting 15 Articles due for Sept/Oct 20 Last day to register for September Luncheon Canceled	<u>September 2020</u> 1 General Membership Luncheon Canceled Sep/Oct newsletter mailed mid-month
<u>October 2020</u> 6 REAVC BOARD MEETING 16 Articles due for Nov/Dec newsletter	<u>November 2020</u> 19 Last day for reservation for December Luncheon (Tentative) Nov/Dec newsletter mailed mid-month	<u>December 2020</u> 1 General Membership Luncheon (Tentative) 8 REAVC BOARD MEETING 13 Articles due for Jan/Feb newsletter

*Please note: This calendar is subject to change without notice. To confirm the events and deadlines on this calendar, please call REAVC at 1-805-644-7814.

Revised 2020-07-06

Luncheon Update

By Anne Dana



Fall Luncheon - Canceled

The Fall Luncheon was originally scheduled for September 1, 2020. However, due to the ongoing and current coronavirus situation and guidelines, and to protect the health and safety of our members, the September 1, 2020, luncheon has been canceled.

It seems like such a long time since we have met - way too long!! We hope all of you are healthy and happy in spite of the uncertainty and uneasiness at this time.

Holiday Luncheon

The Holiday Luncheon is **tentatively** scheduled for December 1, 2020. Although it doesn't seem very likely, it is our hope and prayer that the current restrictions and guidelines will be lifted by then and any new guidelines will be such that we will be able to have the Holiday Luncheon. We certainly miss everyone and can't imagine celebrating the holidays without our members and friends. So let's keep our fingers crossed and say a few prayers that we will all be singing holiday songs together on December 1, 2020.

More information regarding the Holiday Luncheon will be provided in the next REAVC Newsletter.

Hope to see you in December.

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

2020 REAVC OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF

Officers	Board Members	Staff
President - Nancy Settle	Butch Britt	Sharon Hurault Executive Assistant
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	
	Maryellen Benedetto Associate Member Representative	

Revised 9/2019

Congratulations New County Retirees!

Gilbert Frank Jr. **Beltran**, Public Works Agency*
Todd Douglas **Buck**, Fire Protection District
Francisco **Ceja**, Public Works Agency
Frank **Chow**, County Executive Office
Rick Wade **Cochrane**, Sheriff's Office.
Harry **Fekkes**, Fire Protection District
Johnson Khawar **Gill**, Health Care Agency
Mark Dean **Gillette**, Sheriff's Office
John Joseph **Gleason**, Sheriff's Office
Maria E **Guerra**, Regional Sanitation District
Elizabeth Ruth **Gutierrez**, Air Pollution Control Dist.
Arturo Daniel **Hernandez**, Human Services Agency
Steven A **Kirkby**, Probation Agency
Susan M **Klein**, Health Care Agency
Mitchell David **Lambert**, Fire Protection District
John Kevin **Lucey**, Sheriff's Office
Amy Tomomi **Masumiya**, Health Care Agency
Richard Manasan **Miranda**, Probation Agency
Isabel **Morales**, Human Services Agency
Robert A **Myers**, Fire Protection District
Sandra M. **Pasmant**, Human Services Agency
Josefina Barron **Perales**, General Services Agency
Daniel Howard **Preston**, Fire Protection District
Chandra Gillian **Pugh**, Sheriff's Office
Lamont Alexander **Pulido**, Sheriff's Office
Terry **Quick**, Ventura County Library
Marie **Rhodes-Smith**, Sheriff's Office
Rebecca Gloria **Rothstein Linder**, Resource
Management Agency
John Edward **Sanders**, Sheriff's Office
Sultan Mohammed **Satarzai**, Health Care Agency
Christine **Smith**, Superior Court

Jason Robert **Stephens**, Sheriff's Office
Steven James **Swindle**, Fire Protection District
Gina Louise **Teresa**, Resource Management Agency
Catalina G **Villa**, Human Services Agency
Dave **Zimmerman**, Fire Protection District

Manuel **Aguilar**, Human Service Agency**
Michael **Akseven**, Sheriff's Office
Paul L **Bujold**, Human Service Agency
Gregory L **Chavez**, Fire Protection District
Juliet Aida **Flannigan**, Health Care Agency
Nivanjit **Gill**, Sheriff's Office
Gary Lee **Key**, General Services Agency
Napoleon Cordova **Morata**, Sheriff's Office
Kathleen **Ninomiya**, Health Care Agency
Kelvin Matthew **Rautiola**, Sheriff's Office
Kathleen Anne **Rowe**, Health Care Agency
John Lynn **Werts**, Probation Agency

**From the May 18, 2020, VCERA Board of Retirement
Business Meeting Agenda; **From the June 22, 2020,
VCERA Board of Retirement Business Meeting Agenda.*

***"The best part about being
retired is never having to
request time off."***

- Unknown

Retired Employees Association of Ventura County (REAVC)
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