

# **RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY (REAVC)**

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

August 4, 2020

In Accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20,  
Members of the Board met Electronically (via Zoom)

## ***Call to Order***

President Nancy Settle called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

## ***Roll Call***

### *Present*

Board Members: Nancy Settle, Butch Britt, Colleen Bruns, Paul Callaway, Ken Cozzens, Anne Dana, Art Goulet, Roberta Griego, Will Hoag, Colleen House, Tom McEachern, Cindy Schneider, and Kelly Shirk

Staff: Sharon Hurault

Guests: Tracy Sewell, Employee Benefits Manager, County of Ventura and Jacquie Richardson

### *Absent*

Board Members: Maryellen Benedetto and Reddy Pakala

## **Approval of the June 9, 2020, Minutes**

The minutes of the June 9, 2020, meeting were accepted as presented.  
Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) (Britt/Dana/Unanimous)

## **Old/New Business**

### **1. Receive and File Financial Report**

Butch reported that there has not been a lot of financial activity, particularly with the REAVC luncheons needing to be canceled and few expenditures. All 15 REAVC scholarship recipients have cashed their checks. Overall, the financial report is in the black. The line item for newsletters costs is running high due to the increase in cost of printing and mailing; however, this will be offset due to the absence of luncheon-related expenditures. Art asked what percentage of REAVC members receive their newsletters electronically. Butch stated that approximately 2,000 newsletters are mailed out every other month, with about 500 members receiving their newsletter electronically. Butch noted that the revised REAVC application form now defaults to all new members receiving their newsletter

electronically. Should they wish to have the newsletter mailed to them, they will need to check an additional box.

It was moved that the Financial Report be received and filed.  
Moved/Seconded/Carried (Cozzens/McEachern/Unanimous)

**2. Ventura County Health Care Benefits and Options for County Retirees – Tracy Sewell, Employee Benefits Manager, County of Ventura**

Tracey Sewell, Employee Benefits Manager for the County of Ventura, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new health care insurance options for Medicare-eligible County retirees in 2021, which will be offered during the upcoming open enrollment period.

Ms. Sewell stated that the current Blue Shield for Medicare COB PPO (which has the majority of County Medicare retiree population), will be raising their rates substantially in 2021.

Because of this, the County is looking at offering Medicare-eligible retirees the option of participating in a Medicare Health Insurance Exchange handled by AON. This exchange will provide a multitude of health care insurances to choose from, while at the same time, offering plans that are very similar to, or sometimes identical to, the County's current plans, but at less cost and with minimal change to benefits.

The County will be contacting retirees soon via mail with further details and information.

**3. California Supreme Court Decision on “Pension Spiking” – Tom**

On July 30, 2020, the California Supreme Court issued a ruling clarifying whether the inclusion of certain pay items (broadly described as “pension spiking) in an employee's compensation is allowed for the calculation of an employee's pension benefits since the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) and related CERL amendments (AB 197) became effective on January 1, 2013.

Art provided a brief capsulation of this very complicated decision and discussed how it might impact VCERA members. Art noted that for those County employees who retired before the effective date of PEPRA, this court decision has no impact.

To the extent it is determined that current post-PEPRA retirees had pay items included in their pensionable compensation that should have been excluded, questions that will have to be addressed include:

- If the current post-PEPRA retirees are being overpaid, as a result does VCERA go back and recover the overpayments?

- If VCERA finds overpayments, does VCERA have to return the contributions that were made on the pay items that should have been excluded?

Nancy thanked Art and Tom for addressing this complicated topic.

#### **4. Nomination Petition for Art Goulet and Will Hoag**

Art reported that he had received enough signatures on his petition. Will stated that he had not, and requested those who wished to sign the nomination petition to please contact him.

#### **5. Status Report on See's CANDIES Certificates**

Butch reported that See's CANDIES will be phasing out their gift certificates and replacing them with gift cards. For those who currently have gift certificates, they will continue to be honored at most See's CANDIES stores.

Butch stated that currently, REAVC has about 450 See's CANDIES gift certificates on hand that are sold to REAVC members at \$16 for a one-pound box of mixed candies. On the See's website, these same gift certificates currently sell for \$23 each. See's CANDIES has offered to sell REAVC 1,000 gift certificates if they are purchased before September 1, 2020, requiring a cash layout by REAVC of \$17,482.50 (with our discount).

Board members continued to discuss this issue, expressing the following concerns and questions:

- This is a wonderful benefit for our members. Not offering it would be a great loss for some.
- What happens should See's CANDIES goes bankrupt?
- With a profit of only \$0.52 per box for REAVC, there is only a 3% return on our money. Is the risk of spending over \$17,000 on additional gift certificates warranted?

A motion was made by Paul to purchase 1,000 See's CANDIES certificates and to then hold them. The motion was seconded by Anne. Vote: Yeas 4, Nays 7; Nancy and Butch abstained. The motion failed.

A second motion was made by Kelly to sell off the current 450 See's CANDIES gift certificates to REAVC members, and to then wait and see what happens with the gift cards. The motion was seconded by Roberta. Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 5. Motion passed.

Nancy noted that this issue could be brought before the Board at a later date if needed.

## **6. Food Share Contribution**

Nancy stated that the REAVC Board has been considering making a one-time cash contribution to Food Share. Due to the cancellation of REAVC luncheon, members have been unable to contribute to the Food Share barrels.

A motion was made by Nancy to make a one-time contribution of \$300 to Food Share. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Database Status**

Sharon stated that she is working on the design of the new Access database.

## **8. Membership Report**

Sharon stated that as of July 2020, the current total of REAVC members was 2,726.

## **9. Other Business and Committee Reports**

### **Committee Reports**

- Retirement Board/Legislation (Art) – See Agenda Item No. 3
- Associate Members (Maryellen) – Report not made due to Maryellen's absence.
- Benefits (Kelly) – See Agenda Item No. 2.
- Communications (Will) – There was nothing of importance to report. The phones have been very slow.
- Membership/Courtesy (Nancy) - For the time being, the County has canceled their retirement workshops due to COVID-19.
- CRCEA (Will) – A meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2020 for the delegates to make a decision on the election and bylaws.
- Newsletter (Sharon) – Sharon requested that REAVC members get their articles to her by the end of August/first of September. Nancy noted that she will call Anne to discuss the proposed Holiday Luncheon.

- Nominations/Elections (Nancy) – Nancy stated after serving six years as the president of REAVC, she will be resigning her presidency at the end of this year. Kelly has volunteered to replace Nancy as president, with the knowledge that Kelly will begin a six month, round-the-world cruise beginning December 24, 2021. Nancy and Colleen House have been discussing the possibility of Colleen filling the presidency while Kelly is gone.
- Program/Social (Anne) – See Committee Reports “Newsletter.” Cindy noted that the REAVC Board meetings at the Sheraton will not be held as they have closed their restaurant indefinitely.
- Scholarship (Tom) – Tom stated that the Scholarship Committee has received two thank you letters from the 2020 scholarship recipients. He thanked all members of the committee for the great job that they did.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The next REAVC Board meeting will be held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hurault  
REAVC Executive Assistant