

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY (REAVC)

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

December 8, 2020

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

- ***Call to Order and Roll Call***

President Nancy Settle called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present

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

Staff: Sharon Hurault

Absent

Colleen Bruns

- **Receive and File Financial Report**

Butch reported that REAVC has not been spending as much money as was budgeted due to the impact of COVID-19.

It was moved to Receive and File the Financial Report. Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) (Callaway/Shirk/Unanimous).

- **Approval of the minutes of the October 6, 2020, Board meeting, and the October 22, 2020 Special Board meeting**

Reddy noted a typographical error in the October 6, 2020, minutes on page 2 in the header of Agenda Item No. 2. The term dates were "January 2021 – December 31, 2021." The minutes were amended to read, "January 2021 – December 31, 2022."

The minutes of the October 6, 2020, were approved as amended. The minutes of the October 22, 2020, Special Board Meeting were accepted as presented. M/S/C (Brett/Shirk/Unanimous)

Old/New Business

1. Installation of Officers and New Board Members

Members of the Board who were up for a 2-year term confirmed that they wished to continue to serve. The members included Paul Callaway, Ken Cozzens, Anne Dana, Tom McEachern, Reddy Pakala, Cindy Snyder, and Kelly Shirk.

Board Officers Nancy Settle, President; Roberta Rodriguez, 1st Vice President; Ken Cozzens, 2nd Vice President; Will Hoag, Secretary; and Paul Callaway, Treasurer, also confirmed their desires to serve an additional one-year term in 2021, and they were sworn in. Jacquie Richardson, who had expressed an interest in joining the REAVC Board, will not be available to join the Board until early 2021.

2. Receive and File the Draft Budget for 2021 – Butch

Previously sent to Board members for review, Butch asked the members to provide him with their comments or recommendations on the Draft 2021 Budget, along with a copy of the comments to their fellow Board members. Butch will return to the Board on February 2, 2021, to request approval of the 2021 Budget.

In addition, Butch noted that REAVC has two Certificate of Deposits (CDs) (one at a set time of five years, the other at two years) with a current rate of about 2%, both of which mature on February 8, 2021. Due to the current low-interest rates and not wishing to tie up money for a five-year term, Reddy recommended depositing the money from these two CDs into a one-year CD.

It was moved to change REAVC's current maturing two CDs, and deposit them into a one-year CD. M/S/C (Pakala/Schneider/Unanimous). Paul Callaway and Butch Britt are authorized to sign the necessary documents with Ventura County Credit Union to effect the changes.

Nancy noted that on occasion, extra money is kept on hand in case REAVC is called upon to participate should a law suit occur with respect to protecting our pensions.

Butch also noted that all of the existing See's CANDIES gift certificates have been sold. Sixty gift cards were purchased in October with 20 of these remaining.

3. Update on the Alameda Decision – Art

Art stated that the Board of Retirement (BoR) is in the midst of litigation, and much of the information available to him is confidential. A Declaratory Relief Action has been filed, and the County says that they will demur to the action.

Art said he thinks the biggest issue being faced is whether all of the flexible benefit allowance can be included in the computation of retirement benefits. The BoR's outside counsel has advised that the portion that went towards County-sponsored health insurance, or payment of an opt-out fee, is not allowed to be included in pension calculations. The County and the unions disagree with this interpretation. This gets more complicated because the Deputy Sheriff's Association has sued the County alleging that the opt-out fee is an illegal kickback under the Federal Labor Standards Act. If it's determined to be illegal, anyone who paid the opt-out fee will have that amount reinstated in the calculation. The County insists that the opt-out fee is legal.

Art said that he was not aware if anyone who received a retirement benefit calculated based on vacation buy-back in excess of 200 hours in any 12-month period, has been contacted. (This period has to be earned within that 12-month period, and payable within that 12-month period). This is where the term "straddling" comes from. If anyone hasn't heard yet from VCERA staff, they will. This (pensions) will have to be adjusted moving forward. The Resolution that the BoR adopted provides that the system will not seek to recover overpayments made since January 1, 2013, but only from July 30, 2020, forward. If contributions made by an employee exceed the overpayment, contributions will be paid back with interest.

Art reiterated that these issues are very complicated, and it will all be resolved in litigation provided that the County doesn't prevail in demurring. However, all of this could drag along for a quite a while.

4. Holiday Raffle – Anne

Anne reported that Sharon was able to find an AP for her smart phone which she used to randomize numbers and compile a list of the 20 REAVC Holiday Raffle winners. Each winner will receive \$100 in gift certificates. The logistics of how to deliver these prizes to our winners will be worked out by Anne and Ken.

5. Accomplishments for 2020 and Outlook for 2021 – Nancy

Nancy said that 2020 has been a very bad year for the REAVC luncheons. The Board discussed what the luncheon schedule might look like for in 2021, with the possibility of having additional luncheons. The Board was in consensus of having the goal of increasing REAVC membership in 2021.

6. Update of REAVC Documents for 2021 – Sharon

Previous to today's Board meeting, Sharon had send draft copies of the 2021 REAVC Calendar, Contact List, 2021 Terms of REAVC Officers and Board Members, and 2021 REAVC Committee Assignments, for their review and input.

Board members will contact Sharon and/or Nancy with any changes or recommendations to these documents.

7. Database Status – Sharon

Sharon stated that due to the number of projects she has been working on, the goal of moving the REAVC database from Excel to Access has temporarily been put on hold.

8. Membership Report – Sharon

Sharon reported that as of November 2020, REAVC had 2,701 dues-paying members. Nancy noted that REAVC is not holding workshops at the County anymore due to COVID-19. In addition, we haven't received the applications for new members from the PGA mailing.

Reddy asked if it would be possible for VCERA to provide REAVC with information on the approximately 7,800 County retirees who may not be REAVC members. Sharon stated that she only receives information on dues-paying REAVC members – not the entire VCERA database. Will noted that when someone retires from the County, they have the choice of checking a box on whether they wish to be contacted by any other organization or to have information on them released to any other party. Nancy stated that every year, PGA is able to obtain a list of County retirees from VCERA, which it uses to send out information to every single County retiree; however, to be eligible for PGA insurance, they must be, or become, a REAVC member. Cindy questioned the possibility of legal issues and issues of confidentiality in sharing information. Nancy said that she will look into this. Butch noted that the Sheriffs' and Fire Associations do so much for their members, that many of the retirees in those areas don't necessarily feel the need to join REAVC.

Committee Reports

- Retirement Board/Legislation (Art) – See Agenda Item No. 3.
- Associate Members (Maryellen) – Stated that she recently received a listing from Sharon.
- Benefits (Kelly) – Has not yet received the final numbers on the retiree enrollment. Multiple Board members reported that they personally had a negative experience with the AON Retirement Exchange, and had heard complaints from other retirees. There seemed to be a lot of confusion on AON's part, difficulty in getting online, and the apparent lack of knowledge by AON employees. Some County retirees chose not to use the

exchange, but signed up themselves with other health insurance carriers. Kelly said she will relay this information to Tracy Sewell at the County.

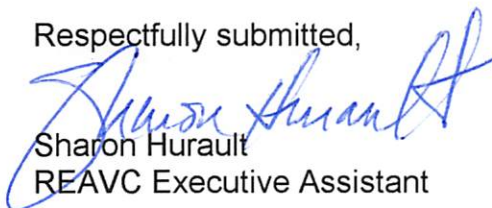
- Communications (Will) – Has received a few calls on the Alameda Decision and the See's CANDIES certificates and gift cards.
- Membership/Courtesy (Nancy) - For the time being, the County has cancelled their retirement workshops due to COVID-19.
- CRCEA (Will) – Not much is going on. Not planning to have another conference until next fall with Los Angeles' organization.
- Newsletter (Butch) – Sharon requested that Board members get their articles to her by the end of December, if not sooner.
- Nominations/Elections (Nancy) – See Agenda Item No. 1.
- Program/Social (Tom) – Nothing to report.
- Scholarship (Tom) – Nothing to report at this time.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

The next REAVC Board meeting will be held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday, **February 2, 2021**, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Hurault
REAVC Executive Assistant