

REAVC NEWS



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

March/April 2021

President's Message

By Nancy Settle, REAVC President



Greetings, REAVC members!

A Vaccination Adventure

Hopefully, many of you have received the COVID-19 vaccination or are waiting for the second shot. After a bit of a panic and

fumbling around on the Internet, my husband and I were able to get our first shot. Our first attempt was met with completely booked appointments until the end of March. A friend called to tip us off about an opening at a CVS in Bakersfield. We were willing to drive the four hour round trip so we booked an appointment. The next day we received another tip that Simi Valley had openings. The following day a shipment of Moderna arrived, and there were openings in Oxnard. We cancelled all the other appointments and booked Oxnard. It was a 1 1/2 hour wait, and we were happy to be there. My husband declared he was euphoric! He was finally getting his long-awaited injection. The next day I heard that most people were able to get in and out in 10 minutes. County staff and security were very capable, caring, and friendly. Fortunately, there are now many locations to get vaccinations. In addition to County of Ventura Health Care Agency locations, many Vons, Albertsons, CVS, and Rite Aid also offer vaccinations. The availability of the vaccine can limit the availability of appointments. Appointments can be made through: <https://www.venturacountyrecovers.org/vaccine-information/portal/> or you can call 805-477-7161.

Update on REAVC Luncheons

We are working towards being able to offer luncheons by September. Please know that we are concerned about our members' health and safety. *(Continued on Page 2)*

"We are working towards being able to offer our luncheons by September. Please know that we are concerned about our members' health and safety."

Nancy Settle, President
REAVC

In This Issue

- President's Message
- See's CANDIES Update
- Scholarship Applications
- Board of Retirement Report
- Welcome to Our New Board Member
- In Memoriam
- 2021 REAVC Calendar
- PapaB1's Ramblings
- OLLI Courses
- 2021 REAVC Board Members
- Congratulations New County Retirees
- Luncheon Update

(Continued from Page 1 - "President's Message")

Read further for a possible future luncheon date and more details.

Many Thanks to the Ventura County Credit Union for Their Contribution!

REAVC wishes to thank the Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU) for their continued, generous support of our scholarship program. VCCU has supported REAVC's scholarship program for



several years. Without such support from VCCU and others, we would have to reduce the scholarship awards.

Appreciation to the REAVC Board and Staff for Their Service

The REAVC Board continues to address budget issues, upcoming scholarships, and monitor legislation for anything that may affect our retirement pensions and benefits. Thank you to our REAVC Board of Directors and executive assistant for your diligent meeting attendance, work, and participation in support of REAVC.

We are Also Happy to Welcome our New Board Member

Please welcome Jacquie Richardson, our new Board member. She has a very interesting background. Some of you may have known her while she was an administrative aide for Supervisor Judy Mikels. Read on for her biographical information.

See's CANDIES Update

By Butch Britt

As mentioned in our last issue, we have sold out all the old See's gift certificates. If you have some, they are still good, but I would recommend you don't wait too many years to redeem them. We are selling \$25 See's CANDIES gift cards at a cost to members of \$21 each. The gift cards do not expire either and are relatively easy to mail or use as holiday gifts.



You can place an order for gift cards:

1. Via the postal service at REAVC
P.O. Box 7231, Ventura CA 93006
2. By ordering over the phone at 805-644-7814
3. Or when it is safe and we can have luncheons again, visit our See's CANDIES table at one of our luncheons.

Remember, if you order by mail, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Include extra postage for mailing large orders (three or more gift cards). If you order over the phone, you need to add the current cost of postage to your check for payment.

"I've learned that being kind is more important than being right."

- Andy Rooney

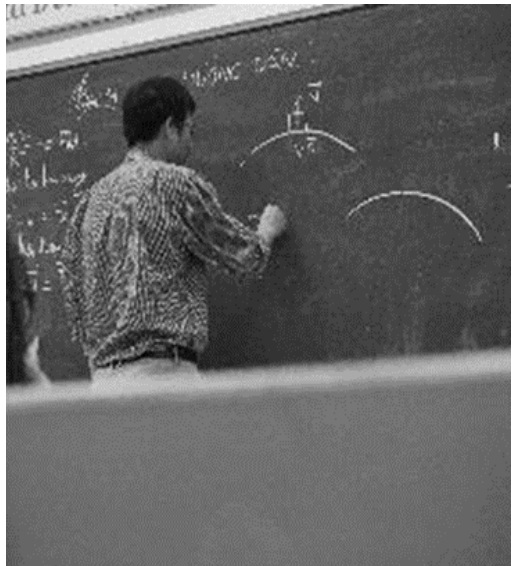
It's Time to Think About Applying for a College Scholarship Through REAVC*

Who's Eligible?

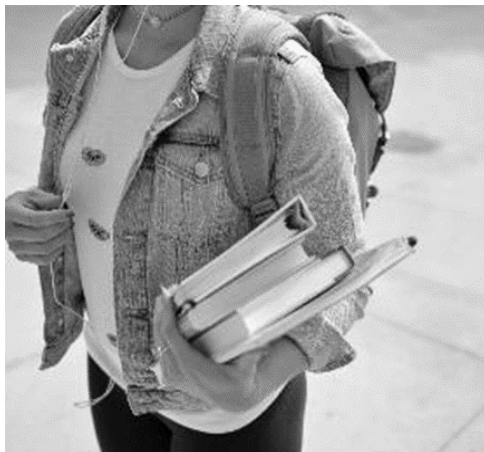
A current member or
associate member of
REAVC

~ 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, 2021



For further details
or to receive a
scholarship
application form,
visit REAVC.org and
click on
“Scholarship
Program”



* Retired Employees Association of Ventura County

Board of Retirement Report

By Art Goulet



In December 2020, Ventura County Employee's Retirement Association's (VCERA) asset value continued its upward

trend, ending the month at \$6.90 billion. By the end of January 2021, the portfolio had given back 0.3%, with an ending market value of \$6.86 billion. However, the investment portfolio's fiscal year-to-date performance remained solid, increasing 17.1% because of VCERA's participation in strong equity markets, while keeping a disciplined, long-term, diversified investment portfolio focused on best protecting your retirement funds.

VCERA Offices Remain Essentially Shut Down

VCERA offices continue to be essentially shut down. The majority of VCERA staff is working remotely, with only a handful of staff in the office at any given time under strict rules and precautions. The January and February Retirement Board meetings were held in the Boardroom, but public participation was solely through Zoom. Some Board members, myself included, have attended via Zoom as well.

Update on the County Flexible Benefit Allowance

As of this writing, no legislation has been introduced providing that the entire County Flexible Benefit Allowance (FBA) be included in compensation earnable for legacy members (those employees hired prior to January 1, 2013).

January 25 VCERA Board Meeting

A lot happened at the January 25 Retirement Board meeting. The Board:

- Determined the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the affected retirees based on a report from VCERA's actuary. The report indicates the change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the measurement period was 1.45%, which rounds to 1.50% in accordance with the applicable provision of County Employment Retirement Law (CERL). As a result, Tier 1 and Safety retirees will see a 1.5% COLA in their April retirement checks, unless they had a COLA Bank from which they draw. Those who retired before 1975 through April 1, 1982 will receive a 3% COLA, and those who retired between April 1, 1982 and April 1, 1983 will receive a 2% COLA.

After any drawdown, COLA Banks for Tier 1 and Safety retirees will be:

<u>Date of Retirement</u>	<u>COLA Bank</u>
On or before 4/1/75	49.5%
4/2/75 to 4/1/76	41.5%
4/2/76 to 4/1/77	34.0%
4/2/77 to 4/1/78	32.0%
4/2/78 to 4/1/79	26.5%
4/2/79 to 4/1/80	22.0%
4/2/80 to 4/1/81	14.0%
4/2/81 to 4/1/82	1.5%
4/2/82 to 4/1/21	0.0%

Tier 2 retirees who were represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and who did not withdraw their COLA contributions upon retirement will receive a 2% COLA in April for service accumulated, after March 16, 2003, or service accumulated after July 7, 2002, if they retired prior to 3/13/2005.

- The Board received the annual Actuarial Valuation as of June 30, 2020, which establishes employer and member contribution rates for the fiscal year (FY) beginning July 1, 2021. Among other *(Continue on Page 5)*

(Continued from page 4 - "Board of Retirement Report") data, it identifies the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) and ratio of the Valuation Value of Assets to Actuarial Accrued Liabilities (the funded ratio) on June 30, 2020. The UAAL decreased from \$747 million at June 30, 2019, to \$704 million, and the funded ratio improved from 88.0% to 89.6% over the same period. The decrease in UAAL was primarily due to contributions being higher than expected, so such "extra" contributions were used to pay down the UAAL.

- The Board approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, after receiving a presentation by VCERA's Auditor.
- The Board Chair appointed two ad-hoc committees:
 - 1) A Personnel Review Committee - Tasked with evaluating the performance of the Retirement Administrator, Chief Investment Officer, and General Counsel over the past year.
 - 2) An ad hoc Compensation Review Committee - Tasked with conducting a market-based compensation analysis, with the assistance of a consultant, of the total compensation paid to the Retirement Administrator, Chief Investment Officer, General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Operating Officer to ensure such compensation is competitive in the market from which those employees would be recruited.

February 16 VCERA Special Board Meeting

There was a Special Meeting and Closed Session on February 16 to discuss the pending litigation (Declaratory Relief Action) between VCERA and various parties over interpretation of the Supreme Court's "Alameda" decision of July 30, 2020. Nothing was reported out of the Closed Session.

February 23 VCERA Board Meeting

The February 23 Retirement Board meeting was quite lengthy. The items about which there was extensive discussion were:

A) A Resolution which would implement the provisions dealing with the issue of pensionability of the portion of employee flex credit the County requires be put toward the costs of a County-sponsored health insurance plan, or toward payment of an opt-out fee. Action on flex credit was deferred by the Board on October 12, 2020, when it adopted a Resolution to implement the California Supreme Court's Alameda decision [See the discussion of the decision and the Board's October 12 action in the November/December 2020 REAVC Newsletter. Newsletters are available on the REAVC website (<https://reavc.org/>)]. VCERA staff, General Counsel and outside Fiduciary Counsel have strongly opined that the portion of employee flex credit the County requires be put toward the costs of a County-sponsored health insurance plan, or toward payment of an opt-out fee is an "in-kind benefit" and not pensionable under the Alameda decision and an earlier Appellate Court decision.

B) The pending litigation (Declaratory Relief Action) mentioned in both the November/December 2020 and January/February 2021 newsletters. (Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association v. County of Ventura et al) seeks the court's confirmation of the non-pensionability.

Item A, above, occurred in Open Session, and Item B occurred in Closed Session. After the Closed Session and additional discussion about the Resolution, a motion to adopt the Resolution failed 6-3. Accordingly, VCERA will continue calculating and paying retirement benefits based on inclusion the entire employee flex credit. If VCERA prevails in the (Continued on Page 6)

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



Jacquie Richardson

This month we welcome our newest REAVC Board member - Jacquie Richardson. The following is a short biography on Jacquie.

After working for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office as a Program Administrator III, and a prior six-year position with 4th District Ventura County Supervisor, Judy Mikels, Jacquie retired in July 2018.

Jacquie is enjoying her retirement, life is good, and she continues to work with retired professional boxers for the Retired Boxers Foundation, which she co-founded in 1998. She has met and worked with boxing legends including Ken Norton, Joe Frazier, Muhammad Ali, and hundreds of other well known boxers. Needless to say, she is a boxing fan as well!

Jacquie has been married to Reg Richardson for 39 years. They have one son, Jay, and a relatively new daughter-in-law, Kristina.

When you see Jacquie at our next luncheon, 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 to generally support you - the REAVC member.

(Continued from Page 5 - "Board of Retirement Report") litigation, those who retired on or after July 1, 2020, will have been overpaid, and such over-payment will have to be recouped by VCERA.

As mentioned in the January/February 2021 REAVC newsletter, the County Board of Supervisors authorized the seeking of legislation, only applicable to Ventura County, to provide that the entire County Flexible Benefit Allowance (FBA) be included in compensation earnable for legacy members. As of February 19, the deadline for introducing new legislation, no bill containing such provisions had been introduced, but the Board was informed at the February 23 meeting by a SEIU representative that an existing spot bill will be appropriately amended soon.

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 ww.reavc.org

In Memoriam

We Extend our Deepest Sympathy to the Families and Friends of the Following
REAVC Members who Passed Away

Therese Boisvert	Sally Harris	Uta Marinovich
Ron Brazill	Glen Harrison	Sarah Martinez
Jacqueline Cassidy	Ruben Herrera	Eileen McCoskey
Richard A. Chapman	Donna Jadlot	Jose Trinidad Garnica Mendoza
Gerald Cookson	Marion Johnson	Julia Moeschler
Terry De La Gardie	Peggy Larios	Leonard Soudahl
Iva Fuentes	Florencio Ligsay	Caron Tait
William Garner	Margaret Lundegaard	Joyce Taylor
Eddie Gonzalez	Cheryl Lyle	
John Graham	Albertina MacIntyre	

2021 REAVC CALENDAR*

January 2021

Jan/Feb newsletter mailed out mid-month

February 2021

9 REAVC BOARD MEETING via Zoom
15 Articles due for Mar/Apr newsletter
18 Last date for reservations for March luncheon **Canceled**

March 2021

2 General Membership Luncheon Canceled
Mar/Apr newsletter mailed out mid-month
31 DEADLINE FOR 2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.
Must be received no later than this date!!

April 2021

6 REAVC BOARD MEETING via Zoom
15 Articles due to May/June newsletter

May 2021

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

June 2021

1 General Membership Luncheon & Scholarship Award Presentation Canceled
8 REAVC BOARD MEETING
15 Articles due for Jul/Aug newsletter

July 2021

Jul/Aug newsletter mailed mid-month

August 2021

3 REAVC Board Meeting
15 Articles due for Sept/Oct
24 Last day to register for September Luncheon

September 2021

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

October 2021

5 REAVC BOARD MEETING
15 Articles due for Nov/Dec newsletter

November 2021

7-10 CRCEA Conference, Long Beach
24 Last day for reservation for December Luncheon
Nov/Dec newsletter mailed mid-month

December 2021

7 Holiday Luncheon
14 REAVC BOARD MEETING
15 Articles due for Jan/Feb newsletter

* Retired Employees Association of Ventura County

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

Revised 3-2021

PapaB1's Ramblings

ZOUNDS AND GADZOOKS!

By Butch Britt

Two words, both very archaic, but they both mean nearly the same thing - frustration or displeasure. However, when I hear or see either one of these words in print, they sound so quaint that I have to stop, think, and then smile - a little.

If you are a regular reader of this column, you know what I've been doing in this "Winter of Discontent" or COVID insanity. Of course, I've stayed active by hooking rugs, or trying to eat through two tons of hoarded chocolate - and walk regularly - at least once every other week. But recently, I ran the gauntlet of trying to get an appointment for a COVID vaccination.

I received an email telling me that because I had attained the ripe old age of 75, I was eligible to sign up for the first dose of the vaccine. I was directed to a website where I could select a time and location to receive my vaccination.

Had I been mysteriously teleported to an alternate universe, where reason and sanity exist? Don't worry, same old same old. Getting an appointment was a lesson in humility and frustration. **ZOUNDS!**

I immediately went to the website which offered me a plethora of times and locations to select a time and location to receive my shot. Facing me, however, was a multitude of questions and tasks, before I would actually be allowed to select a time and location for an injection appointment. I had to scan a copy of my insurance ID card and upload it to the site, provide personal information beyond what even is required to obtain a used car loan.

Forget any semblance of caution or worry about identity theft. But, I was overcome by the frenzy to get a hit of that magic COVID juice. Somewhere in that frenzied state, I think that I pledged my immortal soul, and possibly even those of one or two of the grandkids, I was so desperate. But I finally got to the page where you select a time and location for an appointment - only to be told - **NO APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE!**



I tried every site and time supposedly available on the site (and there were plenty) only to get the same answer. **NO APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE! GADZOOKS!**

My hopes were dashed. I would have kicked the cat - if we had one - but I'm no quitter. I meekly chose to consume two pounds of chocolate and endeavored to persevere. I checked the computer website every day, at least twice, maybe thrice, okay 23 times per day. **NO APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE! ZOUNDS!**

Then I saw a notice that the County received its virus allotment on Monday mornings at 7:30 AM. Well, I was up at 4:30, signed in the web site, clicking every few moments. I think I broke two mouses. Hope they are not an endangered species. **ZOUNDS!**

I had just about given up and consigned myself to a vaccine-less lifestyle, when suddenly the screen blinked! **APPOINTMENTS WERE AVAILABLE.** I went through the sign-in maze again, but this time I knew some of the tricks. When they asked me for insurance card, I just ignored it. Maybe the computer gods were asleep, but it let me pass. By now, it was about 7:35 A.M., and I was sweating in
(Continued on Page 9)



(Continued from Page 8 - "PapaB1's Ramblings) anticipation. I clicked on the fairgrounds appointment site only to get the NO APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE message again. **GADZOOKS**, was I doomed to relieve the entire process again next week?

Fortunately, I tried another site and got an appointment at 10:00 A.M. that same day in Oxnard. I dashed out of the house almost immediately. I don't think I bothered with socks, or even brushed my remaining tooth, but I did put on pants. Naturally, I got there a tad early – about an hour.

But I can't say enough about the nice, professional, and competent people working at this site. They didn't yell at me for arriving early. They just patted my fat, old, bald head and told me to relax. I didn't even have to get out of my car. Some really nice and patient lady came over, asked me a few questions, took my vitals, proclaimed me to be alive, and stuck me with a needle. I even got a card to prove it. It didn't hurt a bit. ZOUNDS! And now I only have to go back next week to get my second hit, and I may be fully inoculated – at least until the next variant hits.

I did make a serious reduction in my stash of chocolate, and cats in the neighborhood now walk to the other side of the street to avoid me, but I am protected!

All said, get vaccinated. We need all of our REAVC members and friends and want you to be around as long as possible. After all, It's not as bad as a colonoscopy.

“Be a Student as Long
as you Still Have
Something to Learn, and
This Will Mean all
Your Life.”

- *Henry L. Doherty*

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING
INSTITUTE AT CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS**

Spring II 2021
March 22 - April 30

Channel Islands
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CHANNEL YOUR **POTENTIAL**

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

at CSU Channel Islands

SPRING II 2021 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Date / Time	Title	Weeks	Class #	Page
Monday 10AM - 12PM	Women Architects and Designers Who Defined 20th Century Design <i>Instructor:</i> Eleanor Schrader	6 weeks	1001	3
Monday 1PM - 3PM	Lady Laureates: Exploring Their Work <i>Instructor:</i> Robert Weibezahl	6 weeks	1002	3
Tuesday 10AM - 12PM	Artificial Intelligence for Everyone <i>Instructor:</i> BiJian Fan	6 weeks	1003	4
Tuesday 1PM - 3PM	Religion and Mythology in the Art of the Ancient World <i>Instructor:</i> Laura Hagel	6 weeks	1004	4
Wednesday 10AM - 12PM	Suburban Nation: 1800 to the Present <i>Instructor:</i> David Parsons	6 weeks	1005	5
Wednesday 1PM - 3PM	The Rise of Modernism: Art in the Wake of the Industrial Revolution <i>Instructor:</i> Katherine Zoraster	6 weeks	1006	6
Wednesday 3:30PM - 4:30PM	Suburban Nation: 1800 to the Present Seminar <i>Instructor:</i> David Parsons	6 weeks	1005A	5
Thursday 10AM - 12PM	The Great Broadway Songwriting Teams - Part 1 <i>Instructor:</i> Cary Ginell	6 weeks	1007	6
Thursday 1PM - 3PM	Language and Culture: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology <i>Instructor:</i> Matt Curtis	6 weeks	1008	7
Thursday 3:30PM - 4:30PM	Language and Culture: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology Seminar <i>Instructor:</i> Matt Curtis	6 weeks	1008A	7
Friday 10AM - 12PM	The Comedy Teams of America <i>Instructor:</i> Nicholas Santa Maria	6 weeks	1009	8
Friday 1PM - 3PM	Influence & Impact: The French Population of the 19th Century Los Angeles <i>Instructor:</i> Dinna Pitt	6 weeks	1010	8

Call Today to Register! Enrollment Begins March 1, 2021
For further information on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
at Channel Island State University, please visit

<https://ext.csuci.edu/programs/professional-community-ed/osher-lifelong-learning-institute/index.htm>

2021 REAVC OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF

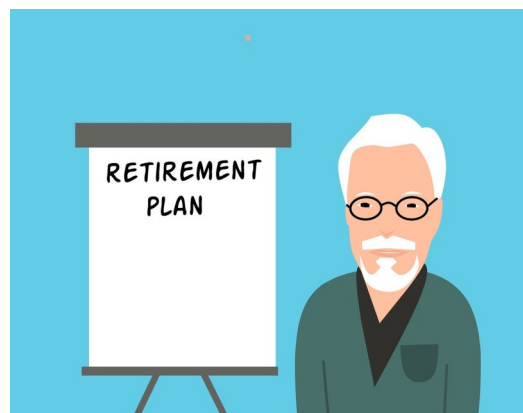
Officers	Board Members	Staff
President Nancy Settle	Butch Britt	Executive Assistant Sharon Hurault
1st Vice President Roberta Griego	Colleen Bruns	
2nd Vice President Ken Cozzens	Anne Dana	
Secretary Will Hoag	Colleen House	
Treasurer Paul Callaway	Tom McEachern	
Immediate Past President Art Goulet	Reddy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

Congratulations New County Retirees!

Edgar M. Alviz, Health Care Agency
 James Bertram Becker, County Clerk Recorder
 Barbara Dale Council, Public Works Agency
 Daniel Dean Hawes, Sheriff's Office
 Lars S. Hedberg, Information Technology
 Gary Clyde Jackson, Health Care Agency
 Shannon Julie King, Sheriff's Office
 Kenneth Curtis Mitchell, Sheriff's Office
 Anne F Plummer-Tally, Human Services Agency
 Peter Daniel Pringle, Health Care Agency
 Patricia Jane Salas, Sheriff's Office
 Barbara A. Stoliker, Child Support Services
 Craig Marcellus Tangner, Health Care Agency
 Edward A. Toves, Department of Airports
 Anthony Patrick Tutino, Sheriff's Office

Kerry A. Van Duzer, Health Care Agency
 Donald White, Sheriff's District

(From January 25, 2021, VCERA Board of Retirement Business Meeting)



Graphic: Mohamed Hassan/Pixabay

Luncheon Update

By Anne Dana

Does March 3, **2020**, ring a bell for anyone? I hope so. It is the date of our last REAVC luncheon, just over a year ago and just before COVID-19 restrictions were imposed.

It is so hard for me to believe that we have been battling this ugly virus for over a year and that we still are not sure how much longer we will have to endure restrictions in order to be safe. Unsettling, actually.

Hopefully, we are beginning to round the corner! Some states are lifting restrictions; in Ventura County, dining at restaurants is allowed now (outdoors at least); daylight savings time will be here soon; vaccinations have been



approved; and many people have already been vaccinated. It is not easy to predict what will happen for the rest of the year, but we have optimistically reserved the Sterling Hills Country Club (SHCC) for a luncheon on September 7,

2021, and are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to meet again then. There is much to consider if we are to have that luncheon.

Foremost, as was mentioned in the REAVC “President’s Message” is the health and safety of our members.

Do you think we will recognize one another after such a long time, especially if we are still required to wear masks?

I hope so! It will certainly be a wonderful opportunity to get reacquainted and catch up.

Looking forward to seeing you at the luncheon in September, or somewhere ‘on the streets’ before then. In the meantime, I hope your days are filled with blessings and give you many reasons to be grateful.

“It is not easy to predict what will happen to the rest of the year, but we have optimistically reserved the Sterling Hills Country Club for a luncheon on September 7, 2021...”

- Anne Dana

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OXNARD, CA
PERMIT NO. 295