

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY (REAVC)

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

February 9, 2021

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 1:04 p.m.

Present

Board Members: Maryellen Benedetto, Butch Britt, Colleen Bruns, Paul Callaway, Ken Cozzens, Anne Dana (left at 1:20 p.m.), Art Goulet, Roberta Griego (arrived at 1:20 p.m.), Will Hoag, Colleen House, Tom McEachern (arrived at 1:20 p.m.), Reddy Pakala (left at 1:45 p.m.), Jacquie Richardson, Cindy Schneider, and Nancy Settle

Staff: Sharon Hurault

Absent

Kelly Shirk

- Minutes of the December 8, 2020, Meeting

Because Roberta and Tom had not yet arrived, they were not included in the vote. Art and Collen B. abstained from voting due to their absence at the February 9, 2021 Board meeting. The minutes of the meeting were approved as presented. Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) (Pakala/House/Yeas – 11; Nays - 0; Abstained - 2; Absent – 1; and Absent at the Time of this Vote - 2). The Motion passed.

Old/New Business

1. Installation of new Board Member

Nancy introduced Jacquie Richardson to the Board. Jacquie gave a brief biography on herself. Confirming her willingness to serve on the REAVC Board, Jacquie was sworn in.

2. General Membership Luncheons for 2021

Anne reported that currently, due to the COVID-19 (virus) pandemic, any REAVC general membership luncheons held at the Sterling Hills Country Club in 2021 will be required to follow restaurant guidelines set forth by the by State of California. At

this time, luncheons may be held outdoors for up to 100 people; no indoor luncheons may be held. Luncheons could possibly be held indoors in June, but at a capacity of 25% (approximately 65 people). Anne said that either way, this will limit the number of luncheon guests that could be invited.

The Board discussed the issues facing the possibility of once again holding REAVC's luncheons. Items raised in these discussion included:

- The Venue – Would it be possible to combine indoor/outdoor luncheons? The date of the luncheon will need to be based on what “tier” the State of California may be in due to COVID-19.
- Attendance – Should we proceed on planning an outdoor luncheon for the maximum number (approximately) of members who can attend on a first-come, first-served basis? It was felt that everyone should be able to submit a reservation form.
- Safety – Due to COVID-19, of paramount concern to the Board is the safety of our members. Should the wearing of masks be required? If so, when? Should it be required that luncheon attendees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19? Members would feel more comfortable attending a luncheon where attendees have been fully vaccinated. Should vaccination cards be checked as a prerequisite for attending a luncheon? Should a copy of a member's vaccination card be submitted with a completed luncheon reservation form, or should a vaccination card be presented at the door?
- Time Frame - With the time involved in receiving vaccinations (first shot followed by a second vaccinations, followed by waiting for immunity to build), having a luncheon in the summer may be too early. If we wait until September, we will not be the only group coming together. The security of that will be better for REAVC.
- Notification - Prior to the luncheon, a flyer could be placed in the REAVC newsletter stating that everyone could have to pre-pay, provide the dates of vaccination on the reservation form, and provide the actual vaccination card at the door.
- Concerns – REAVC should not get into “social engineering”...It's not REAVC's job. It will be difficult for REAVC to impose this. Some members will be angry and have hard feelings. If the State of California's restaurant guidelines don't say that you must wear a mask, and there is nothing in them that says that you must have a vaccination card, how can REAVC require this?

At the end of discussion, it was moved by Reddy and seconded by Roberta to hold the first luncheon/outdoors in June 2021. The motion was amended by Roberta to hold the luncheon in September 2021 and for safety reasons, that attendees must be vaccinated and provide the dates of their vaccinations prior to the luncheon on the luncheon reservation form, and to provide the actual vaccination card at the door. Vote: Yeas – 14; Nays – 1; Absent – 1. Motion passed.

3. Financial Reports

Butch presented the following reports:

- A. Financial Report for Calendar Year (CY) 2021 to Date (the Month of January)
Butch reported that there was nothing particularly outstanding in the report. Following discussion, It was moved to receive and file the Financial Report. MSC (Pakala/Schneider/Unanimous).
- B. Year-End Report for CY 2020 – Butch stated that this report was updated with the actuals as of the 31st of December. It was moved to receive and file the Year-End Report for CY 2020. MSC (Schneider/Callaway/Unanimous).
- C. Budget for 2021 – Butch noted that he did not change any of the budgeted items that had been presented to the Board in December 2020. Following a few questions concerning the luncheons, it was moved that the 2021 Budget be approved. M/S/C (Griego/Schneider/Unanimous).
- D. Renewal of CD Accounts – Butch reported that the two CD accounts that matured yesterday had had been renewed. Paul should be receiving an email to sign and return the documents, or this can be done by using DocuSign. Both of the CDs were renewed for one year as had been recommended by the Board.
- E. Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU) Contribution to Scholarship Program – Butch agreed to support the scholarship program again this year at the same rate as last year. The VCCU will be sending REAVC a check for \$1,500 and it will be reserved for the scholarship program as it has been in the past.

4. COVID-19 Transportation Assistance for REAVC Members; Transportation Presently Offered by Area Agency on Aging

Nancy noted that on the County website, the Area Agency on Aging is offering transportation to seniors seeking transportation to obtain their COVID-19 vaccinations. Ken stated that rather than getting REAVC involved (possible insurance issues), there are a number of organizations currently available offering these services to help these people.

5. Social Security Windfall Elimination (WEP) Reform – Potential Action by California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) and RELAC

Nancy stated that this was placed on the agenda because the Los Angeles County Retirement Association has decided to join forces with Massachusetts employees to request an amendment (an act of Congress) to reform what's happening with our Social Security benefits. Art noted that if these are eliminated, they will have to produce a lot of money to put into the Social Security system. This may or may not happen. As far as Ventura County is concerned, the ones that are affected are safety-retirees. When they were active, they did not contribute to Social Security. Art noted that many of these employees retire relatively young. They then go out and get another job. When they reach their eligibility age and apply for Social Security, they find out that their Social Security benefits will be diminished because they have a public pension.

6. Update on Status of Pacific Group Agencies (PGA) Supplemental Insurance REAVC Membership

Sharon reported that as a result of the PGA recruitment, REAVC received 97 new members.

7. Membership Report

Sharon noted that between retirees joining, discontinuing membership, and passing away, REAVC maintains a membership of approximately 2,700 members. The County has about 7,000 retirees and beneficiaries.

Committee Reports

- Retirement Board/Legislation – Art reported that the Retirement System has filed a lawsuit naming the County, all of the unions, the Court system, and former county counsel as defendants in the case. It is seeking declaratory relief from the Courts to support the interpretation that VCERA has of the Alameda Decision. The idea for a declaratory relief action was brought for by Supervisor Bennett when he was on the VCERA Retirement Board. Art felt that he was really representing the County when making that recommendation. This lawsuit has been filed and now the County is going to demurrer to it because they are saying there is no conflict to be resolved by a declaratory relief action. The demurrer has not yet been filed.
- Associate Members – Maryellen reported that she continues to send out cards to families of REAVC members who have passed away. The ability to contact survivors remains unresolved.

- Benefits – Due to Kelly’s absence, no report was given.
 - Communications – Will reported that he has received a few calls regarding See’s CANDIES gift cards.
 - Membership/Courtesy – Nancy stated that for the time being, the County has cancelled their retirement workshops due to COVID-19.
 - CRCEA – Will reported that not much is going on. Not planning to have another conference until next fall with Los Angeles’ organization.
 - Newsletter – Sharon reminded everyone to submit their articles for the March/April newsletter to her ASAP, and requested that Jacquie provide her with a photo and brief biography. Sharon will prepare a flyer for this year’s Scholarship Program and Butch will post it on the REAVC website.
 - Nominations/Elections - Nancy stated that she had nothing to report.
 - Program/Social – See Agenda Item No. 2
 - Scholarship - Tom reported that he has received two applications for this year’s Scholarship Program.
8. **Other** – Nothing to discuss

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

The next REAVC Board meeting will be held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hurault
REAVC Executive Assistant