

REAVC NEWS



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

May/June 2021

President's Message

By Nancy Settle, REAVC President



Greetings, REAVC Members!
I hope this letter finds you all well and happy.

REAVC Luncheons - Things are getting better with respect to COVID-19. This means we may

finally get to see some of our members at our September luncheon and also scholarship recipients. A lot will depend on the status of vaccinations and the Center for Disease Control and State of California safety recommendations. We'll keep you posted on the protocol in our July/August Newsletter. Hopefully, the majority of our members will have received the vaccine by then.

At the time of this newsletter article more than 63% of Ventura County residents had received their 1st vaccine dose with almost 50% completing their second dose. This is good news and speaks well for folks committed to putting the kibosh on COVID-19.

Update on CalPERS Long-Term Care Insurance - I know some of you have Long-Term Care Insurance provided by CalPERS. CalPERS experienced a less than expected rate of return on investments and greater than expected costs for long term care. As a result CalPERS announced two large premium rate increases for a total of 90% to be phased over two years. There is a class action lawsuit on behalf of policy holders that seeks relief from the rate increase. The California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), recently met with attorney, Michael Bidart, who is representing policy holders. Details of the settlement are pending and I won't go into the details here (*Continued on Page 1*)

"We look forward to getting back into the swing of things as the COVID-19 situation improves. REAVC will be able to reach out to County employees reaching retirement age through County retirement workshops, have informative guest speakers at our luncheons, and continue to represent you whenever needed for pension protection."

Nancy Settle, President
REAVC

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(Continued from Page 1 - "President's Message")
but it appears policy holders will have some options. An update of the status of the class action lawsuit can be found at the link provided below along with frequently asked questions:

<http://www.calpersclassactionlawsuit.com/litigation-update.html>

California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) Fall Conference - The "umbrella" organization of our 20 California retired county employee associations is planning its fall conference to be held in November 2021 in Long Beach. This is an opportunity for all 20 counties that have pension systems created under the 1937 County Employees Retirement Law (CERL) to share information that may affect our pensions, including pending legislation and other topics that include cyber security and senior wellness. Will Hoag, REAVC Secretary and REAVC's CRCEA Representative, will likely be in attendance. We'll share any important information we learn at the conference.

Things Opening Up Again - We look forward to getting back into the swing of things as the COVID-19 situation improves. REAVC will be able to reach out to County employees reaching retirement age through County retirement workshops, have informative guest speakers at our luncheons, and continue to represent you whenever needed for pension protection.

Thank you for your membership!

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.

**"If we magnified blessings as much as we magnify disappointments,
we would all be much happier."**

- John Wooden

Board of Retirement Report

By Art Goulet



After VCERA's investment portfolio gave back 0.3% in the month of January, the portfolio resumed its

upward trend. At the end of February, its value was \$6.93 billion, and at the end of March was \$7.08 billion, and was \$7.31 billion at the end of April. The investment portfolio's preliminary fiscal year-to-date (as of April 30) performance was 25.9%.

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. In my last article, I noted that no bill containing such provisions had been introduced as of February 19, the deadline for introducing new legislation. Although the Board was informed at the February 23 meeting by a SEIU representative that an existing spot bill would be appropriately amended. This has not occurred yet, and the deadline for bills to clear the policy committee in the house of origin was April 30. Accordingly, it would be necessary to amend a bill in the second house of the Legislature, pass the amended bill in that house, and return it to the other house for final passage. Rumor has it that SEIU is seeking a much broader amendment of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), to allow certain items of compensation that were excluded under PEPRA to be pensionable.

The pending Declaratory Relief Action (Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association v.

County of Ventura et al), which seeks the court's confirmation of the non-pensionability of the portion of employee flex credit that may not be received by employees as cash, or toward payment of an opt-out fee is scheduled for hearing on June 14. The County has demurred (opposed) on this action alleging there is no controversy because the Board did not adopt the resolution declaring this portion was not a cash payment but, rather an in-kind benefit. VCERA's response to the demurrer is due by June 1.

On March 8, the Board of Retirement (Board) approved a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) prepared by the ad hoc Compensation Review Committee seeking proposals from qualified consultants to conduct a market-based compensation analysis 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. The submittal deadline for Proposals was April 23. The Committee has reviewed the proposals received and has recommended approval of a contract with the selected consultant on May 24.

On the investment front, the Board approved a new investment of \$30 million in Carval Investors Credit Value Fund V on March 29, and an additional investment of \$15 million in Abbott Secondaries Opportunities Fund II on April 19. The board had previously approved an investment of \$25 million in this fund in January.

Additionally, on April 19 the Board revised VCERA's asset allocation, reducing the allocation to U.S. Treasury Fixed income and Absolute Return and correspondingly increasing the allocations to U.S. Large Equity, Private Equity, and Private Debt.

In Memoriam

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

Lavena M. Hatfield

Cecilio Preciado

Joanna Ho

Jo A. Seeley

Patricia Judkins

Vera Sorrels

Patricia L. Placial

Janice Standing-Roberts



OUR APOLOGY

REAVC wishes to apologize for misspelling the name of REAVC member, **Eddie Gonzales**, in the Memoriam column on page 7 of the March/April REAVC newsletter. We regret this error and send our sympathies to the Gonzales family.

Luncheon Update

By Anne Dana



It's time to celebrate. The REAVC luncheons are returning.

Our last luncheon was held in March 2020, over a year ago. Because of COVID restrictions, we have had to cancel every luncheon since then. In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we had optimistically made reservations at the Sterling Hills Country Club for a luncheon in September. Our optimism paid off. COVID restrictions have lifted enough to allow us to move forward with our plans.

The next REAVC Luncheon will be held on September 7, 2021, at the Sterling Hills Country Club, 901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo. We are working on guidelines to ensure the safety of all who attend the luncheon.

More information regarding the guidelines,

reservations, and the potential program will be provided in our next newsletter.

Hope to see you all in September! In the meantime, I give everyone permission to dance in the streets and sing songs of joy to celebrate the lighter COVID restrictions and the return of REAVC luncheons.

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

Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the this year's REAVC scholarship award. Nine deserving students will be awarded \$1,000 each. These scholarships recognize and support qualified students in their pursuit of higher education or training at an accredited institution. To qualify, all scholarship candidates must either be a member or associate member of REAVC; or a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member or associate member of REAVC; and meet the scholarship requirements. Biographies of these recipients will appear in a future REAVC newsletter.

A list of this year's recipients include:

- **Brandon Gill**, sponsored by REAVC member Hans Neprud, Probation Agency
- **Marley Gordon**, sponsored by REAVC member Ken Gordon, Public Works Agency
- **William Ledesma**, sponsored by Diane Ledesma, Public Health Agency
- **Christopher Leon**, sponsored by Mary Palmisano, Behavioral Health
- **Kimble Malia**, sponsored by Wayne Larroque, Sheriff's Office
- **Aidan Purcell**, sponsored by Fred Baugher, Fire Protection Agency
- **Zachary Shelton**, sponsored by Bonnie Shelton, Human Services Agency
- **Mason Troyonek**, sponsored by Marcy Hoyt, Chief Executive Office
- **Katie White**, sponsored by Floyd Dee Bryce, Sheriff's Office

For further information on REAVC scholarships, go to <https://reavc.org/scholarship-program>.

2021 REAVC OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF

Officers	Board Members	Staff
President - Nancy Settle	Butch Britt	Executive Asst. - 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	
	Assoc. Member Rep. - Maryellen Benedetto	

Revised 2021-01

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

1 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

* REAVC - 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 2021-05

Congratulations New County Retirees!

Clara Louise Adaikkalam, Ventura Co. Library*
Mary Giles Andrade, Health Care Agency
Paul E. Bell, Fire Protection Agency
Linda Kay Bellamy, Agricultural Commissioner
Michael F. Budzinski, General Services Agency
Julie Anne Christie, Superior Court
Antonio Gander Galimba, Sheriff's Office
Phillippe Jon Galitz, Sheriff's Office
Robin Grenville, Public Works Agency
Patricia Ann Gutierrez, Probation Agency
Theresa Lubin, General Services Agency
Denise Michelle Malan, Superior Court
Carmen D. Marquez, District Attorney
Joe F. Moore, Probation Agency
Joan Muran, Health Care Agency
Peggy S. Murillo, Health Care Agency
Guadalupe Reyes, Human Services Agency
Dionicio Casarez Rodriguez, Public Works Agency
Marilyn Therese Villegas, Sheriff's Office
Linda Delores Vivian, District Attorney
Marc Karl Weber, Probation Agency
John Carvajal Zaragoza, Board of Supervisors

Juana Alejos Alvarez, Resource Mgmt Agency**
Stephen A. Bennett, Board of Supervisors
Irma Berneathy, Superior Court
Barbara Jean Bonsignori, Health Care Agency
Steven William Buckley - Sheriff's Office
Zenaida C. Cortez, Health Care Agency
Robert Anthony Garcia, Sheriff's Office
Edward M. Gavirati, Fire Protection Agency
Maria Lorna S. Gemino, Health Care Agency

Joseph A. Gutierrez, Superior Court
Mallory J. Ham, Air Pollution Control District
Jan Hiester, Health Care Agency
Radford Jackson, General Services Agency
Lorna Markey, Health Care Agency
Edward Robert Martinez, General Services Agency
Michael Britt Mc Daniels, Fire Protection Agency
John M. Mc Kinley, Probation Agency
Patricia A. O'Donnell, District Attorney
Peter Holmes Owen, Health Care Agency
Theresa Christina Pacheco White, RMA
Pamela Helen Potter, District Attorney
Richard J. Reese, Fire Protection Agency,
Ingus Arnis Richters, Agricultural Commissioner
Ophelia Jennie Rojo, County Executive Office
Wayne Rutzen, Assessor
Arthur Simeri, Information Technology Services
Gregory Donald Totten, District Attorney
Catherine E. Wassil, Human Services Agency
Elenida G. Williams, VCERA

**From the February 22, 2021, VCERA Board of Retirement Business Meeting Agenda; **From the March 29, 2021, VCERA Board of Retirement Business Meeting Agenda*

**"Retirement, a time to do what
you want to do, when you want
to do it, where you want to do it,
and how you want to do it."**

- Catherine Pulsifer

REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 24, 2021



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS



TASTE OF OLLI SUMMER SESSION

June 14 - July 26



go.csuci.edu/OLLI



(805) 437-2748 option #2

Summer Taste of OLLI SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Monday 1 – 3 PM	Tuesday 1 – 3 PM	Wednesday 1 – 3 PM	Thursday 1 – 3 PM
6/14	6/15	6/16	6/17
From 1960s Women's Liberation Movement to Jewish Feminism Cliff Wilcox	Sugar: Calories, Addiction and Obesity Nitika Parmar	Determining Art's Value - Glittering Images or Monetary Assets Christine Maasdam	Armchair Traveler Visits Saint Petersburg Asya Pereltsvaig
6/21	6/22	6/23	6/24
Water, International Crisis, and Peace Mansour Jafarian	Great Power Struggle: US and China Today Herb Gooch	A Taste of Human Geography: Population & Migration Pattie Ridenour	Control of Gene Expression in Cancer Treatment Ahmed Awad
6/28	6/29	6/30	7/1
Mass Imprisonment in the U.S. - WW2 versus Today's Immigrants Sam Mihara	Black Composers: Our Time to Listen Daniel Newman-Lessler	Masters of Midcentury Modernism Eleanor Schrader	Post WW2 Myths & Realities: The Atom Bomb Shelley Fryer
7/5	7/6	7/7	7/8
World Fairs and Imagination of the Future David Parsons	The Legacy of French Opera Steve Kohn	With Whom We Share the Planet - An Exploration of Biodiversity Steve Norris	Islam: Sacred Space, Sacred Time Bill Garlington
7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15
The Glass Half Full: Positive Psychology and Aging Barbara Thayer	The Wonders of Mexico City /Las maravillas de la Ciudad de México Stephen Clark	Medicinal Herbs of California Lanny Kaufer	How the Gov't Makes Decisions About the Environment Tracylee Clarke
7/19	7/20	7/21	7/22
Modern Art Invasion: The 1913 Armory Show That Scandalized America Katherine Zoraster	Silver Surfers: Benefits and Challenges of Internet Use for Seniors Ron Berkowsky	Neil Diamond: An 80th Birthday Celebration Cary Ginell	The Jungland theme park in Thousand Oaks Richard Senate
7/26			
Notes & Neurons: The Ancient Power of Sound in Our Lives Today Jeanne Martin			

PapaB1's Ramblings

By Butch Britt

***"So, we'll go no more a roving
So late into the night,
Though the heart be still as loving,
And the moon be still as bright."***

Ok, it is the first stanza of a poem by Lord Byron. And poems don't always have to make sense. Neither does PapaB1's column. But the words above struck a chord. It reminds me that as age catches up, "the spirit may be willing, but the body is weak" (Mathew 26-41). Once when I was several years younger, a colleague told me that he could tell when I arrived because I ran up the stairs two at a time. Now, I consider it a milestone when I can get up one flight of stairs without a blast of oxygen and still remember what I went up the stairs to do.

By now, hopefully, most of us have been double vaccinated. The rush is over, and you can even walk in for a vaccination without an appointment. If you haven't had your vaccination yet, it's not for lack of availability.

We are starting to feel like there might be life after sweatpants, although many of us might have to let out a stitch or two (or four), to get back into regular clothes. Chocolate is no longer rationed, and toilet paper abounds (Even the GOOD stuff that doesn't disintegrate on contact.) Oh, happy days (or happy bottoms)! I even went to a restaurant recently, got to sit down at a real table with a chair, and eat something other than fast food. Well, I couldn't use their restroom, but it felt good to eat someplace other than in front of a TV table for a change.

I never did figure out what it meant to go "a roving." I did a fair amount of bar hopping or pub crawling in my day, but generally regretted it the next day, when my body caught up with me. My capacity of alcohol was not in the world class level. Usually, one drink would slow me down, and two would put

me under the table, but if I could stretch out a pub crawl over a few hours, I might manage to consume to four or five libations before I managed to succumb to oblivion. Of course, I would have to give most of it back the next morning, while I tried to remember who scrubbed my tongue with steel wool.

So, I can't go "a roving" any longer – as if I ever could. But I can hug my grandkids, and now I get to go watch their sports games and be pleased as punch to watch them pick flowers in the outfield. I actually got to see one of my grandsons hit the ball last week. It was a home run! Well, the ball didn't

get much past the pitcher's mound, and there might have been a few throwing errors along the way, but he ran around all four bases and even remembered to touch the bases – in the right order. Another grandson, managed to play four quarters of basketball, outside in the sun, with a face mask on, and manage to get at least one rebound. So, he's not the next Michael Jordan. He was huffing and puffing and trying his best the whole time. And I was as proud as if he had scored 100 points, and eternally grateful that I made it through this latest crisis and got to see it.



So, the heart is still as loving, and the moon still as bright. Perhaps we are coming out of this pandemonium, or perhaps there is another crisis around the corner and the cry that "the sky is falling" rings out again. Either way, I'm happy to say that we can adapt, persevere. and survive. It really can't get much better than this. And if there is another crisis, we'll meet it like we did this one with thoughtfulness, with fortitude, and a lot of stubbornness. We refuse to give up.

Hopefully, we can meet at a REAVC luncheon soon. It may not be the same, but we can see each other and share our recollections of the Great COVID crisis of 2020. Look for me, I'll one the old, fat, bald guy with the white beard at the See's Candy table. Stop by to say, "WE MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER ONE!"

Retired Employees Association of Ventura County (REAVC)
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Ventura, CA 93006-7231

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