

REAVC NEWS



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

July/August 2021

President's Message

By Nancy Settle, REAVC President



Greetings, REAVC members.

The September REAVC Luncheon has been Canceled
Due to the predicted spike in the COVID-19 Delta variant, a majority of the REAVC Board voted to cancel the September luncheon.

Your REAVC Board has spent hours deliberating on whether or not to hold the luncheon, the need to wear a mask, the need to be vaccinated, and the need to show proof of vaccination. The Board finally determined that due to the forecasted increase in COVID-9 Delta variant infections, and the vulnerability of our REAVC membership, the luncheon should be canceled.

We are disappointed, and I know that the Board, and many of you, were looking forward to getting together. We are also concerned about the health and safety of you and your family.

Good News

However, there is good news. The Board voted to offset all costs of the December holiday luncheon for members and spouses and to include generous raffle prizes. We hope by then everyone will be vaccinated and the Delta variant will be vanquished!

In Remembrance and a Special Thanks

I take a moment here to remember our REAVC members who have passed since our last luncheon over one year ago. Some of you may have friends or family that succumbed to COVID-19. One of our past *(Continued on Page 2)*

"Due to the predicted spike in the COVID-19 Delta variant, a majority of the REAVC Board voted to cancel the September REAVC luncheon."

Nancy Settle, President
REAVC

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Board members, Susan Lacey, recently passed away as did Faye Willard, a past Clerk of the Board.

We also give special thanks to those who volunteered their time to help during the pandemic. You may be among those who volunteered to administer the vaccine or help in some other way. We thank those of you who selflessly thought of others.



2021 REAVC Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship program continues and REAVC has selected scholarship recipients for 2021. Their names appeared in the last newsletter and we



have some information on each of them in this newsletter.

We appreciate your membership and the opportunity to provide the full benefits of REAVC membership in the near future.

May you have a healthy and enjoyable summer!

See's CANDIES Update

By Butch Britt



As mentioned in our last issue, we have sold out all the old See's CANDIES 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; or
3. 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.

"By the time you're eighty years old, you've learned everything. You only have to remember it."

- George Burns

PapaB1's Ramblings

By Butch Britt

Memories and Thoughts of July 4 – Past, Present, and Future. Maybe not Exactly the way it Happened, but the way it Should Have Been.

As I sit here on my ergonomic chair that hurts my back, staring at a machine that only existed in Sci-Fi novels when I first started working as an engineer maybe 20 or 60 years ago, I think of how life has changed in the intervening decades.

Like most engineers freshly minted out of the latest technical whizzbang college of knowledge, I was planning to start designing the latest in bridges or towers to the sky, preparing to make



mega-buckets of money and bask in the adulation of all the citizens and fellow engineers, duly impressed by my brand new diploma, although the ink was still wet.

Of course, it was 1968, so I followed in the steps of my father, grandfather, and great grandfather

and went down to see the Navy recruiter. It turned out I was color blind, and that kept me out of most dangerous things like submarine service and aviation. But somehow, I qualified to be in the Navy and what they called the Seabees.

On our second tour to Vietnam, I was assigned to be the leader of a ragtag band called a Seabee Team. Actually, I think the Seabees led me, and I was allowed to say "OK" or "HMMM" a few times. A Seabee Team was a group of 12 men and one

incredibly young and green officer.

The Seabees were experienced and very capable construction tradesmen (and one medical corps-



Seabee Team 12104 Rach Joi, RNV 1969
(Butch - Top Row, Far Right)

man), and we were assigned to work in small villages and hamlets to build schools, roads, bridges, and civic buildings.

And we did it. Along the way, we mostly had a pretty good time doing it. Our hospital corpsman was the best of us. He would work on the job site all day, hammering nails and pouring concrete, and return to camp to handle sick call. Nearly all the local villagers in the small town where our camp was located came to see "Doc" nearly every night for anything from hangnails to birthing babies.

Although there could have been some danger involved, we saw very little. We didn't build any award-winning projects, but at the end of our tour, I was, and still am, very proud of the schools built, the roads regraded, the bridges repaired, the farm cooperative warehouse built, and several smaller projects. We even rebuilt a damaged pagoda. They weren't the engineering miracles that I had thought I would build when I graduated, but they were every bit as important.

So, what brings on this wave of nostalgia (or nausea)? Well, on the Fourth of July we went to one of my sons to cook hamburgers and hot dogs, play some games, and *(Continued on Page 4)*

(Continued from Page 3 - "PapaB1's Ramblings")

drink a few brews, maybe two or more. Then we went over to watch the fireworks pop near the local mall.

It reminded me of that Fourth of July in 1969. We decided to take a half-day off from work and celebrate the Fourth with a barbeque and party. We built a large grill, scrounged a lot of hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and other goodies. We invited many of the local villagers to come over and join us. One of our guys, who was from Texas, built this thing out of a 55-gallon barrel suspended by cables and hung it between four telephone poles. It was supposed to be a

"And it reminds me that despite our differences, our foibles and bickering, we are still part of one of the best countries in civilized history. Technology is improving our lives every day, although I do wish I could get a chair that didn't hurt my back so much."

- Butch Britt

mechanical bull, and it certainly tried your rodeo skills. I tried it once, and decided my color blindness and lack of coordination should be enough to excuse me from further humiliation. Doc reluctantly signed my exemption slip; but, the young boys from the village loved it and couldn't wait to try it, get thrown, and line-up again. We played volleyball until we lost our last ball in the rice paddy. We even had homemade ice cream. As it got darker, we set up a canvas in the vehicle shed and watched an old cowboy movie.

Sometime during the day, the mayor or village elder came over to see me, dressed in an old, formal suit and a top hat. A REAL TOP HAT and TAILS. He thanked me for inviting his village to

our party and for the work we were doing. It was better than a medal or award. He even hugged me, which I admit made me a little uncomfortable.

We had not been able to scrounge any fireworks, but someone found some local fireworks, spinning exploding wheels, and other noise makers. They were a great end to the evening. Although the yard was a mess from all the party debris, I figured we could clean it up the next day.

Our Chief Petty Officer had suggested that he and I agree to abstain from drinking and stand the watches that night. Actually, he told me in no uncertain terms that I was volunteering, and I was too cowed to object. He took the first watch, and I got the second. When I came down from the tower the next morning, the yard was spic and span. I don't know when or how it happened, and contrary to popular opinion, I didn't sleep or daydream on watch, but it was spotless!

So we went to my sons for burgers, hot dogs, ice cream, and brews. We didn't ride a mechanical bull, but we played some games, swam in the pool, and later got to watch some fireworks. A little man in a formal suit and top hat didn't show up, but if he had, I would have given him a hug and thanked him for one of the best memories I ever had.

And it reminds me that despite our differences, our foibles and bickering, we are still part of one of the best countries in civilized history.

Technology is improving our lives every day, although I do wish I could get a chair that didn't hurt my back so much.

Give a cheer for the red, white, and blue. Long may she wave!

Luncheon Update

By Anne Dana



Our last REAVC luncheon was held in March 2020 at Sterling Hills Country Club in Camarillo. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we have had to cancel every luncheon scheduled since then.

This has been very disappointing for the REAVC Board and members! We all looked forward to these luncheons. They brought Ventura County retirees together for an afternoon of friendship, served as general meetings, and provided important information, entertainment, and fun for members and guests. We have missed the camaraderie and, of course, the delicious food as well.

It has been over a year, and **way too long**, since we have been able to get together and enjoy one of these luncheons. So, we were very excited to learn a few weeks ago that new Center for Disease Control and State of California guidelines had relaxed enough for us to consider having a luncheon in September 2021. We reserved Sterling Hills Country Club and started planning the luncheon.

However, in an abundance of caution, and after much deliberation and discussion by the Board, due to the most recent concerns regarding the Delta variant, we have decided not to have a luncheon in September.

That's the bad news. **The good news is that we are focusing on a very special holiday celebration and luncheon in December.**

In addition, to acknowledge *(Continued on Page 6)*

An advertisement for MySeniorHealthPlan.com. The background is a light blue gradient. On the right, a hand is holding a red cube with a white plus sign. Below the hand, there is a stack of brown cubes, each with a white icon representing different health services: a heart, a plus sign, a stethoscope, a tooth, a wheelchair, a pill, a heart with a pulse line, a plus sign, and a pill. The text on the left reads: "ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT PLAN? WE CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT." followed by "Ventura County retirees are discovering their new 2021 Medicare insurance options. Use our FREE service, speak with a licensed Medicare specialist to compare your group plan to available individual plans. Call 866.210.1544 or visit MySeniorHealthPlan.com". The MySeniorHealthPlan.com logo is in the top right corner.

ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT PLAN? WE CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT.

Ventura County retirees are discovering their new 2021 Medicare insurance options.

Use our **FREE** service, speak with a licensed Medicare specialist to compare your group plan to available individual plans.

Call 866.210.1544 or visit MySeniorHealthPlan.com

MySeniorHealthPlan.com

DISCLAIMER: REAVC has no financial or other interest over My Senior Health Plan. The information above is provided to REAVC members solely for information, and REAVC does not guarantee or represent that My Senior Health Plan is a preferred or otherwise endorsed Medicare supplemental health plan broker.

(Continued from Page 5 - "Luncheon Update")

your patience, and of course disappointment over the canceled luncheons in 2020 and 2021, the Board has decided that there will be no cost for members and their spouses to attend the Holiday luncheon. The celebration will include many wonderful prizes, a delicious menu, and joyful festivities.

So, mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate in December. Find your most festive holiday sweater or shirt, practice your singing, and be sure to get vaccinated, if you can! We are looking forward to an enjoyable and safe celebration!

Hope you are all healthy and happy!!



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	

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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

Phone - (805) 644-7814 • Email - info@reavc.org • Website - <https://reavc.org>

In Memoriam

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

Jerry Genet
Pauline Bancroft Hinds
Marian Houle
Louis Lhotka
George E. Mathews
Margaret McFarland
Braden McKinley

Katherine Miller
Jerry Pearson
Edward Rodriguez
James Spykerman
Charles Unterberger
James J. Wells
Helen White

Are you the Spouse, Widow, Widower, or Domestic Partner of a Regular REAVC Member who is Receiving a VCERA Pension as a Beneficiary?

If so, you are eligible to become an Associate Member of REAVC.
Benefits include:

- Scholarships, which are offered to REAVC members, their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
- Supplemental insurance plans through Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.
- Luncheons, and much more.

REAVC

Retired Employees Association of Ventura County

Phone: 805-644-7814

E-mail: info@reavc.org

Website: <https://reavc.org>

For further information, visit the REAVC website at <https://reavc.org>

Board of Retirement Report

By Art Goulet



In May, Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association (VCERA)'s investment portfolio continued its move upwards, ending the

month at a value of approximately \$7.40 billion. The portfolio's preliminary performance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, was 30.1%. While reporting on VCERA's June performance is not yet available, our general investment consultant has projected a total investment portfolio return of 29% for VCERA's fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Update on the County Flexible Benefit Allowance

Legislation to provide that the entire County Flexible Benefit Allowance (FBA) be included in compensation earnable for legacy members has finally seen the light of day. A bill on an unrelated subject that had advanced to the second house, AB 826, was "gutted" and amended in the Senate on June 21 to include such a provision. Initially, the author of the amendment was former Ventura County Supervisor Bennett. On June 22, it was amended again to change the author to Assembly member Jacqui Irwin. The bill's committee hearing in the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee took place on July 12. Although the committee analysis of the bill was less than positive, it passed out of the committee on a 4-1 vote with a minor amendment and is now on the Senate floor.

Update on Employee Flex Credit Litigation

The County's Demurrer to the Declaratory Relief Action (Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association v. County of Ventura et al), which

sought a Superior 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, was sustained without leave to amend on June 14.

The fact that the County demurred (opposed) was interesting to me considering that the action was intended to be "friendly" litigation to obtain the court's determination as to whose interpretation of the Supreme Court's "Alameda Decision" was correct. There is a very clear difference of opinion between VCERA's outside and General Counsel's opinions and that of County Counsel (and the unions). The County's Demurrer alleged there was no justiciable controversy to be decided by the Court because the Board had not yet adopted a resolution implementing its counsels' opinions, and which the County urged not be adopted. Unfortunately, the issue of whose opinion is correct remains unresolved, and the exercise was a waste of the County's and VCERA's resources. Due to the Court's decision, VCERA is continuing to include all of the flex credit in compensation earnable because the Board has declined to fully implement the Alameda Decision as recommended by its counsel and the Retirement Administrator. The Declaratory Relief Action no longer includes the flex credit issue insofar as inclusion in compensation earnable is concerned, so this issue is not before the Court. VCERA's attorneys continue to advise that non-cashable flex credit may not be included in compensation earnable. As long as VCERA continues to pay retirement benefits on final average compensation that includes non-cashable flex credit, retirees will be vulnerable to a possible claw-back of benefits if a lawsuit is brought in the future (e.g., by a taxpayers' organization, an individual, or the State), unless the pending legislation mentioned above becomes law. The Senate Committee analysis (*Continued on Page 9*)

(Continued from Page 8 - "Board of Retirement Report")

mentioned above suggests the bill itself could result in litigation if it passes.

Actually, the issue could easily be resolved if the County were to eliminate the opt-out fee. The Board of Retirement (Board) has made it clear that, if there were no opt-out fee (which a group of Deputy Sheriffs is seeking to eliminate through a federal court lawsuit), the entire employee flex credit would be pensionable because all of it could be received in cash.

There is some question as to the purpose of the opt-out fee. Does it truly result in lower premiums for those employees who select a County-sponsored health insurance plan, or is it used for some other County purpose, such as financially supporting the County hospital system, as is rumored?

The second cause of action about how the PEPRA prohibition against pension "straddling" is to be applied is still before the court and is scheduled to be heard on August 23. VCERA's notification of post January 1, 2013, retirees who are affected by the straddling prohibition is being held up pending the outcome of the court hearing.

On May 24, the Board awarded a \$14,800 contract 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 Ralph Anderson and Associates (RA & A), who estimated the project would be completed in about 8 weeks.



- WILL ROGERS -

"Don't squat with your
spurs on."

At its June 7 meeting, the Board adopted the budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year, and reviewed and approved a three-year Actuarial Experience Study prepared by VCERA'S Actuary, including assumptions to be used in preparing this year's Actuarial Valuation, including a reduction in the investment rate of return from 7.25% to 7.00%.

On the investment front, on June 21 the Board approved new investments of \$25 million each in Harbourvest Direct Lending Fund and Cross Ocean European Special Situation Fund IV. The Board has previously invested in other Harbourvest funds. On the same date, the Board approved redemption of VCERA's investment of about \$101 million in Hexavest's non-U.S. equity commingled fund, using the proceeds to increase VCERA's allocation to Walter Scott's non-U.S. equity portfolio. This action will approximately restore the growth/value balance of VCERA's overall actively managed non-U.S. equity allocation.

The Latest CalPERS Long-Term Care News

By Art Goulet

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), the nation's largest public pension fund has agreed to pay up to \$2.7 billion to refund policyholders hit with huge hikes in their premiums, it was announced recently.

"If approved, the settlement would avoid a jury trial in the case scheduled for March. Under the deal, most policyholders would receive between \$35,000 and \$50,000 but would have to give up their long-term care insurance plans to receive full payment refunds, the Bee reported."

- Art Goulet

CalPERS has agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit over the fee hikes that were imposed on nearly 80,000 people who paid for policies to cover the long-term costs of nursing care and included "inflation-protection" coverage, according to a joint news release from CalPERS and the plaintiffs.

A judge must approve the deal, which could happen sometime next year, according to the release.

Several policyholders sued in 2013 after CalPERS notified them that their premiums would

jump by 85 percent over two years beginning in 2015. CalPERS said it needed to raise the premiums to keep the expensive, long-term care policies solvent. The fund has suspended new enrollment and plans to implement two more rate increases as early as this November and next year that could nearly double the premium cost, The Sacramento Bee reported.

CalPERS, which has some \$470 billion in assets, provides pension and other retirement benefits to more than 2 million employees of state and local agencies and public schools, retirees and their families.

However, the money for the settlement won't come from those assets, which cover pensions, but rather from a separate long-term care fund of nearly \$5.5 billion, according to the news release.

If approved, the settlement would avoid a jury trial in the case scheduled for March. Under the deal, most policyholders would receive between \$35,000 and \$50,000 but would have to give up their long-term care insurance plans to receive full payment refunds, the Bee reported.

***"We make a living
by what we get.
We make a life by
what we give. "***

- Winston Churchill

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

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

25 Last day to register for September Luncheon **CANCELED**

September 2021

7 General Membership Luncheon **CANCELED**

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

Congratulations New County Retirees!

Juana Alejos Alvarez, Resource Management Agency
Stephen A. Bennett, Board of Supervisors
Irma Berneathy, Superior Court
Barbara Jean Bonsignori, Health Care Agency
Steven William Buckley, Sheriff's Office
Cynthia S. Cattle, Board of Supervisors
Zenaida C. Cortez, Health Care Agency
Michael John Ferguson, Sheriff's Office
Robert Anthony Garcia, Sheriff's Office
Edward M. Gavirati, Fire Protection District
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
Rafael J. Martinez, District Attorney
Michael Britt Mc Daniels, Fire Protection District
John M. Mc Kinley, Probation Agency
Jack W. Nosco, Fire Protection District
Patricia A. O'Donnell, District Attorney
Peter Holmes Owen, Health Care Agency
Theresa Christina Pacheco White, RMA
Pamala Helen Potter, District Attorney
Richard J. Reese, Fire Protection District
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, VC Employees Retirement Assoc.
Gary Zoppo, Air Pollution Control District
From the March 29, 2021, VCERA, Board of Retirement, Business Meeting Agenda.

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Dora Marie Arias, Humans Services Agency
Bertha A. Ayala, Human Services Agency
Michael Loy Beckett, Sheriff's Office
Teresita G. Browne, Health Care Agency

Jeffrey David Chiarella, General Services Agency
Donald C. Douglass, Probation Agency
Silvia B. Edber, Superior Court
Ralph Gonzalez Elvira, District Attorney
Antonio Espinoza, IT Services
Nancy R. Ferreria, Probation Agency
Kevin Flores, Health Care Agency
Donna Lee Foster, Human Services Agency
Julian Gutierrez Esquivel, Human Services Agency
Moira Aileen Hewson, Public Works Agency
Gary Richard Holt, Fire Protection District
Joan F. Kiddie, Superior Court
Ellen Marie Kragh, Agricultural Commissioner
Russell G. Macaluso, Probation Agency
Polina M. Manzano, Human Services Agency
Jesus S. Martinez, Health Care Agency
Michael Lee Morrow, Health Care Agency
Sharon Denise Moses, Human Services Agency
Cynthia Navarrette, Health Care Agency
Traci M. Newburn, Human Services Agency
Maria C. Pinedo, Human Services Agency
Richard Amado Raigoza, Superior Court
Rachel Sales, Superior Court
Donna Jean Schmidt, General Services Agency
Marco Umblas Segui, Public Works Agency
(Continued on Page 13)

**"Working people have a
lot of bad habits, but the
worst of these is work."**

- Clarence Darrow

Congratulations New County Retirees!

(Continued)

(Continued from Page 12 - "Congratulations New County Retirees!")

Elizabeth Esther Smitherman, Health Care Agency
David E. Stuart, Information Technology Services
Dolores M. Suarez, Human Services Agency
Carl Manuel Valdez, Public Works Agency
*From the April 19, 2020, and May 24, 2021,
VCERA, Board of Retirement, Business Meeting
Agendas*

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Charles Alan Ballard, Air Pollution Control District
Davi Lynn Barroso, Human Services Agency
Danka Borak, Health Care Agency
Verne Cherise Bueschen, Health Care Agency

Raymond Gallaher, Regional Sanitation District
Angie Goode, Health Care Agency
Keith M. Huss, Resource Management Agency
Marisela Lopez Leach, Health Care Agency
Kathleen Spencer Leclair, Human Services Agency
Christy Ann Norton, Human Services Agency
Simon Charles Pode, County Executive Office
Julie Marie Stallings, Employees Retirement Assoc.
Rebecca L. Swift, Health Care Agency
Ina Weber, Superior Court
Randolph Earl Wright, Sheriff's Office
Carmen A. Yanez, Health Care Agency
*From the June 21, 2021, VCERA, Board of
Retirement, Business Meeting Agenda.*

Best Wishes to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!



This year, nine worthy recipients were each awarded a REAVC scholarship of \$1,000.

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 (for further information, go to <https://reavc.org/scholarship-program>).

The following are brief, biographical statements, in alphabetical order, for the nine scholarship recipients.

Branden Gill (Sponsored by REAVC member Hans Neprud, Probation Agency)

Branden graduated from Buena High School with a 4.65 GPA in June 2021. During high school, he had many interests including water polo, swimming, chess, mock trials, and environment club. Branden has applied to a number of colleges in the Pacific Northwest in pursuit of environmental science and studio art fields of study.

Marley Gordon (Sponsored by REAVC member Ken Gordon, PWA)

Marley graduated from Royal High School in June 2021 with a 3.8 GPA. She will be attending Moorpark Community College and then transfer to UCSB where she will major in psychology. After graduating from college, she would like to become a high school history teacher.

William Ledesma (Sponsored by REAVC member Diane Ledesma, Public Health Agency)

William graduated from St. Bonaventura High School in June 2021 with a GPA of 4.38. He has applied to seven colleges, and so far has been accepted at Vanderbilt, UCLA, UCSB, and UCSD. William is considering 3 majors: history,

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued from Page 13 - "Best Wishes to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!")

William Ledesma (Continued)

public policy, and business. William has also received numerous academic awards and honors including AP Scholar Award, Boy's State Delegate, Member National Honors Society, Ventura College Science Fair 2nd place for physics, and was valedictorian for his graduating class.

Christopher Leon (Sponsored by Mary Palmisano, Behavioral Health)

In June 2021, Christopher graduated from St. Augustine Academy with a 2.59 GPA having made the honor roll. During that time he participated in the National Latin Exam, mock trials, and played football and basketball. Christopher also volunteered to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Best Day. As a member of the Boy Scouts of America, he obtained the rank of Life Scout and received the Order of the Arrow. Christopher has applied to three colleges including Ventura, Franciscan, and Wyoming Catholic. Christopher plans to major in criminal justice.

Malia Kimble (Sponsored by Wayne Larroque, Sheriff's Office)

Malia graduated from Rio Mesa High School in June 2016 with a GPA of 3.7. After high school, she attended Ventura Community College and then transferred to California State University Channel Islands. She will soon graduate with a degree in liberal studies with an emphasis in psychology. Following graduation she will pursue her goal of teaching special needs children by obtaining a teaching credential.

Aidan Purcell (Sponsored by Fred Baugher, Fire Protection Agency)

Aidan Purcell graduated from Newbury Park High School in June 2021 with a 4.80 GPA, including classes in the International Baccalaureate Program. He will attend the University of California at Berkley to pursue his interests in art, evolution, and paleontology (dinosaurs). During high school Aidan was a member of the California Scholarship Federation for four years, played tennis, and was a member of the Dungeons and Dragons Club. His

community activities included volunteering at the Moorpark College Zoo doing exotic animal training and the Conejo Recreation and Park District as a camp counselor.

Zachary Shelton (Sponsored by Bonnie Shelton, Human Services Agency)

Zachary graduated from Mission Vista High School with a 3.28 GPA. He will be attending San Jose State University and major in sociology. During high school, Zachary played basketball and won the Most Improved and Most Valuable awards. He volunteered on high school pancake breakfasts.

Mason Troyonek (Sponsored by March Hoyt, Chief Executive Office)

Mason graduated from Holmen High School in Wisconsin with a 4.0 GPA in May 2021. He has applied to three universities in Wisconsin, and will major in mechanical engineering. In high school, his academic and social achievements included AP calculus 1 year, National Honors Society 2 years, and High Honor Roll 3 years, Diverse Culture Alliance 2 years, and DECA (H.S. business organization) 4 years. He participated in cross country, baseball, and basketball. Community involvement included operating scoreboards, bell ringing, tutoring, bagging sand for a flood, Christmas tree set up, Down Syndrome Awareness Walk, senior citizen holiday meal, and more.

Katie White (Sponsored by Floyd Dee Bryce, Sheriff's Office)

Katie graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School in June 2021 with a 3.97 GPA. She will be attending Brigham Young University where she will major in mathematics and education. At high school Katie played basketball for four years and was a team captain. She received numerous awards for her participation including Sportsmanship, Leadership, and the Coach's award. Katie also received many awards for Teachers Choice and Scholar Athlete. Outside of high school she participated in her church youth group and was a member of a group that raised money for global poverty organizations.

Retired Employees Association of Ventura County (REAVC)
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