

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY (REAVC)

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for
June 1, 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 1:07 p.m.

Present

Board Members: Maryellen Benedetto, Butch Britt, Colleen Bruns, Paul Callaway, Ken Cozzens, Anne Dana (arrived at 1:44 p.m.), Art Goulet (left at 2:08 p.m.), Roberta Griego (arrived at 1:30 p.m.), Will Hoag, Reddy Pakala, Jacquie Richardson (arrived at 1:12 p.m.) Cindy Schneider, Kelly Shirk, and Nancy Settle

Staff: Sharon Hurault

Absent

Colleen House and Tom McEachern.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the April 6, 2021, Meeting**

Art asked that the draft minutes be amended. In line four of the Committee Reports - "Retirement Board/Legislation Report" the words "justifiable (inaudible)" should be changed to "justiciable dispute"; in the fifth line, the word "proposed" should be amended to "imposed"; in line seventh line, the word "allocations" should be changed to "allegations," and in the 10th line, the words "our case" should be changed to "VCERA's case." A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) (Schneider/Britt/Vote: Yeas – 8; Nays - 0; Abstained 3; Absent - 2; and Absent at the time of this vote - 3).

Old/New Business

1) Audit Report

Ken reported that the audit was very successful and everything "came out perfect." Special thanks was given to Butch who prepared all of the needed reports. It was moved that the Audit Report be accepted and filed. Moved/Seconded/Carried (MSC) Callaway/Goulet/Vote: Yeas – 11; Nays – 0; Absent - 2; Absent at the time of this vote - 3. Motion passed.

2) Request from the Scholarship Committee to Increase the Budget for the 2021 Scholarship Awards

Colleen B. reported that this year there were nine, very qualified, ambitious, young, deserving applicants for REAVC scholarships. The Scholarship Committee was prepared to divide the allocated \$8,000 for scholarships among the nine applicants, but requested that the budgeted amount for scholarships be raised to \$9,000 this year. It was noted that the Ventura County Credit Union also gave this year \$1,500 towards this year's scholarship fund.

Following discussion, it was moved to increase this year's budget for scholarships to \$9,000 so that this year recipients could receive \$1,000 each, and that the money for this increase be taken from the Luncheon budget. (M/S/C) Cozzens/Pakala/ Vote: Yeas – 11; Nays – 0; Absent - 2; Absent at the time of this vote - 3. Motion passed. Paul remarked that he would like the scholarship budget to increase to \$1,100 for each recipients next year, as it had been at basically \$1,000 for some time.

3) Financial Status Report: Receive and File

Butch noted that this is a standard report with no unusual conditions. It was moved that the Financial Report be received and filed. (M/S/C) Calloway/Richardson/ Vote: Yeas – 13; Nays – 0; Absent - 2; Absent at the time of this vote - 1. Motion passed.

4) Motion to reopen prior Board action regarding requirement of proof of vaccination at REAVC luncheons

A motion was made to reconsider the Board's action taken on February 9, 2021, specifically to restrictions regarding proof of vaccination, to provide the dates of their vaccinations prior to the luncheon reservation, and to provide actual vaccination card at the door. (M/S/C) Britt/Cozzens/Vote: Yeas – 12; Nays – 1; Absent - 2; Absent at the time of this vote - 1. Motion passed.

An in-depth discussion ensued amongst Board members. Highlights of topics, questions, and comments made during the discussion included:

- The primary concern of the Board is for the health and safety of REAVC members.
- COVID-19 is often more severe in people who are older than 60, making REAVC members a more vulnerable population.
- What are the current CDC and State requirements? How would a change in these requirements impact a REAVC luncheon?

- Can private entities (businesses, organizations, etc.) have their own requirements when it comes to vaccinations for COVID-19?
- What would be the emotional impact (i.e., anger) of requiring REAVC members to provide proof of vaccination to attend luncheons?
- Concerns were expressed by Board members about holding a luncheon with a large number of people in a confined space. Can the luncheons be held outside?
- What are the requirements of the venue; can they accommodate
- What are the liability issues for REAVC?
- Is it legal for REAVC to ask for proof of vaccination? Does doing so violate the HIPPA Act?

At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made to amend the Board action of February 9, 2021, regarding luncheon restrictions to the following:

REAVC will abide by all public health requirements in effect at the time of the September REAVC luncheon, or any future event as promulgated by Federal, State, and County health guidelines or other legal restrictions.

(M/S/C) Butch/Richardson/Vote: Yeas - 10; Nays - 4; Absent – 2. Motion passed. Eight Board members were in favor of the motion; four members were against the motion, generally feeling that REAVC is responsible for the health and safety of its members and proof of COVID-19 vaccination should be required to attend the luncheon. Motion passed.

Following the vote, it was the consensus of the Board that the REAVC newsletter contain information on its concern for the health and safety of our members during these times, how it struggled with the question of requiring proof of vaccination at its luncheons, and to encourage those who can, to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

5) Request from “My Senior Health Plan” (a health insurance broker) and CRCEA associate

My Senior Health Plan has contacted Nancy asking if REAVC would be interested in providing information on their company to REAVC members. A motion was made to place a small “ad” in the REAVC newsletter, free of charge and written by My Senior Health Plan, having them explain what they do and what the benefits are. REAVC members may then contact them. A disclaimer statement must be included in the ad, such as the one that we use for Collette Travel: “REAVC has no financial or other interest over _____. The information above is provided to REAVC members solely for information, and REAVC does not guarantee or represent that _____ is a preferred or otherwise endorsed _____.

(M/S/C) (Goulet/Pakala/Vote: Yeas - 14; Nays - 0; Absent – 2). Motion passed. Nancy will follow-up with My Senior Health Plan on the Board decision.

6) Telephone answering service for REAVC

Reddy stated that during the audit process, it was noted that REAVC's telephone answering service bill was about \$1,300 for the entire year (about \$111.81 per calendar year 2020). Because of this, he and Will began investigating other options for telephone answering service providers. Will noted that over the past two months there have been 37 messages. While investigating, Reddy found that Consumer Cellular has much better pricing, and Jacquie offered to pursue grants and better pricing which may be available to REAVC because of its nonprofit status. She will report back at the next Board meeting on the status of her inquiries. Will will send her the specs on REAVC's current answering system.

7) Update from the Subcommittee on REAVC Surplus

Nancy stated that the subcommittee had been formed and members include Reddy, Will, Cindy, Paul, and Butch. Butch explained that a surplus currently exists because REAVC has not been holding its luncheons. Right now, there is about \$56,000 in the money market fund (a short-term fund), about \$36,000 in three CDs (long-term funds), and throughout the year there may be requirements to move money out of the money market fund into checking to pay for things that are in excess of the current cash on hand, such as the \$9,000 in scholarships that the Board just approved and money for luncheons. The Surplus Subcommittee will meet again to discuss options and develop recommendations to deal with the surplus, and then present them at the next Board meeting.

8) Periodic Website Update

Butch requested that Board members review the REAVC website and provide him with input on those issues and items that need to be updated.

9) Membership Report

Sharon provided a graphic that indicated REAVC membership is holding steady at about 2,700 members.

10) Update to Revision to REAVC Application Form

Sharon reported that REAVC's membership application form needs to be updated. Some County retirees are submitting their applications weeks to months prior to their actual retirement date. To deal with these applications, she has developed a pending file to hold such applications which can then be processed at a later date. Maryellen requested that somehow the revised application should encourage new

REAVC members to include the names of their spouses. Doing so would enable REAVC to stay in contact with survivors and offer continued REAVC membership and benefits. Sharon said that she will work on this.

Nancy noted that REAVC is preparing to send a general membership mail-out to retirees who have retired from the County within the last year.

Committee Reports

- Retirement Board/Legislation – Will stated that he had nothing new to report. As of the end of last month, the fund was about \$7.3 billion.
- Associate Members – Maryellen stated that there continues to be a struggle in contacting survivors. Unless a REAVC member provides us with the name of their spouse, we are unable to identify them, nor will VCERA provide us with the name of spouse for a REAVC member who has passed away. Maryellen suggested asking, “Are you a survivor or a member?” on the application. Anne recommended adding “to help us provide survivor benefits” under the line on the application requesting the name of a members spouse.
- Benefits – Kelly stated that the Labor Management Committee meeting was canceled last month. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17.
- Communications – Will stated that REAVC received 37 calls during the past two months, many of which concerned the scholarship deadline and PGA insurance.
- Membership/Courtesy – Nancy stated that for the time being, the County has cancelled their retirement workshops due to COVID-19.
- CRCEA – Will reported that barring any unforeseen circumstances, CRCEA is planning on having a “live” conference in Long Beach in November 2021.
- Newsletter – Sharon stated that the May/June newsletter just went out. She reminded everyone to submit their articles for the July/August newsletter by the end of June.
- Nominations/Elections - Nancy said she has nothing to report.
- Program/Social – Anne asked for clarification from Board members on the September luncheon.
 - ◆ Are we going to hold the luncheon inside or outside and limit it to 50% capacity unless we can get the maximum of 200 people inside? Nancy said that she believes “maximum capacity” for REAVC will be as defined

by the CDC at the time of the luncheon. Reddy stated that at the last Board meeting, outdoors capacity was defined as being able to seat 100 members. If there are more that, the luncheon would be held indoors.

- ◆ If the luncheon is held indoors, and we have 150 people or so, we can request more tables with seating for fewer people, (i.e., instead of a table with seating for 10, we could have a table with eight or six people.)
- ◆ Do we plan to have the scholarship recipients attend the September luncheon? Nancy suggested a special little program for the recipients. Sharon also suggested having a moment of silence for the number of REAVC members that REAVC has lost since the last luncheon. Nancy recommended that Anne get together with Tom to discuss the attendance of the scholarship recipients at the September luncheon as well as to locate a guest speaker. Anne also suggested holding a welcome -back raffle.
- ◆ Ken will look into having the Food Share barrels again.
- Scholarship – See Committee Reports – Program Social.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The next REAVC Board meeting will be held Tuesday, August 3, 2021, time and location yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hurault
REAVC Executive Assistant