



REAVC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2023

"Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served"

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MESSAGE FROM REAVC PRESIDENT – REDDY PAKALA



Hope you all had an enjoyable Holiday Season with your family and friends.

A slate of officers for REAVC Board for 2023 was presented by Nancy Settle, nominations chair and approved by the Board on December 13, 2022, at its regular meeting. Officers for 2023 are: Reddy Pakala, President; Roberta Griego, 1st VP; Ken Cozzens, 2nd VP; Will Hoag, Secretary; and Paul E. Callaway, Treasurer.

The December 6, 2022, luncheon at Sterling Hills in Camarillo was a great success with Board members, members and guests helping us during the event. Special thanks to Dee Emami, Executive Assistant, Butch Britt and Nancy Settle for advanced planning. We missed Anne Dana at the luncheon.

Throughout 2022 the REAVC Board debated and took action on several items to reduce costs and combat more than 8% inflation. Two big ticket items were “NO SHOWS” at REAVC luncheons and encouraging all members to sign up for a digital newsletter. At the last count REAVC had 2800 dues paying members. So far 800 members signed up to receive digital copies of their newsletter. However, 2000 members currently receive a paper copy by mail through the United States Postal Service, which is expensive.

Our Board decided this is the last issue that will be sent by US mail, unless a member asks for a paper copy.

You have three ways to continue delivery.

1. Send an email to info@reavc.org (This is the preferred option.)
2. Mail a brief note to:
REAVC, P.O. Box 7231
Ventura Ca-93006
(Provide your name, phone number and email –if you have one).
3. Call 805-644-7814

The next REAVC Board meeting is on February 7, 2023, and the luncheon is on March 7, 2023, at Sterling Hills in Camarillo.

Wishing You All the Best in 2023. Thank you for being a member of REAVC.

Officers	Directors	Directors (Continued)
President – Reddy Pakala	Colleen Bruns	Cindy Schneider
1st VP – Roberta Griego	Anne Dana	Kelly Shirk
2nd VP – Ken Cozzens	Ben Emami	Maryellen Benedetto Associate Member Representative
Secretary – Will Hoag	Colleen House	
Treasurer – Paul E. Callaway	Lyn Krieger	Butch Britt Bookkeeper
Board of Retirement – Art Goulet	Tom McEachern	Dee Emami Executive Assistant
Immediate Past Pres. - Nancy Settle	Jacquie Richardson	

2023 REAVC BOARD MEMBERS

RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS - BY ART GOULET

VCERA's asset value (AV)
increased slightly in October,



ending the month at \$6.98 billion. In November, VCERA's AV increased more substantially and ended the month at \$7.28 billion.

In my last report, I noted that VCERA suffered a loss of 6.03% in the last fiscal year, compared to CalPERS which lost 6.1% and CalSTRS which lost 1.3%. It turns out that the CalPERS and CalSTRS losses were understated because both based their numbers on values at the end of the third quarter of the last fiscal year for a substantial portion of their portfolios. Had the values at the end of the fiscal year for that portion been used, the actual losses were 7.5% and 3.3% for CalPERS and CalSTRS, respectively. VCERA's numbers were correctly based on all values at the end of the fiscal year.

Also in my last report, I mentioned that VCERA was in the process of recruiting for a new Chief Operations Officer (COO). The Retirement Administrator has announced she has selected Amy Herron to fill the vacant position and Amy will report to work for VCERA on January 9, 2023. Amy worked for Santa Barbara County for about 20 years in the Auditor-Controller's office working in increasingly responsible positions culminating as Financial Systems Division Chief. In 2017, she was appointed as Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller of Ventura County. In that position, she has worked closely with VCERA staff in correcting and reconciling the Auditor-Controller's records with those of VCERA, on interpretation of the Supreme Court's "Alameda" Decision, and on data and system changes to prepare for necessary corrections and implementation.

The Tentative Statement of Decision on Bifurcated Issues in the case known as Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association vs. County of Ventura et al has been finalized and the Judgement incorporating the tentative decision was entered on November 17. That date is the beginning of a 60-day period in which any of the plaintiffs may file an appeal of the judgment. As you may recall, the issue that was litigated is whether an employee may "straddle" different years of annual leave redemptions and redeem more than a similar employee could accrue in a one-year period to increase the "straddling" employee's final average compensation (FAC) used to calculate his or her retirement benefit.

On November 15, 2021, the VCERA Board of Retirement (the Board) adopted a resolution setting up a process for any appeals of a Retirement Administrator's determinations regarding whether certain components of compensation were or were not pensionable in accordance with the Supreme Court's "Alameda" decision and previous Board actions. The resolution provided that the Board would hold a hearing on the appeal and render a final decision. At its meeting of November 28, the Board adopted a new resolution which provided that the Board may refer the hearing to an independent hearing officer to consider all the documents and briefs and recommend a decision including findings of fact. This is similar to the process used in disputed disability retirement cases, except that there is no testimony but, rather, just a review of documents. Other CERL systems have used hearing officers for their post-Alameda appeals.

Also at its November 28 meeting, the Board adopted the new recommended PEPRA pensionable compensation limits for 2023. As you may be aware, to reduce future possible pensions, PEPRA established limits on the amount of compensation which could be used in computing a retiree's pension benefit. Initially, for public employees enrolled in Social Security, it was the "contribution and benefit base" better known as the taxable maximum amount as of January 1, 2013. For public employees not enrolled in Social Security (such as VCERA's Safety Members), it was 120% of that amount. PEPRA also provided for those amounts to be adjusted annually based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average from September to September, rounded to the nearest thousandth. Each year the California Actuarial Advisory Panel calculates the change in CPI and recommends the limits to be used in the subsequent calendar year. As its name indicates, the Panel is advisory, so they only recommend. However, a California public pension system would be hard-pressed to use other than the recommended limits.

The recommended limits for 2022 were \$134,974 and \$161,969, respectively, for public employees enrolled in Social Security and those who are not. The new recommended limits for 2023 are \$146,042 and \$175,250.

At its last meeting of 2022 on November 19, the VCERA Board selected Mike Sedell and me to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for the 2023 calendar year.

LUNCHEON UPDATE

Almost 150 members attended the December Holiday Luncheon! Over 50 prizes were awarded. That's way better odds than Vegas. A special thanks to all the Board members and REAVC members for your generous donations, which made it possible to make so many people smile.

Santa was also at his holly jolly best. He double-timed it between selling See's candy gift cards and giving them away. The best part was that everyone enjoyed spending time catching up with friends.

SEE YOU IN MARCH!

Our next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the Sterling Hills Country Club, 901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. Check in tables are located just inside the front doors. A separate table for See's CANDIES cards sales will be placed in the lefthand back corner.

Our March event will be a welcome to Spring luncheon. Members bring a lot of warmth and sunshine by coming through the doors at Sterling Hills. Please bring your sunshine and join us for another fun get together.

The reservation form with date, time, and location of the March 7, 2023, luncheon is included in the flyer following this article. There is no need to call or email anyone unless you have a question or need to cancel your reservation after it is made. Contact information for questions regarding reservations or to cancel your reservation is included in the flyer. Don't miss out! Make sure your reservations are received no later than noon, Sunday, February 26. Also, please remember to cancel your reservation BEFORE THE CUTOFF DATE if you find you are unable to attend! We are obligated to pay for ALL luncheons reserved regardless of whether people attend. By cancelling, you can allow someone on the wait list to attend and enjoy the lunch rather than causing REAVC to pay for a lunch that no one eats.

Sadly, 33 people were no shows at our holiday event. Several others had understandable emergencies and called after the cutoff date. That means REAVC spent over \$1,000 on uneaten food, rather than on another worthy cause, such as the scholarship fund. Please help us get the word out to curb this loss.



Happy Spring!
March 7 REAVC Luncheon



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Sterling Hills Country Club
901 Sterling Hills Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010
(Doors Will Open at 11:00 a.m.)

COST: \$10 for REAVC Members and Guests

Join the fun by completing this form and mailing your check payable to "REAVC" to:

REAVC - Luncheon
P.O. Box 7231
Ventura CA 93006-7231

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Registration form for the March 7 REAVC Luncheon - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) of REAVC Member(s): _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: (*Required for Confirmation) _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

Payment Included for: _____ Member(s) at \$10.00 = _____

_____ Guest(s) at \$10.00 = _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, February 26, 2023.

Attendees will receive an email confirming their reservation, and checks will not be held.

Reserve early, once the seating limit is reached reservations are wait-listed.

The FINAL date for **both** reservations and/or cancellations is noon, Sunday, February 26

For questions regarding reservations or cancellations, please contact:

Colleen House at 1-805-485-0445 – clhouse@adelphia.net

Anne Dana at 805-320-6408 – ggdana@roadrunner.com

IMPORTANT NOTE: Food Share barrels will NOT be available.

IN MEMORIAM

James C. **Auth**
 Florris **Drury**
 Colleen **Farrell**
 Bruce **Mandell**
 James C. **Miller**
 Herbert **Thordarson**

James R. **Capito**
 Wayne **Dance**
 Marina **Gonzales**
 Gary **McCollum**
 Nieves **Riel**
 Marcia **Wakelee**



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REGULAR RETIREMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2022		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DEPARTMENT
BRIAN PETER	BRENNAN	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ALICIA	CORONADO	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
JOEY	DE LOS REYES	DISTRICT ATTORNEY
LAURA	ELIZONDO-JAQUEZ	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
MICHELLE ANN	ELLIS	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
MARIA G	GIL-MORAGA	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
JAMES C	HILDRETH	DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HOWARD EVERRETT	HOPE	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
ELIZABETH SUZANNE	ISNEC	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
RENEE DAGAN	JAMES	PROBATION AGENCY
THOMAS JOHN	MENDEZ	DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EHREN KOICHIRO	NEHIRA	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JUDITH DARLENEG	WEBBER	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



I'm still standing – Yeah – Yeah - Yeah

Catchy lyrics, not necessarily my favorite song, but one that seems to stick in my head for days after I hear it. Like the ringing in your ears that the medicos tell you will go away after you get hearing aids. Two grand and some uncomfortable ear wicks in your ears later, you can hear the ringing better, but it seems to be telling you something. If you listen closely it seems to say, “Dummy, you fell for it again.” Oh well, at least now when someone is telling me something I don’t want to hear, I can just turn off the switch, nod, and smile a lot. I still hear the ringing, but it’s not as bad.

Recently we went through the change of time for daylight savings time. I ran around and changed all the clocks in the house. Good thing that the time on my smart phone didn’t need to be changed. It happens automatically. I can never remember whether to turn the hour backwards or forward. I know you are supposed to remember; “spring forward and fall back,” but it always comes out “spring is here, and time for a beer” or “fall is here, be of good cheer – and have a beer.” No wonder it takes me so long to reset all the clocks. We have one clock that hangs on the wall and is almost bigger than a Sherman Tank. It plays Disney theme songs every hour and it’s loud enough to really spoil an afternoon nap. I have to get out a step stool to be able to lift that clock off the wall, to reset the time and change the batteries. I admit that some people find it funny to watch me get up and down from a step stool today. That clock also takes two “D” cell batteries. Does anyone make “D” cell batteries anymore? My grandkids look at the old “D” cells and asks what they are. I tell them they belong to the same guy that invented rotary dial telephones, and that usually sends them “Googling” rotary dial telephones for a while. Then I get back on the step stool and try to put the D--- clock back on the wall. That’s usually worth a few yucks at PapaB1’s expense. I’ll be glad when those grandkids get old enough to change the time on that clock for me. AND PUT IT BACK UP ON THE WALL!

We also recently went through another period of loud, boring, and obnoxious elections. I have started to think these folks come out of the same mold as the people, who sell medical concoctions that promise to regrow your hair, cure cancer, and perform miracles like improving your bowel movements, while at the same time solving the other unmentionable problem of blotchy skin. I mean, what does a grumpy old man have to worry about smooth skin for? Try to move an infant car seat from one car to another, and if you don’t end up with black and blue arms, a little blood, and blotches on the back of your hands, well, you’re “a better man than I am, Gunga Din.” But now we have a newly elected group of politicians, promising to deliver more, reduce taxes, change the weather, and provide cheaper more reliable electrical power without using fossil fuels. More importantly, perhaps now we can get back to a reasonable level of civility, fewer lawn signs, and quieter TV commercials.

But just when I think things are unbearable, I see the expressions of hope on the faces of my grandkids, and that makes my day. And I know that it is still a wonderful world. Changes are inevitable. Sometimes the changes are frustrating. So, I grumble a lot. The world will be different in the future, but family, friendship, courtesy, and courage will all still be valued. If we still treat each other as we would like to be treated, it will be good. I still get up in the morning, with the ability and desire to take on the day with hope and confidence that no matter what fate may throw at me, I’m pleased to say, “I’m still standing – yeah – yeah -yeah.” If not there’s always Jack Daniels and dark chocolate.



Final note, we also recently had another fantastic luncheon at Sterling Hills. Yours truly had the privilege of playing Santy Claws for the second year. It was fantastic fun and I really enjoyed it. Of course, I can’t figure out who shrunk the Santy Claws suit – again. We had several fantastic door prizes, mostly donated by Board members and several members, and another delicious meal served by the venue staff. But beyond the meal and the door prizes (I didn’t win again – drats), it was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces and old friends. I think that’s what keeps me coming back to REAVC events, and why I enjoy working with a fine group of people, the REAVC Board. For those that were at the luncheon, I hope you

enjoyed it. A lot of people worked very hard to pull this luncheon together. WELL DONE to all of those that work so hard on your behalf both at this recent event and throughout the year!

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe and happy 2023. I hope you get all the chocolate you want.

I'm PapaB1 and I approve this message.

SEE's Candy Gift Card Sales

By Butch Britt

REAVC is selling \$25 See's CANDIES gift cards at a cost to members of \$21 each. The gift cards do not expire either are relatively easy to mail or use as holiday gifts. But remember, they are only worth \$25 of See's merchandise.

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 visit our See's CANDY table at the luncheons – usually set up in some convenient location – like behind the potted plants. Look for the old, fat, bald guy with the white beard.



2023 REAVC CALENDAR

January

Jan/Feb newsletter out mid -month

February

7 REAVC BOARD MEETING

15 Mar/Apr newsletter submissions due

21 Last day to register for 3/7 luncheon

March

7 General Membership Luncheon

Mar/Apr newsletter sent mid -month

31 DEADLINE FOR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION .
Must be postmarked no later than this date!!

April

4 REAVC BOARD MEETING

15 May/June newsletter submissions due

May

25 Last day to register for 6/6 luncheon

May/June newsletter sent mid -month

June

6 Membership Luncheon/Scholarship Awards

13 REAVC BOARD MEETING

15 July/Aug newsletter submissions due

July

Jul/Aug newsletter sent mid -month

August

1 REAVC Board Meeting

15 Sept/Oct newsletter submissions due

24 Last day to register for 9/5 Luncheon

September

5 General Membership Luncheon

Sept/Oct newsletter sent mid -month

October

3 REAVC BOARD MEETING

15 Nov/Dec newsletter submissions due

November

22 Last day to register for 12/5 Luncheon

Nov/Dec newsletter sent mid -month

December

5 Holiday Luncheon

12 REAVC BOARD MEETING

15 Jan/Feb newsletter submissions due

Rev. 12-15-22