



# REAVC NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2023

*"Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served"*

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### MESSAGE FROM REAVC PRESIDENT – REDDY PAKALA

Greetings REAVC Members,

Hope you are all keeping cool during this unseasonably hot summer and spending time with family and friends.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR THOSE WHO RETIRED FROM THE COUNTY OF VENTURA ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2013.

For any questions regarding potential impacts on your monthly retirement benefits we strongly encourage you to call Ventura County Retirement Association (VCERA) at 805-677-8700 or email [VCERA.info@Ventura.org](mailto:VCERA.info@Ventura.org). If you haven't already done so, you might want to request in writing the details of your benefit calculations when you retired. This would provide a source of comparison.

REAVC sent two letters to VCERA Board of directors dated April 17, 2023, and May 22, 2023. We focused on protecting current retirees' benefits from potential reductions. These letters were included in the May/June and July/August 2023 newsletters.

Two county unions -----Criminal Justice Attorney's Association of Ventura County (CJAAVC) and Ventura County Peace Officers Association (VCPOA) filed an appeal with the Court of Appeals, State of California, Second Appellate District, Division six on May 25, 2023. The appeal is challenging VCERA's authority to reduce benefits retroactively and VCERA's interpretation of the law regarding vacation buydown, among other things.

Finally, the REAVC Board approved a Legal Services Agreement with a Law firm in Ventura to file an Amicus Curiae Brief in support of the CJAAVC and VCPOA legal challenge. The attorney representing REAVC is expected to file the brief with the court before the end of August 2023. The court may rule on this appeal during this calendar year.

Your continued membership with REAVC continues to offer many benefits of importance to you. We are authorized representatives for all County of Ventura retirees, the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), Congress of California seniors, and the State Association of County Retirement system (SACRS).

We currently have over 3,000 dues paying members at \$2 per month. Your membership is valuable to the association so we can sustain our representation and help protect pension benefits. Thank You for your continued support of REAVC. We welcome all County of Ventura and Ventura Regional Sanitation District retirees to join REAVC. Please send an email to [info@reavc.org](mailto:info@reavc.org) or call (805) 644-7814 if you wish to join.



## 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

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

## REGULAR RETIREMENTS APPROVED BY THE VCERA BOARD – JUNE 2023

|                  |             |                            |           |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| JANE ELIZABETH   | BABCOCK     | HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY      | 5/19/2023 |
| MARY ELIZABETH   | BERNARDY    | HEALTH CARE AGENCY         | 6/23/2023 |
| CHRISTOPHER E.   | COOPER      | PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY        | 6/11/2023 |
| CASEY A.         | GARNER      | PROBATION AGENCY           | 5/5/2023  |
| DARLENE MICHELLE | GONZALES    | SUPERIOR COURT             | 5/20/2023 |
| AMELIA R.        | GONZALEZ    | CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES     | 5/31/2023 |
| SANTIAGO E.      | HERNANDEZ   | HEALTH CARE AGENCY         | 5/13/2023 |
| JAMES HARTLEY    | HORTON      | PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY        | 3/3/2023  |
| SHEILA ANN       | JETTON      | COUNTY CLERK RECORDER      | 5/27/2023 |
| SALLY A.         | MABRY       | HEALTH CARE AGENCY         | 6/13/2023 |
| JOANNE M.        | MCDONALD    | AUDITOR CONTROLLER         | 6/1/2023  |
| KATHLEEN M.      | PENDERGRAFT | GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY    | 5/27/2023 |
| JAMES KENNETH    | RIEDMILLER  | PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY        | 5/13/2023 |
| ELIZABETH L.     | SANDOVAL    | RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY | 5/20/2023 |

## RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS - BY ART GOULET

The Board of Retirement (BoR) has hired Richard (Rick) Santos as Interim Retirement Administrator (RA) to serve until a full-time RA is selected after Cooperative Personnel Services (CPS) conducts a nationwide recruitment that is scheduled to begin in September 2023. CPS was engaged by the BoR at its July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Santos was previously employed as RA by the Stanislaus County Employees' Retirement Association until his retirement. He had earlier worked for CalPERS as an Actuary. Mr. Santos began work for VCERA on August 1<sup>st</sup>.



The preliminary investment returns for the 2022-23 fiscal year show a gain of roughly 8.5%, increasing VCERA's asset value to about \$7.52 billion from about \$7.00 billion at the end of the previous fiscal year. Valuations and investment performance calculations in private market asset classes typically lag the public markets by 3 to 5 months. VCERA's investment consultant estimates that when all results have been finalized, the actual gain for the fiscal year will be slightly higher. By way of comparison, CalPERS and CalSTRS earned 5.8% and 6.3%, respectively, for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Also, at its July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the BoR made two commitments to invest in private credit funds:

- \$25 Million Commitment to Adams Street Private Credit Fund III. While VCERA has not made any previous private credit commitments to Adams Street, VCERA has been investing with them since 2010 and VCERA has committed a total of \$310 Million to other Adams Street funds and experienced very high returns.
- \$20 Million Commitment to Harbourvest Direct Lending Fund II. VCERA previously committed \$25 Million to Direct Lending Fund I in June 2021.

Additionally, for the purpose of expediting Disability Retirement applications where a decision has been made to deny and the matter has been assigned to an independent hearing officer (HO) for review and recommendation, at the same meeting, the BoR adopted new deadlines for when a hearing must be held and provided for requests for delay to the HO for just cause.

The BoR also authorized a contract with Managed Business Solutions for assistance with mass Flex Credit recalculations necessitated by the Supreme Court's "Alameda" decision.

In connection with the Alameda decision, many retirees and active employees have questions about what it means to them. VCERA staff has compiled a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a glossary of terms and posted them on the VCERA website ([www.vcera.org/Latest\\_News/Alameda Decision and Updates](http://www.vcera.org/Latest_News/Alameda_Decision_and_Updates)). What a retiree or active employee won't find are the full effects of the Alameda decision on them because of the amount of research and calculations that still remain to be done before necessary corrections can be determined.

However, there are some general statements that can be made.

- If you retired prior to January 1, 2013, there are no effects.
- If you retired after January 1, 2013, but before July 30, 2021, you may be affected if compensation excluded by PEPPA was included in calculation of your final compensation (FAC).
- If you retired after July 30, 2021, you will be or may already have been affected.

VCERA has estimated that the entire corrections process is likely to take 2 years.

### **CalPERS LTC Litigation Settlement**

On Friday July 28, Judge William Highberger of the Los Angeles County Superior Court GRANTED Final Approval of the settlement. There were a total of 50 objectors and 274 opt outs from a class of 76,697 members, an extremely small number under the circumstances. On July 26, Judge Highberger had convened a hearing which lasted five hours during which he took comments from objectors and answered questions. There was only one Motion to Intervene filed by a class member and it was withdrawn orally at the hearing. The law provides that the judgment will become final in 60 days (by Oct. 1, 2023) IF NO ONE APPEALS. Thereafter, CalPERS has 75 days to fund the settlement. As always, feel free to visit the lawsuit website: [www.calpersclassactionlawsuit.com](http://www.calpersclassactionlawsuit.com)

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#### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

Ben Emami updates Constant Contact to send out the newsletter. If you need to update your contact information, Ben can be reached via [info@reavc.org](mailto:info@reavc.org) or REAVC, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006.

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# IN MEMORIUM

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LOVED ONES LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

**John Bond  
Gale Kelly-Price  
Anne Mitchell**

**Barbara Burris  
Lorraine Koster  
Thomas M. Morgan  
Milton Suttle**

**Iris Checansky  
Cynthia Leavitt  
Carolyn Pierce  
David Van Davis**

**Nancy Dice   Elizabeth Dodd  
Alyce Mata   Linda Menken  
Richard Reschke  
Richard Wittenberg**

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## PAPA B1 –FROM THE WALRUS AND THE CARPENTER BY LEWIS CAROLL



*'The time has come,' the Walrus said,  
'To talk of many things:  
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing-wax —  
Of cabbages — and kings —  
And why the sea is boiling hot —  
And whether pigs have wings.'* \* Lewis Carroll

The poem doesn't make a lot of sense, and the longer I endeavor to persevere in my struggle to remain upright and cogent, I discover more things that don't make sense. Like politicians that promise great things and lower taxes, or people with "great ideas – but little concept of how hard or how much – particularly if someone else is expected to "do all z the work." But after many years of stubbing my toe on bumps in the road or complaining, I've learned a couple of things.

Making mistakes is part of life. We've all lived through skinned knees, occasionally a broken leg or arm, and we've generally learned from our mistakes. If you read the "Walrus and the Carpenter," in its entirety none of this poem makes a lot of sense. But what do you expect from something recited by two fat dudes (Can we say fat today?) named Tweedledum and Tweedledee as told to a scatterbrain dumb enough to try to chase a rabbit down a tunnel?

I did a dumpster dive on Google® and was surprised to find that the "Walrus and the Carpenter" supposedly has deep religious significance – supposedly huh? Well, I'm no literary scholar, but I find that hard to believe. I think it's just a story about two dudes, probably named Wally and Carp, who got a little sloshed one night when the moon was full, and the sun was shining bright. They probably wanted some steamed clams – aka oysters. Man, I can't blame them. I love steamed clams, dipped in melted butter with cold, I mean really cold beer, and maybe a loaf of fresh cooked bread on the side. I've been known to commit fratricide on many a bucket of "steamers" in my past – back then I could consume several buckets without scoffing antacids! So, I really can't blame Wally and Carp for luring these trusting clams into being dinner for the night. Of course, one hoary oyster, who might have lived long enough to know to avoid the boiling hot seas, was wise



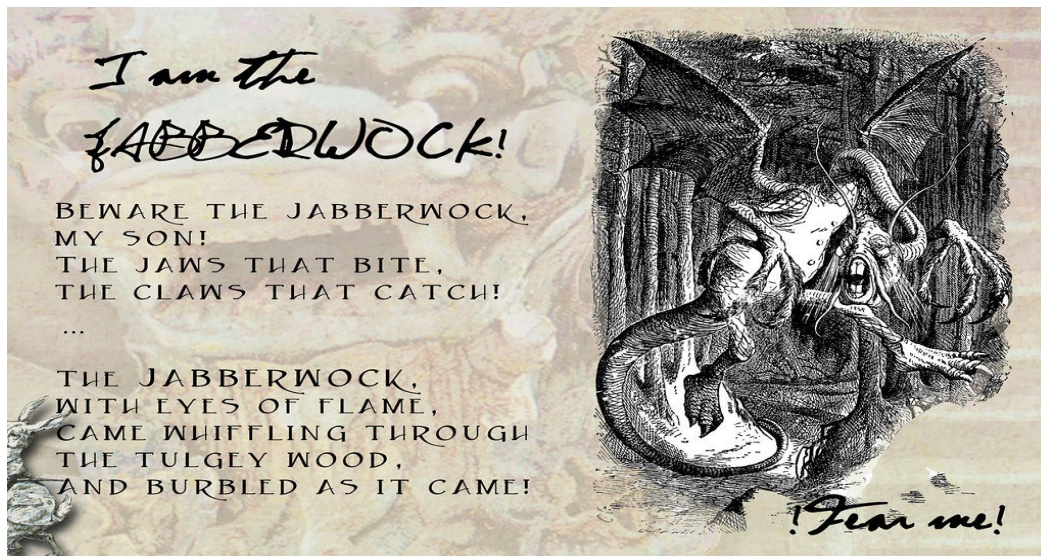
enough to shake his heavy head —meaning to say he did not choose to leave the oyster-bed just to satisfy Wally and Carp's hankering to eat him. Gosh, I wish I was that smart. And in the end when Wally asked the clams if they were ready to trot home, no answer came, because they'd eaten every one.

But at least, I've been around long enough to realize that pigs don't fly. You can cut a buck into two, but you still only have one dollar. Or when the price of labor or oil goes up, pretty much the cost of everything else goes up. I'll just leave you with one last word of warning.

*'Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!'* \* Lewis Carroll

Wow, who needs Freddie Kreuger or politicians, when there are Jabberwocks about?

Hope to see you at the next REAVC event. If I can talk some clams into joining us, maybe we will have a savory treat. If not look for me at the See's Candy table. Got to make some shekels to pay for steamers.



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## 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, maybe streaked with yellow. Melted butter tends to do that when it runs down your chin. However, NO clams were harmed in the production of this newsletter. **HONEST.**



## REAVC LIST OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The first number to call for information or “where to find whatever” is 211. This help line has an incredible list of all County services and is available 24 hours a day. The following is a list of varied services throughout the County, some of which have been shared with us by other seniors who recommend them. We hope to add to the information and share more services as we go along.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Ventura Crisis Line                          | 800-273-8255   |
| Area Agency on Aging                         | VCAAA.org  |
| Food Share                                   | Foodshare.com  |
| W.I.C.                                       | FNS.usda.gov/wic   |
| Knights of Columbus                          | Kofc.org   |
| Home Helpers                                 | homehelpershomecare.com  |
| Many Meals                                   | manymealsofcamarillo.org   |
| Ventura Avenue Adult Center                  | 805-648-3035   |
| Independent Living Resource Center           | ilrc-trico.org   |
| Livingston Hospice Care                      | lmvna.org  |
| Senior Concerns                              | seniorconcerns.org   |
| Home Caregivers of Ventura                   | caring.com/senior-care 800-973-1540  |
| Senior Council on Aging, Camarillo           | NCOa.org   |
| Camarillo Council on Aging                   | cityofcamarillo.org/residents/seniors  |
| Housing Resources guide Camarillo            | cityofcamarillo.org  |
| Ventura Downtown Lions Club                  | venturalions.org   |
| Salvation Army                               | ventura.salvationarmy.org  |
| Help at Salvation Army                       | needhelppayingbills.com  |
| Catholic Charities                           | catholiccharitiesusa.org   |
| Livingston Visiting Nurses Bereavement Group | lmvna.org-grief&bereavement  |
| Turning Point                                | turningpointfoundation.org   |
| Project Understanding                        | projectunderstanding.org   |
| One Stop showers, mail delivery              | vchca.org/health-care-for-the-homeless   |
| Four Generations Foundation                  | fourgenerationsfoundation.org  |
| Senior Support Line                          | camhealth.com/senior-support-line  |
| NAMI National Alliance                       | nami.org programs and services   |
| Ventura Counseling/Wellness Center           | venturacwc.org   |
| Alzheimers Association                       | alz.org  |
| Oxnard Rescue Mission                        | vcrescuemission.org  |
| Genesis Program                              | genesisprograms.com  |
| Prototypes                                   | healthright360.org/agency/prototypes   |
| AA Alcoholics Anonymous                      | aaaventuracounty.org   |
| Alanon/Alateen                               | alanonventura.org al-anon.org  |
|  | On Right side is Alateen   |
| Dept of Rehab                                | dor.ca.gov   |
| Housing Hotline                              | hud.gov/states/california/renting 800-477-5977   |
| United Parents                               | unitedparents.org  |
| Whole Person Care                            | <a href="mailto:wholepersoncare@ventura.org">wholepersoncare@ventura.org</a> 805-339-1122  |
| Diversity Collective                         | diversitycollectivevc.org  |
| Rainbow Umbrella                             | diversitycollectivevc.org/services/#youth-services   |
| Veteran’s Crisis Line                        | veteranscrisisline.net   |
| Bereavement groups at Churches, etc.         | griefshare.org   |
| Sliding scale therapy:                       |  |
| Jewish Family Services                       | <a href="mailto:federation@Jewishventuracounty.org">federation@Jewishventuracounty.org</a> |
| Cal Lutheran                                 | cluocounseling.org   |
| New Beginnings                               | thenewbeginningscenter.com   |

## LUNCHEON UPDATE - BY ANNE DANA



### SUMMER CELEBRATION

Due to the timing of this newsletter, the update regarding the September luncheon will appear in the next newsletter. I will be sure to share information provided by the speaker about the many services available to the needy in our community.

### HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The 2023 REAVC Holiday luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 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.

The cost is \$10 for REAVC members and guests.

We plan to make this luncheon a fun, holiday celebration. There will be music, a game of holiday trivia, and maybe even a visit from Santa. We also plan to have some unique gift baskets and great door prizes. If you attend the luncheon, you could be one of the lucky winners.

The reservation form for December 5 Holiday Luncheon is included in this newsletter.

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.

The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. on December 5, and the check-in tables will be just inside the front door. There will be a separate table setup inside for sales of See's CANDIES gift certificates.

Hope to see you there!

### IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING "NO-SHOWS" AND CANCELLATION DEADLINES

REAVC is obligated to pay for ALL luncheons reserved whether or not people attend. It is disappointing, as well as an unnecessary expense, for REAVC to have to pay for a meal that no one eats. Last minute cancellations and no-shows at the luncheons are an issue for REAVC because of the unnecessary expense it causes to the general membership.

To address this issue, REAVC Board has establish the following policy:

Members who make reservations and do not show up or fail to cancel by the required date noted on the reservation form, will be asked to pay for the full cost of the meal.

Therefore, it is very important that you cancel on or before the required date!

We of course recognize that there may be emergencies that prevent you from submitting a timely cancellation or cause you to miss the luncheon. In that case, you may contact Anne Dana @ (805) 320-6408 to request a waiver of the additional charge.



## The REAVC Winter Holiday Celebration

will be held on **December 5, 2023**

at **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**

### Come and join the fun

There will be music, gifts, a holiday trivia challenge, and a maybe even a visit from Santa!  
Reserve your space 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 December 5, 2023, 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 BOTH RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS**

**is Saturday, November 25, 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.**

*For questions regarding reservations or cancellations, please contact:*

*Anne Dana at 805-320-6408 – [ggdana@roadrunner.com](mailto:ggdana@roadrunner.com)*

*Please note: There will not be food barrels at the doors.*