



REAVC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024

"Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served"

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MESSAGE FROM REAVC PAST PRESIDENT – NANCY SETTLE

The appeal of the VCERA decision regarding the reduction of retirement benefits was heard before the Court of Appeals on November 9, 2023. REAVC participated in the appeal as a friend of the court. The Court of appeals has decided in favor of VCERA's action to carry out the reduction of straddled annual leave cash-outs in accordance with the Alameda decision. Unfortunately, this was not the outcome REAVC had hoped for, or anticipated. We thank those who participated and supported the pursuit of a fairer resolution to retiree benefit reductions. Discussions on the Court of Appeals decision will continue before the VCERA board. REAVC will continue to stay involved to protect retiree benefits.



REAVC Board officers for 2024 were elected at the December 12, 2023, Board meeting. Elected officers include Reddy Pakala, President; Roberta Griego, 1st Vice President; Ben Emami, 2nd Vice President; Will Hoag, Secretary; and Paul Callaway, Treasurer. We thank board members for volunteering to serve the Retired Employees of Ventura County. We also thank outgoing Board member Ken Cozzens, retired Captain of Ventura County Sheriff's Department, for his dedication. We wish Ken all the best and more time for family and travel.

The Board also took action to elect Tracy Pirie to fill a board vacancy. Tracy started her 44-year public service career with the County of Ventura Library Services as a clerk in the interlibrary loan services and closed with her final appointment prior to retirement with the Sheriff's Office responsible for Human Resources, Records, and Backgrounds, a position she held for 14 years. In between her county assignments, she worked for the cities of Oxnard, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. She is knowledgeable regarding both County and PERS retirement benefits and strongly supports the REAVC mission of protecting retiree benefits. Welcome Tracy and thank you for volunteering your time and efforts.

The REAVC Holiday luncheon was a joyous event! The Other Reindeer Singers regaled us with holiday music. They took center stage and sang "Here Comes Santa Claus" as our Santa (Butch Britt) made a grand entrance and greeted every table. Ken Cozzens emceed the holiday raffle that included many lovely gift baskets. Tom McEachern shared clever audience participation jokes. Many thanks to our board and REAVC members who provided gifts and helped set up the event. The next luncheon will be March 5, 2024. Mark your calendars. Please read on to Art Goulet's VCERA retirement news and more. Also, don't miss PapaB1.

May you all have an excellent 2024!

2024 BOARD MEMBERS

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

REGULAR RETIREMENTS APPROVED BY THE VCERA BOARD – NOVEMBER 2023

VINCENT	ALVAREZ	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	11/3/2023
MICHAEL CURTIS	BAKER	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	11/4/2023
DOLORES MARIE	CONLIN	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY	10/28/2023
HOLLY J	DOERING	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	11/14/2023
CLAUDIA ELENA	FLORES	PROBATION AGENCY	10/29/2023
ELIZABETH A	FLORES	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	10/17/2023
SCOTT D	HENDRICKSON	DISTRICT ATTORNEY	9/16/2023
MARK C	HIBBERD	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	11/1/2023
SUSAN M	KELLY	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	10/1/2023
CHRISTINE RENEE	LANKFORD	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	10/6/2023
LORRAINE E	LEONARD	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	3/31/2022
DAVID ALEXANDER	MAHER	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	11/3/2023
ELDA D	MARTINEZ	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	10/27/2023
ROSS JOSEPH	MATARAZZO	GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY	10/28/2023
SHANNON JANE	PASHLEY	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	11/1/2023
SCOTT AUSTIN	PETERSON	DISTRICT ATTORNEY	10/6/2023
LANA MARIE	POWERS	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	11/10/2023
PETE	QUIJADA	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	11/3/2023
BERTHA	RODRIGUEZ	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	10/13/2023
EDWARD RONALD	SCHMIDT	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY	10/13/2023
JOHN R	WILSON	SUPERIOR COURT	11/11/2023
DONALD W	WOODCOCK	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	11/18/2023

RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS - BY ART GOULET

VCERA will begin the new year with a new Retirement Administrator, three new Board of Retirement (BoR) members, two very short-time BoR members, six continuing BoR members, and one vacancy.



The three new members are Public Member Taylor Dacus, who was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors (BoS) to replace Mike Sedell, General Member Greg Bergman, who was elected in place of Cecelia Hernandez-Garcia, and Alternate Retired Member Maeve Fox, who was elected to replace Will Hoag who retired. The two short time members are Public Member Anthony Rainey, and Alternate Public Member Donald Brodt, both of whom were appointed by the BoS to fill long-time vacancies and who were sworn in on October 23rd. The continuing members are Safety Member Aaron Grass; Public Member Tommie Joe; General Member Jordan Roberts; Public Member (and member of the BoS) Kelly Long; Ex-officio Member (and County Treasurer-Tax Collector) Sue Horgan; and Retired Member me. Robert Ashby, who was the Alternate Safety Member, resigned at the beginning of November because he left the Ventura County Fire Department to pursue an opportunity as a Battalion Chief with the Spanish Fork, Utah Fire Department, which is transitioning from a volunteer to a full-time department. An election to replace him is scheduled for April 29, 2024.

The new Retirement Administrator is Amy Herron, former Chief Operations Officer for VCERA. She was selected after a nationwide recruitment resulting in two finalists who were interviewed by the BoR Ad-hoc Recruitment Committee, and then by the full BoR, which interviewed each of the finalists twice. Although her appointment wasn't effective until January 7th, she is already going full steam ahead. Please welcome her!

The market continued to be difficult to predict. It continued to move down in October with VCERA's portfolio dropping to \$7.29 billion. In November it moved up, with VCERA's portfolio increasing to \$7.67 billion.

The results for December are not available yet, but my guess is that we'll see a further increase in the value of the portfolio. However, January started out moving down.

At its meeting of October 23rd, the Board presented a certificate to Lori Nemiroff, VCERA's General Counsel, in recognition of her thirty years of public service as a County and VCERA employee.

At its November 20th meeting, the BoR committed to invest \$30 million in Pantheon Credit Opportunities Fund III, a private credit fund. VCERA previously committed \$50 million to Pantheon Credit Opportunities Fund II in 2022. Since 2010 VCERA has committed a total of \$200 million to Pantheon Funds.

The BoR held a special meeting on December 4th focused primarily on education. It received and discussed a Fiduciary Governance Report presented by Ashley Dunning, VCERA's outside and fiduciary Counsel, as well as a paper prepared by Interim Retirement Administrator Rick Santos, in which he presented his thoughts on "VCERA today and tomorrow".

At its December 18th meeting, the Board received and filed the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), the Annual Audit for the same year, and the Annual Actuarial Valuation. In the valuation, it noted the VCERA's funded status decreased slightly from 97.2% to 97.1% and the Unfunded Accrued Actuarial Liability increased from \$212 million to \$230 million, both minor in the overall scheme of things.

At the same meeting the BoR selected its Chair and Vice Chair for 2024. They are Aaron Grass, Chair and Jordan Roberts, Vice Chair.

Finally, the Court of Appeals rendered its decision in Ventura County Employees Retirement Association vs. County of Ventura et al. It affirmed the trial court's decision in favor of VCERA on the straddled annual leave cash-outs issue. This is the case in which REAVC hired Counsel to file an amicus brief on its behalf in support of the appeal by two unions.

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 or REAVC, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 30, 2024!
REAVC extends its appreciation to the Ventura County Credit Union for its generous support.

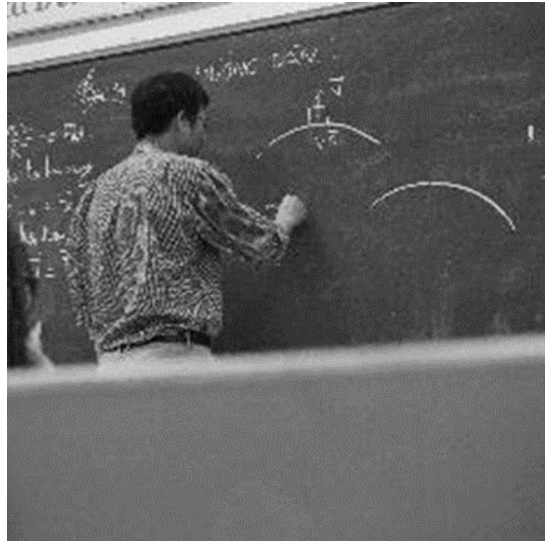
It's Time to Think About Applying for a College Scholarship Through REAVC*

Who's Eligible?

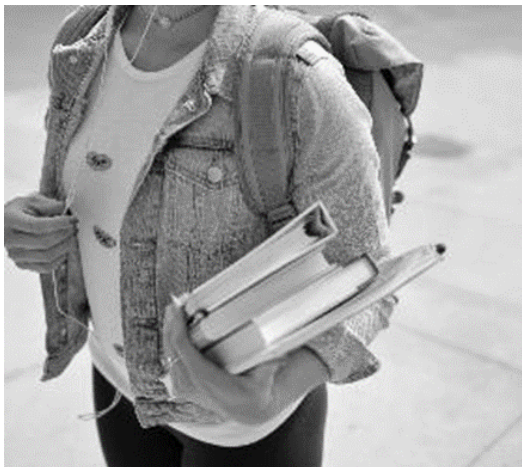
A current member or
associate member of REAVC

~ or ~

A child, grandchild, or
great-grandchild of a
current REAVC member or
associate member



A one-time
scholarship
award of up
to \$1,500



REAVC must receive all
completed applications,
along with letters of
recommendations, by

March 30, 2024

For further details,
or to receive a
scholarship application
form, visit
REAVC.org
and click on
Scholarship Program



IN MEMORIUM

LOVED ONES LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER



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

Bonnie M. Behrens	Henri J. Boisvert	Meryl Burgeson	Adolfo H. Escoto	James Filsinger
Esther Garcia	Patricia Glanville	Craig Koerner	Helen Launius	Rebecca C. Nathan
Nona Papageorge	Robert L. Patten	Robert L. Riggs	Michael Sellers	Gregory M. Valley
Bushra N. Wasef	Rosanna Washington	Thomas Weir		

PAPA B1 -PLAYING IN THE STREET – AND OTHER FORBIDDEN PLEASURES OF YOUTH

We used to play kickball in the street. Our parents weren't always happy about it, but they were probably just as happy to have us out of the house. Seemed like the rules changed every day, depending on who was playing – or where we played. Didn't matter too much. We might moan and groan for a while, but the real thrill was just kicking the ball as hard and fast as we could and running the bases. It was a little like baseball. The way to get someone out was to catch the ball in the air or throw the ball at them and hit them when they were not on a base. That took skill. and it stung if you got hit!



No one had a proper ball, we used basketballs, volleyballs, or anything resembling a kickball. One kid, whose parents had been stationed in Germany after the War, even had a real soccer ball. None of us knew anything about soccer, but the soccer ball was great for playing kickball. Until an errant kick went too far, and it landed in a neighbor's fenced in yard. We were all too scared to knock on the door and ask for it to be returned. Besides, it was getting late, our moms were calling for dinner, and for most of us, it wasn't our ball anyway. "Sorry Charlie, we got to go." Later, the kid's father went over to the neighbor's and the ball was returned, but he wouldn't let us play with it anymore. Something about it being a trophy ball from his time overseas. Didn't matter too much, we found another ball, but it didn't work as well as that old soccer ball.

Most motorists were kind enough to wait for us to get out of the way when they drove by. It probably helped that most of the streets in our neighborhood weren't paved yet, so the cars tended to drive slower. And there wasn't all that much traffic on the streets during the day. Surprisingly, we didn't lose anybody to cars, although there were a few choice words exchanged on occasion, and our moms were always warning us not to play in the street.

On weekends, if we could get enough people together (and find a football), we would play tackle football. Yep tackle, no pads, no helmets, essentially few rules. You weren't down until you stopped moving, although that didn't include crawling.

Again no one ever got hurt too badly. Some bruised knees, scratched arms, but no broken arms or concussions. Later, when I tried to play football in high school, with pads and other safety equipment, some of the kids did get broken bones and the like. But I didn't have to worry too much about that. Not much danger of injury from sitting on the bench. I hear my name is still carved at the end of the home team bench, not exactly hall of fame material, but at least proof that I was there.

Back then, we rode in cars that didn't have seat belts, GPS, or even air bags. The windows were all hand cranked. We'd go to church on Sundays, well at least on Easter. I remember my mom telling us to roll up the windows, just before we got to church, so people would think we had air conditioning. Boy that was useless. As soon as we got there, we were all drenched in sweat like drowned rats. (Can you say drowned rats anymore? I don't want to run afoul of the Politically Correct Police, PCP). Believe me, there's nothing hotter than a sunny day in South Georgia. And the church didn't have air conditioning either. There's also nothing worse than wearing a coat and tie, sitting in a crowded pew seat in 100-degree heat. I swear, there must be an iron clad rule that said that all Sunday sermons had to last at least 45 minutes, and when the thermometer hit 100, it had to last longer than that. NO KIDDING! It's written somewhere. Probably etched on a stone tablet.

Luckily, we weren't consistent church goers. We only went when Mom was so frustrated with us that she felt we needed to be reminded of the flames and torment that awaited us if we didn't change our evil ways.

Of course, I was going through a growth spurt then. If too much time had passed since our last going to church, I'd come out with my pants legs above my ankles, and the sleeves of my suit coat considerably short of my wrists. Mom would take one look, and cancel going to church that day, and announce that maybe it was time for Sunday breakfast instead.

Boy could my mom cook! Pancakes, eggs, bacon, cooked ham, and country biscuits. We ate like kings on those Sundays! I still remember those Sunday breakfasts. Everything was so good, and I ate like a pig. (Can we say "ate like a pig" now?). Those PCP folks are always looking.

After breakfast, my brother and I were consigned to washing dishes. My Mom had a habit of using every dish in the house when she cooked. I think she did that just to punish us for missing church. But after all the dishes were washed, dried, and put away (no electric dishwasher), Pop would kick us out of the house so he could watch football (or take a nap). I would mosey over to the vacant lot and see if there were enough kids for football or kickball. We'd play until early evening just in time to go home and watch "The Wonderful World of Disney" in black and white. Spoiler alert, Davy Crocket dies in the end.

Well, that's enough rambling for this day. Hope you all had a safe and happy Holiday Season. I did! But with eight grandkids around, sometimes I feel like telling them to go out and play kickball in the street. But their moms, dads, and grandmother would veto that idea in a flash.

Hope to see you at the next REAVC luncheon. I'll still be the fat old bald guy in the back of the room, trying to sell See's candy gift cards.

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. They 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. Stop by and say hello. It gets lonely in the back.



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	wholepersoncare@ventura.org 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	federation@Jewishventuracounty.org
Cal Lutheran	clu counseling.org
New Beginnings	thenewbeginningscenter.com
Ventura County Ombudsman Program	ombudsmanventura.org

LUNCHEON UPDATE



SPRING LUNCHEON

As this newsletter was going to print, the 2024 REAVC Spring luncheon is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at the Sterling Hills Country Club, 901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010. The cost will still be \$10 for REAVC members and their guests. **Please note that there is a limit of 2 non-member guests for the Spring luncheon.**

The reservation form for the Spring Luncheon is included in this newsletter. Don't miss out: The last date to sign up is February 23. 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 March 5, and the check-in tables will be just inside the front door. There will be a separate table 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 the full price (closer to \$40) for ALL luncheons reserved regardless of whether people attend. It is disappointing, as well as an unnecessary expense, for REAVC 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 and keep luncheon costs to members at \$10, the REAVC Board established 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, which is \$40.

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 call (805) 644-7814 to request a waiver of the additional charge.





The REAVC Spring Luncheon Celebration

will be held on March 5, 2024

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!

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 March 5, 2024, 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 Friday, February 23, 2024.

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 cancellations, please call:

805-644-7814 – info@reavc.org

Please note: There is a limit of 2 non-member guests per REAVC member at the Spring luncheon.