

ATTACHMENT 1
RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 11:30 a.m.
Hosted by Roberta Griego
Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER – Roberta Griego, 1st Vice-President called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m.

Present-Roberta Griego, Will Hoag, Nancy Settle, Butch Britt, Ben Emami, Art Goulet, Lyn Krieger, Jacquie Richardson, Cindy Schneider, Kelly Shirk

Absent-Reddy Pakala, Paul Callaway, Colleen Bruns, Kenneth Cozzens, Anne Dana, Tom McEachern, Maryellen Benedetto

MINUTES

- Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2023, Board Meeting – Nancy Settle moved, and Ben Emami seconded to approve the minutes with amendments. Approval was unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Butch Britt

- **Financial Report - Receive and File – To be provided at the Board Meeting** – Lyn Krieger motioned to Receive and File the Financial Report, her motion was seconded by Nancy Settle, and received unanimous approval.
- **2024 Tentative Budget – First Reading, Discussion/Approval – To be provided at the Board Meeting**- Ben Emami made a motion to approve, Nancy Settle gave a second, and all Board members approved the 2024 Budget.
- **Extend the Current CD for 1 Year at the Best Possible Rate Available at VCCU – Discussion/Approval** – Bookkeeper Butch Britt was given approval to represent and invest for REAVC to obtain the best possible rate for a CD that the Credit Union can offer. Jacqueline Richardson made a motion to approve, Cindy Schneider seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON UPDATE

The December luncheon was discussed. Nancy Settle expressed appreciation for everyone who helped out, and that Santa and the carollers were a hit. Unfortunately, not all on the waiting list were able to attend. The Board decided to limit non-member guests at future luncheons to 2 per member, with the exception of June scholarship luncheons. (Several members were unable to attend the luncheon because some members brought 5 or 6 non-member guests). Ben Emami made a motion to limit non-member guests to 2 per member, Nancy Settle seconded and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Retirement Board/Legislation – Art Goulet indicated that the legislature is not in session until after January first. The governor signed all retirement bills. VCERA is seeking an author to amend CERL to add an executive management position, Chief Technology Officer. This allows VCERA to set the salary of the position, if approved. Five current employees are not County employees and VCERA sets their salaries. Succession planning is an issue because it is difficult to groom employees for positions. Another employee is also needed to assist the CIO, since the portfolio has become more complicated. Two good candidates resulted from the recruitment of a new Retirement Administrator for VCERA. The VCERA Board may be able to approve the employment contract at its next Monday meeting.

The actuarial evaluation of June 30, 2023, showed that unfunded liability has risen slightly, with the funded status down .1%. Paying down the unfunded liability is budgeted annually and is on track.

The VCERA Chair and Vice-Chair are up for election and results will be rendered at the Monday meeting.

Associate Members – Maryellen Benedetto was absent.

ATTACHMENT 1

Program/Social – The next membership luncheon will be held on March 5.

Newsletter – Dee Emami said that articles are due on the 15th. Ben Emami said several people are not opening their newsletters, which may be going to junk mail. Close to 200 are still asking for hard copie.

Nominations/Elections – Nancy Settle reported that there are 14 REAVC Board Members. The Board is composed of 8 members at large, 6 Officers, a VCERA representative, and an alternate. (Some positions may overlap, such as Secretary and alternate, etc.) Tracey Pirie is interested in serving on the Board. Kelly Shirk endorsed Tracey as a great candidate for the REAVC Board. Henry Solis was contacted but has not responded. Jacquie will continue in regular status. Colleen House's position will be filled until she is able to come back. Will Hoag will continue as Secretary but will be replaced by Maeve Fox as alternate. Nancy read the officers that needed to be reelected. Lyn Krieger motioned, and Jacquie Richardson seconded. Reelection was approved unanimously. Officers will be installed in February. Roberta Griego added a recommendation to appoint Tracey Pirie to fill the vacancy of Ken Cozzens. Ben Emami made a motion to approve appointment, Kelly Shirk seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Communications – The REAVC cell phone may need to be replaced because the ring volume is not loud enough to be heard. Will Hoag has been doing a workaround by putting it on vibrate.

Audit Committee – Ken Cozzens has resigned his Board position starting 2024. A brief discussion ensued about replacing his lead position on the Audit Committee. Cindy Schneider agreed to move from the Audit Committee to act as Chair Volunteer. The Board accepted and thanked Cindy.

CRCEA – Nancy Settle reported that the next CRCEA business meeting will be held via Zoom. The Fall Conference will be in Contra Costa, with our conference being held in the following Spring in April 2025. We have yet to lock down a hotel. Nancy shared that Liam at Crowne Plaza was not forthcoming in providing costs. Roberta Griego indicated that Nancy might reach out to Liam's boss, Akimi. Nancy agreed. Although Buellton has been proposed as a conference site, Nancy believes that Ventura is a better location. Roberta mentioned that CRCEA approval is required for conference venues. Kelly Shirk said she has contacts at Crowne Plaza and is willing to help.

Benefits – Kelly Shirk shared a scenario about disability service-connected retirement because her son cannot return to work. It took 1 ½ to 2 ½ years before retirement could be approved. This meant he ran out of pay prior to being able to retire. She was concerned for other employees as well because the time taken to grant retirement was acknowledged as not being unusual, "It just takes that long." Art Goulet said that VCERA was implementing a new process in Worker's Compensation related retirements. The process does not require court intervention and has been in place approximately a year. Art asked for the date Kelly's son had filed. It was prior to implementation of the new process. Art said in cases that showed an employee clearly could not perform their duties and return to work, retirement processing is now much quicker. He said he would also check on the status of retirement for Kelly's son.

Scholarship – Tom was absent.

Membership Report/Courtesy – Nancy Settle said it is time for a mass membership mailing by VCERA in March. Roberta asked to put an item on the agenda to discuss the mass mailing to new members.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discuss and Approve – Hosting the 2025 CRCEA Conference with Santa Barbara County** – This item will come back in February, since conference venues require CRCEA approval. Butch Britt informed the Board that if Santa Barbara shares the conference with REAVC, that he recommends an MOU is created to clarify cost splitting.
2. **Discuss and Approve – Venue for future Board meetings** – Roberta Griego does not mind hosting at Tanager. She expressed concern that restaurants do not have large rooms that afford the privacy necessary for a meeting. Butch Britt reimburses costs of meals when Ernie Griego helps purchase and set up the meetings. Jacquie indicated she loves it and will help move the chairs. Kelly Shirk agreed that Tanager is a great meeting venue if Roberta wishes to host. Driving is longer for some Board members. Lyn Krieger thanked Ernie for bringing food and doing so much to help with the meeting. Nancy thanked Roberta and Ernie for their

ATTACHMENT 1

generosity. Lyn said it is easy to get to from Santa Barbara and a nice setup. Cindy also said the venue is wonderful if Roberta agrees to host. Cindy said that Roberta's observation about private rooms at restaurants is true. She reached out to the Sheraton, and they no longer provide lunch meeting rooms. There is a \$25 application fee for each meeting at Tanager. Ben Emami said we could always meet via Zoom when the venue is unavailable. Butch indicated our Zoom license expires in December. Butch Britt said Tanager is a great place and costs a lot less than most restaurants. Butch said that if Roberta hosts, she should submit reimbursement requests for the \$25 application fee, as well. Kely Shirk moved and Cindy Schnieder seconded. The Tanager venue was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Waive Election and Installation of Officers. (Term January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025) –** Attachment 2 – Nancy Settle, Immediate Past President, listed the officers: President Reddy Pakala, 1st Vice President Roberta Griego, 2nd Vice President Ben Emami, Secretary Will Hoag, and Treasurer Paul Callaway. Lyn made a motion and Jacquie seconded item 1 of New Business. The item passed unanimously. Roberta Griego recommended the appointment of Tracey Pirie to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Ken Cozzens. Ben Emami moved to approve appointment of Tracey Pirie and Kelly Shirk seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Tracey's installation will occur at the February meeting.
2. **Discuss, Revise, and Approve – 2024 REAVC CALENDAR – Attachment 3** No Action Taken
3. **Interim General Membership Coordinator – Discussion about and appointment of an interim for luncheon coverage until Anne Dana returns –** Dee Emami will create the flyer and continue to take reservation forms, Jacquie and Nancy will help. Nancy may contact Anne for vases. Butch volunteered Colleen for the front desk. Colleen usually volunteers to help, along with Kelly, at the front desk.
4. **Audit Committee Chair Appointment – Replacement for Ken Cozzens who will resign as of the 2024 Board term –** During the Audit Committee report session, Cindy Schneider agreed to step up to Chair the committee. Ben Emami made a motion to appoint Cindy as Chair of the Audit Committee, Kelly Shirk seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. and the next regular meeting was set for Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. to be hosted by Roberta Griego.

Respectfully submitted by,



Dee Emami
REAVC Executive Assistant

Reviewed and approved by,



Reddy Pakala
REAVC President