

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



Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.
Hosted by Roberta Griego
Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER – Reddy Pakala, President called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Present- Roberta Griego, Will Hoag, Nancy Settle, Butch Britt, Colleen Bruns, Paul Callaway, Ben Emami, Art Goulet, Tracey Pirie, Jacquie Richardson, Cindy Schneider, Kelly Shirk, Maryellen Benedetto

Absent- Anne Dana, Maeve Fox, Lyn Krieger, Tom McEachern

MINUTES

- Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2023, Board Meeting – Roberta Griego moved, and Nancy Settle seconded to approve the minutes with amendments. Approval was unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Butch Britt

- **Year End Financial Report - Receive and File – Attachment 2** – Nancy Settle motioned to Receive and File the Financial Report, her motion was seconded by Jacquie Richardson, and received unanimous approval.
- **Final 2024 Budget Information – Receive and File – Attachment 3** – Kelly Shirk made a motion to approve, Ben Emami seconded, and all Board members approved the 2024 Budget.

LUNCHEON UPDATE

The upcoming luncheon was discussed. Reddy will bring door prizes for the luncheon and will help out. Paul Callaway suggested that a future speaker might be available from the Area Agency on Aging. Tom McEachern might also provide a future speaker. Amy Herron could be a consideration for September. No speaker is needed in June because of the scholarship presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Retirement Board/Legislation – Art Goulet indicated that no legislation of interest to us has been submitted at this time. However, after February 16th or 19th there will be a lot of other submissions. Amy Heron, Retirement Board COO, was promoted to Retirement Board Administrator. A recruitment to fill behind Amy closed on January 29. Kelly Shirk asked who conducted the recruitment. VCERA did so posting on a variety of places along with the County website.

The Board approved a 3% COLA for eligible retirees on April 1, 2024. SEIU retirees will continue to receive a fixed 2%.

VCERA approved a new calendar that has one monthly meeting instead of two. Disability and Business Meetings will be combined in the future, and all disability applications will be on the consent calendar unless objected to. Meetings will be held on the Last Monday of each month. If the last Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the third Monday. Tentative dates are February 26, March 25, April 29, May 20, June 24, July 29, no meeting in August, September 30, October 28, November 18, and December 16.

The Benefits and Compensation Committee chair was appointed. The Committee approves a compensation study every 3 years, according to the VCERA Compensation Agreement. The last was done in 2021 by Ralph Anderson and Associates. Ralph Anderson and Associates was again selected to conduct the study. Art said that VCERA is also petitioning to obtain another position called Chief Technology Officer. So far Jacquie Irwin, Limon, Bennett, and Henry Stern have been approached for support.

The straddling legislation passed and is the law unless appealed to the Supreme Court. Art does not know if there have been any applications to do so and thinks the time may have run. Art spoke to the usage of the term retroactive in discussions of straddling as inaccurate in that recoupment of moneys will not happen and application is to be applied

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going forward. Anyone who retired after PEPRA was enacted will keep the “overpayment” until adjustment is made. Roberta wanted to know if pensions for those retiring now are being adjusted. Art confirmed.

Reddy asked if retirees would receive a letter prior to receiving reductions and if there would be different effective dates. Art indicated that each impacted retiree would receive a letter and have a chance to object. There could be different effective dates, but the implementation process has not been finalized yet. It is an individual process for each retiree.

Cindy stated that although recoupment is not retroactive, application is retroactive in that it is reaching back to recalculate pensions for people who retired in the past.

Art said the good news is that retirees have been getting overpaid and to say that implementation is retroactive is not true.

Associate Members – Maryellen Benedetto had nothing to report at this time.

Program/Social – Anne and Tom were not present to report.

Newsletter – Dee Emami said that articles are usually due on the 15th, but since she will be out of the country through the 16th, shortly afterward will work.

Nominations/Elections – Nancy Settle had nothing new to report.

Communications – Will said he would follow up with Ben about a couple of people who called to say that they were not receiving email newsletters. There have not been many calls otherwise.

Audit Committee – Cindy and Butch indicated that a meeting will be scheduled after taxes are filed. Butch said Cindy needs one more meeting. Reddy asked Tracey Pirie to join the committee and she agreed. Butch said that the meeting can be held during the year according to the bylaws. A meeting is usually held during April. Cindy and Butch will keep in touch to schedule. Butch said that Ken has a notebook that will help Cindy with past information about audits.

CRCEA – Jacquie attended the last meeting remotely but it was uneventful.

Benefits – Kelly Shirk said the meeting was canceled again so she has nothing to share.

Scholarship – Tom was absent. Maryellen reported that she had not received any scholarships. Dee shared one scholarship that was received by mail. March 30th is the deadline because the 31st falls on a Sunday this year. Roberta asked if students seeking master’s degrees could apply. Maryellen shared that both advanced learning program applicants and graduating high school students can receive scholarships. Kelly asked if students are eligible to receive more than one scholarship. Maryellen thought it had not yet been done and students might also be eligible to receive more than one scholarship. Paul said he recalled that only one scholarship was allowed per student in the past. Concern was expressed about getting the word out to retirees. The newsletter and website advertise the scholarship. Roberta suggested that scholarships should be included in REAVC membership benefits materials. Colleen shared that retirees who were not members of REAVC had reached out to apply for scholarships in the past. Considering that, any mass mailings to retirees should clearly state that the scholarships are only for relatives of REAVC members.

Membership Report/Courtesy – Reddy thanked Dee for the attachment. Nancy Settle reported that REAVC was only 8 people down. Dee shared that several new members were recently added to offset those we lost. Art suggested the scale of the chart needed to be adjusted. Ben indicated that he would help Dee see whether the chart could be rescaled in Excel.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. **Discuss and Approve – Hosting the 2025 CRCEA Conference with Santa Barbara County** – Nancy, Roberta, and Will discussed the rates for different venues. Buellton rooms are about \$180 per night and \$12,000 per total. Crowne Plaza proposed a little over \$14,000 conference room dining area breakfast. Need to decide with Santa Barbara about how to do this. It is more prolonged doing this as a shared function. Roberta thinks we should not have the conference jointly if we cannot decide during the next meeting with Santa Barbara on

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Thursday. If it has been this difficult to choose a location, think about determining speakers and workshops. Roberta's recommendation is to separate and have REAVC host the conference alone. REAVC is scheduled to host for April 2025. Roberta asked how many of the Board members would like to go to Buellton for a conference. Most wanted to consider the Crowne Plaza. Butch Britt informed the Board that if Santa Barbara shares the conference with REAVC, that we split the costs. However, we bear all costs if we do it alone. Roberta was able to get a lot of help from Ventura County at the last conference. Otherwise, it would probably have cost around \$15,000 to \$16,000 last time. Roberta will reach out to the County for Technology support once again. Technical and Zoom support is not included in the technical and Zoom support. Reddy estimates the costs are over \$17,000 for the Crowne Plaza. Crowne Plaza doesn't offer a continental breakfast, but people can walk to a close by restaurant to eat. Dinner is paid for by attendees. Kelly spoke about afternoon snacks. Jacquie and Roberta spoke about sponsorships providing refreshments. Cindy suggested the Chamber of Commerce as a possibility for assistance. More research into sponsorships can be done.

2. **Discuss and Approve – 2024 REAVC Calendar – Attachment 5** Reddy indicated dates were missing on the calendar. Board members discussed the number of meetings. Nancy Settle said a minimum of four meetings are required by the bylaws. Butch said REAVC was usually dark in August. After discussion, the Board chose to add an August 6 meeting. The meeting dates were set as February 6, April 2, June 11, August 6, October 1, and December 10.
3. **Discuss and Approve – Alameda Committee Proposals** This item was moved to the end as a closed session item and to accommodate recusal of Art Goulet after all other business items were completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome VCERA Alternate Board Member, Maeve Fox Item moved to a future meeting because Maeve Fox was absent. Roberta thought that outreach to Maeve Fox should be conducted because she might not realize she needs to attend meetings because she is an alternate. Art said he would reach out to Chris Ayala to see if contact information is available. The information is confidential.

4. **Installation of New Board Member, Tracey Pirie - Attachment 6 (Oath)** Nancy Settle administered the Oath to Tracey, and she was sworn in as a Board Member. (This item was moved to first for action on the agenda.)
5. **Discuss and Approve – Increase Cost of Luncheon –** Item is postponed until necessary in the future. Butch said we really do not need the money according to the current budget. The issue is more related to attendance. Attendance seems to have gotten better. The limitation for the number of guests is on the announcement and in the newsletter. Tulare charges \$11 per member and each additional guest is \$20. Santa Barbara pays \$25. Cindy motioned to leave costs at \$10, seconded by Ben. Passed unanimously.
6. **Discuss and Approve - Committee List Draft – Attachment 7** During the Audit Committee report session, Tracey Pirie agreed to join the Audit Committee.
7. **Mass Mailing by VCERA to new retirees and membership drive – Nancy and Roberta** A mailing to the new retirees will occur in June. Roberta said a mass mailing should happen after the Alameda results and probably prior to June.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. and the next regular meeting was set for Tuesday, April 2 2024, at 11:30 a.m. to be hosted by Roberta Griego.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dee Emami

Dee Emami
REAVC Executive Assistant

Reviewed and approved by,

Reddy Pakala

Reddy Pakala
REAVC President