



REAVC

MARCH – APRIL 2025

“Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served”

2025 BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF		
President – Reddy Pakala	Directors	Directors (Continued)
First Vice President – Roberta Griego	Colleen Bruns	Cindy Schneider
Second Vice President – Ben Emami	Anne Dana	Kelly Shirk
Secretary – Will Hoag	Tracey Pirie	Board of Retirement Representative – Art Goulet
Treasurer – Paul E. Callaway	Lyn Krieger	
Immediate Past President -- Nancy Settle	Tom McEachern	Bookkeeper – Butch Britt
Associate Member Representative. – Maryellen Benedetto	Jacque Richardson	Executive Assistant - Dee Emami

MESSAGE FROM REAVC PRESIDENT - REDDY PAKALA

Southern California experienced some horrendous fires recently, both in Ventura and LA Counties. We all know friends and colleagues who were affected by the fires. We hope they can recover quickly from these traumatic losses.

On the good news side, we have received record rain and snowfall in Northern California which have filled most of the reservoirs. That bodes well for California water supplies for coming years.

On February 4, 2025, the REAVC Board of Directors considered different options to increase the cost paid by attendees based on inflation, which increased food, labor, and utility costs to Sterling Hills. The board unanimously approved an increase from \$10 to \$20 per person for members and a maximum of two non-member guests per member, effective for the June 2025 luncheon. Members will pay \$20 for their lunch, and the cost for their first guest will also be \$20. The price for a second guest is \$48, which is the amount REAVC pays Sterling Hills.

REAVC’s litigation on behalf of many of our members regarding VCERA’s pension reduction impacting many of our members is still being processed. REAVC has filed its brief, and we anticipate the State Supreme Court will render its decision by the end of this year.

VCERA has updated its Alameda implementation plan. I urge you to read it rather than try to paraphrase it here. You can view their implementation plan at the link below:

www.vcera.org/members/alameda-decision-information.

As their plan indicates, they anticipate reducing certain retirement benefits for affected members in 2025. However, if the State Supreme Court’s decision favors REAVC’s position, they should reverse the implementation plan and pension reductions.

As you may know, REAVC is hosting the CRCEA 2025 Spring Conference in Ventura on April 13-16, 2025, at Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel. If you are interested, you are welcome to attend. Registration Forms can be found at CRCEA.WILDAPRICOT.ORG. Apply online or print and mail to REAVC, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006.

REAVC formed a committee to plan the 2025 CRCEA conference over a year and a half ago. Roberta Griego, First Vice President, 805-889-7674, and Nancy Settle, Past President, 805-758-0142, are co-chairs. You may contact them if you need assistance in registering for the conference.

2025 REAVC CALENDAR

January 2025

Jan/Feb newsletter sent mid-month

February 2025

4 REAVC BOARD MEETING

March 2025

4 General Membership Luncheon
 Mar/Apr newsletter sent mid-month
31 LAST DAY TO SUBMIT AN REAVC SCHOLARSHIP BY EMAIL. Must be postmarked no later than March 30!

April 2025

8 REAVC BOARD MEETING

May 2025

May/June newsletter sent mid-month

June 2025

3 General Membership Luncheon & Scholarship Award Presentation
10 REAVC BOARD MEETING

July 2025

Jul/Aug newsletter sent mid-month

August 2025

5 REAVC BOARD MEETING

September 2025

2 General Membership Luncheon
 Sep/Oct newsletter sent mid-month

October 2025

7 REAVC BOARD MEETING

November 2025

Nov/Dec newsletter sent mid-month

December 2025

2 Holiday Luncheon
9 REAVC BOARD MEETING

REAVC = Retired Employees Association of Ventura County

Please note: This calendar is subject to change without notice. To confirm the events and deadlines on this calendar, please call REAVC at 1-805-644-7814.

Rev. 12-5-24

VCERA RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS – ART GOULET

December 2024’s investment performance was disappointing insofar as VCERA’s investment portfolio lost 1.6%, dropping in value to \$8.53 billion. However, for calendar year 2024, the portfolio gained \$633 million. At its January 27th meeting, the BoR committed \$75 million to private credit fund VWH Master Fund IV. The BoR had previously committed \$50 million to its predecessor VWH Master Fund III in 2022.

The BoR also approved the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR is a composite report comprising contributions from the Retirement Administrator, the Chief Financial Officer, and VCERA’s Auditor, Actuary, and Investment Consultant. It contains audited annualized financial data, investment information, and system statistics. It may be viewed on the VCERA Website at <https://www.vcera.org/about/financials/annual-comprehensive-financial-reports>

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, the BoR, on the recommendation of VCERA’s Chief Investment Officer Dan Gallagher, approved development of an in-house managed limited partner co-investment program. In connection with this recommendation, the BoR authorized hiring an additional Investment Officer to spearhead this effort. Fortunately, VCERA was able to use the existing list from the previous recruitment of an Investment Officer which resulted in hiring Paris Ba, which I reported on in the November-December 2024 Newsletter, so it didn’t take as long as is common with recruiting for a new job classification. Holly Macki was selected and reported to work on February 3rd. Holly graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business with a Finance concentration and spent a combined 20 years working for the Employees’ Retirement System of Texas and the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Alternate Appointed Public Member Donald Brodt had assumed the role of a voting member, and it was rumored he was being considered by the County to become the regular

Appointed Member for the remainder of former Public Member Rainey's term. Rumor was accurate and Mr. Brodt is now a regular Appointed Public Member of the BoR.

VCERA's Actuary has determined the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the measurement period was 3.42%, which rounds to 3.50% in accordance with the applicable provision of CERL While not yet official because the Actuary's report will not be considered until the BoR's February 24 meeting, Tier 1 and Safety retirees can expect a 3.0% COLA in their April retirement checks, with 0.5% added to their COLA Bank.

The following reflects what the COLA banks for Tier 1 and Safety retirees would be after this addition:

Date of Retirement	COLA Bank
On or before 4/1/75	55.5%
4/2/75 to 4/1/76	48.0%
4/2/76 to 4/1/77	40.5%
4/2/77 to 4/1/78	37.0%
4/2/78 to 4/1/79	33.0%
4/2/79 to 4/1/80	28.5%
4/2/80 to 4/1/81	20.5%
4/2/81 to 4/1/82	8.0%
4/2/82 to 4/1/22	6.5%
4/2/22 to 4/1/23	3.0%
4/2/23 to 4/1/24	1.0%
4/2/24 to 4/1/25	0.5%

Tier 2 retirees represented by SEIU (and who did not withdraw their COLA contributions upon retirement) will receive a 2% COLA in April for service accumulated after March 16, 2003 (or service accumulated after July 7, 2002, if they retired prior to 3/13/2005). Tier 2 retirees represented by CNA will receive a 2% COLA for service accumulated after June 25, 2023.

IN MEMORIUM

LOVED ONES LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER



**ERNESTINE BENNETT. JOSEPHINE CARR. PAULA CORTEZ. PETER CRONK. ALBERT G. DUFF.
BARBARA DUNCAN. SUSAN FOOSHEE. NORMA HARVEY. VIRGINIA IVERSON. PAULINE JAMES.
BRUCE KELLER. ALAN LANGVILLE. JEFFREY MAURER. ROBERT MCGILL. WILLIAM MCGUFFEY.
ERNIE MELONAS. LINDA G. SERGENT. THOMAS TEMAAT. WENDY WHARTON. DOROTHY WYSEL**

A member's surviving spouse is eligible for REAVC membership. Applications are on the REAVC website at www.reavc.org.

Why Should I Join REAVC? *By Butch Britt*

One question often voiced when trying to encourage retirees to join the Retired Employees Association of Ventura County (REAVC) is, “Why should I join REAVC”? There’s no one answer, it’s an individual choice. But we do offer the following to help you make up your mind and hopefully join us as a member of REAVC.

So, what are some of the benefits?

- Interaction with other County retirees – one of the main things that I miss most on retirement is interaction with my co-workers.
- Luncheons – REAVC sponsors four general membership meetings per year. REAVC subsidizes the cost of these luncheons for members. If you attend only one luncheon per year, you can essentially recover the annual cost of your membership.
- Newsletter – REAVC publishes a bi-monthly newsletter which is sent to all members. The newsletters provide information relevant to a wide gamut of county retirees, such as the latest in retirement legislation or health care tips. You might even get a chuckle or two from Old PapaB’s ramblings on the foibles of living and retirement.
- Representation at other county or state forums that might impact not only current but future retiree benefits. Members of the REAVC Board attend Ventura County Retired Employees Association, California Retired County Employees Association meetings, and even state legislative meetings. We review pending legislative bills and work to ensure that our retiree benefits are considered fairly and equitably.
- Scholarship program – REAVC awards several college scholarships annually to a member, a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member or associate member.
- Multiple insurance options at group rates from Pacific Group Agency Insurance. They offer plans ranging from supplemental health insurance to pet insurance and nearly every insurance need in between.

These are just a few of the benefits REAVC provides to our members. Our current membership dues are about \$2 monthly, less than a cup of coffee. But we can’t accomplish our mission alone. We need to ensure that current and future county retirees who might not be members or might not even be aware of REAVC consider joining. Please help us get the word out to anyone who might be considering retirement and encourage them to join. Remember, with numbers, our voice is stronger!

For further information, contact us at (805) 644-7814 or info@reavc.org. You can also check out our website at reavc.org. The REAVC membership application is available on the website under Quick Links.

MEDITERRANEAN PASTA SALAD – by Dee Emami

Salad Ingredients: 16 oz. cooked and cooled penne or rotini pasta, 1 cup of sliced cherry tomatoes, handful of arugula, 1 small red onion sliced into thin rings, 1 cup of sliced green olives, cup of feta crumbles

Directions: Assemble ingredients in a large bowl.

Dressing Ingredients: $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of pesto, 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise, $\frac{1}{8}$ cup pasta water (or just don’t drain the pasta well), juice of 1 lemon, black pepper to taste.

Directions: Mix dressing ingredients well and toss incrementally into salad. (Some like less dressing.) Enjoy!

PAPA B1- BY BUTCH BRITT - The Emperor's New Clothes AKA, "There's a Sucker Born Every Moment."

I recall vaguely from my childhood (a little less than 200 years ago), the story of "The Emperor's New Clothes". It was written by Hans Christian Andersen, but variations can be found predating Mr. A. by several centuries.

You may remember the story. It concerns a very vain and clueless Emperor who was also a "clothes horse" In comes two scoundrels (aka con men) who offered to weave terrific new cloth and make such beautiful new clothes that everyone would be amazed by the Emperor's sense of style.

As an added benefit, only true believers could see the amazing cloth, and those that couldn't see it were obviously incompetent and incapable. Well, all worked fine – for the con men. They took the money, the gold, and continued to weave – NOTHING. Every time the Emperor or his Court went to check on them, they saw NOTHING. But not wanting to be considered incompetent, they all oohed and awed. All of his Court complemented the Emperor's taste. They didn't want to lose their jobs, or maybe their heads.

Finally, the vestments were declared finished, or maybe the scoundrels thought they best get out of Dodge while the getting was good. The Emperor decided to march in a big parade and show off his new clothes. So, he put on his new clothes, marched down Main Street, and everyone clapped and cheered. Everyone complimented his taste and regal bearing, UNTIL a child exclaimed. "He's not wearing any clothes". Finally, the Emperor realized he was in his Birthday Suit, but like a true Regal, he just marched on. Perhaps he cut the parade short, it was a little chilly, but the story doesn't tell us that.



They did build a statue commemorating the story. The child looks quite heroic. The Emperor not so much. As to the two scoundrels, the story doesn't tell us what happened to them. Perhaps they lived to a ripe old age enjoying their riches and laughing at their success in fooling a lot of people. I always thought they met someone later on down the road who sold them interest in a bridge in Brooklyn or shares in a pyramid scheme; and they lost all their money. Better than thinking of these two miscreants running down the road with no heads.

But the story has been repeated in many variations to this day. Someone is always trying to sell you on the "Magic Bean or Quick Fix". You can see one variation every time you watch television today and get bombarded by the obnoxious commercials that promise medications that will cure every malady known to humankind. I think the commercials just tend to make you feel sick. Or maybe they will try to sell you a new car or phone, that promise to make you more attractive, successful or happy. And they cost little or nothing to operate or maintain. It's almost human nature, to look for a cure for a problem quickly and easily, sometimes one we didn't even know existed. So, the lesson is "Beware of False Prophets", or you may feel a draft walking down the street.

Of course, PapaB has been known to invest in a few hair-grow treatments in the past, only to realize that perhaps they don't work, and I'd be better off investing in some new hats.

If you do find a real cure for baldness or something that helps me to remember why I came into a room but can't remember why, just let me know. Maybe I don't need to make the mortgage payment this month.

In any case hope to see you at the next REAVC Luncheon. I'll be the fat, old, bald guy in the back trying to sell See's Candy. Stop by and say hello.

SEE's Candy Gift Card Sales

By Butch Britt

REAVC is still selling \$25 See's CANDIES gift cards to members at a cost of \$21 each. The gift cards do not expire and 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.

LUNCHEON UPDATE



You may receive this newsletter before the March luncheon because it was published early to notify potential scholarship applicants of the March 31 filing date. The June 4 luncheon recognizes REAVC scholars. The last date to sign up for the June luncheon is May 22. We look forward to seeing you there.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 31, 2025!

REAVC annually awards scholarships to children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of REAVC members. You can get more information and an application form from our website by visiting <https://reavc.org/>. **But remember, the deadline to submit applications for this year's scholarship awards is March 31, 2025.** Applications must either be received or postmarked by this date, and completed applications must be signed by both the applicant and the REAVC sponsor. **So, get those youngsters cracking!!!**



REAVC sincerely appreciates the Ventura County Credit Union for its continued support of the Scholarship Program.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ben Emami uses Constant Contact to send the newsletter via email. If you need to update your contact information, please contact Ben at info@reavc.org or REAVC, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006. Please indicate "Address Update" on written correspondence. You can save REAVC dollars for other membership needs by requesting a PDF version of the newsletter by email at info@reavc.org.

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

Who's Eligible?

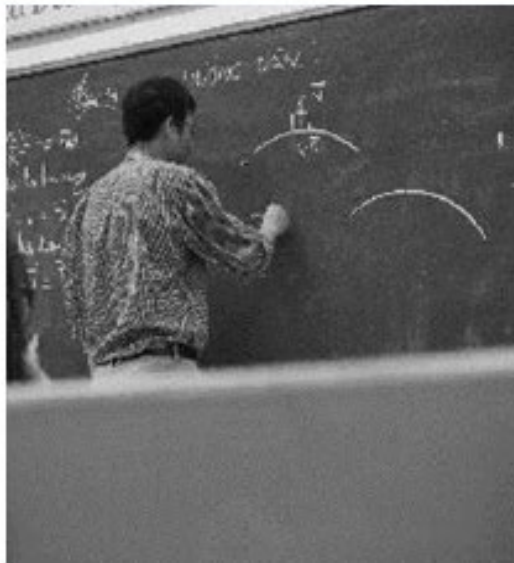
A current member or
associate member of
REAVC

or

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

or

An associate member



A
scholarship
award of up
to \$1,500



REAVC must receive
all completed
applications, along
with letters of
recommendation, by
March 31, 2025



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



* Retired Employees Association of Ventura County

Change of Address Form

If your address has changed, please complete this form and mail it to REAVC-Address Updates, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006. Please print your information.

Name _____

New Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW RETIREES

CHARLES	BLAT	SUPERIOR COURT	10/5/2024
JANIS	BROCKWAY	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY	9/1/2024
NORMA	CHRISTMANN	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	10/4/2024
APRIL CHRISTINE	DUENAS	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	10/8/2024
MONICA L	HERNANDEZ	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	10/8/2024
STEVEN M	JUMP	SUPERIOR COURT	9/19/2024
ROD	KODMAN	PUBLIC DEFENDER	10/12/2024
DOUGLAS MYLES	LEGAN	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY	10/1/2024
ELIZABETH ANITA	LETUS	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	9/18/2024
ELVA I	LOPEZ-RODRIGUEZ	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	10/5/2024
ROSA CARMINA	MAGALLANES	SUPERIOR COURT	10/5/2024
CAROLYN WARREN	MARKHAM	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	9/26/2024
PATRICIA M	MC LAY	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	7/13/2024
CYNTHIA L	MCKINLEY	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY	9/27/2024
JOANNE MARIE	NIELSEN	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	9/25/2024
MARISOL	RODRIGUEZ	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	9/11/2024
LARRY WAYNE	SCHNEIDER	SUPERIOR COURT	10/5/2024
GERARDO FLOIRENDO	SEGISMUNDO	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	9/25/2024
CINDY L	SIMENTAL	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	9/5/2024
MICHAEL EDWIN	STEVENSON	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	10/5/2024
MAUREEN	STUTT	SUPERIOR COURT	9/28/2024
DAVID ALLEN	WADSWORTH	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY	9/28/2024

REAVC LIST OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The go-to resource for “where to find anything” is 211, a 24-hour helpline with an incredible list of County services. Below is a list of county-wide resources, some of which were recommended by other seniors.

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	manymealsoftcamarillo.org
Ventura Avenue Adult Center	805-648-3035
Independent Living Resource Center	ilrc-trico.org
Livingston Hospice Care	lvmna.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	needhelp-payingbills.com
Catholic Charities	catholiccharitiesusa.org
Livingston Visiting Nurses Bereavement Group	lvmna.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	aaventuracounty.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	clucounseling.org
New Beginnings	thenewbeginningscenter.com
Ventura County Ombudsman Program (Long-term care complaint assistance)	ombudsmanventura.org

Join us at the



REAVC Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

Sterling Hills Country Club

901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

(Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.)

We hope you join us in recognizing REAVC Scholarship Winners.

\$20 each for REAVC Members and one Guest, \$48 for a second Non-member Guest

No phone reservations or walk-ins are allowed for this event. Reservations must be made in advance by May 22 using the form below and mailing it, along with a check payable to REAVC, to: REAVC - Luncheon P.O. Box 7231, Ventura CA 93006-7231

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Registration form for the REAVC Scholarship Luncheon June 3, 2025

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 \$20.00 = _____

1st Guest, or Member Guests at \$20.00 = _____

2nd Guest at \$48.00 = _____

(2 Guest Limit)

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

The deadline for both reservations and cancellations is Thursday, May 22, 2025!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Anyone who makes a reservation, does not attend the luncheon, and fails to cancel by May 22, 2025, will be responsible for the \$48 luncheon cost. An exception may be made in case of an emergency. Except for the scholarship recipients' guest list submitted by the scholarship committee, the guest limit is 2. Please note that the cost for a second guest is also \$48. Only attendees who provide an email will be sent confirmation of their reservation. No walk-ins or phone reservations will be accepted. Reserve early; once the seating limit is reached, reservations are wait-listed.* For questions regarding reservations or cancellations, please contact: Anne Dana at 1-805-320-6408 – or email info@reavc.org