



# REAVC

MAY – JUNE 2025

*"Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served"*

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## MESSAGE FROM REAVC PRESIDENT - REDDY PAKALA

The upcoming luncheon on June 3 is known as our "Scholarship Luncheon." It is an opportunity to recognize the young men and women who are this year's scholarship awardees. During this event, we will award multiple scholarships to a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a current REAVC member. We are all proud of our part in helping to further their educational efforts, and this is an opportunity to meet them and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

I also want to express our appreciation to Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU), which has generously supported our scholarship program for several decades. We will report the names of the scholarship recipients in the following newsletter.

If you missed the opportunity to apply for a scholarship this year, check out our website, [reavc.org](http://reavc.org), for more information and applications regarding our scholarship program. The March 31 application deadline for the 2026 program will come around QUICKLY.

The REAVC March luncheon was a fun event with almost two hundred members and guests. We gave out lots of door prizes to attendees, and the food and fellowship were excellent again. At this luncheon, we announced an increase in the future cost that we will charge members from \$10 to \$20. We also increased the price for the first non-member guest to \$20. The cost for each additional non-member guest is \$48.

This was not an easy decision to make, but as an organization, REAVC has a responsibility to be fiscally solvent and remain in a position to defend your pension rights and support all our retired members. It's never popular to raise prices, but we've all seen the price increases at grocery stores, restaurants, and gas pumps. We hope you will recognize this and continue to attend our luncheons. They are a lot of fun! And if you think about it, twenty dollars for the cost of the REAVC Luncheon is still a bargain.

REAVC recently hosted the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) spring conference in Ventura from April 13-16. CRCEA is an organization representing all twenty of the retiree associations in counties whose retirement systems are governed under CERL. Being a member of CRCEA provides us "strength in numbers" to help us protect your pension rights from those who seek to reduce them, and to learn from representatives of retirement associations from other counties. Several REAVC Board members, in particular the conference committee co-chairs, Roberta Griego and Nancy Vaniotis-Settle worked extremely hard planning, organizing, and running the conference. I personally would like to thank all those who helped with the conference.

REAVC continues to monitor the state Supreme Court calendar for a hearing date regarding the Alameda decision by VCERA. As reported previously, we anticipate a decision later this year.

## VCERA RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS – ART GOULET

The 3% COLA and the COLA Banks for Tier One and Safety retirees listed in the January-February REAVC Newsletter were made official by the BoR on February 24. The new pension amounts will first be seen in the retirees' April checks. No action was required by the BoR regarding the fixed 2% COLAs for the eligible SEIU- and CNA- represented retirees. They are automatic and will also be seen in the April checks.

In January 2025, VCERA's investment portfolio gained 2% increasing in value to \$8.69 billion, compounded in February by a further 0.2% increase in value to \$8.71 billion. Recently the public investment markets have witnessed substantially increased volatility and valuation declines, primarily driven by geopolitical events, especially trade tariff issues. However, your pension fund's investment portfolio is strategically diversified and expertly managed to weather periods of uncertainty and increased market volatility, ensuring your financial security for the long term.

At its February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the BoR committed \$8 million to Drive Capital Fund V. The BoR had previously committed a total of \$32.5 million to its predecessors, Drive Capital Funds II, III, and IV beginning in 2016. It also committed \$12 million to Drive Capital OverDrive Fund III, having previously committed a total of \$17.5 million to its predecessors Drive Capital OverDrive Funds I and II beginning in 2019.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, an election was held for a General Member seat on the BoR, which was filled by Jordan Roberts, a civilian employee of the Fire Department. There were 5 candidates for the seat. Of the 8,264 General Members, only 708 votes were cast. Jordan was re-elected to a new 3-year term by a margin of 22 votes (231-209) over Liza Rocha of the Human Services Agency. He was sworn in on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

At the same meeting, Ryan Resnick of the Fire Department was sworn in as Alternate Safety Member, albeit for only 2 years since the seat has been vacant for a year. Ryan did not have to be elected because he was the only candidate for the seat, so no election was necessary.

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### IN MEMORIUM

#### LOVED ONES LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER



**LYNN ANDERSON.      BARBARA BAUER.      ELLEN BECKER.      MARILYN BILLIMEK.**  
**REBECCA DELGADO.      ANDREA FIGUEROA.      JUDITH GIFFORD.      GLEN E. HACKWORTH.**  
**DORIS HARBISON.      DANTE HONORICO.      JOHN P. JACKSON.      HERMAN KAGAN.**  
**GLORIA KILBRIDE. FRED PEEPLES. ALAN A. RAWLINS. LARY C. REYNOLDS. ROXETTA ROOD.**  
**DORA SEGIETH.      FRANCISCO SENERIS.      LOIS SHUMAN.      JAMES L. STALLINGS.**

A member's surviving spouse is eligible for REAVC membership. Applications are on the REAVC website at [www.reavc.org](http://www.reavc.org).

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Well, for one thing, computers. They were supposed to make everything easier and quicker than we used to have it when we were kids. Remember Mimeograph sheets? Typing on manual typewriters? Adding numbers on old manual adding machines – the ones with hand cranks? If you do, you are in or beyond PapaB's range of longevity. Well, computers do make typing reports easier, self-correcting, automatic formatting, etc. But sometimes they just do what they want to do, and to heck with you.



At least in the old days, you didn't have to remember (or write down) forty-eleven passwords, each one different, and still get hacked! Of course, you can buy the latest new software package to store your passwords, and supposedly, the package will remember your passwords when you try to sign on. But where is that? In some "never-never" land called the "Cloud"? Not sure that is any more safe than my dog-eared old notebook. And every time the company decides it's time to change your password, and forces you to do it, it's dang difficult to change it, and forget about automatic fill-in login after you do. Doesn't work. And there's not any instruction manuals to explain how to do it. Usually, that's about the time your printer stops working because your password is no longer valid.

You can look up how to do something about it on the internet, using something called "Google." That usually works, but sometimes it don't. At least I can use that to figure out how to add closed captions back on my TV screen when watching Netflix. I thought the actors were speaking one of the two jillion languages that I don't speak, but found out they were speaking English, just two levels below my hearing range. With closed captions, you can sometimes figure out who Jill really likes, or who shot John. Spoiler alert: It wasn't Jill. But don't doze while watching. Dem closed captions go by fast. I miss more final scores on the basketball game of the week dozing off in the last two minutes. That's one thing that hasn't changed in the last fifty years; the last two minutes of a basketball game take two hours. And March Madness is COMING! (I hope.)

Or the internet. When it goes down, nothing seems to work. Even my smart phone turns dumb – "Not so smart now are you, little hunk of junk!" But if you really have a desire to spoil your day, try to call a service rep. After forty or so minutes or multiple hours on hold, you might get a real person who asks you again for your name and phone number. Sometimes they just hang up on you.

And I can barely understand them. I can hear only about every third word. And mostly they remind me that if I just used their online help application, I could solve my own problem. Spoiler alert, if the internet doesn't work, you can't use the online help application. Even when their self-help application does work it's about as useful as crapola. You can only unplug the router, wait five minutes, and then plug it back in so many times before you realize that's not the solution. But they are going to make you do it, or they won't move on to the next step. (I have been known to lie, but they always seem to catch me).

Once, when I was stuck in an automatic answering service "easy-fix" trying to get a medical appointment, none of the categories seemed to fit. I'd either get cut off or rerouted back to the beginning. Finally, I clicked on the "pregnancy button" and I got an appointment. Everyone looked at me funny when I checked into the clinic. I suppose that it's kind of hard to imagine a 79-year-old fat, bald guy as pregnant, but so what! I did get an appointment when nothing else seemed to work. Take that you robot answering service fiends!



I guess it could be worse. We could have Artificial Intelligence robots telling us that we are now redundant and would we please get out of the way of progress. "Just step into that nice wooden box for a few moments or years and all will be hunky-dory." Not likely. How dumb do they think I am? Please don't answer that. I get reminded every day.

Well, that's about enough grumbling for the time being. I notice my internet is still down, so I might dig out a hardcover book to while away the time. If I can find one with type big enough for me to read. 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 gift cards. At least, I think I will. Hope that I'm not replaced by some super-duper automated robot whatsit by then.

## 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

The March luncheon was glorious with door prizes and a full house.

Anne Dana created a beautiful green and white setting strewn with shamrocks and chocolate. We saw at least one leprechaun, and our treasurer wore his kilt. It was a luncheon for the memory books. Please see the announcement at the end of this newsletter for information about our scholarship luncheon, which honors REAVC members and families for their academic excellence.



**REAVC sincerely appreciates the Ventura County Credit Union's 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 get in touch with Ben at [info@reavc.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@reavc.org).

### 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

IRENE	PENA	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	1/3/2025
JANICE MARY	BASH	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	12/14/2024
CHRISTOPHER G.	BORKOVEC	DISTRICT ATTORNEY	11/30/2024
CHARITO R.	CARINO	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	12/30/2024
LILIA VILLANUEVA	DE OCAMPO	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	1/27/2025
CHERYL PEYTON	FOX	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	12/21/2024
LISA DIANE	GALLI	CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES	12/10/2024
PAUL HENRY	GILLESPIE	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	12/21/2024
LETICIA C.	GUERECAL	SUPERIOR COURT	12/21/2024
LINDA ALLCROFT TESHIMA	HINTZMAN	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	12/15/2024
DAVID KENNETH	JACKSON	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY	12/7/2024
JUAN M.	JUAQUEZ	SUPERIOR COURT	12/10/2024
PEGGY	MCGRORY	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	1/1/2025
BRIAN B.	MURPHY	AREA AGENCY ON AGING	12/27/2024
SHEILA	MURPHY	HEALTH CARE AGENCY	1/1/2025
KATHLEEN MARY	TURNER	SUPERIOR COURT	12/14/2024
RODRICK C.	ZIERENBERG	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	1/1/2025

## CHUCKLES AND OTHER MISCELLANY – DEE EMAMI

The best things in life may not cost money, but you'll still pay for them somehow. As for the stuff that costs money, I thought buying a dozen eggs was a traumatic experience, but I just found the 15 most expensive food items in the world (according to [wealthygorilla.com](http://wealthygorilla.com)). These items flew past expensive and even gave new meaning to outrageously costly. On the upside, I looked at the pictures of some of these items, and they looked yucky!

1. Almas Caviar - \$34,500 per kilogram
2. Yubari King Melons - \$27,229 for two
3. Bluefin Tuna - \$3603 per pound
4. Ayam Cemani Chicken - \$2,500 each
5. Saffron - \$500-\$2000 per pound
6. White Truffles - \$2,100 - \$2,500 per kilogram
7. Matsutake Mushrooms - \$600 per kilogram
8. Moose Cheese - \$500 per pound
9. Manuka Honey - \$500 per kilogram
10. Iberico Ham- \$392 per kilogram
11. Vanilla - \$300 per pound
12. Wagyu Beef - \$200 per pound
13. Fugu - \$135 per pound
14. Foie Gras - \$90-\$110 per pound
15. Oysters - \$50 - \$100 per dozen

## 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	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	clucounseling.org
New Beginnings	thenewbeginningscenter.com
Ventura County Ombudsman Program (Long-term care complaint assistance)	ombudsmanventura.org



## ***MANY THANKS TO OUR CRCEA CONFERENCE SPONSORS!***

The California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) conference, hosted by REAVC on April 13 - 16, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Beach Hotel in Ventura, would not have been possible without the help of many sponsors and volunteers. Putting on a conference for 20 California Counties takes a lot of coordination and support. We thank our funding sponsors and CRCEA affiliates. They have helped fund breakfasts, breaks, hospitality and a Wildlife Cruise to Anacapa Island.

Sponsors include:

### **PACIFIC GROUP AGENCIES, Inc.**

**Stephen Petee,**

Group Term & Universal Life Insurance, Accident Insurance, Sickness and Short Term Disability Insurance, Cancer Insurance, Intensive Care, Hospital Confinement, Dental & Vision Plan Insurance, and others.

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<http://www.pgagencies.com/>

### **MY SENIOR HEALTH**

**Pete Blasi**

Dedicated to helping the Medicare eligible population transition into a Senior Health Insurance plan. They assist with the education, selection, and enrollment into either a Medicare Supplement, Prescription Drug Plan, or Medicare Advantage plan.

Sponsoring Breakfast and Breaks

<http://myseniorhealthplan.com/>

### **MEMBER EXTRA - LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**

**Ernie Strobel - See associated Ad.**

<http://www.memberextra.com/>

<http://www.memberextra.com/>

Sponsoring Breaks

### **AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC**

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Engineering Services

Sponsoring Breaks



Additional Sponsors Include: Reddy Pakala, REAVC President, Anne Dana, REAVC Board Member, Colleen Bruns, REAVC Board Member, Anonymous REAVC Board member, and REAVC.

THANK YOU!

# Are you sticking your head in the sand? The time to plan is NOW!!!



Unplanned long-term care costs can push you into serious financial distress. Get Long-Term Care Coverage before a health crisis prevents you from qualifying. You may email the **completed form below** to [info@siltc.com](mailto:info@siltc.com). If you have any questions, please call the toll-free number below.

Group Discounted Rates are available for REAVC Members, Spouses, and Family Members.

Offered by Specialists in Long Term Care Insurance Services, Inc. | **1-800-764-6585**

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_ AM / PM Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return questionnaire to:  
**Specialists in Long Term Care Insurance Services, Inc.,**  
**an AMBA Company (in CA dba: Association Member**  
**Benefits & Insurance Agency)**

P.O. Box 6630  
Auburn, CA 95604-9904

**Retired Employees Association of  
Ventura County (REAVC)  
GroupLong Term CareInsurance Plan**





# Advice for the *expected* and *unexpected.*

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## Have you thought about **Long-Term Care?**

Long-Term Care isn't just for the elderly. Accidents, injuries, and illnesses can happen to anyone, at any age, so it is very important to be prepared. Many people believe, incorrectly, that Medicare or their Health Insurance will cover most or all of the costs of long-term care services. However, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Medicare typically covers only about 12% of the cost of long-term care services nationally. Standard healthcare insurance plans for those under 65 are simply not designed to provide long-term services on an extended basis. Without a Long-Term Care Insurance plan in place, you could be stuck paying out-of-pocket for expenses that can exceed \$75,000 per year- or more depending on the area in which you live.

The good news is that you can protect yourself with a Long-Term Care Insurance plan now available to **RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION of VENTURA COUNTY (REAVC)** members, spouses, and family members through **SPECIALISTS IN LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. (an AMBA Company (in CA dba: Association Member Benefits & Insurance Agency))**. These policies can provide benefits to help you pay for your long-term care expenses and protect your assets. They also allow for the choice to receive care in your home, an assisted living facility, or a nursing home. In addition to choosing how you receive care, you can also customize the amounts of your coverage, creating a plan that perfectly suits you and your budget, giving you peace of mind. Furthermore, REAVC members are eligible for a group discount on the policy of their choice.

If you are interested in learning more about the plans available to REAVC members, please call **TOLL FREE 1-800-764-6585** or email an inquiry containing your name, association, and telephone number to [info@siltc.com](mailto:info@siltc.com). **Please note that a telephone call is necessary to ask several qualifying questions before a customized quote can be mailed to you.**

# Providing Medicare Clarity to County Retirees

## LET'S PARTNER!

Medicare is complex, but your members don't have to navigate it alone! My Senior Health Plan.com is here to provide trusted Medicare guidance and event sponsorship opportunities for CRCEA.

Empower your members with expert Medicare support. Reach out to us today to learn more about our sponsorship options.

### How We Help CRCEA Members:

- ✓ Personalized Medicare Plan Comparisons – Unbiased guidance on all available options
- ✓ Free Medicare Consultation & Plan Enrollment
- ✓ Comparisons Assistance with Enrollment
- ✓ Ongoing Advocacy & Post-Enrollment Support
- ✓ Support in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese & more via translation services

### Who We Help:

- ✓ County Retiree Associations
- ✓ Retirees Turning 65
- ✓ Current Medicare Beneficiaries
- ✓ Caregivers & Family Members
- ✓ Individuals Planning to Relocate



MySeniorHealthPlan.com

1-877-255-6273 

partnerships@myseniorhealthplan.com 

www.myseniorhealthplan.com 

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](mailto:info@reavc.org)