



REAVC

JULY – AUGUST 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
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Associate Member Representative. – Maryellen Benedetto	Jacquie Richardson	Executive Assistant - Dee Emami

MESSAGE FROM REAVC PRESIDENT - REDDY PAKALA

The “hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer, those days of soda and pretzels and beer” are back with us. Schools are on summer recess. It is time for vacations, field trips, and outdoor barbecues with family and friends. I hope you all enjoy your Summer.

At the June 3, 2025, REAVC luncheon, we were proud to recognize eleven scholarship recipients and present them a grant of \$1,000 each to further their educational goals. These recipients are all children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of a county retiree who is a member of REAVC. All eleven recipients completed their high school with exceptional school records and are either entering their journey toward their educational goals or are already enrolled in an educational institution. Many have contributed their time and skills to assist others, some have worked part-time, and all have set career goals. We wish them all success in their lives. See the article and photo later in this newsletter for more details about these hard-working students. It is undoubtedly an honor to recognize them and assist them in achieving their goals. A reminder for all REAVC members, if you have children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren that might benefit from a \$1,000 scholarship, the deadline for next year’s program is March 31, 2026. Details and entry forms can be found on our website, at reavc.org. So, get those grandkids cracking!

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work that the Scholarship Committee puts into the program. This year, our long-term Chair, Tom McEachern, was ill. Colleen Bruns and Maryellen Benedetto, co-chairs, stepped up and did a terrific job coordinating the process with three other committee members. Thank you all.

I would also like to acknowledge Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU) for its financial support of REAVC’s scholarship program. VCCU has a long history of community involvement in Ventura County in several areas. They have supported REAVC's scholarship program for several decades. This year, Melissa Miller, VCCU’s Community Partnerships Manager, was able to attend the June luncheon and see for herself the benefit of VCCU’s investment in our scholarship program. Thank you, Melissa, and VCCU for all that you do.

Our REAVC luncheons continue to be a popular event. We are currently holding them at the Sterling Hills Facility in Camarillo. Although we were required to raise the price, the luncheon continues to draw record attendance. The food is great, and door prizes are a bonus, but the thrill of meeting with our former colleagues and making new friends is the real prize. Our next luncheon is scheduled for September 2, 2025. A reservation form and information about the September luncheon are included in this newsletter. Remember to make a reservation, or you might find yourself on the outside looking in.

REAVC continues to wait for the California State Supreme Court to schedule a hearing date regarding the implementation of the Alameda decision by VCERA. There has been no significant new information to report, but your REAVC Board (and

our Alameda Committee) will continue to monitor this and keep you informed about any events as soon as we learn about it. ***You can also view more information about VCERA's current implementation plan on their website.***

I also encourage you to consider volunteering to help with the REAVC Board in any capacity that feels comfortable to you. We will be looking for new Board members in the future, as well as volunteers for the scholarship committee, luncheons, or other areas. We need help. The immediate future may be full of chaos and turmoil. Retiree pensions and benefits have long been under attack from several quarters, and the future doesn't look any different.

Ask any Board member (they are all listed on the front page of this newsletter) if you are interested in serving on the Board or a committee in any capacity. I can't promise you any more than hard work and the satisfaction of supporting your fellow county retirees, but I have found that to be a very satisfying reward.

Enjoy your summer. Have a beer, wine, or a pretzel for me. But mostly enjoy your retirement. You worked hard and served the public well.

VCERA RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS- BY ART GOULET

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, public investment markets have experienced fluctuations due to global events, including trade issues. That volatility continued in March through May and is likely to continue. Some economists say market uncertainty is at an all-time high.

- For the one-month period ending March 31, the investment portfolio decreased by 2%, with an ending value of \$8.52 billion.
- For the one-month period ending April 30, the investment portfolio gained 0.6%, increasing its month-end value to \$8.57 billion.
- For the one-month period ending May 31, the investment portfolio gained 3.0%, with the month-end value reaching \$8.81 billion.

It is important to remember that market volatility is a characteristic of investing. Retirement investments are managed with a long-term perspective. The goal is to grow savings over many years. Diversifying investments across different assets helps reduce risk.

The BoR continues to make investment decisions to promote long-term portfolio growth. BoR actions since the last Newsletter were as follows:

- At the April 28th Meeting: An additional \$25 million was committed to an existing investment in Arbour Lane Opportunity Fund IV, following an initial \$50 million investment commitment in September 2024. This builds on a prior investment of \$30 million made to its predecessor Fund III in November 2021.
- At the May 19th Meeting: A \$30 million commitment was made to the PIMCO European Data Center Opportunity Fund. This fund invests in buildings that house computer servers. The demand for data centers globally, particularly in respect to the continued development and delivery of Artificial Intelligence, is a growing industry. This commitment adds to several other investments with PIMCO since 2019.
- At the June 23rd Meeting: An additional \$20 million was committed as an add-on investment in the HarborView Equity Royalties Fund I. This fund invests in entertainment and media assets, primarily focused on music royalties. The initial commitment to this fund was \$30 million in January 2023.

At its meeting of June 23rd, the BoR adopted the budget for FY 2025-2026. It amounted to a total of \$17.4 million, an increase of \$1.2 million, or 7.5%, compared to the adopted budget for FY 2023-2024.

CERL limits the expense of administration to 0.21% of the accrued actuarial liability of the system, commonly referred to as the CAP. However, CERL also provides that expenditures for software, hardware and computer technology, and actuarial costs and investment expenses are not considered an expense of administration. Accordingly, the VCERA budget basically is divided into two parts, those costs subject to the CAP and those that are not.

The CAP for the next FY is \$17.6 million and the expense of administration adds up to \$11.4 million including a 10% contingency, or 65% of the CAP, so the new budget is well below the statutory limit.

PAPA B1- BY BUTCH BRITT – It's Going to Be a Good Day

I was born in a little town in South Carolina. It wasn't much of a town. They were called "mill towns" because the only industry was the cotton mill, and the company owned most of the town, including employee housing. It only had one main road. A railroad ran through it, but I think the depot was closed. No hospital, I was born in my grandparents' house. My Dad was in the military and stationed near New York. He was able to get leave from the military, but he had to hitchhike down to South Carolina. Got there a little late, but Mom seemed to forgive him, they were married over 50 years.



My Dad decided to stay in the service after the War. That meant that we moved quite a bit. And sometimes it meant I was sent to live with my grandparents rather than switch schools too often. I still have fond memories of those times. I didn't have problems fitting in at school. If you could hit or catch a baseball the local kids seemed to accept you readily. You got to school early, played a couple of innings, and then at recess we picked it back up. I had a bat, so I think I got picked for a team because of that. It certainly wasn't my great skill level, although I could argue "I was safe" or "That ball was out" with the best of them.

Most small towns in the south at the time had local semi-pro baseball teams. They played on the main town field on weekends. No lights, so there weren't any night games. But we went to watch them play when we didn't have anything better to do and could sneak out of the house. They had umpires and uniforms and things, but mostly they drank a lot of beer. We'd come by after the game, collect the bottles, sometimes we'd find old baseballs, broken but still serviceable bats, and once I even found a real baseball jersey, in good shape. Admittedly, it did have a bad smell. It was four sizes too big, and whoever heard of the Mudhens? It was made of wool, hot as heck, and made you itch when you wore it. I loved it! My grandmother – not so much. It mysteriously disappeared after a few days, and I always suspected her.

I called my grandfather Papa. He was strict. But I was left by myself most of the time. I just had to get to school on time and be home in time for supper. We were sort of a crazy bunch of kids, building huts in the woods, and chasing down creeks and hunting birds or squirrels with BB guns. We scared a lot of them, but I don't recall that we ever hit any.

I also can't say that I took school too seriously in those days. My grades and teacher reports reflected my attitude. One time my grandfather got fed up with me and took me out to a cotton patch outside of town. After a day of picking cotton by hand, on a hot summer day, for about twenty-five cents, and considering my meager baseball skills, I decided to try a little harder in school. I was mad at my grandfather at the time. It was a hard but valuable lesson.

My Papa was not overly educated. But he wore an old worn suit, tie, and hat most of the time. He worked at the local cotton mill. When he was promoted to foreman, he was assigned a better house. Running water, inside bathroom, still a coal stove, but it was a big improvement from the old house they had. I thought my grandparents were rich because they had a television, which was a big thing back then.

There were packs of wild dogs in the area, which knocked over trash barrels and caused other mischief. I remember standing on the back porch with my grandfather with his rifle, shooting at the dogs to scare them away. I don't know if he missed them on purpose or was just a bad shot. We had fun anyway.

We didn't have trash pickup in those days or regulation trash barrels; it was a 55-gallon drum that Papa scrounged from the mill. You had to keep them a long way from the house, because frankly, they smelled like the high heavens. Once every week or so, Papa would take some gasoline, pour it in the barrel, and light it. Later, he would roll the barrel down the hill and bury the ashes in an old vacant lot. Don't tell the Politically Correct Police about that.

Grandpa worked the night shift at the mill, so he slept during the day. On weekends, he would take me downtown to the local five-and-dime. He'd give me two dimes to spend. I'd buy two comic books, ten cents each, but you had to buy them

separately, otherwise you'd have to pay tax and get charged twenty-one cents for the two ten-cent comics. No sense paying the tax man if you didn't have to. Gosh, if I still had those comics today, I'd probably be a rich man. Twenty cents don't sound like much today, but there was this old man who came home every Friday with his weekly paycheck, went downtown on Saturday to cash that check, and then made the rounds to pay his rent, grocery bills, and the like. Some weeks, there just wasn't much left over. But he always saved two dimes for me.



He drove a very old Ford Model A. "Drove" might be an overly optimistic description. The darn thing hardly ever started up the first time. More often than not, it would not start the second, nor the third, nor the fourth time. It had a manual choke, the starter button was on the floor, and the tires generally had to be pumped up every three days. It sounded like an old sewing machine when the motor finally started. I remember my grandmother getting dressed up to go to church or a meeting and often walking back to the house while my grandfather worked to coax one more trip out of the beast. Henry Ford was both revered and reviled in my grandfather's house.

His eating habits were also unusual. When he put food on his plate, nothing could touch. No veggies mixed up on his plate, nothing touched the meat. And he ate only one type of food at a time. When he ate potatoes, he ate only potatoes, and nothing else, until all the potatoes were gone, then he went to the next food item. When I asked him why he did it that way, he just looked at me and finally said, "That's the way I do it."

When he had breakfast, he'd pour his coffee into a cup. Add cream and sugar (lots of sugar), stir it, and then pour it into a saucer. He'd blow on it and drink the coffee from the saucer. I never saw him drink from the cup. Then, he'd take the newspaper, snap it open, and start reading from the middle. When I asked him why he didn't start at the beginning, he told me that after the War, and his son and sons-in-law were home safe, the front section was just gobbledygook. Not worth reading. He didn't like sports; they were all Yankee land teams anyway. He went directly to the obituaries. If he hadn't seen his name there, he knew it was going to be a good day.

Now, almost 70 years later, I do the same thing. Except I drink my coffee from a mug and read the "paper" online. I didn't see my name today. It's going to be a good day!

Hope to see you at the next REAVC luncheon. Look for the fat, old, bald guy with a white beard at the See's Candy gift card table, usually at the back, behind the potted plants.

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.



JUNE SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON UPDATE

Anne Dana created a sparkling table setting with star bouquets featuring the names of scholarship recipients. Maryellen Benedetto and Colleen Bruns co-chaired the selection committee this year. The Credit Union also provided a donation for the scholarship program and sent staff to the luncheon in support. The June luncheon recognized REAVC members and families for academic excellence. These stellar recipients exhibited wisdom beyond their years as they shared inspirational stories.





Pictured from left to right are: Maryellen Benedetto Scholarship Committee Co-chair, Niyam Reddy, Helen Leon, Stefan Hubner, Irick Catanach, Brooke Ramirez, Kiersten Falat, and Colleen Bruns Scholarship Committee Co-chair.

The REAVC Board Congratulates All 2025 JOHN MACINTYRE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

Irick Catanach
Rosemary Leon

Deyan "DJ" Dragicevich
Aidan McDaniel

Kiersten Falat
Michael Oelschlager
Niyam Reddy

Stefan Hubner
Steven Oelschlager

Helen Leon
Brooke Ramirez

Scholarship Committee Members are Co-Chairs Maryellen Benedetto and Colleen Bruns, Don Greenberg, Ray Holzer, and Henry Solis. We hope to have our long-time Chair, Tom McEachern, join us again next year.



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 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.

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 _____

LOVED ONES LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER



ROBERT CALDWELL. DIANE DeMICCO. MARY FLANNERY. SANDRA FULLER. ARLENE HALE. MARJORIE HAWKINS. RANDALL JOYCE. SHERILYN KIMBLE. HAROLD McGUFFIN. CARL SHOENBERGER. CHRISTINE TAYLOR

Surviving spouses of REAVC members are eligible for membership. Applications are on the website at www.REAVC.org

FAVORITE QUOTES:

"People who live long, who will drink the cup of life to the very bottom, must expect to meet some of the usual dregs."
Benjamin Franklin

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." Oscar Wilde

CONGRATULATIONS NEW RETIREES

LANCE ASHLEY	AUSTIN	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
KAREN ALYSSA	BROWN	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ERIC HORST	BUSCHOW	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
HILARIO LARRY MANZANO	CERDA	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
RONALD WARD JR.	CLAYTON	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ISABEL P	CONTRERAS	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
PAMELA	COOK	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
CHRYSTAL JO	CRAVER	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TERESA	ESCAMILLA	DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ERIN KIM	FINK	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
MARK THOMAS	FRANKE	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JASON SCOTT	FULLER	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARIA ELENA	GONZALEZ	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
THERESA M	HART	PROBATION AGENCY
CLAUDIA	HOLDEN	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
REBECCA ANN	JIMENEZ	PROBATION AGENCY
ALICE R	KONIECZNY	PROBATION AGENCY
MARIANN	KOVATS	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
RODD	LANDON	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MONICA	LOPEZ	CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
KEVIN TERRANCE	LYNCH	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MINH	MACH	PROBATION AGENCY
JOHN PATRICK	MADUENO	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
GREGORY RONALD	MARGETIN	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ALBERTO	MIRAMONTES	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TERRY LYNN	MORGAN	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ALETA CHERYL	MORRIS	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
RONALD GARY	OATMAN	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
ROBERT	PACHECO	PROBATION AGENCY
KERI CALONA	PARTIDA	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NANCY LEE	PHILLIPS	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ROBERTA	PINEDO	PROBATION AGENCY
GLORIA	RAMIREZ	CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
ELIDA MARIA	REXACH	PROBATION AGENCY
VINCENT DAVID	REYNOSO	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARK	RIDGLEY	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
IRMA	RIVERA	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
ANNA	SANDOVAL	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DENISE NICOLE	SLIVA	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JOHN GERALD	SPYKERMAN	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
LINDA	STEVENSON	COUNTY COUNSEL
JULIE ANN	STUART	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
ALBERT	TREVISAN	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GREGORIO GERONCIO	YZAGUIRRE	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

Join us at the



REAVC September Luncheon

Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

Sterling Hills Country Club

901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

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

\$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 August 22 using the form below and mailing it and 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, September 2, 2025

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) of REAVC Member(s): _____

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 Non-Member Guest at \$48.00 = _____

(2 Non-Member Guest Limit)

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

The deadline for both reservations and cancellations is Friday, August 22, 2025!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Anyone who makes a reservation, does not attend the luncheon, and fails to cancel by August 22, 2025, will be responsible for the \$48 luncheon cost. An exception may be made in case of an emergency. Please note that the cost for a second non-member 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 related to the luncheon, please contact: Anne Dana at 1-805-320-6408 – or email info@reavc.org