



REAVC

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2025

"Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served"

2025 BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

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MESSAGE FROM REAVC PAST PRESIDENT – NANCY SETTLE

Greetings REAVC Members,

Labor Day will have come and gone by the time you get this newsletter. Given the significance of Labor Day, I thought I would do a bit more investigation into this day that honors America's workers, including you, our REAVC members. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland and Congress acted to make the first Monday in September a national holiday in recognition of the social and economic achievements and contributions of the American worker. Some would say this was a conciliatory action. This was the result of a culmination of protests and struggles for better pay, working conditions, and hours, particularly for workers of the Pullman Car Company. In 1893 an economic depression and falling revenue prompted the Pullman Palace Car Company to reduce wages by 25% and cut over 2,000 jobs. Rents were not lowered in its company owned town. The American Railway Union called for a national boycott of all Pullman railway cars. There were major railroad traffic disruptions and disrupted delivery of U.S. mail. Widespread riots and violence erupted with up to 250,000 workers on strike in 27 states. President Cleveland sent in federal troops to quell the protests and start the rail cars moving. The strike created a political environment that demanded reform. Major reforms included a federal mediation system to settle labor disputes. It spurred the creation of the Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903, which ultimately granted workers an eight-hour workday and time and a half for overtime pay. (See NPS.Gov, Pullman National Historic Park.)

On this Labor Day, I think of the time and energy you have all contributed through your service to the County of Ventura. During my 30 years working for the County, I would talk with friends and acquaintances who had little knowledge of the magnitude of County responsibilities and operations. They were surprised at the dedication and commitment it takes to keep our communities and the County "running" including law enforcement, fire protection, hospitals, mental health, courts, tax collector, and much, much more. I am impressed with the level of commitment shown by the employees of Ventura County. The retired employees of Ventura County can certainly feel satisfied with a job well done for the citizens of Ventura County. In service to our members, REAVC works to provide opportunities for social interaction, scholarships, insurance benefits, legislation, local and state representation, and advocacy for the protection of your pension and benefits. May you enjoy the rest of the summer, and I hope to see you at an upcoming luncheon.

VCERA RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS- BY ART GOULET

Your VCERA pension fund had a very good year. Despite the market's ups and downs — and concerns about tariffs affecting the economy — the fund ended the fiscal year on a strong note.

In June alone, the portfolio gained 2.6%, bringing its total value to a new high of \$9.04 billion, compared to \$8.29 billion a year earlier.

For the full fiscal year (July 2024–June 2025), preliminary results show a return of 11.8%. That's well above our long-term target of 6.75%, and it also compares favorably to other major California pension systems: CalPERS earned 11.6% and CalSTRS earned 8.5%.

Private Market earnings are typically reported about three months after the close of the fiscal year. Some results — particularly from private market investments — take a few extra months to be reported. Our consultant expects that once those numbers are in, VCERA's final results will be even stronger.

The takeaway is simple: your retirement fund continues to grow, delivering returns that keep VCERA financially sound and secure for the long term.

As a reminder, VCERA recognizes gains and losses over a five-year period to limit volatility of employer and employee contributions to the fund. While PEPPRA requires that necessary contributions for the normal cost be shared equally between the employer and the employee, and the County has taken steps to apply that cost sharing to Legacy employees, only the employer must make contributions to amortize the unfunded liability of the system. It will be interesting to see how VCERA's excess earnings affect the unfunded liability when the annual Actuarial Valuation is performed in the Fall.

At its July 28th meeting, the BoR considered a number of recommendations of staff and the Governance Committee to revise its bylaws and amend the Disability Process and Disability Retirement Hearing Rules ("the Rules"). Most notably, it was recommended that the Disability Hearing Procedures ("Procedures") be detached from the bylaws and that the Rules be revised by reducing the various time frames when an application for a disability retirement has been challenged and sent to an independent hearing officer. There were also numerous remedial changes to the Rules recommended.

The various employee unions testified in favor of all the recommendations, the County objected to detachment of the Procedures from the bylaws, and two attorneys who represent the County and an attorney who frequently represents applicants in cases that go to a hearing officer testified in opposition to the reduction in the various time frames in the Rules. The County also requested additional time to review preliminary staff recommendations to approve an application for a disability retirement and for authority to send an application to a hearing officer when they disagree with a staff recommendation to approve an application.

After consideration of all the recommendations and testimony, the BoR approved detachment of the Procedures from the bylaws and, based on the testimony of the attorneys, made no changes in the time frames. They also, in recognition that the current review time given to the County to review preliminary recommendations was 21 calendar days, which is only 15 business days, increased the time to 21 business days with provision for time extensions for just cause and rejected the County's request for authority to send an application to a hearing officer.

If interested, you may view the final updated documents and all information related to VCERA's disability retirement policies and procedures on VCERA's [Disability Retirement webpage](#).

The discussion about the detachment of the Procedures was somewhat contentious. The County argued that the detachment had to be approved by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to CERL sec.31525, which provides that "regulations become effective when approved by the Board of Supervisors". However, it was pointed out that

Proposition 162, which was approved by the voters in 1992, and which amended the State Constitution, overrode sec. 31525. The second paragraph of amended sec. 17 of Article XVI of the Constitution provides “Notwithstanding any other provision of Law or this Constitution to the contrary (emphasis added), the Retirement Board of a public pension or retirement system shall have plenary authorityforadministration of the system”.

Obviously, adoption of regulations or bylaws is part of administration of the system, and “plenary” means “complete and absolute”, so Board of Supervisors’ approval was not required.

As is traditional, the BoR adjourned for the month of August so there was no business to report.

PAPA B1- BY BUTCH BRITT – Don’t Turn Out the Lights--Yet

“Turn out the lights, the party’s over

They say that all good things must end

Call it a night, the party’s over

And tomorrow starts the same old thing again” (Willie Nelson song)



Meaning? Not so sure, it was also sung by Dandy Don Meredith on Monday Night Football, when the score or performance of one or both teams was so out of whack, that he was recommending viewers to call it a night and switch to another channel. The GAME WAS OVER!! Course we only had two or three options back then. Might as well just turn off the idiot box, grab the last brew for the night, and sink into the waterbed.

A few weeks ago, I saw a snippet on a U-Tube channel with Dandy Don, Frank and Howard. DA Bears were behind about 40 or so points, and the “Fridge” just deflated their last football. Dandy Don just gave up on the game and sputtered through “Turn out the Lights.”

What brings this to mind? Well, a week or so ago, I went to see my favorite sawbones (AKA Doctor), and before he even examined me, he handed me a form for me to fill out. Something called a “Health Care Directive.” Essentially, that’s a form that authorizes ceasing extraordinary medical procedures to prolong life when all hope is gone. Not such a bad idea, but why bring me this form to fill out now? Does he know something I don’t know? My Doctor is a fantastic person, but I do wonder about the timing. (Spoiler alert, I filled one out ten years ago.)

That same week I got a full-page brochure for something called the “Sleeping Peacefully in the Sea Society” telling me that I could get cremation insurance and a sense of wellbeing knowing that I would be carefully and compassionately cremated after I expire with full military honors or at least a bagpipe salute, but only if I send them the low, low sum or only several big bucks a week, for the next 400 or so weeks and if I don’t reply soon, preferably in bit-coin, the offer goes up in smoke. I consigned the brochure to the recycle bin; hopefully, I got it in the right color bin.

Next week, I got another full-page brochure in the mail, recommending that I buy burial insurance, for another low, low sum of another several big bucks a week, for the next 899 or so weeks. Of course, they didn’t specify where the burial site was, probably the Okefenokee Swamp.

Come on, does someone know something I don’t know? I might be “pining for the fjords,” but this parrot ain’t dead yet – nor anywhere ready to quit. I like hustling See’s Candy gift cards at the REAVC luncheons even though they put us at the back, where we are about as easy to find as year-old Easter eggs. I like playing Santa at Christmas and carousing with old friends. Nothing like sipping a small or maybe medium-sized glass of Jack Daniels in the evening or a well-cooked steak.

Every so often, I get a call or letter from someone asking me if I want to sell our house. I like our house, I like our neighborhood, and I really like my mortgage payment. I’m not ready to sell it and move into some cramped cubbyhole, at four or five times the monthly cost. How stupid do you think I am? Better not answer that, I probably already know the answer. Go peddle someone else’s house. Plus, where would I store all the chocolate and toilet paper I hoarded during COVID?

Or the retirement home brochures that I also get every so often. Full of full color pictures of attractive, mature individuals, all smiling, with buff bods, FULL HEADS of HAIR, golden tanned faces, not a single bruise or discoloration on their skin - what do they have walls and furniture with no corners and made of rubber padding? All of them are standing in a beautiful sunset, or on a golf course. They even look good in shorts! I don't like golf. And my legs don't look good even in sweatpants. I think the sunsets from my backyard are just fine.

Well, we all know at some point, we must shuffle off this mortal coil; it's written in the stars somewhere. Hopefully, it's a long time away, but no sense stressing out over it. Maybe my idea of a party now is a good movie on Netflix and a glass of Jack on the rocks, but it's still my party.

Someone came up with the bright idea of compiling and selling past PapaB's columns at REAVC luncheons. With the proceeds going to help our Scholarship Program. We're going to try a test run at the September and December luncheons. Well, if they don't sell, I may just buy all the copies and give them to people that I don't like. Please buy one! The proceeds go to help offspring of REAVC members in their scholastic endeavors, and I've been threatened with indentured servitude if we don't recover the printing costs.



Stop in and see me at the next REAVC luncheon. I'll be at the See's Candy gift card table at the back of the room behind the potted plants. As a one-time remarkable offer, in lieu of selling premature cremation packages, we are offering booklets compiling past PapaB's collection of clucks and groans for the exorbitant donation of \$20 for black and white version and \$30 for color. You can always use them to wrap dead fish in later. If you buy a PapaB's booklet, I'll sign your copy for FREE! (or you can give me five bucks, to not sign it). If they make me stay until REAVC recovers the cost of printing the booklets, it might take me at least another year before I can retire – **OR MORE.**

SEE's Candy Gift Card Sales

By Butch Britt

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

Our September luncheon is occurring just as this newsletter goes to print, and related news will be in the November/December newsletter. The December Holiday Luncheon is our most anticipated and highly attended luncheon of the year. Please register soon, as spaces will fill up quickly. The December RSVP form is included in this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

IN MEMORIUM

LOVED ONES LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER



TERESA BALL. FLURALEEN BENTLEY. MAUREEN BOTTINI. CAROL BREWER. SCOTT BUFORD. CLIFFORD BURSETT. ANNE ERIKSON. CATHERINE GLISSON. MICHAEL GRAM. MARJORIE HAWKINS. SHERILYN KIMBLE. EDITH KOONTZ-BALLARD. HAROLD MCGUFFIN. ALICE ORR. RICHARD PARKER. JAMES ROBERTS. FELIPE SANTANA. CHRISTINE SETTLE.

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

CONGRATULATIONS NEW RETIREES

CRYSTAL	ADKINS	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
LYDIA	ALMAGUER	SUPERIOR COURT
LUIS	AMARO	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ARNE ERIK	ANSELM	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
MELINDA	BARRERA-CROSS	PROBATION AGENCY
JENNIFER ANNE	BLANCHETTE	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
ALBERTO.	BOADA	COUNTY COUNSEL
PATRICIA	BOOKER	COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
RICARDO	BRAVO	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SUSAN MILLIUS	BROWN	SUPERIOR COURT
TODD MATTHEW	BURKE	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CINDY COPELAND	BURRELL	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
BARBARA JEAN	CABRAL	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
KIMBRA LYN	CARNAGHE	PROBATION AGENCY
PATRICIA	CERVANTES	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SHARYNE CHAMBLIN	CERVANTEZ	ASSESSOR
DOUGLAS LAWRENCE	COOKE	GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY
MELODY	CRANDALL	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
NICOLE	DAWSON	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
SALOME	DIAZ	SUPERIOR COURT
JERREMY	DITLOVE	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
TIERNAN	DOLAN	DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SONIA	ESCAMILLA	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
KHOSROW	FAROKHI	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
DAVID LOUIS	FLEISCH	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
MICHAEL	FRAWLEY	DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MARJEAN	FRYE	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
BRENDA	GRAY	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
GERALD	GRAY	PROBATION AGENCY
GINGER	HAWKINS	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
JENNIFER LYNN	HERNANDEZ	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
RICHARD	JACKSON	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
MARIA DE JESUS	JAUREGUI	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
TALMAH	KARLSEN	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
CECILIA	KAWANO	PROBATION AGENCY
KENNEY SEAN	KINSNER	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MELISSA MARIE	LIVINGSTON	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
STEPHEN LEWIS	LOZANO	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
JACQUELINE GARCIA	MARTINEZ	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
BRENDA LEE	MCCORMICK	SUPERIOR COURT

RICHARD ANTHONY	MENDEZ	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RENE	MOLINA	AUDITOR CONTROLLER
MARIA	MONTENEGRO	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
BLANCA NELLY	MORALES	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
MICHAEL	MORE	AUDITOR CONTROLLER
DAVID RYAN	MURPHY	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
CATHERINE	MURRAY	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
MARK	NAGODE	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
MATTHEW RYAN	NEMERSON	PUBLIC DEFENDER
DOUGLAS	NEWLEE	ASSESSOR
JEFFERY	NIELSEN	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AMY	OBA-SPENCE	PROBATION AGENCY
FRANCISCO ANTONIO	OLIVARES	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
ARMANDO	PADILLA	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
CRAIG WILLIAM	PEARSON	FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
DOROTHY JANICE	PERKINS	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
BOB	PETTIT	VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
RYAN ALEXANDER	PRATI	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NATALIE CHANTAL	QUINTANA	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
WILLIAM	RINNE	GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY
MARIA ELENA	RIVERA	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SALLY ANN	RIVERA	CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
RICHARD JAMES	ROACH	PROBATION AGENCY
CORY JAMES	RUBRIGHT	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANTHONY	RYAN	PROBATION AGENCY
KEVIN JAMES	RYAN	PROBATION AGENCY
JORGE	SALAS	PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
MARIA	SALAZAR	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
LYNDA GAYLE	SCHOPPE	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
JOHN GERARD	SEDLAK	HARBOR ADMINISTRATION
CARL	SHIDO	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
PIPER	SMITH	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
JEFFERY ALLAN	SMESTAD	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
KAREN ELAINE	SOUZA SMITH	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
KATHY ELAINE	SPENCER	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
HEIDI	STAUFFACHER	HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
AMY	STOVER-RUBRIGHT	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GEOFFREY HUNTER	STRAYER	SUPERIOR COURT
AAREFA KALIM	TAQUEE	HEALTH CARE AGENCY
DAWIT	TEFERA	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
LAURA ALVIZAR	THOMAS	HEALTH CARE AGENCY

AUDULIA
THOMAS TERRY
TIMOTHY JOHN
ARTURO
KAREN
LAWRENCE
MICHAEL
KERRY LYNNE
ANNEKE JEAN

TRIMBLE
TRIPLETT
VANDERLIP
VARGAS
VARTANIAN
WILLIAMS
WILLIAMS
WILSON
ZEKO

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
HEALTH CARE AGENCY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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 _____

QUOTES AND THOUGHTS

"Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Berthold Auerbach

"God remains on speaking terms with everybody." Reverend Mr. Carmichael, Shanghai Express

"Progress is man's ability to complicate simplicity." Thor Heyerdahl

"An apple a day may keep the doctor away. However, the surgeon general says to keep an eye out for the worm." Smile: Just checking to see if you're still reading.



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	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 December Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 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 November 20 by completing and mailing this form along with a check payable to REAVC to the following address: REAVC - Luncheon, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006-7231

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Registration form for the REAVC Holiday Luncheon, December 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 Thursday, November 20, 2025!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Anyone who makes a reservation, does not attend the luncheon, and fails to cancel by November 20, 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