# REAVC

## NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

***"Dedicated to Those Who Have Already Served"***

| 2026 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 | Chris Stephens | **Bookkeeper –** Butch Britt |
| **Associate Member Representative.** – Maryellen Benedetto | Gerhardt Hubner | **Executive Assistant -** Dee Emami |

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT – REDDY PAKALA

Fall is a time of multiple holidays. It is a joyful time of year, with Diwali, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, Las Posadas, Christmas, and Kwanzaa celebrated across different faiths and traditions. Enjoy this special season with your family and friends!

In June 2026, the California Supreme Court issued its ruling in the Alameda case. REAVC continues to track what is happening with Alameda regarding retirees' pensions. For details on VCERA's implementation, visit the Ventura County Retirement Association's Alameda Decision information page (News & Events | VCERA Pension Updates | REAVC).

We currently have a full slate of REAVC Board members. However, we anticipate vacancies in 2027. Anyone interested in serving on the Board, please fill out the questionnaire on the REAVC website, Board of Directors | REAVC.

On September 30, 2026, the Ventura County Registrar of Voters announced Arthur E. Goulet as the Retired Member Representative and Maeve J. Fox as the Alternate Member for the term from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029. Congratulations to both.

October 15 – December 7, 2026, is the time of year to make changes in your Medicare health and drug plans. By now you should have received the informational pamphlet on extra benefits from one affiliate Pacific Group Agencies – AMBA, who offers to REAVC members, and are independent of any plan offered by Ventura County. Disclaimer – REAVC does not endorse any of Pacific Group Agencies – AMBA policies (Ameritas Dental, Cigna Dental, VSP Vision, Personal Accident (AD&D) with Secure Travel, United Pet Care, LegalShield, IDShield or MySeniorHealthPlan.com who assist Medicare-Eligible Individuals with Plan Selection and Beyond – we are just provide this pamphlet to you as other means of information when you are considering Open Enrollment options.

This year's REAVC Holiday Luncheon is on December 1, 2026, at Sterling Hills in Camarillo. Once again, guests can look forward to plentiful door prizes, excellent food, and warm fellowship. Because this popular event fills quickly and seating is limited, please register early to avoid missing out. An RSVP form appears later in this newsletter. The deadline to sign up is November 18, 2026.

After several years serving as REAVC's President, I am stepping down. This will be my final newsletter message. I have enjoyed serving as REAVC's President and look with pride at our accomplishments during my tenure. I still look forward to continuing to serve as the Immediate Past President and continuing to see you at our luncheons or other events.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## VCERA RETIREMENT BOARD NEWS - By Art Goulet

This is sort of a repeat of last year's November-December newsletter. As you may recall, in my article in the last newsletter, I reported a preliminary investment return of 14.9% for the past fiscal year ending June 30. At that time, I noted private market earnings are typically reported three months after the close of the fiscal year, and VCERA's investment consultant expected the final results to be even stronger.

The past fiscal year's final quarter's results have been received by VCERA indicating the total fund's market value was about $6.3 million higher than the preliminary estimate, and the final portfolio one-year rate of return was 15.0%.

Through July and August, the market continued to move up. In July, the portfolio gained 0.1% and in August 1.9%, bringing month-end portfolio market values to new highs of $10.2 billion and $10.4 billion, respectively.

The regular September 14th BoR meeting was cancelled while the September 28th meeting was a Retreat and primarily educational. The morning program opened with a brief review of VCERA's June 30 quarterly investment performance by Dan Hennessy of NEPC, followed by NEPC colleagues Rose Dean and Oliver Fadly discussing private credit opportunities and risks.

Capital Group's Frances Coombs then moderated a conversational question-and-answer session with economist Dr. Jared Franz on the economic outlook and financial markets. The morning concluded with an engaging, informal presentation by Gene Sperling, who directed the White House National Economic Council under Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and later advised President Joe Biden.

After lunch, Consultant Brad Kelly presented an excellent and lively discussion on Board governance.

Afterwards, Amy Herron, VCERA's Chief Executive Officer, briefed the BoR about the many improvements made during the past year to various aspects of VCERA's boardroom and meeting operations to improve its efficiency and services to the BoR and all stakeholders, including VCERA members, employers, and the public.

In addition to the educational components of the September 28th meeting, the BoR took the following important business actions:

1. Approved Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Adjustments for the V3locity Migration Project Expenses outlined in the last Newsletter.
2. Committed $25 million to Crayhill Principal Strategies Fund IV. VCERA had previously committed $25 million to Crayhill's Fund II in 2021 and $75 million to Crayhill's Fund III in 2024. Crayhill makes

opportunistic asset-based credit investments that generate cash flows across a range of sectors including structured Commercial and Residential real estate, power and infrastructure, commercial finance and media.

3. Committed $30 million to Soho Square Capital Fund II, the managers of which will structure customized credit for high-growth business to business non-sponsored companies in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe. These will be first-lien secured loans with equity warrants attached. This investment will provide VCERA with differentiated geographic exposure within its private credit allocation which is targeted to increase to 10% of VCERA's portfolio.

**DOES A PERSON'S DEBT GO AWAY WHEN THEY DIE?**
**(Consumer Financial Protection Bureau - CFPB)**

When someone dies, their debts are generally paid out of the money or property left in the estate. If the estate can't pay it, and there's no one who shares responsibility for the debt, it may go unpaid.
Generally, when a person dies, their money and property will go towards repaying their debt. If there's no money in their estate, the debts will usually go unpaid.
For survivors of deceased loved ones, including spouses, you're not responsible for their debts unless you shared legal responsibility for repaying as a co-signer, a joint account holder, or if you fall within another exception.
If you're not responsible for a debt, debt collectors may still contact you if you're a surviving spouse or oversee the estate, but it's illegal for debt collectors to suggest you're responsible for paying from your own money. It's also always illegal for them to harass you about paying the debt.

**When you may be responsible for someone else's debt**

You're not typically responsible for repaying the debt of someone who's died, unless:

- You're a co-signer on a loan with outstanding debt
- You're a joint account holder on a credit card. Note: this is different from an authorized user
- You're a surviving spouse and your state law requires spouses to pay a particular type of debt
- You're the executor or administrator of the deceased person's estate and your state law requires executors or administrators to pay an outstanding bill out of property that was jointly owned by the surviving and deceased spouses
- You're a surviving spouse and you live in a community property state that requires surviving spouses to use jointly held property to pay debts of a deceased spouse. These states include Alaska (if a special agreement is signed), Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

If there was no co-signer, joint account holder, or other exception, only the estate of the deceased person owes the debt.

**When there is no estate**

If there is no money or property left in the estate, or the estate can't pay, the debt will generally not be paid. For example, when state law requires the estate to pay survivors first, there may not be any money left over to pay debts.

**How debt collectors can communicate with you about a deceased person's debt**

If you're a surviving spouse or a personal representative, executor, or administrator of a deceased person's estate, debt collectors can contact you to discuss debts and payments from the estate. However, it's not legal for them to state or imply that you're personally responsible for paying the person's debts from your own assets, unless your situation falls into one of the specific circumstances listed above that would make you legally obligated for the debt.

Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), debt collectors may not harass, oppress, or abuse you or any third parties they contact. Even if you're legally responsible for a debt, you have the right to tell a debt collector to stop contacting you.

**Ways to understand whether you're responsible for the debt**

Talk with a lawyer. If you have questions about whether you're responsible for a de-ceased person's debts, you may want to talk to a lawyer. To find an attorney, you can contact a lawyer referral service in your area and ask for a lawyer with experience in consumer law, estate, or probate matters, debt collection defense, or the FDCPA. Some attorneys may offer free services or charge a reduced fee. There may also be legal aid office or legal clinics in your area that will offer their services for free if you meet their criteria. Service members should consult their local JAG office. For older Americans and their care givers, the Eldercare Locator also provides trustworthy local support resources, including free legal laid for eligible older adults. Get details in writing.

Debt collectors are required to provide specific information about a debt during your first communication with them or within 5 days of the first communication. This information is known as a validation notice. If the collector refuses to give you any information about the debt – even though you are a surviving spouse, parent of a deceased minor, or personal representative of the estate – it might be a scam.

If you have an issue with debt collection, you may submit a complaint with the CFPB.

*www.consumerfinance.gov*

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## TV OR NOT TV? **PAPA B by Butch Britt**



Now I'm not much on recommending things to other people. We all have different tastes and foibles. Ever look up the word "foible"? It means everything from weakness to kinky. "Foible" sounds more regular. PapaB don't look like or even like the description "Kinky".

Anyway, one of my foibles, other than sipping Jack, when I can find an excuse, or chomping on dark chocolate, when I can remember where I hid my stash, is watching old movies on the Telly.

But with all this streaming stuff, I find that I just have too many options. Once, when there were only three or four channels, I could usually find an old cowboy movie or zombie flick on late Friday night to put me to sleep after a hard week of trying to stay awake long enough at the Government Center trying to fool people into thinking I was working. Didn't fool everyone all the time, but I got by enough to get a paycheck most months. And on Sundays, there were usually one or two football games on to keep you from having to mow the yard or clean out the tool shed. Nowadays they have four games playing at one time, and ten or twenty announcers.

First there was "cable", now there is "streaming". My senses have just gotten overcrowded by all the options available. Pretty soon, I think they will just implant a chip behind our eyes, and maybe we can have robots to serve us Jack or dark chocolate, before we even ask. HAH!

One of the big problems with all these improvements, is that they all have to work in sync. And no one is really responsible. When the internet goes down, streaming goes down. And grandkids go berserk.



Once, when I got back from an all expenses paid vacation (paid for by Uncle Sam), I splurged and bought a little black and white portable Sony TV. Now it only got local stations. You had to get up and off your derriere to turn it on and change stations, but I swear, that damn gizmo lasted forever. It probably still works, if I could remember where I stored it in our garage. Talk about reliability!

But time marches on, and we moved to BIG (and I mean really really BIG) color tv's and now several versions later, we got one that hangs of the wall and turns off and on with a remote control – when we can find the right remote. Naturally, it takes a different remote to stream, another to play games, and another to watch cable, and they all excel at slipping elusively and just out of reach, between the cushions of the couch.

I admit we still watch cable shows. I've even got a whole slew of old movies on video tape, including nearly every old John Wayne movie ever made, even "Singing Sandy" or the "Three Mosquitoes"? Of course, the only working VCR machine we have is also lost somewhere in the garage, probably next to the old portable black and white TV. But we still have the old tapes.

One of my favorite old movie quotes is from the John Wayne version of True Grit, where Nasty Ned Pepper and three of four more of his henchmen are asking John to step aside. Well Ned makes the mistake of calling John a "one-eyed old fat man", and John puts his horse's reins between his teeth, cocks his Winchester, pulls his revolver, and say's "Fill your hands, you son of a bitch." He then rides straight at Nasty Ned, and his three or four henchmen, caution thrown to the winds. I must have watched that scene several thousand billion times and still enjoy it. Got it on tape or CD somewhere around, probably in the garage.

If some archeologists ever exhume our garage 100 years hence, they will probably wonder about the useless technology and other stuff they find. I won't even try to list the gamut of stuff they will find. And they will probably be scratching their heads wondering where we stored our cars. Certainly not in the garage!

But I digress. Despite all the varieties and choices available to stream or watch on TV now, I admit to mostly just flicking back and forth between choices. I have calluses on my thumb and middle finger, from switching too much, and often can't find something I like. Some of the new stuff is pretty good. I admit to binging "Ted Lasso", although I still don't understand soccer. And "Reacher"! Man, he's tougher and meaner than John Wayne. But sometimes when I'm switching back and forth, I catch an old favorite like "Shane", "The Wild Bunch" or one of John's best. **Wait is that "True Grit"**, what channel was I on? Happy Days are here again – if I can find it! Where is that "back button"? Is this even the right remote?

Hope to see you at the next REAVC luncheon. I'll probably be in the back, behind the potted plants, still trying to sell See's Candy gift cards. Stop by and say hello. "Here's looking at you, pardner."

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**SEE's Candy Gift Card Sales**




REAVC is still selling $25 SEE's CANDY gift cards for $21 each. The gift cards do not expire. They are relatively easy to mail or use as holiday gifts. But remember, they only buy $25 of See's goodies.
You can still get ridiculously discounted gift cards:
1. Via the postal service at REAVC P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006 (but see note below)
2. By ordering over the phone at 805-644-7814 (Also see note below)
3. Or visit our See's CANDY table at the luncheons – usually set up in some convenient location – like behind the potted plants.



**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON UPDATE**

The December 1 Holiday Luncheon RSVP form is in this newsletter! Please don't miss out: **November 18 is the deadline for REAVC to receive your RSVP and payment by mail.** Please **mail your RSVP right away.** Holiday mail delays can occur, and this **event tends to fill quickly**. We hope to see you all there. **PLEASE NOTE:** Members must send written confirmation to the P.O. Box, along with their check, **to be received by November 18**. No RSVP calls or walk-in payments are allowed. This is necessary to ensure we have enough food and seating. Thank you for understanding.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Ben Emami sends the newsletter via Constant Contact/email. If you need to update your contact information, please send the Change of Address Form Update to: info@reavc.org or to REAVC, ATTN: Address Update, P.O. Box 7231, Ventura, CA 93006. You can save REAVC dollars for other membership needs by receiving your newsletter by email. info@reavc.org.

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**IN MEMORIUM**

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



LINDA S. BANGS. JANICE BASCOU. MAGDALENA BECKWITH. GILBERTO CABRERA. JOHN CANNIZZARO. ROBERT CARRIER. CHRISTINA CONWAY. RAMON E. CORDERO. CARMENCHITA MENDOZA HART. RUTH M. HARTMAN. JOSE C. PEREZ. NOEL SAN JOSE. NOSRATOLLAH SATVATI. JOHN T. SWAN. WANDA J. TUTTLE. GLENDA WALDROP.

**A member's surviving spouse is eligible for REAVC membership. Applications are located at: www.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. You may also email it to info@REAVC.org

Name_____

New Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Email_____

**REAVC LIST OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

211 is a 24-hour resource for finding county services. Some of the resources shown below 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 | clucounseling.org |
| New Beginnings | thenewbeginningscenter.com |
| Ventura County Ombudsman Program | ombudsmanventura.org (Long-term care complaint assistance) |

Fraud Help: John Meeker@ventura.org or (805)388-5130

NOVEMBER 18 IS THE LAST DAY TO **RECEIVE** YOUR RESERVATION!



## REAVC Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 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 and **received by November 18** 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 1, 2026

***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 reservations to be received or canceled is Wednesday, November 18, 2026!**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Anyone who makes a reservation, does not attend, and fails to cancel by November 18, 2026, will be responsible for the $48 luncheon cost. An exception may be made in case of an emergency. Please note that a second non-member guest costs $48. Only attendees who provide an email address will receive a reservation confirmation.* **Reserve early! Once the seating limit is reached, reservations are placed on a wait list.** For questions related to the luncheon, please contact Anne Dana at 1-805-320-6408 or email info@reavc.org. RSVPs by telephone and walk-ins are no longer allowed.