

SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)

P.O. BOX 5513, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402 www.sonomacountyretirees.com

Minutes of the SCARE Membership ZOOM Meeting

February 23, 2021, 1 p.m. Meeting

1. Call to Order: President Alix Shor called the meeting to order. 53 people (including speaker) logged into the meeting via Zoom.

2. Guest Speaker: Alix Shor introduced Wanda Gonzales, a 19-year career employee with the Social Security Administration. Wanda is currently the Public Affairs Specialist responsible for education and outreach services for 26 field offices within the San Francisco Regional office. Wanda presented a Power Point overview of the Social Security Administration and answered the many questions that followed. Information about programs, applying for benefits, requesting replacement of lost SSA cards, and many other services can be obtained online, through their website, ssa.gov. Due to COVID 19, in-office appointments have been temporarily suspended.

3. Pacific Group Agencies: SCARE members will soon be receiving a 2021 Benefits Guide booklet describing a variety of quality group insurance plans offered at group rates through Pacific Group Agencies. These plans are independent of any plans offered by Sonoma County. Booklets are also being mailed to non-SCARE retirees. However, those retirees must join SCARE (application included with the enrollment form). Plans offered by the Pacific Group Agencies are Dental, Vision, Personal Accident, ID Shield, Emergency Assistance Plus, Pet Insurance, Travel Guard, Amplifon Hearing, Life Insurance, and more. Payment has to be made through automatic deduction from your bank account.

4. JLMBC (Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee): Phyris reported the annual open enrollment period for County of Sonoma Retiree Benefits is March 15 – April 2, 2021. The 2021-22 Retiree Benefits Guides will be mailed to retirees. This is the time to review and compare insurances being offered and may make changes to your medical and dental plans. There is a new Medicare plan being offered by Western Health Advantage. The premium is about half the County Health Plan premium although still more than Kaiser and AARP. The WHA service area is limited so anyone interested should check to see if it is available in their area.

5. ICPC (Independent Citizens Pension Committee): SCARE Board Member and Treasurer, Bill Robotka, has been appointed to the ICPC by the Board of Supervisors. This is the first time this committee has had a member who is actually a retiree from County service. This committee is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors to help the County develop and refine its pension reform strategies. Bill is also on the SCCLC committee where he meets with union staff. They will be looking at pensions this year.

6. Report on Survey: Kathy Young reported on the 571 responses she has received to date to the 1,586 surveys that were mailed out last November. Initial concerns and suggestions were regarding the luncheons, membership meetings, summer picnic, Christmas luncheon, speakers, and more. Kathy will be preparing a recap of all the responses.

7. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Hamley, Secretary

Upcoming Events

March 10 – Luncheon (canceled)
May 5 – Board Meeting 1 p.m.
May 25 – Membership Meeting 1 p.m.
June 9 – Luncheon (canceled)
July 7 – Board Meeting 1 p.m.
August 24 – Membership Meeting 1 p.m.
September 1 – Board Meeting 1 p.m.
September 8 – Luncheon
November 3 – Board Meeting 1 p.m.
November 16 – Membership Meeting
December 8 -- Luncheon