

**SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)**

P.O. BOX 5513, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402 [www.sonomacountyretirees.com](http://www.sonomacountyretirees.com)

Minutes of the SCARE Membership Meeting, February 26, 2019

Steele Lane Community Center, Santa Rosa

12:30 p.m. Social/1 p.m. Meeting

- 1. Call to Order:** President Alix Shor called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.
- 2. Guest Speaker:** Bob Bulwa introduced today's guest speaker, Julie Wyne, Sonoma County Employees Retired Association (SCERA) Administrator since 2013. Julie explained how the retirement system works and why we are not receiving cost-of-living adjustments to our pensions. The drop in the stock market in October, November, and December 2018 took away any increases in investments for the year, although much of it was made up in January and February. Sonoma County does not have an automatic COLA, unlike all other counties in California. While the regulations allow for ad hoc COLAs out of excess funds, SCERA no longer believes there are excess funds. The 2008 downfall left a "negative rainy-day fund". SCERA no longer believes that if actual earnings exceed their assumed earnings, the excess earnings for that year should go into the COLA fund. Instead, it should be saved for the next time the pension fund loses money. Julie encouraged retirees to log onto MySCERA.com to keep track of personal retirement accounts and check out the calendar of upcoming SCERA meetings and events on their website.
- 3. SCCLO:** Bill Robotka reported all labor organizations are in the process of bargaining and talking to each other. The good news is there has been no talk about depooling retirees under 65 from employees or the County proposing to change their contribution for Part B Medicare.
- 4. JLMBC:** Phyris reported open enrollment will be the end of March. New annual enrollment booklets will be sent out. Make sure Human Resources has current mailing address. Workshops will be held. CHP rates are expected to go up 6%; Kaiser under 65 up 12% - over 65 up .7%; Sutter up 6%; Western up 5.4%; AARP up less than 5%. It was reported there is a shortage of the Shingles vaccinations nationwide.
- 5. SCARE Luncheon:** Alix announced SCARE is going to hold its next luncheon on March 13 at Legends (Bennett Valley Golf Course). This will be a buffet. Fliers were in the last Newsletter and also available on the back table today.
- 6. Drawing:** 29 members signed the roster for today's meeting. Elaine Bacigalupi and Lou Maricle won the drawing for a free SCARE luncheon at Legends. Thanks to Carl Jackson for conducting the drawings at our Business Meetings and collecting the money donations for F.I.S.H. at our luncheons.
- 7. Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Hamley, Secretary

**Upcoming Events**

May 1 – Board Meeting

May 28 – Membership Meeting – Steele Lane

June 12 – Luncheon – Legends

July 10 – Board Meeting

August 27 – Membership Meeting – Steele Lane

September 4 – Board Meeting

September 11 – Luncheon – Legends

October 27-30 – CRCEA Conference – Doubletree, Rohnert Park

November 6 – Board Meeting

November 19 – Membership Meeting – Steele Lane

December 11 – Luncheon at Legends