

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

May 25, 2021, 1 p.m. Meeting

1. Call to Order: President Alix Shor called the meeting to order and introduced today's guest speaker, Attorney Tate Birnie of the Bernie Law Firm of Sebastopol.

Tate shared a power point titled "Estate Planning 101, Beyond the Basics," explaining the options and reasons for having an estate plan. Topics included Wills vs. Trusts, Costs, Incapacity Planning, Avoiding Taxes, etc.

She has shared a copy of her power point with Alix, who will see they are available for our membership to review (Phyris will put it on our website). For more information, Tate Birnie can be reached at tate@birnielaw.com (707-823-8593). Tate provided information on Proposition 19, which affects taxes on inherited property, and she has more on her website.

2. Survey Report: Kathy Young reported we will be checking out Finley Center as a new location for our Membership Meetings. Parking is no problem at Finley, which was the main problem with the Steele Lane Community Center. Our next Membership Meeting is scheduled for August 24th.

We are considering having our SCARE Luncheons twice a year, one in the summer (possibly a picnic) and one in December, instead of the four luncheons previously held each year.

3. Real ID Cards: Phyris reported the date for needing a REAL ID card to board domestic airplane flights or enter secure federal facilities has now been postponed to May 3, 2023. If you need to renew your current driver's license before that date, the DMV recommends that you do it at the same time. More on the Real ID card can be found on Page 2 of our May SCARE Newsletter.

4. JLMBC (Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee): Phyris reported 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. Per HR, not many people changed to this plan during annual enrollment, but that may have been because very few retirees have WHA insurance.

Phyris also reminded members that, for those covered by our lawsuit (retired prior to June 30, 2016), there will be another deposit in their HRA on July 1. It is likely to be between \$30 and \$40.

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.

6. SCCLO (Sonoma County Coalition of Labor Organizations): Bill Robotka is also on the SCCLO committee which meets monthly preparing for discussions with County management about long-standing retirement benefit concerns, including the need for COLAs and improved retiree medical benefits. They are looking at COLAs for future, not current ones.

7. Delta Dental Insurance: Phyris reported there have been several complaints about Delta Dental Insurance. A questionnaire will be sent out to retirees asking for their feedback.

8. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Hamley, Secretary

Upcoming Events

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