

SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)

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

Minutes of the SCARE Membership Meeting – ZOOM and In-Person

August 22, 2023, 1 p.m. Meeting

- 1. Call to Order:** Board member, Cora Guy, called today in person and Zoom Meeting to order and introduced our speaker. There were 17 members in attendance at Finley Center and 11 attending via Zoom
- 2. Speaker:** Vincent Valenzuela, the Disaster Program Manager for Sonoma, Solano and Napa, provided information on the various services provided by the American Red Cross. It provides services locally, across the country and around the world. Major service categories include Disaster Cycle Services, Biomedical Services, Service to the Armed Forces, International Services and Training Services. They received no government funding – all funding comes from donations.

Some interesting facts:

- 90% of the money donated to them goes for services.
- 90% of the work force is volunteer.
- They work with local agencies to develop plans for dealing with disasters.
- They respond to both large disasters and loss of individual homes. ARC volunteers go house to house after a disaster to see what damage was done and what is needed.
- They provided support for 81 large disasters occurring from Jan. – March 2023 with 22 being very large disasters in the U.S.
- They provide emergency response training programs for kids.
- Install home smoke alarms and assist with fire escape plans.
- They provide more blood than any other blood bank with donations averaging 12,000/day.
- They provide 400,000 measles or rubella vaccination worldwide working with partners.
- Provided training in first aid, CPR, AED, swim and lifeguard classes, and emergency preparedness to over 5 million people in 2022.

Go to redcross.org to get more information on how to be prepared and to volunteer.

There were many more details available in the Power Point presentation. It is available on our website at <https://www.sonomacountyretirees.com/helpfulinfo.shtml>

- 3. JLMBC Report** – Phyris reported that there was a deposit of \$32.90 made on July 1 into the HRA accounts for members who were part of the SCARE lawsuit. Human Resources let us know that there are still 243 retirees that have used none of their HRA.

Also, it sounds like there will be a significant increase in Kaiser and Sutter costs although the County is doing a Request for Proposals for health insurance this year which may help them to negotiate a better rate.

You should be able to get shingles vaccinations with no co-pay but some doctors and pharmacists don't seem to know this yet. You can contact HR if you run into this.

4. **SCCLO/ICPC/NBLC:** Bill reported that most of the unions have completed negotiations so not much is happening with SCCLO. **ICPC** He also reported that he was reappointed to this committee and there is a new member who will be joining committee.
5. **COLA Subcommittee:** Ed Clites reported that the SCERA Board has been discussing whether they can ever give COLAs. There is a Negative Contingency Reserve that has over \$6 million in it and as long as it is out there, there will be no COLAs. The SCERA Board has been discussing options for decreasing this fund, which they can do without legislation although it would need BOS approval. They are having an important meeting on August 24 and we are encouraging retirees to attend by Zoom. We'd like to get a lot of retirees there so that the SCERA Board knows this is important to us and we are paying attention.
6. **Raffle:** There was a raffle and 3 gift cards were given to people attended in person and to those who attended on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyris Tobler, Vice President

SCARE 2023 Calendar

September 6 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room
November 1 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room
November 28 – Membership Meeting -- Cypress