

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

November 28, 2023, 1 p.m. Meeting

1. Call to Order: Board President, Kathy Young, called today's In-Person and Zoom Meeting to order and introduced our speaker, Julie Wyne. There were 35 members in attendance at Finley Center and 39 attending via Zoom

2. Speaker: Julie Wyne, CEO of SCERA, updating us on the retiree COLA discussion.

Julie reported that she and the SCERA COLA subcommittee met with the County CAO on November 2nd. While there was discussion of policy changes being discussed at SCERA, the CAO did not want to go any further with this as several unions had reopener clauses to negotiate around COLAs for actives. Once that is decided, then she is willing to discuss COLAs for retirees.

While this is disappointing news, SCERA is going to continue to look at policy changes that they can make related to the Interest Fluctuation Reserve and the Negative Contingency Reserve. These policies need to be modified if there is ever a chance to give retiree COLAs. This discussion will be on the agenda for the SCERA Dec. 14th Board Meeting. Retirees are encouraged to attend, either in person or on Zoom.

3. SCARE Board Elections: the following SCARE Board Member are up for reelection: Chris Bauer, Lou Maricle, John Pels, and Phyris Tobler. There is one open position as Jane Paul resigned from the Board. Paul Carroll is running for this open position. Since there were no nominations from the floor, the board recommended the 5 people shown above and the membership unanimously approved them.

4. JLMBC Report – Phyris reported that the results of the health insurance request for proposals did not produce any new providers. Anthem submitted a good proposal, but it only applied to Medicare and they were required to bid on both Medicare and the under 65 group. Kaiser has a very high increase of over 20% for under 65 and 16% for Medicare. Both WHA and Sutter have increases but not nearly as high. The increase in premiums for the County Health Plan are still to be determined.

5. SCCLO: Bill reported that most of the unions have completed negotiations so not much is happening. **ICPC:** This committee has some new members so the last meeting mainly focused on educating them. **NBLC:** Their COPE Awards Dinner will be coming up in December.

6. Raffle: There was a raffle and 3 gift cards were given to people who attended in person and to those who attended on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyris Tobler, Vice President