

# Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees

P. O Box 5513, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

[www.sonomacountyretirees.com](http://www.sonomacountyretirees.com)

April 20, 2009

Dear Retiree:

The SCARE Board would like to update you on the progress of the claim filed against the County of Sonoma regarding retiree medical benefits. As you may know, we filed the claim on February 23, 2009, and the County had until April 10th to respond to our requests. The claim was a legally required pre-requisite to filing a lawsuit seeking a court ruling that we are entitled to what we are asking for -- restoration to 85% of lowest cost plan, or, at a bare minimum, no less than the \$500/600 that the unrepresented employees are getting. Not surprisingly, the County did not grant the claim, so it was deemed denied by law on April 10, 2009.

However, the County contacted SCARE through our attorney and suggested that we agree to participate in a non-binding mediation process. We have agreed to do so and we have obtained an agreement which protects our future rights to file a lawsuit if mediation is unsuccessful. The County has also invited the various labor organizations to join in the process and most, if not all, have agreed.

We have a full day of mediation scheduled for April 23, 2009, and one or more additional days may be scheduled if needed. The County has set a 30-day time limit on the process, which will allow us to move forward relatively quickly if we cannot come to a settlement. The process will conclude on or before May 8, 2009. This will give the County time to stop the \$600 cash allowance before it starts on May 19<sup>th</sup>, if that is the result of the mediation.

As more information is available, we will update the website. Additionally, we are planning a special general meeting on May 5, 2009 to present any updates and potentially to vote on any proposals coming out of mediation that seem reasonable.

The meeting will be at the Veteran's Building in Santa Rosa at 1:00 on May 5, 2009. We encourage you to attend as this is a very important step in our fight to maintain retirees' vested health benefits. We will still have our regular Business Meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Vet's Building. The agenda is on the reverse side.

Sincerely,

SCARE Board of Directors

Sonoma County Association of  
Retired Employees (SCARE)  
P. O. Box 5513  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Address Service Requested

General Business Meeting Agenda on May 26, 2009 at 1 pm at the Vet's Building

Presentation on Single Payer Health Insurance  
Treasurer's Report  
Report on outcome of Mediation with the County  
CRCEA Conference report