

SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)  
P.O. BOX 5513, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402 [www.sonomacountyretirees.com](http://www.sonomacountyretirees.com)

Minutes of SCARE Zoom Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 4, 2023  
Manzanita Room, Finley Center, 1 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Carol Bauer, Ed Clites, Shaun DuFosee, Cora Guy, Patty Hamley, Lou Maricle, John Pels, Bill Robotka, Phyris Tobler, and Kathy Young Absent: Chris Bauer and Alix Shor

**Zoom Attendees:** Jane Paul (Prospective Board Member)

**1. Approve Minutes:** The Board approved minutes from the 11/2/22 Board meeting and the 8/23/22 and 11/15/22 minutes from the Membership Meetings

**2. Election of Officers:**

President: Kathy Young

Vice President: Phyris Tobler

Treasurer: Chris Bauer

Secretary: Patty Hamley

**3. Committee Assignments:**

JLMBC: Bill, Jane, Phyris

Finance: Bill, Phyris, Chris

CRCEA: Carol, Chris, Lou (Alternate)

Nominating Committee: Cora, Shaun

Membership: Patty, Lou

SCCLO: Jane, Bill

North Bay Labor Council: Bill, Shaun

ICPC – Bill (he has been reappointed for a 2-yr term)

Database: Lou

Newsletter and Website: Phyris

Scholarships: Ed

Programs: Cora

Board of Supervisors: Ed

SCERA: John

**4. Treasurer's Report:** SCARE has a lot of money in checking and money market accounts because interest rates have been so low. Now that the credit union is paying 4% on cds, Board agreed to move \$32,000 from checking into the money market account and then move \$180,000 from money market into a cd. Chris was not able to attend meeting and will provide a budget for 2023 at the next Board Meeting.

**5. Zoom, OWL, and Computer Update:** Kathy reported that she though Zoom and the Meeting Owl were working well. The monitor in Cypress Room worked very well so we do not need to rent screen from Finley. We still need to buy microphone and speaker and Shaun said he would to that.

It was requested by Kathy, seconded by Bill, and approved by all that Kathy be allowed to purchase a cart (approximately \$60) to transport the electronics into the meeting rooms.

**6. February 28<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting:** Cora announced Trinette Neuerburg of Oakmont Travel will be our Guest Speaker talking about a variety of things that affect travel now that covid is on the wane. Cora is also working on scheduling a guest speaker for our May 23<sup>rd</sup> Membership Meeting. Snacks and water will be purchased for members who attend the meeting.

**7. Scholarships:** Ed Clites reported on our scholarship programs for two students at Sonoma State University and three at Santa Rosa Junior College. Ed still has not been able to meet with JC staff to find out why they only gave out 2 scholarships for 2022-23. He doesn't know yet who received the SSU scholarships but is checking on it.

**8. Ways to Support SCERA in Quest for COLAs:** Phyris suggested we need to find ways to support SCERA as they try to find a way to give COLAs to retirees. We need to know when public meetings will be held and attend Board of Supervisors Meetings. Julie Wyne seems very serious about approaching County to see if there is a way to get COLAs. John, Shaun, Bill, Phyris, and Ed volunteered to be on an ad hoc committee to address how we can support the SCERA action to see if there is a COLA solution.

**9. JLMBC:** Phyris reported the preliminary health insurance renewal rates. They don't look too bad except for the County Health Plan which was projected at an increase of 16.7%. Bill and Phyris have already objected to this since there is over \$19 million in the CHP reserve account. It is so high that the State Controller has questioned the County about it. The Benefits Manager said she was sure they could decrease this increase but we will watch this closely.

The County did an RFP for dental insurance. There were a number of insurance companies that bid on it and some had cheaper rates but the committee decided to stay with Delta Dental because there would be too much disruption (too many dentists would not be in the new networks) if they went to any of the other plans. The new coverage will increase max per year to \$1,500 for an additional \$6 charge/month. A lot of dentists have been dropping out of Delta but Delta said it was going to increase the amount it would pay and try to get dentist back.

**10. SCCLO/ICPC:** Bill said that unions are in negotiation, and they are trying to get COLAs for employees. He also announced that he has been reappointed to the ICPC for another 2 year term.

Bill also announced the Board of Supervisors has named Christina Rivera the new County Administrator. Christina has worked the past five years as assistant county administrator under County Administrator Sheryl Bratton.

**11. Pacific Group Agencies:** Phyris asked if we wanted to have Pacific Group Agencies send out their 2023 Benefits Guide to non-SCARE members as well as SCARE members. The Board agreed that we should do that.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Hamley, Secretary

**2023 Schedule:**

February 28 – Membership Meeting – Cypress Room  
March 1 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
May 3 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
May 23 – Membership Meeting – Cypress Room  
July 12 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
August 22 – Membership Meeting – Cypress Room  
September 6 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
November 1 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
November 28 – Membership Meeting – Cypress Room

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Chris Bauer reported, as of October 31, 2022, we have \$788,249.67 total assets.

**4. Approve \$500 Donation to Annual Cope Holiday Dinner (1/2 Page Ad in Program):** This donation was moved by Bill, seconded by Shaun, and approved by all.

**5. Feedback on Zoom CRCEA Conference:**

**6. Zoom, OWL, Computer Update:** Don Peterson helped Kathy Young and Shaun DuFosee get things set up for and operating for today’s meeting. It was moved by Bill, seconded by Chris, and approved by all that Don be paid \$125 for the 2-1/2 hours he spent helping Kathy and Shaun.

**7. MailChimp Mailing Problem:** Alix reported MailChimp keeps track of bad email address. Some members are not opening emails of Newsletter. We need a “hot spot.” Lou is getting one.

**8. Speakers for February Membership Meeting:**

Cora is trying to get someone from the Buck Institute to speak at our February 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Phyris suggested the Volunteer Center with volunteer opportunities for seniors. Other suggestions were United

Policy Holders, Services at Home, AAA Travel, Oakmont Travel Company re COVID planning, cruises, and having a successful trip, Sonoma State, Santa Rosa Junior College, Estate Planning, Council on Aging.

**9. JLMBC:** Doing report 5%-6% for non-Medicare retirees. RFP for dental. Phyris and Bill are reviewing proposals. Five or six have been submitted.

**10. SCCLC:** Bill reported Coalition is in bargaining. Pension and COLA in forefront. SCERA looking at reserve funds. Bob Williams is super fair/super smart. Chris Coursey willing to listen. John Pels reported 3% of the funds balance back. 1% is not enough to restructure or rebalance the pension system. We are headed into a recession. The fund needs to make 7% in order to give COLA. 17% o 3 billion dollars.

**11. ICPC:** Bill reported nothing is happening with this committee.

**12. SCARE Board Member Election:** Half of the SCARE Board Members' terms of office will expire at the end of 2022: President Alix Shor, Secretary Patty Hamley, Directors-at-Large Ed Clites, Shaun DuFosee, Cora Guy, and Kathy Young. Alix reported she will be resigning. She will be listed as Past President on our roster and will continue to work on Mail Chimp. Jane Paul will take Alix's place. Patty, Cora, and Kathy are staying. Ed and Shaun will be contacted.

**13. November 15<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting (1 p.m. Finley Center):** Julie Wyne, Chief Executive Officer of the Sonoma County Employees Retirement Association (SCERA) will be the Guest Speaker.

#### **14. Meeting Schedule for 2023:**

January 4 -- Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
February 28 -- Membership Meeting – Cypress Room  
March 1 -- Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
May 3 -- Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
May 23 -- Membership Meeting – Cypress Room  
July 12 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
August 22 – Membership Meeting – Cypress Room  
September 6 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
November 1 – Board Meeting – Manzanita Room  
November 28 – Membership Meeting -- Cypress

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Hamley, Secretary

#### **2022 Schedule:**

November 15 – Membership Meeting

**2023 Schedule:**