

SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)  
P.O. BOX 5513, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402

Minutes of SCARE Zoom Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 1 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Lou Maricle

**1. Approve Minutes of December 8, 2021, Board Meeting:**

It was moved by John, seconded by Kathy, and approved by all that the Minutes of our December 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting are approved.

**2. Treasurer's Report:**

Bill is stepping down as Treasurer, and Chris Bauer is taking his place. Bill presented the 2022 budget. John moved to approve the budget. Shaun seconded it, and it was approved by all.

**3. Appoint Officers and Fill Committee Assignments for 2022:**

It was moved by Bill, seconded by John, and approved by all that Chris Bauer is now the Treasurer. (Bill will stay on as back-up Treasurer.)

It was moved by Bill, seconded by John, and approved by all that Alix Shor, Phyris Tobler, and Patty Hamley retain their positions as officers. Committee positions were reviewed. See attached roster for Committee assignments for 2022.

**4. Policy for Making Donations:**

It was moved by Bill, seconded by Phyris, and approved by all that SCARE's donations should only be made to organizations that provide services to and/or advocate for/represent retirees and seniors.

**5. February Membership Meeting – Zoom or In-Person:**

It was agreed that our February 22<sup>nd</sup> Membership Meeting should be held via Zoom. Patty will notify Finley to cancel our reservation for the Cypress Room.

## **6. Speaker for February Membership Meeting:**

Cora has made arrangements for a speaker from the Buck Institute for our February 22<sup>nd</sup> Zoom Membership Meeting. They were unwilling to send anyone unless it was held by Zoom. She is also expecting County Parks to provide a speaker for our May 24<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting. She may have someone from Fire Safety as well.

## **7. CRCEA Conference Report:**

Carol and Chris Bauer reported on the CRCEA 2021 Fall Conference they attended in Long Beach November 7 – 10, 2021. Carol will do a report on some of the workshops for the February Newsletter.

## **8. Next Newsletter:**

Our next Newsletter will be published in February. SCARE Member Lonna Necker has been working on our Newsletter for many years and has announced she will be retiring from this task. Lonna sends out reminders to get Newsletter items to her and then works with Phyris on getting everything ready to print. We will need to find another person willing to do this for SCARE four times a year. We will ask for a volunteer in the February Newsletter.

**9. JLMBC Report:** Phyris reported that the County had given us preliminary rates for 2022-23. The County Health Plan will decrease by 3.4%, maybe more. Bill and Phyris asked HR to see if the rate could be reduced further using the CHP reserve fund, which was \$17.6 million as of June 30, 2021. The Benefits Manager said she would review this request. Kaiser under-65 rate will increase by 6.5%; Medicare rate will not change. Sutter premiums will increase by 3.9%; Western Health Advantage under-65 rate will increase by 2.1% and its Medicare rates will go up by 5%. Dental insurance will remain the same.

Phyris reported that the County presented the 2021 OPEB report. Since it didn't seem like the liability was decreasing by much, she did a comparison of the 2011 and the 2021 reports. The liability has only decreased 16% in that time even though the active employees that are eligible for retiree health benefits have decreased by 60%, and the County will only be contributing \$500 toward health insurance for 5 more years for the retirees covered in the SCARE settlement. Then it will decrease to \$200/month. One would expect these changes to produce more than a 16% reduction in the liability. We may want to question this.

**10. SCCLO:** Bill reported SCCLO continues to engage with the County in the Retirement Benefits Committee. The latest focus is on retiree health benefits, and the County has offered a range of proposals for alternative benefit structures for the Labor organizations to consider. There are no options offered at this point that are acceptable to labor. This is an ongoing process that will ultimately end up being continued in actual bargaining.

**11. ICPC:** Bill reported ICPC met in December, discussing the report he had submitted regarding the committees review of comparable (1937 Act) county pension systems in order to

better understand how our pension system is performing within a realistic context. Further activity on this is complicated by the resignation of two ICPC members, and the subsequent loss of a quorum. The committee is now seeking replacement members for the ICPC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Hamley, Secretary

**2022 Schedule:**

February 22 – Zoom Membership Meeting

March 2 – Board Meeting

May 4 – Board Meeting

May 24 – Membership Meeting

June 8 – Luncheon (Picnic?) ??

July 6 – Board Meeting

August 23 – Membership Meeting

September 7 – Board Meeting

November 2 – Board Meeting

November 15 – Membership Meeting

December 7 – Holiday Luncheon??