

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

Minutes of SCARE Zoom Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 1 p.m.

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

Absent: Ed Clites

1. Approve Minutes of January 5th Board Meeting and February 22nd Membership Meeting.

It was moved by Lou, seconded by John, and approved by all that the January 5th Minutes are approved.

Since the February 22nd Membership Minutes were just sent out, it was suggested that the Board read those Minutes and send their approval or corrections to Alix via email. Note: those have since been approved by email vote of the Board.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Chris Bauer is our new Treasurer, replacing Bill Robotka. This was his first report. We still are financially very sound. Bill will stay on as back-up Treasurer.

3. Vote to approve MailChimp Purchase:

It was moved by Kathy, seconded by Chris, and approved by all that an upgrade of MailChimp be purchased in the amount of \$34 a month. It was suggested by Shaun that SCARE get a debit card to pay monthly bills like these and Chris will look into this. Alix will check to see if there is an annual fee instead of monthly for the MailChimp service.

Alix proposed that Kathy Young be named our Zoom Manager and will check on upgrading our membership to a business account that includes Kathy on the account.

4. Vote to approve Sonoma State 5% Scholarship Handling Fee:

It was moved by Shaun, seconded by Bill, and approved by all to affirm the email vote taken earlier that the 5% SSU scholarship handling fee be approved on an ongoing basis. Shaun added to motion that we would cover any fees charged by SSU or SRJC for administering their scholarships. This was approved by all.

5. Committee on Paid Staff Position Report:

Bill reported this suggestion has been put on the "back burner." The duties have been reviewed and discussed and are not determined to be sufficient for even a half-time position. Chris has contacted other associations with employees asking for information on what they do but hasn't had any responses yet. There was limited discussion of using our excess funds to provide some

kind of medical assistance to our members when the monthly county contribution drops from \$500 to \$200 in 2026. Much more discussion is needed.

6. Speaker for May 24th Membership Meeting:

Cora thanked Phyris for rescuing her when the Buck Institute backed out of providing a speaker for our February 22nd Membership Meeting by asking Julie Wyne to be our speaker. Cora will be seeking a speaker for our May 24th Meeting. She will try to get a representative of the Sonoma County Fire District to attend. She is also looking at the Sonoma County Parks Department and Volunteer Services as a second speaker. There was also some discussion of inviting United Policyholders as they might have information on the problem that many people are facing -- having their home insurance cancelled if they are in a fire zone. Then it is hard and very expensive to get other insurance.

7. May Membership Meeting – Zoom or In Person?

Sonoma County lifted universal mask requirements for vaccinated individuals in most indoor public settings on February 16. Unvaccinated individuals will continue to be required to wear masks. This is Finley Center's policy. If we decide to have our Meetings at Finley, we will need to check vaccination cards. We want to make meetings available to members out of the area so we will need to find out how to do in-person and Zoom at the same time. Shaun will check out how we can do this. Carol will check with San Diego County on how they are able to do both.

We will also need to plan for food to be served, as previously suggested. Kathy, Patty, Carol (planning only), and Phyris said they would work on this. We are totally responsible for any spills, so we have to be careful in planning this.

8. Relocating County Center to 14-Story Building Downtown:

On July 27 the Board of Supervisors voted to relocate most of Sonoma County's administrative offices to the vacant Sears site in downtown Santa Rosa. The vacant building will be razed, and the County will build new facilities. Shaun reported the Board of Supervisors is proposing moving 1,800 employees to the new building. The cost would be \$42,000,000, \$200,000 coming out of General Fund. Two members of the Board (Rabbitt and Hopkins (maybe) are yet to support this.

9. SCERA Report for Newsletter:

Phyris asked Tim Tuscany, who is the retiree rep on the SCERA Board, if he would write a SCERA update for our Newsletter, which John Pels was doing before being replaced by Tim. Tim said he would do this report but has failed to do so for the last 2 newsletters. We need this report for our members so we asked John Pels if he would do it since he attends the SCERA Board Meetings as the SCARE representative. John agreed. Thank you, John.

10. SCCLLO: Bill reported the SCCLLO is continuing to engage with the County on retiree health benefits. They have proposed looking into the establishment of a Retiree Medical Trust (RMT) to pay for medical benefits of retirees. That is an ongoing discussion. The County, in their last meeting with SCCLLO, introduced a proposal to increase active employees' "Normal

Cost” share for the SCERA pension. All these discussions are pre-bargaining and will likely continue through this year and next.

11. ICPC: Bill reported nothing is happening – no quorum.

12. JLMBC: Phyris reported that Annual Enrollment is coming up for the County (March 14 through April 1st. She contacted Pacific Group Agencies about sending out their new booklet for 2022. PGA expects it to be mailed next Monday and their open enrollment period extends to April 30. This year, they are only sending it to SCARE members. Next year we should try to include all retirees but that takes longer to arrange.

The County Health Plan reserve account has approximately \$8 million more than what Segal says is needed. They are using about \$500,000 to lower the CHP rates for 2022-23 but that still leaves quite a large amount.

13. North Bay Labor Council: Bill reported things are moving along. The trade representatives will be divided about the County move to downtown as they see it as a source of employment. Educating the trades about the work that will need to be done at the County Center may help gain their support for staying at the County center. Employees want to stay where they are at the County Center. Moving will be much more expensive than rebuilding at county center.

14. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Hamley
SCARE Secretary

2022 Schedule:

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?