

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

Minutes of SCARE Zoom Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 1 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Carol Bauer, Chris Bauer, Shaun DuFosee, Cora Guy, Patty Hamley, John Pels (on phone), Bill Robotka, Phyris Tobler, Alix Shor, and Kathy Young

Absent: Ed Clites, Lou Maricle

Guests: Retirement Board Members Amos Eaton and Tim Tuscany.

1. COLA Discussion: Amos Eaton and Tim Tuscany (both SCERA trustees) asked to speak with us about pension COLAs for retirees and joined our Board at this meeting. The last across-the-board COLA was in 2003 and the last Purchasing Power (PP) COLA was in 2008. While the pension fund took a huge hit in the 2008 downturn, it has regained most of it and is over 90% funded at this time. However, it still needs \$360 million to fill the negative contingency reserve plus \$105 million to restore the interest fluctuation reserve. That is before the \$214 million needed to fund an 80% PP COLA. There was much discussion and an acknowledgement that the Board of Supervisors would have to approve any COLA. It is likely to be difficult to get that approval.

2. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting of March 2, 2022: It was moved by Phyris, seconded by John, and agreed by all present that the Minutes of the March 2nd Board Meeting are approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Bauer reported that one of our cds matured. He did not roll it over because interest rates are so low and they are expected to go up later in the year.

4. Scholarship Update: We need to get things settled with the Santa Rosa Junior College. They did not give out all the scholarship money from last year so we have a credit. Chris is waiting to send them money for this year until they let us know exact amount needed. We all agreed that the institutions must give out what we give them and in the correct amounts. In 2020, the JC reverted to giving out \$1,000 instead of \$1,500. In reviewing scholarships given, one person received a scholarship at both SRJC and at SSU. We don't have a policy on this. After discussion, it was agreed by all to allow the same student to receive scholarships at both SRJC and SSU.

5. Ratify Vote to Purchase Meeting Owl: The Board earlier took an email vote to purchase Meeting Owl to use for our membership meetings. It is supposed to be helpful when doing hybrid meeting (in-person and Zoom). Vote was taken to ratify email vote – motion by Kathy Young, seconded by John Pels and approved by all. After discussion, Kathy Young moved that SCARE buy a laptop for use in meetings. Cora seconded it and it was approved by all.

6. May 24th Membership Meeting – Planning Report: Cyndi Foreman, Chief of the Sonoma County Fire District, and Melanie Parker and Mark Morley of Regional Parks will be the speakers. We are having in-person meeting at Finley Center. Those attending need to be

vaccinated and have one booster. This will be our first in-person meeting since COVID. The meeting will also be streamed on Zoom. Sandwich and salad orders are asked to be made by May 14 (contact Patty Hamley). We are limiting attendance to 50 people.

7. Continue with Food at Membership Meetings? If so, only for Members or Also Guests:
This will be decided after our May 24th Meeting.

8. Tentative 2023 Schedule for Finley Center Meetings:

Membership Meetings Cypress Room: Feb. 28, May 23, August 22, Nov. 28

Board Meetings Manzanita Room: Jan. 4, March 1, May 3, July 12, September 6, Nov. 1

9. Speakers for August Membership Meeting: Cora suggested that we have someone who could speak about the new recycling rules as there is a lot of confusion. Board approved that idea.

10. June 8 Picnic? There will not be a June 8th picnic but the Board will discuss having one later in the year.

11. JLMBC: Bill reported that there will be no RFP for health insurance this year. Segal will work with current providers to get best rates. There will be an RFP for dental insurance as both employees and retirees have reported that dentists have been dropping Delta Dental.

12. SCCLO: Bill reported that unions are preparing for negotiations. The Retirement Committee sent report to County staff and now it has gone back to the unions.

13. ICPC: Bill reported they still have no quorum. He was pleased that SCERA finally broke out information into three groups – pre-Legacy, Legacy and PEPR. This was done at his request

14. NBLC: Bill reported that they are considering asking Berkeley to do a pension study for Sonoma like they did for Marin.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Hamley
SCARE Secretary

2022 Schedule:

May 24 – Membership Meeting

July 6 – Board Meeting

August 23 – Membership Meeting

September 7 – Board Meeting

November 2 – Board Meeting

November 15 – Membership Meeting

December 7 – Holiday Luncheon?