

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

Minutes of SCARE Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 1, 2021
ZOOM Meeting – 1 p.m.

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

Absent: None

The Zoom Meeting was called to order by President Alix Shor.

1. Minutes: It was moved by Kathy, seconded by Phyris, and agreed by all (except Carol and Chris, who abstained) that the Minutes of the July 7th Zoom Board Meeting and August 24th Zoom Membership Meeting are approved.

2. Treasurer's Report: Bill reported everything is looking good. One CD is maturing this month. Donations approved at the last meeting were sent to all but the one to the United Way. The Board cancelled the previous motion to approve \$1,000 to United Way and increased it to \$2,500, with \$1,250 to go to the Council on Aging and \$1,250 to go to the Valley of the Moon Children's Home Foundation. It will be sent to SCERA as part of their United We Rise campaign representing retirees.

3. Labor Day Breakfast: It was moved by Shaun, seconded by Lou, and approved by all that we ratify the earlier email vote to donate \$300 to the Labor Council's Labor Day Breakfast.

4. CARA Donation: The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) will hold its 18th Annual Statewide Convention October 26 and 27. This will be a zoom convention. Bill will send notices to our Board announcing the featured speakers and workshops.

5. New Members: As reported in our August Newsletter we have approximately 40 new SCARE members, most of whom joined in order to get the insurance offered through the Pacific Group.

6. CRCEA Convention: Chris and Carol will be attending the CRCEA 2021 Fall Conference at the Long Beach Marriott Courtyard Hotel on November 7 – 10, 2021.

7. SCERA Report: Phyris has been receiving a report from SCERA concerning retirees, pensions, ages, etc. The person who sends her the report is no longer with SCERA so there has been a delay in getting the usual report, plus Julie Wyne has asked why we need it since it involves a fair amount of work by her staff. Phyris would like to ask SCERA to provide an annual download of information that we could use to run our own reports and would provide us

with more information than we get now. This would require special programming and it is likely that SCERA would want us to pay for that. It was moved by Bill, seconded by Kathy, and approved by all that we spend up to \$1,000 to get the required programming.

8. Speakers for Membership Meetings: Cora has a list of topics retirees suggested in our recent survey for our Membership Meetings: Regional Parks Department; Julie Wyne – on our Retirement System; Investing and Financial Planning; and Elder Abuse.

It was also suggested that we ask Vern Losh to speak at our Membership Meeting next May. Vern is a SCARE member and serves on the Board of Fire Safe Sonoma. He spoke at our August 24th Zoom Membership Meeting but said he could provide more information if he was prepared.

Alix also suggested United Policy Holders to speak about fire insurance.

9. Membership Survey Results Continued: Retirees asked why retirees negotiate through unions instead of with the County itself. Bill responded we don't have a formal standing. Per the Labor Law the County has to negotiate with unions but not retirees. Bill will write an article for the Newsletter.

10. Planning for November 16th Membership Meeting at Finley: Patty suggested that we not hold our November Meeting at Finley. The plan was to serve food and, because of COVID, this is not a good idea. It was decided the November Membership Meeting would be a Zoom Meeting.

It was decided to hold a Board Meeting on December 8 at Finley Center (since we will not be having a luncheon on that date). The purpose of this meeting is to further discuss services that we could provide our members and the possibility of setting up a PAC so we could be more politically active. This might involve hiring part-time staff.

*Update: Patty talked to Sara at Finley Center and canceled the Cypress Room for November 16. Sara suggested we meet in the Manzanita Room for our Board Meeting on December 8. The Cypress Room was already booked for December 8. The Manzanita Room normally holds 20 people, so 12 of us should be fine. Also, it is less expensive than the Cypress Room, so she will be giving us a credit for the difference.

11. Invite Tim Tuscany to SCARE Board Meeting: There was a discussion about inviting Tim Tuscany, SCERA Trustee representing retirees, to a future SCARE Board Meeting. Bill suggested we schedule him for early next year. Tim was elected for a three-year term, so has two more years to go. Phyris reported Tim will be writing the SCERA Report for our Newsletter.

12. Request from Jerry Allen to Print Article in SCARE Newsletter: SCARE member, Jerry Allen, sent an article and a request for us to print in our Newsletter his article, What

Pensioners & Investors Can Do to Stop Global Warming. It was agreed by all present that this is an opinion piece and not appropriate for our Newsletter. Alix will respond to Jerry's request.

13. JLMBC: Phyris reported Requests for Proposals for Dental Insurance and Prescriptions for the County Health Plan have gone out.

14. SCCLO: Bill reported they are focusing on the Retirement Committee. Going slowly. Trying to get support for using some of the settlement money from fires (a piece of the pie) for employee benefits.

15. ICPC: Bill reported they canceled the last meeting. Wrote document looking at comparison counties. Committee members are not sure how the overall system works. Shaun noted we are the only County that doesn't get a COLA.

16. Dues Paying Members We Can't Reach: Phyris asked what we should do about SCARE members we are unable to contact by any method including sending letters to them via SCERA, which will not share addresses with us, but will mail correspondence for her to the correct address when she provides the envelope and postage. We have a couple members who have been sent two letters through SCERA without any response. She is asking if we should terminate their memberships. It was decided we would just mark them "inactive" rather than terminating them.

17. Board Elections at November Membership Meeting: The following Board members are up for re-election at the November Membership Meeting: Phyris Tobler, Bill Robotka, Carol and Chris Bauer, Lou Maricle and John Pels. All agreed to run again.

19. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Hamley, Secretary

2021 Schedule:

November 16 – Membership Zoom Meeting

December 8 – Board Meeting, Manzanita Room, Finley Center 1 p.m.