

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

Minutes of SCARE Board Meeting, Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Cypress Room, Finley Center, 1 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Patty Hamley, Lou Maricle, Bill Robotka, Phyris Tobler, and Kathy Young

Zoom Attendees: Cora Guy, John Pels, and Alix Shor

Absent: Carol Bauer, Chris Bauer, Ed Clites, and Shaun DuFosee

1. Approve Minutes of July 6, 2022, Zoom Board Meeting: It was moved by Bill, seconded by Lou, and approved by all to approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2022, Zoom Bd Meeting.

2. Approve Minutes of August 23, 2022: Phyris is writing an article for our Newsletter regarding this Zoom Membership Meeting with Heather De Oliveira, a member of Recology's Waste Zero Team, as guest speaker, so she agreed to do minutes, but they are not done yet.

3. Treasurer's Report: Bill Robotka continues filling in while Chris (and Carol) Bauer are in Alaska. There was \$50,000 in checking so \$40,000 was transferred into a Money Market account. One RCU CD is maturing and will be rolled over into a new CD. CD rates continue to rise, and Bill will begin moving funds from the money market account into CDs now.

4. Approve \$300 Donation for Annual Labor Day Breakfast: It was moved by Bill, seconded by Kathy, and agreed by all that our \$300 donation to North Bay Labor Counsel for their Annual Labor Day Breakfast is approved. This was to ratify earlier vote taken by email.

5. Scholarship Revision Wording Review: There was more discussion about adding spouses/domestic partners of current employees/retirees to the eligibility list (currently only children/grandchildren) for SRJC and Sonoma State SCARE Scholarships. It was decided that minutes from July meeting were accurate.

6. 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. Patty, Cora, and Kathy are staying. Ed and Shaun will be contacted.

7. SCERA Discussion of NCF and COLAs: The SCERA Board has been discussing their use of a negative contingency fund (NCF) and its impact on COLAs. Using an NCF makes it highly unlikely that any COLAs will be given. Julie Wyne, SCERA CEO, suggested that a committee be formed to meet with the county CAO to start discussion of whether the BOS might support COLAs. It would mean that the BOS would have to fund the COLAs so it is not done deal by any means but at least it opens discussion which has not been the case for many years.

8. MailChimp Mailing Problems: We use MailChimp to send notices and newsletters to our members. If a member unsubscribes (usually in error), Alix is unable to add them back to the mailing list. She will try to find an expert who can help deal with this. Board authorized payment to expert if needed. If she can't find a solution, she will send out separate emails to these folks.

9. November Membership Meeting: Cora said she is trying to get someone from the Buck Institute or from United Policy Holders to speak at this meeting. Board decided to have this meeting as in person and by Zoom. We will limit food at the meeting to bottled water and wrapped snacks as there are still a lot of COVID cases in the county. We also discussed how to handle giving out gift cards at our meetings. Restated that there would be 6 gift cards given at each meeting – 3 to in-person attendees and 3 to Zoom attendees. They will be in the amounts of \$10, 15, and \$25. Bill will pick up gift cards and have available at the meeting to give to those who attend and mail to those who Zoom in. Board members are not eligible to get gift cards.

10. PGA Lost Applications: Phyris recently identified 35 people who applied for Pacific Group Agencies insurance for whom we did not receive their applications. PGA has now sent these to us and Phyris has been contacting them to let them know their application is being sent to SCERA and dues will start to be deducted from their pensions. Phyris will work with PGA to develop a tighter procedure for getting applications to us so this does not happen in the future.

11. JLMBC Report: There has been limited activity, but we did have a presentation from Canopy Health Network. Canopy is a group of different networks (Providence, Dignity, Meritage, UnitedHealthcare) that have been available in the Bay Area and are now expanding into Sonoma and Napa counties. Under Canopy, people can have a family doctor in one network and then access specialized medical care in another network if they need it. This was just a preliminary report as Sonoma County cannot access Canopy unless we put out an RFP. We might look at this next year although at this time, we have quite a few plans to choose from – CHP, Kaiser, Sutter, Western Health Advantage, and AARP/UHC (Medicare only).

12. SCCLO/ICPC: The Sonoma County Coalition of Labor Organizations (SCCLO) has been focused on finishing up the “Retirement Benefits Committee Report.” The County declined to support any of the SCCLO proposals and all will now move into the contract bargaining process. SCCLO members, with SCARE, are also pursuing the development of an in-depth report on defined benefit pensions. More on that at a later date.

The Independent Citizens Pension Committee (ICPC) is, for all practical purposes, dead in the water. Myself and two others are the only remaining members of that committee, and do NOT represent a quorum, so no business can be conducted until that changes. If anyone has any interest in stepping up to this committee, you can find out all you need to know about it at:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/county-administrators-office/projects/pension-reform/committees/independent-citizens-pension-committee>

Respectfully submitted, Patty Hamley, Secretary

2022 Schedule:

November 2 – Board Meeting

November 15 – Membership Meeting