

SCARE Membership Meeting
Finley Center
February 25, 2025

1. Report on Meetings with BOS Members and CAO Re: COLAs and Planning for Future Actions

Phyris Tobler and Ed Clites briefed the membership regarding meetings they have had with all the members of the BOS accompanied by Michael Allen. They advised that the Board seemed open to the idea. The meeting with the CAO, Cristina Rivera, was good. She was receptive to the idea but cautious about the cost.

At the meetings the BOS were advised that until 2008 retirees have received 30 ad hoc COLAs, some of which were purchasing power COLAs. They were also advised that SCARE and SCERA had talked about alternative COLA options and clarified different scenarios that could take place.

Additionally, the SCARE reps advised both the BOS and the CAO that many retirees would be negatively impacted by the reduction of the medical contribution from \$500 to \$200.

Next steps were discussed.

- The writing of physical letters to the BOS instead of emails was encouraged for all SCARE members. Members were encouraged to tell their own stories of the reduction in purchasing power for their retirement amounts.
- Attend SCERA Meetings. Zoom can be used because of limited space in the SCERA conference room.
- Attend the SCERA report to the Board of Supervisors in April and use the comment session to talk about COLAs.

2. JLMBC Report

Human Resources will be sending open enrollment packet for benefit choices. They all are going up, but some more than others.

Delta Dental came up again. Many dentists are dropping Delta. Retirees will have to send their claims in directly to Delta to get reimbursed or find a Delta Dentist. Delta claims that they have added to their network in the last year.

HRA's are handled by a new 3rd Party called TASC. Funds for reimbursement should be available soon. They have a website for claims.

3. Alphabet Soup

Bill Robotka is working with the North Bal Labor Coalition and other labor groups to support the retirees in our effort to get a COLA.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Carroll