

**SCARE Board Minutes**  
**March 11, 2025, 12:00 pm**  
SCLEO Board Room (60 Brookwood Dr.)

Present: Kathy Young, Andre Bercut, Phyris Tobler, Ed Clites, Chris Bauer, Carol Bauer, Alix Shor, Paul Carroll, and John Pels. Guest: Neil Baker

1. Approve minutes from Board meetings of 1/8/2025 and the 2/25/2025 Membership meeting.

**Minutes approved unanimously for both Board Meeting and Membership Meetings**

2. Treasurer's Report  
**Phyris sent out the report and spoke about rolling over CDs at highest available rate.**
3. Board meetings – change day or time?
  - a. Board meetings are currently scheduled for 1:00 on May 7, July 9, September 10 and November 5. SCLEA may not be available on May 7.

**Discussion occurred regarding dates and times for next Board meeting. The decision was to have it on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Later changed to noon.**

4. Letter to actives and retirees regarding joining SCARE

**Paul Carroll will craft a letter that will go out by email to active employees talking about SCARE and what we do and encouraging them to join SCARE when they retire.**

**There was a great deal of discussion around action for a COLA and who to team up with. Neil Baker spoke about how the COLA language does allow for a certain amount of COLA based upon the Purchasing Power eligibility. If eligibility is established the amount can vary and not necessarily return people to 80% purchasing.**

**The need to get people on the BOS who will support retirees. Especially in the North County. Work with the NBLC to get the right candidate.**

**Get a concept on what can be done, get cost of different COLAs and exert pressure on the BOS so that it is in the mix instead of just on their radar.**

**There are four Segal reports that will illustrate the costs of doing a variety of COLA options. SCERA will report on these at either the March or April meeting.**

**Once it is public our reps will visit the BOS and Christina again.**

5. COLA/health insurance contribution reduction status

**Neil Baker suggested that the message should be that the County provided 30 COLAs over 39 years and then stopped in 2008. Why did they stop providing the COLAs. Stories about the impact of the lack of a COLA.**

**The letter campaign needs to be encouraged. Alix and Phyris are crafting an email out to members giving them the facts needed to write letters.**

**Andre Bercut volunteered to get people to go to the BOS meetings. There is a survey of retirees willing to do various things for the COLA effort.**

6. Membership Meetings

- a. Plan speaker for May 27 membership meeting.  
**Bonny Petty to talk – she is a member of CARA**  
**Joni Huntsberger – Area Agency on Aging speaking on the SC Master Plan for Aging**
- b. Speakers for 2025 (August 26, November 18)  
**Invite Julie Wynne for the November Meeting**
- c. Need a replacement for Cora in getting speakers for membership meetings.

7. Committee Reports – JLMBC, SCCLO, NBLC, and ICPC

**JLMBC – TASC is having interesting issues with setting up HRA accounts. Phyris suggested another email to members regarding that TASC doesn't set up HRA accounts until money comes into it and all previous claim history did not come from the prior third-party provider. Phyris will work with Alix on email.**

**Reminder of the next SCERA Board meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

8. Other

Next Membership Meeting: May 27, 2025, 1:00, Finley Center  
Next Board Meeting: May 8, 2025, 1:00, SCLEA office or Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Carroll, Secretary