

**SCARE Board Meeting Minutes**  
July 10, 2024, 1:00 pm  
SCLEA Board Room (60 Brookwood Dr.)

Present: Kathy Young, Cora Guy, Ed Clites, Lou Maricle, Patty Hamley, Phyris Tobler, Paul Carroll, John Pels. Alix Shor attended on Zoom

Visitors: Michael Allen, Neil Baker, Bill Robotka

Absent: Shaun DeFosse, Chris Bauer, Carol Bauer,

President Kathy Young opened meeting at 1:05 pm

1. Approve minutes from Board meetings - 1/3/2024. Minutes from 5/1/2024 unavailable.

Moved: Phyris      Second: Paul      Action: Passed

2. COLA/Insurance contribution cut discussion – should we pursue both now? Next steps. Report from consultant Michael Allen.

SEIU failed in their bargaining with the County over a prospective COLA. Michael thinks we need to create teams to go to the BOS meetings and speak in open session. Active employees are willing to assist in the effort for a purchasing power COLA. Find a way to nicely embarrass the BOS. Find people to tell the stories. The difficulty is getting the people to go. People feel we need a template for the testimony before the BOS.

We discussed the challenges many retirees face in living in our world. Michael talked about getting together a coalition of the willing. People who have seen their purchasing power fade away.

Neil Baker talked about discussion occurring between the SCERA COLA subcommittee and the CAO. Neil worked with Julie Wyne on the COLA policy language. He is concerned that the county will sit on the issue. The county sees this as a closed issue. He thinks visibility is key. We need to message that we are the outlier for the State of California. Why don't you have a COLA. It was because the county continuously said we did not have an automatic COLA because we didn't pay for it but promised retirees an ad hoc COLA.

Bill Robotka brought up the option of making the reduction of the medical an issue.

Action: Create a phone list and reach out to retirees to check on their stories. Develop a coalition of the willing. Develop a strategy going forward. Develop a template of talking points to use in contacts with the BOS. Board members are supposed to submit ideas for this.

3. Attending SCERA meeting

Action: Neil Baker encouraged Board members to Zoom in or go in person.

4. Phyris has requested specific information from SCERA and expects to get it soon.

5. Treasurer's Report – June financial statement sent out by email

6. Scholarship report

Problems getting the info on active employees from SCERA needed to winnow applicants

Action: Paul Carroll will send PRA request

7. Membership Meetings

a. Review of May 21 membership gathering

Action: 75 showed. Many enjoyed it. People liked the exchange. We will consider doing a repeat next year.

b. Next membership meeting is August 27, 2024.

i. Speaker?

Action: Sonoma County Library Foundation and Emergency Prep Help.

c. Moved November membership meeting to November 26

i. Julie Wyne speaking

Action: Website needs to be updated.

8. Committee Reports

a. JLMBC – Phyris and Paul gave updates. WHA discontinuing their Medicare plan at the end of this year.

b. SCCLO – Unions reopening negotiations to seek COLA for actives had no success.

c. NBLC – There was strong support for our attempts to get COLAs and to revisit our settlement which would decrease county contributions to \$200 in 2026.

d. ICPC

Next Membership Meeting: August 27, 2024, 1:00, Finley Center

Next Board Meeting: September 11, 2024, 1:00, SCLEA office or Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Carroll, Secretary

