SCARE Board Minutes
September 02, 2026, 12:30 pm
SEIU Office (600 B St. Santa Rosa)

Present: Andre Bercut, Phyris Tobler, Paul Carroll, Sherry Parr, Lou Maricle, and Kathy Young
Absent: Carol Bauer, Chris Bauer, and Ed Clites
Guests: Michael Allen, Neil Baker

1. Andre called the meeting to order.

2. Phyris /m/, Paul /s/ to approve board meeting minutes of 07/08/2026 and Membership Meeting minutes of 08/25/2026. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Kathy /m/, Paul /s/ to nominate Lis Barca to become a SCARE board member. Motion passed unanimously. Brenda Bellinger has also expressed interest in joining. Andre is reaching out to her.

4. Only one change was made to the proposed meeting schedule for 2027. Board meetings will be: 1/6/27, 3/3/27, 5/5/27, 7/14/27, 9/1/27, and 11/3/27. Membership Meetings will be: 2/23/27, 5/25/27, 8/24/27, and 11/16/27.

5. Kathy /m/ and Paul /s/ to increase compensation for Donnie Peterson's tech support to $100 an hour. Researched showed that California average payment was between $80-$150 per hour. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Current AB 1601 activity. The bill passed the senate and moved to the governor's desk. Andre has composed a letter to the governor encouraging him to sign the bill. Several people gave feedback on the letter. He will send out the latest version for feedback. Please review quickly so he can send. He will send a copy to Chris Rogers. Julie and Neil of SCERA have met to develop an action plan. SCARE members will join with SCERA for next steps. Andre, Phyris and Ed expressed an interest in being a part of that group. Michael Allen has started conversations with political leaders about next steps for COLAs. Julie has let the County Administrator know we will need a point of contact for this ongoing issue.

7. PAC update. Phyris /m/, Kathy /s/ to confirm our online vote to reduce the initial PAC contribution $50k to 40K. Motion passed unanimously. The initial contribution is considered a political contribution. For contribution to be non-taxable, it had to come out of earned interest. We had $24,000 interest income in 2026 and $43,000 in 2025 so there was plenty to cover our contribution to the PAC. Sherry noted that the maximum contribution allowed for supervisor positions was $5,900. Phyris will verify if we gain interest on the PAC account. We will be talking more about how funds are dispersed once we decide on which candidates to support.

8. Andre will follow up on coordinating a candidates night sponsored by SCARE. He will ask about using SEIU space for the meeting. Aiming for the first week in October. We will develop about 10 questions for the candidates to answer.

9. Many board members will be attending the North Bay Labor Council's Labor Day breakfast to hear from and talk with local politicians.

10. Update on North Bay Digital Solutions (NBDS) – most board members still need to get pictures and bios to Phyris for inclusion on the website. Also need CRCEA information. At the last membership meeting, Phyris asked members to contact SCARE board members with their volunteer information. County retirees give much back to the community, and the BOS should know about it.

11. Treasurer's Report sent by email. Insurance has gone up for Directors and Officers insurance but remains the same for liability.

12. Phyris and Sherry have been looking at Newsletter software. It is believed that CANVA would be easier to use. There is a monthly fee for using CANVA. Kathy /m/, Paul /s/ to approve a subscription CANVA. Passed unanimously. The fee is around $15 per month. Sherry and Lis will help Phyris with the newsletter.

13. Kathy volunteered to monitor correspondence to the website.

14. Lou discussed the computer needs for the SCARE Database. Paul /m/ and Phyris /s/ that Lou is authorized to move ahead with the purchase of hardware and software for the highest choice option. Lou handed out projected cost and board members made recommendations for additional hardware and software that would be appropriate. He will get what is necessary to track and protect the database information. Passed unanimously.

15. Membership status. Lou mentioned that the forms he is receiving are incomplete. Presenters at the retirement seminars will encourage everyone to join SCARE and fully complete the application.

16. All board members are asked to continue to recruit new board members to fill board vacancies. We will try to have a booth at Employee Appreciation week in May. Will reach out in January.

17. November 17th Membership Meeting. Julie Wyne will speak. Andre will also ask our representatives, Neil and Mark, to be present for questions. For future meetings it was suggested that we have someone talk about estate planning. Also have Council on Aging speak.

18. JLMBC – Special health care committee continues to meet. They are only looking at rates for those over 65.

19. Emergency preparedness workshop. Phyris is collecting names of members who want to attend this workshop. The cost to host the workshop is approximately $2,000. And there is the cost of renting a room for two days. Hopefully Finley center will be available. Paul /m/ and Lou /s/ that SCARE move ahead with hosting the emergency preparedness workshop for our members. Passed unanimously.

20. At 2:25 Paul/m/ and Lou /s/ that we adjourn the meeting. Passed.

Next Membership Meeting November 17th, 2026, 1:00 PM, Finley Center
Next Board Meeting: November 4, 2026, 12:30 PM, SEIU office or Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Young