



NEWS BRIEFS

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March 2014 Number 1

Susan Cucchi, Editor



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Kiyoshi Adachi



The year 2014 begins with Mike DeBord and Martha Hoover beginning new three year terms as elected Retiree Representative and Alternate Retiree Representative respectively to the SCERS Board (Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System). Nancy Wolford-Landers had stepped down at the end of 2013. She served as the Alternate and then the Elected Retiree Representative since 2002. Nancy has agreed to continue on the SCREA Board until the next SCREA election.

The SCREA Board consists of 17 Directors. Fourteen (14) are elected by the membership for three year terms. Elections are held yearly in groupings of 5, 5, and 4. The two (2) elected members to the SCERS Board are also SCREA Directors in accordance with SCREA By-Laws as is the Immediate Past President. SCREA is a 501(C)(4) non-profit organization formed to represent all Sacramento County retired employees.

SCREA works hard to provide social opportunities at which retiree/dependents can meet other retirees and co-workers.

SCREA also works as an advocate for retiree benefits. An example: An action filed against Sacramento County, our former employer, on the matter of insurance subsidy payments. A Federal judge ruled that retired Sacramento County employees have no legal right to unending health care sub-

dies from the County. SCREA felt that having the subsidy issue adjudicated was necessary. Many retirees stated in declarations that the subsidies were promised to them and that they considered the subsidy a part of their compensation which the County eliminated. This issue needed a legal resolution, a court ruling. The court ruling is a disappointment but it answers the question for those retirees who needed a resolution.

Other benefits such as access to County-sponsored health programs is important to retirees. For retirees enrolled in the County-sponsored health programs and who are under 65, the blending of insurance premiums rates with under age 65 active employees is particularly important. The current County policy to keep their blended rates must be continued.

Unblending these rates will result in unaffordable premium increases for retirees. Orange County retirees whose insurance premiums rates were unblended by their county saw their insurance rates increase many fold. This matter is currently being litigated in Orange County.

Call a SCREA Director if you have some question you want answered. Our newsletter, News Briefs, is published to keep you informed. The last page of this and all issues of News Briefs lists the telephone numbers of the SCREA Directors.

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IN MEMORIAM

Louise Banks Herbert Bennett Mary Berry Shirley Bessey Lena Caples Mary Collins James Cook E. Darlene Craner Orlando Delliquadri Marie DeMichele Dennis Drew Marianne Ellis Marsha Falloon Donald Foley John Gaffney Dorothy Gaffney John Garcia	Wonnell Glover Robert Haagenson Bruce Hastings Robert Henneuse Frederick Hermanns Laura Hester Stanley Hong Lue Hosang Herbert Johnson Delbert Lewis Alice Lewis Odis Ray Littrell Nina Loginoff Eldie Long Clarisa Lopez Scott MacDonald	Delores Mallicoat Ralph Malloy Vincent Marincovich Mary Mason Lanora McGill Gregory Meixner Charlotte Merichko Angelina Mills Phyllis Moglen Karin Mohr Lola Morgan James Nunneley Robert O'Neill Herman Osby Barbara Pacuinas Angelo Panos	James Pedro Betty Prestwich Dorothy Reno Agnes Ryan Ray Smith Jr. Donald Swenson Sim C. Thomas Mary Toccalini Cindy Turner William VanBarriger William Wiedner Lawrence Wilfley Richard Williams Bruce Witt Neng Yang Jun-Luh Yin
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The surviving spouse of a member is eligible to SCREA membership.
For enrollment assistance please contact our Membership Chair, Sue Murray,
at 916-359-6394.

Change of Address?

Please fill out and mail this notice to:
SCREA, P.O. Box 161414
Sacramento, CA 95816

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Move: _____

Previous Address: _____

SCREA DROPS LAWSUIT AGAINST COUNTY

We lost, they won and it wasn't fun!

By Mike DeBord

The SCREA Board of Directors decided not to appeal a Summary Judgment ruling regarding our lawsuit against the County to retain retiree medical subsidies. A Federal Judge ruled on September 30, 2013 that there was insufficient evidence that the County intended to provide retiree subsidies in perpetuity.

SCREA had provided the court with significant supporting documentation and many declarations by former County employees. What we were unable to provide to the court (and the primary reason that we did not appeal the judge's decision) were Board of Supervisors resolutions or other written communications that clearly documented the County's intent to provide retiree subsidies in perpetuity (forever). Employees and retirees had relied on verbal understandings, three decades of past practice, statements by County employees, and "trust".

We trusted the County and the County let us down!

Our lawsuit wasn't the first legal action related to the loss of retiree medical subsidies. Back in 2007, the County eliminated the retiree medical subsidies for employees who retired after June 1, 2007. But the County refused to bargain this issue with the unions. Some of the unions then filed charges of unfair labor practices with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). These unions won their case on June 30, 2009. The County was required to re-instate the retiree subsidies and pay interest (make whole anyone who was impacted by the unlawful change). The County did so, but only for those members of unions that had filed formal charges against the County. All of the management, administrative and other unrepresented employees, as well as all of the members of bargaining units that didn't file formal charges against the County, got nothing. They received no reinstatement of the retiree subsidies. This action by the County sent a strong message to the unions, its workforce and to SCREA.

We then met with the Interim County Executive and he refused to allow discussion of this topic and threatened to end the meeting with SCREA representatives if we brought it up again. When the County subsequently terminated the retiree subsidies, SCREA Board members met with our attorney and our attorney requested the opportunity to discuss these issues with County Counsel. We received no response. We then drafted a lawsuit related to our retiree subsidies and provided a copy of the lawsuit to County Counsel and asked him again for

the opportunity to discuss the matter before we filed it with the court. Again we received no response. SCREA then filed the lawsuit. It is unfortunate that all opportunities to discuss this topic prior to court action were not accommodated.

It is important to note that in 2010, the Management employees felt strongly that it was necessary to unionize and voted overwhelmingly to become an exclusive bargaining unit. The following year, the Administrative employees also did the same. These previously unrepresented Management and Administrative employees are now in bargaining units like the other County unions and are now covered by formal labor contracts rather than just trusting the County.

SCREA Board Members have painfully learned in the past few years that long-term "past practice" and "trust" cannot be relied on. Important policy issues like retiree health and dental subsidies should be reduced to writing in understandable language by the County and distributed to all employees and retirees, and there should to be a formal process to address these kinds of issues. The County Management and Administrative employees now have that kind of formal process since they became exclusive bargaining units, but SCREA cannot formally bargain on behalf of County retirees.

In the past, we have achieved success by meeting with County officials and Members of the Board of Supervisors, and have presented at the Board of Supervisors meetings when retiree related topics were on the agenda. On more than one occasion, the Board of Supervisors even voted in favor of our position on retiree issues rather than approving the County Executive's recommendations. But more recently, as illustrated above, discussions with County officials have become more difficult.

The loss of the retiree health subsidies doesn't just affect current retirees, it also affects current employees (future retirees), many of whom were hoping we would prevail. In the end, I think employees, retirees and the County all lost something important in the last few years....the element of "trust". I hope that in the future there will be opportunities to re-build the trust between the County and those who work, or have worked, for them. In the meantime, your SCREA Board will continue to represent all County retirees to the best of our abilities.



BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Kiyoshi Adachi



The Employee Benefits Office (EBO) provided the SCREA Benefits Committee a breakdown of the recently completed annual enrollment for 2014 retiree health programs. The following chart dated December 12, 2013 has been prepared by the EBO:

Plans available in 2013

Plans	Retiree	Retiree +1	Retiree + 2	Total	Totals
Health Net HMO	178	43	15	236	Non Medicare Total 259
Blue Shield HMO	17	6	0	23	
Health Net Seniority Plus	496	90	0	586	Medicare Total 1065
Health Net Coordinated	189	24	0	213	
Blue Shield Coordinated HMO	120	27	3	150	
Blue Shield Coordinated PPO	95	21	0	116	
Blue Shield HD PPO	35	5	3	43	
Kaiser HMO	428	86	27	541	Kaiser Total 2588
Kaiser HD HMO	56	25	16	97	
Kaiser SA Silver	61	20	0	81	
Kaiser SA Gold	1373	482	14	1869	
					Overall Non Kaiser Total 1367
					Total Enrolled in County Plans in 2013 3955

Plans available in 2014

Plans	Retiree	Retiree + 1	Retiree + 2	Total	Totals
Sutter HMO	70	18	5	93	Non Medicare Total 232
Sutter HD HMO	10	4	3	17	
Western HC HMO	74	23	7	104	
Western HC HD HMO	12	4	2	18	
United HC HMO	502	105	1	608	Medicare Total 1045
United HC PPO	374	63	0	437	Overall Non Kaiser Total 1277
Kaiser HMO	420	85	26	531	Kaiser Total 2584
Kaiser HD HMO	59	27	17	103	
Kaiser SA Silver	66	22	0	88	
Kaiser SA Gold	1369	480	13	1862	
					Total Enrolled in County plans in 2014 3861

Continued on page 5



BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Kiyoshi Adachi



Continued from page 4

The chart on page 4 shows total enrollment for 2014 is 3861 compared to enrollment of 3955 for 2013. The approximate 100 who have not reenrolled for 2014 are probably either waiving coverage, enrolling in another plan or didn't get the enrollment mailing, etc. The Kaiser enrollees for 2014 is 2584 (67% of the total enrolled compared to 2588 enrolled for 2013 (65% of those enrolled). Sutter HMO and Western Health Advantage enrolled 232 non-Medicare retirees/dependents. United Health Care HMO and PPO signed up the 1045 Medicare eligible enrollees.

Carriers Blue Shield and Health Net were replaced in 2014 by Sutter, Western Health Advantage and United Health Care.

The big news for 2014 is that the 1045 Medicare eligible enrollees with United Healthcare (both HMO and PPO) will be receiving about a 50% per

month premium reduction.

Non-Medicare enrollees for 2014 also will receive reduced premium to match Kaiser premiums. The work of the County EBO staff to achieve the changes in carrier selections has greatly helped many retirees. These accomplishments are very much appreciated and we say THANKS!!

New carriers were chosen for Medicare and non-Medicare medical coverage for 2014. Where there is a combination of Medicare and non-Medicare medical coverage within a family the County is unable to deduct this type of combination premiums from a retirees pension check. Payment arrangements will have to be made with EBO in order to split the premium payment. Dave Comerchero, County EBO Manager, will be providing an article covering this situation for the next issue of News Briefs

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER

Federally Insured by NCUA

2014 LUNCHEON DATES

By Sandy Carli

Below you will find the 2014 SCREA LUNCHEON DATES AND DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS.

PLEASE mark your calendar, enter into your iphone, iPod, or cut it out and put in a visible place!
All events start at 11:00 with LUNCH SERVED AT NOON.

2014 CALENDAR FOR SCREA'S ANNUAL LUNCHEONS

MARCH 10 (Monday) 2014

General Meeting at the Lionsgate Hotel

Deadline *March 5, 2014*

JUNE 9, (Monday) 2014

General Meeting at the Dante Club

Deadline: *June 4, 2014*

SEPTEMBER 15, (Monday) 2014

Annual Founder's Day Picnic at Elk Grove Park (Rotary Grove)

Deadline: *September 10, 2014*

DECEMBER 8, (Monday) 2014

Holiday Luncheon at the Hilton Hotel off Arden Way

Deadline: *December 3, 2014*

Great Truths

- ◆ John Adams: "In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a congress."
- ◆ Mark Twain: "If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed."
- ◆ Winston Churchill: "I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."
- ◆ Will Rogers: "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."
- ◆ Mark Twain: "The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin."
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson: "A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."

Notice: The information presented in "News Briefs" is believed to be from reliable sources. However, no responsibility is assumed by SCREA, the Editor or the writers for inaccuracies in the articles published.

SCREA BLOOD DONOR CLUB REPORT

By Lyn Scotti

The need for blood is constant. The shelf life of red blood cells is 42 days or less. Platelets, which are critical to control bleeding, have a lifespan of only 5 days. Donations to SCREA'S Donor Club ensure that you, your family, and your friends in our community always have access to blood products in the event of an illness or emergency.

During the last report quarter (ending December 31, 2013) Blood Source records reflect the SCREA Donor Club received 26 donations of blood products. All-time donations to the club total 2,856. The SCREA Board thanks everyone who has donated blood to SCREA'S Donor Club in 2013 and prior years.

At this time, the SCREA Board would like to give special recognition to Richard C. DeCuir, whose lifetime recorded donations to the SCREA Donor Club total 1,580 units of blood products. His selfless gift has undoubtedly helped save lives and made a difference in this community. Thank you, Richard.

We encourage our members and their families to make donations of blood products to SCREA'S Donor Club (No. 6855). All donations are appreciated and will ensure blood is always available when needed by our members and community. You may telephone Blood Source at (916) 456-1500 to arrange to donate to the club, or to get further information on access and use of blood products.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Luis and Christy Aguilar, Sheriff
Ed Bouillon
Philip C and Katie Allen
Autumn and Roger Ankenbauer, Utilities
Morag Baird, DHHS
Greg Baldwin, DOT
Alan Barrus, Technology
Rebecca Brockley, DHA
Rosie Christian
Bill Davis, District Attorney
Emma Ercila, SETA
Carol Hendrickson, Voter Reg.
Bruce and Sherri Hrabak, Sheriff
Pete James, Sheriff
Diane and Harry Jones, Voter Reg.
Ernest P. and Susan Jones, Superior Court
Sherry Kemp

Mirjana Kic, District Attorney
Launa LeGrand
Lenard and Vera Lozano, SRCSD
Deborah and Richard Madden, DHHS
Mike Mulkerin, Water Quality
Karen Holman Philo, Probation
Anna Popejoy, DHA
Vangie Schoening, Board of Supv.
David and Lucy Ann Scott, Risk Mang.
Howard Seaton, General Serv.
William Stumpf, Public Health
Linda Thas, Probation
Maria Torres, Superior Court
Bruce Valentine, DHA
Theresa Whitman, MSA
Harold Jr. and Dorothy Wynkoop

For your information here are some important phone numbers and addresses:
SCERS: 916-874-9119 980 9th St. Suite 1900 Sacramento, CA 95814-2739
Employee Benefits Office: 916-874-2020 700 H St. Suite 4667
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Linda Kimura, Lyn Scotti and Pam Thomas

As of this writing, the Nominating Committee is actively recruiting interested SCREA Members to serve on the Board of Directors, specifically to fill the remaining term vacated by Fran Alberghini. Interviews are being scheduled and a recommendation for appointment by President Kiyoshi Adachi is forthcoming. The new appointment will be announced to the General Membership at the March 10, 2014 luncheon.

In addition, of great importance to all SCREA Members and the Board of Directors is the upcoming 2014 Annual Board of Directors election. The following Board Members' terms will expire on June 30, 2014: Sue Murray, Vic Scotti, Pam Thomas and Nancy Wolford-Landers. Nancy Wolford-Landers has announced that she will not seek re-election. All interested Members are urged to apply by submitting their letter of interest before the March 1, 2014 deadline. Please send letters of interest to Nominating Chair Linda Kimura at SCREA, P O Box 161414, Sacramento, CA 95816 or by e-mail to kimurafour@aol.com. Letters of interest should include contact information (address and phone number), and a short statement indicating they wish to run for election and will serve if elected.

Interviews will be scheduled in March. A list of recommendations will be published in the May, 2014 edition of *News Briefs*. The election will take place at the June 9, 2014 General Meeting. As stated in Article VII, Section 5 of the bylaws, should the number of candidates exceed the number of vacancies (in this case five candidates) a written ballot election shall be held. If less than five candidates apply, the Nominating Chair shall announce the slate of candidates and request a voice vote for the election.

Terms of office for these Board of Directors positions are three years effective July 1, 2014. The minimum expectation of a Board Member is to attend the monthly Board meetings, which are

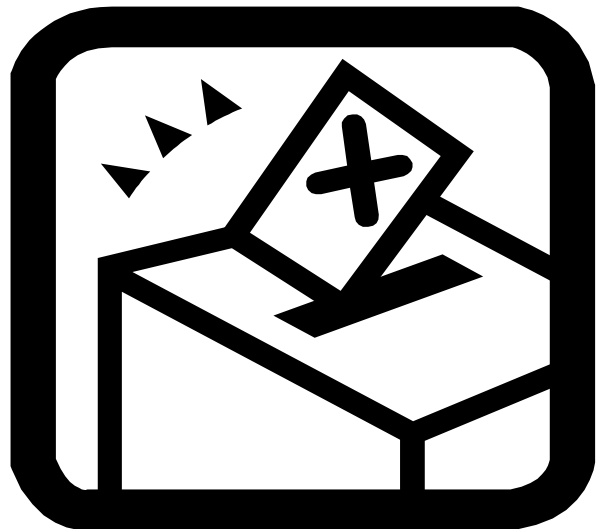
held the first Monday, and to serve on at least one Committee.

The Committees are:

Executive
Benefits
Budget and Bylaws
Information
Legislation
Membership
Nominating
Program
State Association
Sunshine
Website

Don't miss the March 1, 2014 deadline! Submit a letter of interest to serve on the Board of Directors.

Questions? Contact Nominating Committee Chair Linda Kimura at (916) 485-8442 or at the aforementioned e-mail address. Also, refer to SCREA's website www.saccountyretirees.com.



MARCH 10th, 2014 SCREA LUNCHEON

By Sandy Carli

**LIONSGATE HOTEL
3410 Westover Street
At McClellan Park in Club Ballroom
Sacramento, CA 95652**

**NO HOST BAR STARTS AT 11:00 AM
LUNCH SERVED AT NOON
GREAT DOOR PRIZES**

Once again we will be at the LIONS GATE Hotel at McClellan Park for our March SCREA luncheon.

The cost of the luncheon remains the same as last year. Members will pay \$18.00 and non-members will pay \$25.00. Flour is not used in the preparation of the meals; therefore your entrees are gluten free. Your selections are:

1. Spiced Pork Loin with apple cider reduction, Seasoned Vegetables and Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes or
2. Vegetarian Ravioli with a cheese sauce with a tomato base and seasonal vegetables.

Both entrees come with a Caesar salad, coffee, tea and German Chocolate Cake with pecans for dessert.

Should you have a specific dietary need, PLEASE indicate what you are requesting on your reservation form to assure that your request is met.

I can't stress enough the importance of signing up as early as possible. I will not be at this year's event, but my fabulous committee will be in charge. Should you send in your reservation on or near March 5 you MUST contact Katherine Cox at 451-6386 or email her at bkcox29@comcast.net so that she can get the correct count to the caterer. Mailing the reservation on the day it is due does not guarantee that Katherine will get it before the event.

The no-host bar is open at 11:00 am. It is located right outside the banquet room. I have requested that it be placed inside the room, but that may not occur if other events are occurring at the same time.

Please try to arrive as early as possible to find a parking space.

Directions:

3410 Westover Street

East on Hwy 80, North on Watt Ave., West on Palm Ave., Left on Arnold, Left on Westover into the parking lot.

Phone # of the Hotel: 916-643-6222



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Pamela Thomas	916-685-0329
Nancy Wolford-Landers	916-457-3002

SCREA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Lions Gate Hotel
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014

Member(s) Name: _____ Phone: _____

Member(s) Name: _____ Phone: _____

*Member's NEW email _____

Non-members Name: _____ Phone: _____

Non-members Name: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Members: Spiced Pork Loin \$18.00= _____

_____ Members: Vegetarian Ravioli \$18.00= _____

_____ Non-Members: Spiced Pork Loin \$25.00= _____

_____ Non-Members: Vegetarian Ravioli \$25.00= _____

Total Check enclosed _____

THIS RESERVATION FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MARCH 5, 2014.

No cancellations after the March 5 deadline, except for emergencies.

DO NOT SEND CASH. SEND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO
SCREA LUNCHEON, P.O. BOX 161414, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816