



NEWS BRIEFS

Published Quarterly by
SACRAMENTO COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 573, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
www.saccountyretirees.com

2021 Spring Issue

Pamela Thomas, Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Randal Angeloni, President

Hello SCREA members. It seems like we have done this before. In the last President's message, we said it felt like it was Groundhog Day. It doesn't appear anything has changed. I'm tired of staying home; I'm tired of being bored. I want to go to the movies and have a nice dinner for our (Mary and I) 50th anniversary. Over Christmas we had a very small group for dinner but a week later one of the participants at the dinner came down with Covid-19. Everyone had to get tested and all were negative but the scare was real. I guess I'll be patient a little longer. At this writing California is getting hammered by Covid-19 and the vaccine is slow to get into our arms.

We have made it past the holiday season and the new year. Be vigilant, wear a mask and do all the safe things until we have the vaccine in at least 70% to 80% of society. SCREA is here to look out for the retirees' best interest and to try to keep you informed. Our pensions are safe but if you believe the desire to eliminate public pensions has subsided just go to www.Youtube.com and type in 'public pensions'. Along with your vigilance regarding the pandemic stay vigilant regarding our pensions, especially now when governments are hurting for money. Let us know if you hear anything. Also, the scammers are ever present and want your money, don't fall prey.

Just to remind everyone. *SCREA's purpose is primarily to promote the social and economic welfare of its members, who are retired employees of the County of Sacramento or their surviving spouse who receive a survivor's retirement allowance*, as stated in our charter. The members of your Board will continue to perform those duties. We are looking for members who would like to be Board members or participate in our committees. Until we see each other again stay safe and find some pleasure and humor in every day.

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Spring begins
March 30



SCREA extends our deepest sympathy to family and friends of retirees listed below. This list identifies those reported in November and December 2020

Asako Abe, Airports
 Frances Beddow, Welfare
 Douglas Blixt, General Services
 Willie Bolden, Airports
 Vincent Marlon Brewer, Sheriff
 Hiep Buu, Public Works
 Edith Cole, Revenue Recovery
 Ted Conklin, Sheriff
 Gary Conners, Probation
 Valencia Cook, DHA
 Elena Donaghy, DHHS
 Joan Edney, Probation
 Lucy Estes, Voter Reg & Elections
 Robert Fuller, Public Works
 Michael Gates, Muni Services Agency
 Billie Gobbell, Courts
 David Grabin, Muni Services
 Robert Greenleaf, Public Works
 Judith Guardalabene, County Exec
 Scott Hill, Probation
 Gay Jagels, DHHS
 Maria Jimenez, SETA
 Harry Johnson, Probation
 Jonathan Johnson, General Services
 Peggy Kawamura, Public Works
 Laszlo Kertesz, Sheriff
 David Keys, Sheriff
 Robert Laursen, Public Works

Leah Marderos, Bd of Sups
 Valrie Marglin, DHHS
 Laura Mayes, Health
 Thomas McCullough, Probation
 George McKinney, Sheriff
 Ivan Mejia, Public Works
 Holly Millican, Sheriff
 Sandra Nan, DHHS
 Georganna Phelps, Assessor
 Paulette Plants, Sheriff
 Irmgard Potts, Public Works
 Frederick Rickert, DHA
 Enrique Rivera, Airports
 Valerie Rodni, DHA
 Rodolfo Roque, Sheriff
 Robert Samaniego, Sheriff
 Albert Schmid, DHHS
 Terry Shaw, Florin
 Fire District
 Charles Sheidler, Public Works
 Janet Smith, Child Support Services
 Sandra Stroud, County Counsel
 Lynn Tracy, DHHS
 Evelyn Villanueva, DHA
 William Wagner, Public Works
 Mark Wilbur, Internal Services
 Robert Woods, General Services

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for SCREA membership. The application is on our website at www.saccountyretirees.com/forms. For enrollment assistance, please contact Sue Murray, Chair, Membership Committee at mstmurray03@gmail.com or at 916-359-6394.

Jane Smith, Chair, Sunshine Committee, sends **sympathy cards** to families of our members when we are notified of a death. Jane also sends get well cards to our members who are experiencing health problems.

If you know of a member who would be cheered by receiving a card from SCREA, you may contact Jane at 916-786-6502 or at districtfiveretired@yahoo.com.

For your information and convenience, below are some important phone numbers and addresses:

SCERS:

916-874-9119, 980 9th Street, Suite 1900, Sacramento, CA 95814-2739

Employee Benefits Office:

916-874-2020, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2739

Blood Source:

916-456-1500, 866-822-5663 or blood-source.org, SCREA Donor #6855

SCREA's Board members are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

WELCOME NEW SCREA MEMBERS

Steven Elliott, Development & Code Services
 Kevin & Denise Farrell, Sheriff
 Margaret Iliff, Carmichael Park District
 Cindy Nugent, Recorder
 Teresa Rose Rankin, Probation
 Brenda Thornburg, Sheriff
 Patricia Vaca, Sheriff



SCREA members are always welcome to join us for our monthly Board meetings. All meetings begin at 9:30 am and are held on the first Monday of each month. If the first Monday is a holiday, the meeting is held the following Monday. Most of our meetings are held at the Rancho Cordova Police Department, 2897 Kilgore Road, Rancho Cordova.

Due to the Coronavirus, Board meetings will be held via video conferencing until further notice. If you would like to join us, contact Nancy Gust at njgust@hotmail.com for additional information.

MARCH 2021 LUNCHEON

By Nancy Gust, Chair, Program Committee

The March 2021 luncheon is cancelled due to restrictions on meeting in large groups and dining indoors. I have tentatively scheduled a June 2021 luncheon but we will have to wait and see. Stay safe!

SEE'S CANDY CERTIFICATES

By Nancy Gust, Chair, Program Committee

See's Candies has discontinued the certificates we have been selling and replaced them with gift cards. Until the luncheons start again, SCREA will not be selling either.

If you have certificates you have purchased in the past there is no expiration date and you can use them at any store.

You can also still take your current pay advice to the bulk stores on Folsom Blvd or L Street and get a 10% discount on most items.



*Remember to change
 your clock
 Daylight Savings begins
 Sunday, March 14*

UPDATE FROM THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS OFFICE

By Donna Bonnell, Employee Benefits Supervisor

Covid-19 Vaccinations

As we leave 2020 behind and approach spring, we wanted to provide information that is intended to supplement your own research and knowledge regarding the Covid-19 vaccination programs.

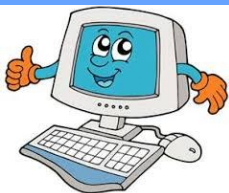
The CDC has a website that provides a great deal of information on the vaccine, including: *8 Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/8-things.html> or simply “google” “cdc vaccine guidelines” to find additional information.

As you make your decision to vaccinate, be sure to check with your primary care physician on your health conditions, potential side effects, your individual priority status and when you can expect to receive the vaccine. For those of you that have medical benefits through the County, here are some helpful contacts:

Carrier	Phone Number	Website
Kaiser Permanente	800.464.4000	www.kp.org
Sutter Health Plus	855.315.5800	www.sutterhealthplus.org
Western Health Advantage	888.563.2250	www.westernhealth.com
UnitedHealthcare	877.714.0178	www.UHCRetiree.com

For those that have medical plans through other carriers, be sure to contact your provider/primary care physician regarding priority status, availability and vaccination locations.

As the rollout of vaccines improves, many pharmacies may offer the vaccine, including CVS and Walgreens. Checking with your local pharmacy to see if they are a part of the program may make the process easier and more convenient once supplies increase. Above all, be thoughtful about potential exposure risks as we come out of winter.



Visit SCREA's website at www.sacountyretirees.com to get updated info and keep informed on various issues affecting County retirees. You can also read our newsletters and subscribe to receive emails when the website is updated.

ATTENTION ALL SCREA MEMBERS WE NEED YOU!

By Carol Summers, Chair, Nominating Committee

There are five Board of Directors positions expiring in June 2021; Rolfe Appel, Terri Colosimo, Nancy Gust, Carol Summers and Susan Shaughnessy. Susan Shaughnessy has announced that she will not seek another term. The four remaining Board members have submitted their Letters of Intent. The terms of office for each of these five positions are three years.

There will be a vacant position on the Board as of July 2021. We ask that any interested members submit their Letters of Intent to Carol Summers by March 31st, 2021. Please contact me by **email**: mauisummers13@gmail.com; **U.S. mail** addressed to Carol Summers, Nominating Committee Chair, P.O. Box 573, Fair Oaks, CA, 95628; or **call me** at 808-269-1048. I will then send or email you a letter of intent.

The election for the Board of Directors for the June 2021 to 2024 term will take place at the June 2021 Annual Meeting. Because of the uncertainty of the ability to hold an in person event in June, we will announce, in the forthcoming News Brief, the voting procedure.

Members are strongly encouraged to apply for the vacant Board of Directors position. At the present time, we are conducting our meetings virtually via Zoom. We hope that in the near future, we can meet in person. Serving on the Board is enlightening, gratifying and fun. Members can continue to use and enhance their leadership skills, as well as helping other retirees in matters of mutual interest. We meet once a month on the first Monday of each month. Each Board Member is asked to participate in one committee: Benefits; Budget & Bylaws; Retirement Security/Legislation; Sunshine; Database Management; Membership and SCERS Orientations; Information and Website; Program; and Nominating.

The SCREA News Briefs is published quarterly. Information presented in our News Briefs is believed to be from reliable sources. No responsibility is assumed by SCREA, the Editor or the writers for inaccuracies in the articles published.

However, if you do see an error, please bring it to the attention of SCREA's News Briefs Editor, Pamela Thomas, at egishome@gmail.com.



As of the January 2021 Board of Directors meeting, SCREA now has a total of **4,598** members. Members consist of retired Sacramento County employees and/or their spouses.

The membership application for retirees and/or a spouse is available at our website, www.saccountyretirees.com/membership.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Murray, Chair, Membership Committee at 916-359-6394 or at msmurray03@gmail.com.



OPEN ENROLLMENT CLOSES

By Greg Margulies, Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.

The 2021 Open Enrollment period for the SCREA benefit plans has come to a close. If you missed the enrollment period and still wish to add a coverage, please contact our office and we may be able to assist you.

For those who newly enrolled in coverages, you should have already received your ID cards in the mail. If not, please contact us and we will have another one mailed to you. Members who did not make any changes will NOT receive new ID cards.

If you should need any assistance with any SCREA benefit plan or wish to make a change, please contact Pacific Group Agencies at (800) 511-9065, Monday-Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM and Friday 9 AM - 3 PM PST.

Please Note: Pacific Group Agencies administers all the SCREA benefit plans and is the only organization that can make changes to your enrollment. Please do not contact SCREA or SCERS regarding your SCREA benefit plans. They are unable to assist.

NEW SCREA DATABASE MANAGER NEEDED

SCREA is searching for a County retiree who would be interested in performing the Membership Database Manager duties. These duties include:

- ◆ Process SCREA Applications of new members and enter them into the database.
- ◆ Receive monthly reports from SCERS relating to dues and deceased members. Process as needed into membership database.
- ◆ Receive address changes and update membership database.
- ◆ Complete an annual line-by-line comparison of membership database with the dues list provided by SCERS. Work with SCERS to resolve any discrepancies.
- ◆ In June of each year mail a Cash Dues Letter reminder to members who pay their dues through cash annually rather than through a payroll deduction.
- ◆ Create Excel document from membership database for the SCREA newsletter mailing and forward to the News Briefs Editor.
- ◆ Prepare a monthly membership report for SCREA Board of Directors.

"The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes"

By Sir Winston Churchill

April Fools Day!

The Database Manager needs to have a working knowledge of Access and Excel software.

If you would like a more detailed list of duties or you are interested in this position, please contact Eloween Ivey at eaivey@surewest.net.

Carol's Travel Corner



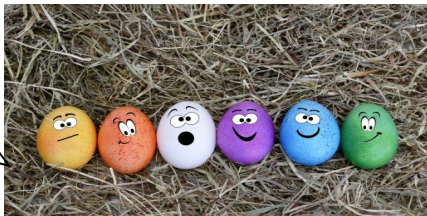
I am again writing this article during a recommended stay at home and travel restriction for most of the California population. The vaccine is here and we hope by the summer most of the Country's population will be vaccinated and we all can return to some semblance of normality.

Some of us have travelled locally; some even have travelled by plane. We all have been encouraged to wear masks, social distance and stay away from large gatherings. We have had to look for other ways to entertain ourselves. The great outdoors has been a popular outlet: hiking, walking, fishing, golfing, skiing and just exploring.

Most travel companies are booking overseas trips for 2022. The prognosis for travel to return to a form of normal could be as late as 2024. Those who wish to travel in the coming year need to look at the airline policies for cancellations, along with the travel companies' enhancements. There are some very good deals this year, if you are willing to take the risk of having to cancel. There are also locations, such as the Caribbean, that are promoting a bubble type of vacation that lasts 2 weeks with proof of vaccination and a negative Covid test. If you have the time, and meet the criteria, this type of vacation may work for you.

Travel has always been a way to learn, explore and share with other cultures. The experiences we cherish are the connections we make with our travel companions and the people we meet in the countries we explore. We will have those connections again. We can begin to plan for our future adventures. Look to the travel sites, go online and stream some of the locations you think you may want to visit. Watch the travel channels. Most of all **DREAM** and plan for your future travel.

Happy
Easter!



Moving?

If you move, there are **2 very important** places to contact.

First, inform the Retirement Office (SCERS) in writing of your new address so you won't miss receiving your pension check! Their address is 980 9th St. Suite 1900, Sacramento, CA 95814-2739.

The **second** is SCREA. Please complete the form below and forward it to SCREA at the address on the form so you can continue receiving your quarterly News Briefs.

Change of Address, Telephone or Email?

Please fill out and mail this notice to:
SCREA Change of Address, P.O. Box 573,
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Effective date for change: _____



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