

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2009, War Memorial Building, Balboa Park

Board Members Present: President, Nancy Acevedo, Vice President Patti Karnes, Alyse Ford, Burnie Gipson, Ruth Ann Hageman, Maggie Smith, Jean Struiksma, Sylvia Tatum, Bob West, Joe Flynn, Terry Flynn, Bob Korch, Ty Rogers, Lynn Swanson and John Tsiknas. Donald K. Stenson, guest.

Minutes for January 12: Reviewed and approved.

Communications:

Thank you letter to Patti Karnes from Vickie Granowitz, the speaker at our January meeting.

Wachovia Securities letter offering free financial planning services to our members. Joe Flynn felt this is advertising. Consensus of the Board was to decline but thank them for the offer.

Alyse offer of free facial worth \$40.

Treasurer's Report: Attached. Sylvia moved funds to renew the Legal Fund CD for 6 months. Operating Fund CD remains the same. Terry/Ty MSA

New Members: Alyse will call Joann Mitcham, new member.

SDCERS Post-Retirement Health Benefit Information paper: Bob West presented updates that he has made to this paper. Bob/Burnie MSA Nancy suggested we put this paper on the website now. It will be sent to CERS for their review.

Attendance at CERS Meetings: Joe Flynn said that the attendance has an affect. Need to get people down to those meetings because the Board really notices and appreciates the attendance. Ty, Joe and Bob Korch will attend in February, and Terry volunteered to attend in April.

Retiree Issues Task Force: Nancy asked that they drop the letter asking for a reaffirmation that the disability is still in effect, if the disability is irreversible. Rather than print our survivor booklet, which would cost \$6,000, CERS will print a one page article in the Free Spirit outlining all of the information that is in the article. We will be able to review this one page and approve. Reviewed letter sent to pre-80's. U-T had requested information on retirees. Will include some names. Asked that those people be notified before that information is released. Asked for data on the Supplemental COLA which is contradictory. Requested information on the complaints they received about Care Counsel. Lynn sent emails to MEA; she has not received a reply yet. Burnie will look over the Care Counsel report. High number of complaints that people are not getting as much for their money as they thought they would be getting. Requested Free Spirit provide a form regarding changes of address.

Hand in Hand: Cherie Olaveson and Sarah Contreras made a presentation on the system they set up for being notified of the procedures widows/widowers need for the funeral, getting all the forms from the City, Social Security, etc. Now the people can get their checks in the first month instead of three. All of the information for tax uses. Grievance counselors. They go in and do it instead of the person waiting. They do out-of-state too. All designed to take care of their needs. They have 5 on their staff. Empathy is more important than compassion. Need to know what they are needing. They have not missed a single death in Fire or Police. First call is to the chaplain. The chaplain visits, and then call Hand-in-Hand right back.

Hand-in-Hand will share the generic stuff with us if we want to set up a similar program. We would need to get information that applies to our group. It is an easy program because it works. You don't want to get too muddled. Since January 1, they have dealt with three deaths. RFP, Relief Association, and City Human Resources are the three sources for finding out that there is a death. Also they have contacts with CERS. People are getting involved. They even have a list of electricians, mechanics, financial experts, plumbers, etc. They have tried these people out; they are sure these people are not going to take advantage, and sometimes they give a discount. Survivors' benefits hand-outs give everything you need to know from the City. Five wishes. Do Not Resuscitate. Try to keep following. Services are available from 3 to 6 months. May be able to contact one of the Fire or Police chaplains. Finding out that there has been a death might be difficult for us. Curt Glasier is with the City Human Resources department, and he might be helpful. A return of the check is a clue the retirement office gets. Cynthia Queen has been very cooperative. Arrangement for notification with CERS may be possible. People who are served are entitled to a flag, a headstone, etc. The Coast Guard will scatter the ashes at no cost. Bereavement counselors may also be available free. They would be willing to help us with information. Needs to be done across the United States. The big question is, how to find out when someone has died? Get those things in place. They are willing to do a workshop too. You have enough widows and widowers who might have the energy and motivation to get this going for your organization. The head fire chaplain, Mickey Stonier, is a minister, (858) 277-4991 ext. 1230 stonier@juno.com Mickey Stonier. Curt Glasier (619) 553-4413, cglasier@san.gov. Another option: put an ad in the newspaper or in Free Spirit. Also ask CERS to send a recently widowed person to contact them.

RA suggested putting together a committee to start working on this. Ty Rogers, Janet Burgess and Ruth Ann Hageman volunteered. Nancy will make some phone calls.

Retreat Assignments: John Tsiknas did the study to identify annual payers. Nancy drafted a letter when someone is up for an annual thing.

Miscellaneous:

A. George Murray was introduced by Joe Flynn. He is former board member at CERS. He will be our speaker next month.

B. Nancy will send letter out to those who pay monthly explaining the difficulty caused by this procedure.

C. Phone tree. Alyse and Dora will be putting something together. Finalizing the budget was done at the retreat.

D. Association Revitalization Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks.

E. Audit Committee will begin as soon as Sylvia presents the Treasurer's packet to Maggie.

F. Membership brochure has been changed. Web application will be also. It will read "Submit a PDA."

G. Alyse mentioned that there is a possible program by the author of "Cop to Cook."

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Ruth Ann Hageman, Secretary