

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES, April 14, 2009, War Memorial Building, Balboa Park

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

**MINUTES:** Minutes for both the March and April board and general meetings will be reviewed at the May meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

A letter from a member complaining about the high PPO costs for Out-of-State retirees.  
An email complimenting the newsletter.  
An email from William Sheffler regarding SDCERS board positions.

**TREASURER'S:** Attached. Burnie Gipson/John Tsiknas MSA

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**New Members:** Alyse will phone Laurie Agnew, Kathleen Healey, Robert Hendrix and Erlinda Soriano. William Becker lives out-of-state, and Bill McGuigan has already been contacted and has come to a couple of meetings.

**Association Revitalization Committee:** Committee Chair Maggie Smith reported on the activities of the Revitalization Committee several of which are already being implemented: the use of music to welcome people in; the heating up of the room; and the possible bringing in of coffee and tea. Then, committee member Ruth Ann Hageman presented a packet to each board member containing stamped envelopes to send a questionnaire to members asking them how the board is doing in various areas. The board members seemed to welcome the opportunity to talk with Association members. They will be returning the packets between April 15 and May 1. The results of the questionnaire will be presented at the June or July board meeting. [So far, three questionnaires have been returned already. --RA] Articles have been sent for inclusion in both the website and the newsletter (on-line and by mail). The next meeting date is Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 a.m. at the Mission Valley Library.

**Helping Hand:** Based on the presentation given in February by the "Hand in Hand" group An issue that impacts everyone is, what are all of the things that you have to do when your spouse or significant other dies, or what will your spouse have to do when you die? You might consider the importance of being well-prepared to answer these questions.

At the February meeting, your association board was given a presentation by two women who organized the "Hand In Hand" group, set up to aid the widows or widowers of Police and Firefighters who have died. They had come to tell us about their organization and their processes in case we wanted to set up a similar group for general retirees.

The idea behind this issue that impacts everyone is, what are all of the things that you have to do when your spouse or significant other dies, or what will your spouse have to

do when you die? We all need to consider the importance of being well-prepared to answer these questions.

We have set in motion a group to do this, calling ourselves “Helping Hands.” So far, our committee consists of Ty Rogers, Janet Burgess, Mary Bush, Sylvia Tatum, Carmen Lutes, Doug McHenry, Larry Gardener, Dora Garcia and Ruth Ann Hageman. We are hoping to add Terry Flynn, Paulette Mormino, Salani Henderson, Mary Lynn Hyde and a few others at our next meeting.

At our first meeting, we reviewed a list that Janet Burgess had developed from the numerous occasions when she has helped members of her family and friends with the many tasks that need to be done when there is a death in the family or in a friend’s family. We reviewed notes taken at the “Hand in Hand” presentation. And Sylvia brought copies for everyone of the “Survivor Benefits Information” booklet developed by Bob and Linda Cain 5 years ago. Also, Sylvia, Dora Garcia and Mary Bush talked about their experiences when they became widows.

We decided that it would be useful to add information to the “Survivor Benefits Information” booklet, based on what we can learn from “Hand in Hand” and also our own member information. A number of issues were raised that need to be resolved, such as getting the information that there has been a death, procedures for notifying people, and how important it is for people to do proper preparation, such as setting up a trust.

The “Helping Hands” next meeting is on Thursday, April 30 at the Mission Valley Library Conference Room from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. The “Hand in Hand” presentation will be given again at this meeting.

If you are interested in joining this effort, phone Ruth Ann Hageman at (858) 270-8530.

**Programs:** Program Vice President Patti Karnes reviewed the scheduled programs: April 14, April Boling; May 12, William Sheffler (tentative) others might be Peter Preovolos, Thomas Hebrank, or new SDCERS board president; June 9, Health Care Panel; July 14, Social Luncheon at the Mission Bay Yacht Club; August 11, proposed picnic at the Police Pistol Range (maybe assisted by Matt Weathersbee); Sept. 8, perhaps the SDCERS annual general meeting presentation with David Westco; October 13, Tom Blair, San Diego Magazine editor; and November 10, USD Economics Professor Dr. Alan Gin (tentative). [Ed. Note: SDCERS Board Members Sheffler, Preovolos and Hebrank will sorely be missed because they have the corporate memory of the facts leading up to the 2004 underfunding of the system.]

### **INFORMATION - DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Retiree Issues Task Force meeting includes eleven items on the CSDREA/RF&P agenda; 7 of the items are continuing, and 4 are new.
2. Special Project: delayed until next time.
3. Health Insurance/Care Counsel Evaluation: Burnie Gipson. Bob West: it is going to take City Council action to cut the health insurance benefit.

### **RETIREMENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - Dave Hall**

Hebrank, Sheffler and Preovolos are retiring from the board and are being replaced. There is a memo from the Mayor naming the new members. Dave suggested that it

would be important for the board to get retired people on the board. Bob West: New people have to be approved by the City Council and then sworn in at a later meeting. Observers at the CERS meeting this month: Terry, Patti.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Advocacy Committee: Nothing to report.

Audit Committee: Audit is in process.

Membership Committee: Nothing to report.

Active Employee Association Rep: Nothing to report.

Website: John Tsiknas: Virginia has been doing a great job of the calendar. She is suggesting dropping the calendar, and the board agreed. Bob West: important items will appear. The use of the website has gone way down.

Treasurer/Membership Functions Ad Hoc Committee: Nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Board Meeting adjourned 10:42 a.m.

*Ruth Ann Hageman, Secretary*