

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Meeting of October 13, 2009
Veterans' Memorial Building, Balboa Park

Introductions of visitors and SDREA Board Members were made, and the meeting of October 13, 2009 was called to order by President Nancy Acevedo at 9:30 a.m.

CSDREA Board Members Present: President Nancy Acevedo, Terry Flynn, Alyse Ford, Burnie Gipson, Ruth Ann Hageman, Dave Hall, Patti Karnes, Ty Rogers, Maggie Smith, Jean Struiksmas, Sylvia Tatum, John Tsiknas, & Robert West. **Others Present:** Jim Baross, Gary Hess and Dick Wilken, and Helen Phillips, who is the representative from our board to MEA. **Absent:** Bob Korch.

Minutes: September minutes were approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sylvia's report was approved, showing a grand total reserve/operating fund of \$63,886.88 as of September 30, 2009. Motion (Terry Flynn, Second Burnie Gipson) approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: Nancy had received emails from Jim Spotts and Helen Montiel complimenting the information provided in our newsletter. Karen Anderson noted that the newsletter reference to "Do Not Call List for Cell Phones" was out of date information. Nancy appointed Bob Korch and Ruth Ann Hageman to review on Snopes or other sites for the accuracy of information that is slated to go into the newsletter.

ACTION ITEMS: New Member Contacts will be undertaken by Nancy Acevedo because she knows the two people who have joined: Kikue Graeber and Patricia Marn.

Establish Dues for 2010: It was decided to recommend to the General Members the same dues structure for 2010 as 2009, i.e., \$2.00 per month, with \$1.00 for the Operating Fund, and \$1.00 for the Legal Fund. This recommendation was approved unanimously.

SDCERS/City Lawsuit: Patti Karnes has drafted a letter to the Mayor and Council with a copy to the City Attorney suggesting that the lawsuit with SDCERS be settled in order to save taxpayers' money.

SDCERS has offered to settle, but the City has not responded, and it is costing a great deal of money for attorneys on both sides. It was agreed that this letter will be finalized by Nancy to send to the Mayor and Council on behalf of our Association.

INFORMATION - DISCUSSION ITEMS

Nominating Committee Report: Bob West did the research and presented a list showing the expiration dates for each of the board positions. The Bylaws provide that the officers of the board are elected for two-year terms, and the directors are elected for three-year terms. Officer/Director positions expire in

Nominating Committee Report, Cont'd

alternate years so that each CSDREA Board has some new and some experienced members. As the Rules of Order indicate, the Association's officers "shall be elected biannually in the month of November by a vote of the members."

Nominating Committee Chair Ruth Ann Hageman presented the recommendations of the nominating committee for new positions to the 2010 CSDREA Board as follows:

President: Jim Baross, Nominee

2-year term expiring in 2011

First Vice-President, Programs: Dave Twomey, Nominee

2-year term, expiring in 2011

Second Vice-President, Advocacy : Patti Karnes, Nominee, new in this position

2-year term, expiring in 2011

Treasurer: Gary Hess: Nominee

1-year term , expiring in 2010 (filling in last year of Sylvia Tatum's term)

*Director/Webmaster: Bill McGuigan, ** Nominee*

3-year term, expiring in 2012

Director: Ty Rogers: Nominee, new in this position

3-year term expiring in 2012

*Director: Dick Wilken: Nominee***

1-year term, expiring in 2010 (serving Alyse Ford's last year)

**Webmaster Bill McGuigan will be partnered with webmaster John Tsiknas who will be serving off board. Director Dick Wilken will be filling in for Alyse Ford who will serve as an off-board participant.

The nominations were approved by consensus.

The following are non-elected positions beginning in 2010:

Immediate Past President and Chair of Retiree Issues Task Force, Nancy Acevedo

This is an automatic position. Nancy replaces Dave Wood.

President-Appointed Membership Chair: Sylvia Tatum

The following are the continuing officer and director positions:

Existing Secretary: Ruth Ann Hageman

1 more year, term expiring in 2010

Elected Representative to the SDCERS Board: Dave Hall

4 more years, term expiring in 2013

Existing Director: Terry Flynn

2 more years, term expiring in 2011

Existing Director: Bob Korch (writer of special articles for the newsletter)

1 more year, term expiring in 2010

Existing Director: Maggie Smith (Chair of the Revitalization Task Force)

2-more years, term expiring in 2011

Nominating Committee Report, Cont'd

The following are existing President-Appointed positions:

Newsletter Editor: Jean Struiksma

Parliamentarian: Bob West

In addition to the above CSDREA Board positions, Helen Phillips is our appointed representative to MEA, Dora Garcia is Hospitality Chair and Sharon Beach is Sunshine Chair.

Revitalization Committee: Committee Chair Maggie Smith presented the report of the Revitalization Committee as follows:

1. The Committee recommends that there be a committee to help with special events and off-site meetings. Nancy said that there was a Recreation Committee provided for in the By Laws and that she could activate that committee to work on special events and off-site meetings.
2. Board members are encouraged to keep on reaching out to members.
3. The Committee recommends that there be more games at the Holiday Party to create an atmosphere of fun. One idea was a form of Jeopardy that would use City of San Diego history for the questions. [Jean Hughes will work on this idea: she has just the book for the questions!]
4. We want to invite members to write articles for the newsletter, submitting them to Bob Korch (rkorch@san.rr.com) or Ruth Ann Hageman (hageman1@san.rr.com). This invitation will be in the newsletter.
5. The Committee recommends that the brochure given to retiring employees include an invitation to sign up for free newsletters. After considerable discussion it was moved and seconded (Ty Rogers/Alyse Ford) that a statement be included that indicates that retiring employees should send their email and they will receive the newsletter free for three months. This motion passed as amended from four months to three months. Information on the brochure should indicate that the newsletter does include items on pensions, health issues and meetings and events. Dick Wilken suggested that while putting the brochure on the website is a good idea, he also suggests that we send an electronic version of the brochure directly to recent retirees via email as soon as we get their email addresses.

Dick emphasized that there may be the perception among some recent retirees that CSDREA is mostly a place for the older retirees to socialize, etc. That perception is probably not sufficient to get 'younger' retirees to join. Many are not aware of the significant amount of watch-dogging and advocacy that we do. A significant value to retirees is keeping better informed about what the Council and the SDCERS Board are doing that impact retirees, about the status of pending litigation, and the advocacy on key issues.

John Tsiknas will set up a guest list for the free newsletter that can indicate the cut-off time, and Jim Baross suggested a letter to the employee letting them know that they are going to be cut off from the free newsletter.

Revitalization Committee, Cont'd.

Sylvia Tatum said that we already send out the Payroll Deduction Notice (PDN) with the yellow brochure. Bob West said that before the last free newsletter, we should include a copy of the PDN and the brochure and also ask for both the email and the mailing address of the new retiree.

Nancy mentioned that the supply of brochures is low and that Ross McCollum is updating the brochure. Maggie will contact Ross concerning the ideas from the Revitalization Committee and the Board.

Retiree Issues Task Force: Nancy presented a status report on the issues discussed with SDCERS staff. Some of the results included:

1. There was no known response to the article written in the open enrollment booklet concerning reimbursement reminders for non-health eligible retirees;
 2. For the reimbursement for non-health eligible retirees, the legal division indicated that they cannot accept annual validation in lieu of medical receipts [in spite of the difficulty such elderly retirees might have with the process - ed. note].
 3. Disability retirees with a non-reversible condition should not be required to complete an annual affidavit. RITF asked that a section be included in the annual form for making this request. Also, whether a person is disabled needs to be evaluated against the duties of the *classification*, not a particular position. Our representative to the SDCERS Board, Dave Hall, said that he will bring these issues up with the SDCERS Board via the Disability Committee, of which he is Chair.
 4. The funds in the supplemental COLA reserve (for people who retired prior to 1982) may run out in 2013. RITF have asked six questions regarding the status of these funds.
 5. The SDCERS newsletter, "Scoop," no longer contains information from the two retiree associations, CSDREA and ARFP (Association of Retired Fire and Police). Recent retirees and deaths are no longer included but refer people to their website, to which many older people do not have access. It was suggested that we access the information from the website and include it in our own newsletter, with the caveat that the accuracy of this information is the responsibility of SDCERS. This inclusion and the caveat was moved and seconded (Terry F./ Alyse Ford) and unanimously approved.
 6. For the Helping Hands program, SDCERS was asked if they would forward information on deaths to us pursuant to the Public Records Act. Answer on this request is pending.
- Also, SDCERS was asked if there would be an article in "Scoop" to let retirees know about the Helping Hands program, and to include a flyer about the program in the packet mailed by CERS upon learning of a General Member retiree/survivor death. They agreed to do this.
7. It was asked that any issue that will impact retirees be brought to the attention of CSDREA. Recently, there was a Council docket item to amend the Municipal Code relating to CERS which would affect General Members who used refunded funds to buy service time.

Retiree Issues Task Force, Cont'd.

8. SDCERS agreed to put a note on the pay stub reminding retirees to change their beneficiaries if they are out of date.

9. SDCERS is checking the legality of retiree funds not being available upon the bank opening on the last day of the month. RITF asserted that retirees ought to be treated the same as City employees.

RITF chair, Nancy Acevedo, wrote a memo to SDCERS staff memorializing the agreements from the meeting.

MEA Sponsored Share Program: Helen Phillips described the Share program sponsored by MEA whereby sacks of food are distributed to people for \$24 for each sack. The refrigerated truck distributing the food will be set up in Paradise Hills. There is no income requirement to participate in this program. Retirees who were previously classified are encouraged to participate. She was asked if one has to be a member of MEA to participate and if retirees who were previously unclassified can become members of MEA.

SDCERS RETIREMENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - Dave Hall said that there is a field on the SDCERS website that asks for feedback on Scoop. They want to make sure that Scoop is addressing our needs.

As the Chair of the Disability Committee, Dave reported on the issue of requiring an annual evaluation of the validity of their disability. He said that the attorney said that they have to follow the letter of the law, and an independent audit might raise the issue, so even if a person has lost a leg, it is necessary that they go through the process.

Dave encouraged Board members to come to the meetings of the various committees of SDCERS. The SDCERS Board members will be encouraged if we show interest by coming to the meetings.

He said that payment of Corbett will be on the November agenda of the full board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Award Recognition Committee: The award recognition committee has not yet met.

Advocacy Committee: Patti said that the SDCERS Board must approve the COLA because "preservation of benefits" is in the Municipal Code.

Holiday Party: Jean Hughes updated the CSDREA Board on the Holiday Party.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Ann Hageman, Secretary