

REA Minutes
(CITY OF SAN DIEGO RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION)
Meeting of June 8, 2010

Santa Fe Room, Balboa Park

Present: Jim Baross, Nancy Acevedo, Janet Wood, Sylvia Tatum, Gary Hess, Jon Dunchank, Patricia Karnes, Dave Twomey, Helen Phillips, Ty Rogers, Bob West, Dick Wilken, Art Brown.

Non- Board: Joe Flynn, Lynn Swanson, Dave Hall, John Tsiknas.

ABSENT: Bob Korch, Terry Flynn.

9:30 a.m. - Call to Order

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 12, 2010

Corrections: SDCERS agreed to distribute Helping Hands brochure.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Gary Hess

ITEMS DISCUSSED-

1. Vacant Board Secretary position and committee positions. Jon noted that this is the opportunity to bring some additional organizational and executive and financial planning expertise to the Board. Jim asked Board members to recommend names.

2. Holiday Party Program update and budget authorizations - Lynn and Helen

Contract signed with Tom Ham's at 100 guests in December 2010 for \$2500. Tom Ham's had asked for \$3000. Last year's contract was for 80 guests, with 94 attending.

Joe recommended members, who do not attend, should not subsidize those who do attend. In order for tickets to cover expenses, Dick moved to adopt \$25.50 for tickets, with no discount for a second person. Board voted 7 yes to 4 opposed.

Set-up starts at 10:00am and clean-up ends at 2:00pm.

Food selection: Petite Top Sirloin and Citrus Salmon.

Helen will contact Jean Hughes when Jean returns from Australia and New Zealand, regarding low, or no cost alternative entertainment, supplies and door prizes.

Helen will arrange for the food barrel to collect donations.

3. Progress on Advocacy's new REA recruiting brochure:

Dick complimented SDCERS on their helpfulness in sending names/addresses of retirees, back to 2002, directly to the printer to maintain confidentiality. Changes include some font size, color of some print, diversity in photos, and add "Be involved". Nancy requested Helping Hands information to be added also. Sign-up/deduction inserts to be added at 9cents each, including three tabs.

The deduction form will also be online on our REA web site.

Unanimous approval of Ty and Nancy's motion to authorize our Committee to print 3,240 brochures with inserts and to mail to all 2,840 retirees from the year 2002 to the present at cost of approximately \$2,600. We would have an additional 400 brochures left to hand out. To mail to all approximately all 3200 retirees since 2000 would have gone over the \$3000 budgeted for production and mailing.

(Patti's Note: It could be useful to give new members specific lists of ways they can contribute to REA and committees openings, perhaps on REA's web site.)

4. Dropping free REA membership for REA members over 80 years of age.

The Board unanimously approved Patricia/Jon's motion to grandfather in people who have already received a life membership or call Sylvia to drop their \$2 monthly dues to REA when they reach 80.

5. Shall we continue with a Members Only access section to our web site?

The Board unanimously approved Jon/ Dick's motion to open the Members Only Section. Dick reported

that California and other States have passed legislation to stop lawsuits with the intent to silence organizational web site viewpoints. Dick said if we have any confidential items we should not be putting them on the web site. Art said MEA's closed areas are used when members social security number are used for IRS, or in legal cases. Jim will continue to be gatekeeper and refer special items to Committee Chairs for content.

6. RETIREMENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - Dave Hall

Hall said SDCERS is vigorously defending SDCERS position against the City Attorney's lawsuit over splitting losses as part of "substantially equal". Hall stressed SDCERS Board is focusing on what is the definition of the "normal costs" that are split between the City and employees.

7. Advocacy & Revitalization Joint Committee (Patti, Dick, Jon, Ty, Janet Wood.

a) Patti hoped that Hall will mention the differences between SDCERS, City Unions, and REA in his SDCERS newsletter column.

b) Patti noted that Susan Gonik suggested a letter to Judges in retiree benefit cases to clarify REA status as an organization and not as a Union representation of all members' interests. Otherwise it is possible judges could make false assumptions about retirees' various interests as stake holders.

c) Area Retiree Issues Discussions-

Jim approved blastmail to go out for Advocacy's Retiree Issue discussion at Friday's June 11 College Rolando Branch Library.

8. To what extent do we want REA to become more intellectually and politically influential?

Jim said REA is a non-profit 501 c 7 status, which means REA can spend more than 20% on action.

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to research boundaries of REA political action: Dick, Jon, Ty.

Dave Twomey volunteered to Chair and call only the first meeting. The Ad Hoc group will report back to Jim.

Ty recommended Advocacy Committee applying for lobbyist status with the City in order to meet with Council members individually, but he was not willing to take on the research.

9. Established an Outreach Liaison Task Force co-chairs Dick Wilken and Jon Dunchack (other volunteers encouraged) to be responsible for:

- developing contacts with other cities & counties where retiree pensions & health care are under attack;
- monitoring bankruptcy discussions in other Calif. cities/counties;
- exploring the creation of statewide alliances with other retiree associations and related tasks.

10. What responsibilities should REA accept for providing contact information - between members, for others to contact members, etc.?

If attorney's contact members for email or contact information of other members for legal actions, say no.

11. Programs- Chair Dave Twomey

July, we go back to the War Memorial Bldg for a program on immigration, plus \$8 for Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, etc.

August, we go to the Police Pistol range for our Board meeting and General program on ElderAbuse. Ranch catering will do a picnic lunch with Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Pies, etc.

October: The future of healthcare, perhaps with Risk Management's Greg Bych, who is also the Mayor's representative Trustee on the SDCERS Board, with focus on changes in retiree healthcare from the Federal level.

12. Helping Hands- for families of deceased retirees

Jim will contact Janet Burgess regarding continuing on helping hands.

Ruth Ann resigned, and wrote: "A lot of work and many hours were put into this worthy cause by each of us. I hope that in the future the Retirement Association will be able to continue some form of what we initiated. In the next couple of weeks, I will sort through the documents that I have for "Helping Hands" and have those documents available for whoever might find a use for them."

13. Newsletter- Janet Wood Editor

Janet noted a big part of editing is reminding us to send in articles.

14. Retiree Issues Task Force Committee (Nancy, Jon, Jim, Richard, Dave)

Health insurance questions

Nancy asked two questions. Were health insurance premiums reportable next year on a W 2 for retirees?

Where were health insurance premiums stated for higher incomes?

Dave Hall will contact SDCERS staff regarding taxation of healthcare insurance.

15. Active Employee Assoc. Rep. (Helen) -

Thanks to Helen for arranging for our message to join REA to go in MEA's newsletter.

Adjourn

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Notes by P.Karnes 6/24/2010