

City of San Diego Retired Employees Association Newsletter April 2005

Vol. 12, Issue 4

Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

April, 2005

April Meeting in War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, April 12

Board Meeting.....9:30 a.m.
General Meeting.....11:00 a.m.
Program..... 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon..... 12:00 a.m.

Program

Tenaya Becker, President of "City Beautiful" for the City and County of San Diego, will be giving today's presentation.

Ms. Becker, the owner of Horticultural Marketing Service, has had extensive experience providing consulting and project management services to horticultural and agricultural companies. She is also District Sales Manager for Sun Gro Horticulture, covering six States, her responsibilities including training, meeting facilitation, and market development.

In addition to City Beautiful, Ms. Becker has extensive involvement in other service organizations as past president of a San Diego horticultural networking group, a member of the San Diego Horticultural Society and a member of the San Diego Historical Society.

Ms Becker has a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly San Louis Obispo.

Menu

**Vegetable Quiche, Ham, Country Potatoes
Rolls, Egg Salad, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade &
Bread Pudding for dessert**

Price: \$11

Lunch reservations: call before noon on Friday

Alice Anglim (619) 239-4190 or
Dora Garcia (619) 464-8595 or
Sylvia Tatum (858) 272-0494

April Greeters: Joe & Evelyn Sediway

Many thanks to our March greeters, June Sanford and Lyola "Fritzie" Jensen. Making people welcome is one of the most important actions we can take to build a viable association.

President's Message

Our speaker, Bob Hansen, better known as NBC's "Consumer Bob" on Channel 7/39, said that he did not ask for hands of those who had been scammed, as he has learned that generally a third of an audience has been scammed and admits it; a third have been scammed but do not admit it; and the remaining third will be scammed. He gave several hints on how to avoid becoming a victim--such as having a healthy dose of skepticism, doing business only with those where you initiate the contact, and avoiding those who want you to make a decision immediately.

He told of some scams by people selling items from a pickup truck- -who said they were left over from a job and the boss had told them to sell them--these supposedly expensive items could be had for a few hundred dollars, but in actuality were worth less than \$25. If the deal sounds too good to be true, it is.

Other common scams are blacktop repairs, where you are told that they had another job in the area and have material left over so they can give you a good price; bogus charities; and foreign lotteries. If you have construction work to be done, get it in writing, be wary of lowball come-ons, and use licensed contractors. It is best to get recommendations from people who have used a company and been satisfied with their work.

If you are in doubt as to whether you are being scammed, discuss the situation with a friend or family member before acting. And "Consumer Bob" stressed that, "Your best bargaining tool is your feet - just walk out!" His talk was not only informative, but entertaining!

To keep up with the latest con approaches, catch "Consumer Bob" on NBC at 4:00 p.m.!

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At the March Board meeting, it was unanimously decided to appoint Virginia Silverman to our new position of Vice President-Advocacy; and to appoint Pat Karnes, who has been a member of the Advocacy Committee, to fill the Board position vacated by Virginia. Our thanks to both Virginia and Pat for their willingness to serve!

--Nancy

From Joe Flynn:

“For the past three years, I have had the privilege of editing the SDREA newsletter. Now, as the newly-elected representative of retirees on the San Diego Retirement Trust Fund Board, I leave the newsletter in the hands of Board Member Ruth Ann Hageman.

“The first meeting of the new Retirement Trust Fund Board will be April 15. The Mayor’s seven appointees may be sworn in when they are confirmed by the City Council. The rest of us most likely will be sworn in on April 15.

“I will be going to Stanford Law School for a four day training session on the Principles of Pension Management. According to the outline, we start at 8 AM and finish at 9 PM. Guess I forgot to tell them I am retired!

“In March, I had the opportunity to meet with Keith Enerson, President of the Retired Fire and Police Officers Association and SDREA President, Nancy Acevedo. It was a good meeting. We talked about expanding the membership of both groups to work together on pension fund problems, retiree benefits and health care. Let us all go forward, unified and involved in the work we have to do.” **-Joe**

SDREA Roster

President, Nancy Acevedo	(619) 579-5930
V-President, Programs	
Adam Saling	(858) 271-4556
V-President, Advocacy	
Virginia Silverman	(619) 224-1876
Treasurer, Sylvia Tatum	(858) 272-0494
Secretary, Joan Lundy-Boyd	(619) 850-5287
Newsletter Ed., Ruth Ann Hageman	(858) 270-8530
Ret. Bd. Rep., Joe Flynn	(619) 588-7078
Hospitality, Dora Garcia	(619) 464-8595

Wouldn't You Like to Know...?

CalPERS asked us to announce to you that their Long-Term Care Program 2005 Application Period is May 1 to September 30. To request an application kit, call toll free 800-266-1050 or visit <http://www.calpers.ca.gov>. (Be sure to explore several programs to get the best deal for you.)

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Good news for the month was that SDREA Treasurer Sylvia Tatum stated that we had 30 new retirees join SDREA this month, and President Nancy Acevedo stated that our Retirement Trust Fund balance was \$3.657 billion, an increase of \$57 million for the month

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SDREA member Pat Estelle has recently had a book published, “The Stigma of Growing Old in America,” now available on line from publishamerica.com, barnesnoble.com and amazon.com. A former City librarian, Ms. Estelle has agreed to come to a future SDREA meeting for a book signing. More later!

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Websurf into the news!...

John Tsiknas’ web site for SDREA has gotten thousands of “hits.” Here are some of the items you can find at <http://www.csdrea.com>: *Alliance of Unrepresented Employees seeks help...S.D pension board refuses to aid probe...City Manager's Analysis on DROP...City Attorney Aguirre Recommendations for Pension Reform...MEA Hires Tax Lawyer to Respond to Tax Issues...City Attorney Releases legal action plan to fix City's financial condition...Mayor and City Council ask unions to help solve pension problems...and more!*

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“Sunshine Lady,” Sharon Beach sends get-well cards to SDREA members who are ill. Call her at (858) 273-4067 if you know of a member who needs our encouragement.

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**MAY 10TH IS NEXT SDREA MEETING
11:30 AM, War Memorial Building, Balboa Park**