

Newsletter May 2005

Vol. 12, Issue 5

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May, 2005

May Meeting in War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, May 10

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

Program

Today's speaker is **Tim McClain**, Editor of *San Diego Metropolitan*, a 20-year-old magazine that is San Diego's largest circulation business publication. He also is a regular guest of KPBS's popular Editor's Roundtable that airs each Friday at 9:00 a.m., offering listeners insight into local business, civic and political news.

Mr. McClain has led extensive coverage on business and political issues of concern to San Diego. His journalistic efforts have captured numerous awards for the magazine.

After moving to San Diego in 1978 from Los Angeles, Tim attended San Diego State University where he studied journalism. His first paying job was in 1982 at the *Coronado Journal*.

Tim McClain and his wife, Suzanne, live in City Heights with their two children, a wire fox terrier and a gecko lizard.

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Today's Menu Honoring Cinco de Mayo

**Beef Enchilada, Chicken Fajitas
Rice, Beans, Tortilla Chips and Salsa
Cucumber and Tomato Fresh Salad
Cherry Crisp for Dessert
Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade
Price: \$11**

Reservations: call before noon on Friday

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

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Here's your chance to greet old friends and meet new ones; be a greeter for one or more SDREA meetings: call Dora Garcia (619) 464-8595 to ask about the greeter program.

President's Message

For April, our Pledge of Allegiance was led by distinguished veteran Dick Wilken, who served as an Army officer assigned to the Medical Corps from 1969 to 1973.

Tanaya Becker, President of City Beautiful of San Diego, was our speaker. This organization is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Their objectives are to (1) encourage the planting and preservation of trees and other plants; (2) support, protect and preserve urban and open green spaces, wildlife and their habitats; (3) promote environmental education in schools and community venues, and (4) advise government agencies regarding beautification and environmental proposals, plans and projects.

Tanaya showed slides of the results of City Beautiful's efforts, which certainly have enhanced our City. Among my favorites were the flowering peach trees at the west end of the Laurel Street bridge leading into Balboa Park and the statue nearby of Kate Sessions. This is a very worthwhile organization, and membership dues, which support their efforts, are only \$15 per year. They can be reached at P.O. Box 9424, San Diego 92169.

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The newly reconstituted Retirement Board had their first meeting April 15th. On behalf of SDREA, I made a presentation introducing myself, thanking them for their willingness to serve and offering any assistance we may be able to provide. I also thanked the staff for having arranged for us to receive advance copies of reports to be presented to the board, so that we might be better prepared to provide intelligent input on issues of interest to retirees. It was great to see our own Joe Flynn sitting as a member of the Board. (See Joe's article on page 2.)

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Thanks to our greeters for April, **Joe and Evelyn Sediway**, for handing out information on the Clairemont Senior Friendship Center's Senior Emergency Alert System. This system, serving all of San Diego County, is used to summon help in the event of an emergency. Their handout says, "Reasonable rates--sliding scale for low income individuals; no long term financial contracts or penalties, and no one refused service for inability to pay." For more information call (858) 483-5100 or visit their web site at www.cfsc-sd.org.

--Nancy

First Meeting of New Retirement Board

After briefing sessions on April 7 and 14, the new Retirement Board was sworn in and held their first meeting April 15. City Attorney Mike Aguirre addressed the board with a request that the Board waive attorney-client privileges on litigation related to the 2002 Manager's Proposal. Mr. Aguirre has requested to speak at the May 20 Board meeting. Other speakers included SDREA Pres. Nancy Acevedo and Past Pres. Dave Wood.

The agenda was routine with two exceptions; the SDCERS FY 06 proposed budget, (which was adopted with the proviso of quarterly reports), and three items to be considered in closed session.

In the open and closed sessions there was good discussion by both new and returning members. In closed session, the Board discussed the following:

1. A settlement agreement in the SDCERS v. Hanson, Bridgett, et al (a malpractice suit against a former SDCERS counsel). The negotiated settlement is expected to add \$14 million to the Retirement Fund. Court approval is expected on May 31.

2. Requests by the U.S. Attorney and S.E.C. investigators asking SDCERS to waive attorney-client privileges were considered and rejected by a vote of eight to four. Voting to waive privileges were Flynn, Snow, Sheffler, and Sullivan.

***--Joe Flynn
Retiree Representative to the Board***

See for Yourself!

The meetings of the Retirement Trust Fund Board take place on the third Friday of each month (May 20 and June 17 as examples) at 401 B Street, Suite 400 (disability accessible). Check website to confirm. See for yourself who the players are and how they are voting.

Wouldn't You Like to Know...?

Due to the stock market "heading south" the news of our Retirement Fund balance was not good-- it stood at \$3.572 billion, a decrease of \$85 million for the month.

In the news!...

Here are some of the recent items you can find on the SDREA website <http://www.csdra.com>: *Battle Over City Pension System Far from Over...New Pension Board Has Tough Task Ahead...Pension Board Member Explains Vote on Waiver, etc.*

NEXT SDREA MEETING
June 14, 2005, 11:00 AM
War Memorial Bldg., Balboa Park

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 Editor, Ruth Ann Hageman	(858) 270-8530
Retirement Board Rep., Joe Flynn	(619) 588-7078
Hospitality, Dora Garcia	(619) 464-8595
Past President, David Wood	(619) 229-0694
Sunshine Lady, Sharon Beach	(619) 562-6866
(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)	