

City of San Diego Retired Employees Association Newsletter June 2005

Vol. 12, Issue 6

Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

June, 2005

June Meeting in War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, June 14

Board Meeting.....9:30 a.m.
General Meeting.....11:00 a.m.
Program..... 11:15 a.m.
Luncheon..... 12:00 a.m.

Program

Today's program is a **Health Insurance Panel**, which will be making presentations and answering your questions about retirees' health insurance. The panel will be led by **SDCERS Health Insurance Analyst, Jan Beaton** and includes **Benefits Manager, Val VanDeweghe; Kaiser Retiree Programs Consultants, Pete Thurman and Yazmin Stutzell; Pacific Care Account Managers, Gregory Tunnell and Michael Kin** and **Care Counsel Healthcare Assistance Program, Nancy Fase Guernon**. This has been a very popular program in the past, so arrive early to get a front seat!

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A Target Meeting?

The Board discussed the possibility of having a future joint meeting with the Retired Fire and Police Association at the Police Pistol Range where they normally meet.

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See for Yourself!

The meetings of the Retirement Trust Fund Board take place on the third Friday of each month (June 17 and July 15 as examples) at 401 B Street, Suite 400 (disability accessible). To confirm, phone (619) 525-3600 or check website www.sdcers.org. See for yourself who the players are and how they are voting.

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Today's Menu

Fresh Fish, Au Gratin Potatoes, Peas, Garden Salad with Crutons, Apple Spice Cake 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

President Nancy Acevedo

For May, our Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Mills, who served in the Navy from 1955 to 1959. He was assigned to San Diego and decided to stay. Lucky for us!

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Our speaker, **Tim McClain, editor of the San Diego Metropolitan Magazine** and a frequent guest of KPBS Editors Roundtable, said that he sees the outcome of the Retirement System's underfunding as political, not judicial. With regard to Mayor Murphy, he said that without the pension problem, Mayor Murphy would have been regarded as one of our best, noting the accomplishments of his first term. He then reviewed potential mayoral candidates, including all Councilmembers, and gave his view on why some are opting not to run. He also commented on the impact that the early date of the election, July 26, might have had on potential candidates' decisions. (As of press time, declared candidates include Councilmember Donna Frye and retired Police Chief Jerry Sanders.) Commenting on the effect of City Attorney Michael Aguirre's aggressive personality, he asked, "Why did you expect him to change? He has an affinity for going after things." McClain said that because the City has considerable property assets, we should not worry about the City going bankrupt. As you can imagine, we had a very lively question and answer session at the end!

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At our Board of Directors meeting, we voted to make presentations on behalf of the Association to both the City Council and the Retirement Board, in support of the Retirement Board waiving attorney-client privilege. We reached this decision reluctantly, feeling that extraordinary actions are needed to protect City retirees, employees, citizens and taxpayers of San Diego. These documents are needed by the investigating agencies in order that the City's audits may be completed and its financial health restored.

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At our request, reports to the City Employee Retirement System Board will be available on line at their web site, (www.sdcers.org) the week prior to the meeting. This will make it easier for you and your Association to prepare informed responses and provide input to the Board as appropriate.

--Nancy

**Message from
Retirement Trust Fund Board
Update by Our Representative, Joe Flynn**

The May 20 meeting of the Retirement Board was standing room only; a rare occasion. Television cameras ringed the room and reporters circled the crowd.

Mayor Murphy, Councilwoman Toni Atkins, City Manager Lamont Ewell, and Audit Committee member Troy Dahlberg gave reasons why they saw it necessary for the Retirement Board to waive attorney-client privilege and allow the City to complete the 2003 Audit. City Attorney Mike Aguirre asserted that he, and not Board Attorney Lori Chapin, represented the Retirement Board and urged us to waive the attorney-client privilege. Waiting in the wings were two attorneys who have been advising the Board on legal matters, especially the waiver question. (I suggested, "The only thing worse than not having the advice of one attorney is having the advice of three attorneys." It was one of the few light moments of the day.)

Local 127 President Joan Raymond spoke in favor of the waiver of privilege as did retirees Jim Gleason, Patricia Karnes, and Virginia Silverman. MEA President Judie Italiano spoke in support of SDCERS Board member John Torres.

The Board approved a Cost of Living increase, effective July 1, 2005, of 1.9% for 1981 pension plan retirees, and a 2% for eligible SDCERS retirees.

Closed session began about 6:30 p.m. for discussion of pending litigation and the request to waive attorney client privilege. After extensive discussion, we adjourned at 10:45 p.m. without a vote and with a request for additional information. The Board will resume discussion on June 17. (During the April 15 closed session, the Board had voted 8-4 not to waive the privilege; I was one of the four who voted to waive.)

CareCounsel Experience, Joe & Gloria Flynn

After being double billed our health insurance deductible, and after coverage shown in the policy was denied, we pointed out these errors to our insurance provider, without success. We turned to CareCounsel, who counseled us and "the provider" with stunning results. It took time, but the \$2,300 was worth waiting for. Their number is (888) 227-3334.

Wouldn't You Like to Know...?

During the month our Retirement Fund took a loss, but considering the recent stock market ups and downs, it was not too bad. On May 9th the balance was \$3.570 billion, a decrease of \$2 million for the month.

In the news!...

Here are some of the recent items you can find on the CSDREA website <http://www.csdrea.com>: *Murphy's Tenure Marked by Missed Warning Signs...San Diego Playing a Blame Game...Abrogation Proclamation: Why Did Dumanis Begin Her Investigation?*

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Mark your calendar! Get a front seat!
SDREA MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM
Wednesday, June 29, 2005, 9:30 a.m. to Noon
War Memorial Bldg., Balboa Park

SDREA Roster (Short version)

President, Nancy Acevedo	(619) 579-5930
V-President, Advocacy, Virginia Silverman	(619) 224-1876
Treasurer, Sylvia Tatum	(858) 272-0494
Newsletter Editor, Ruth Ann Hageman	(858) 270-8530
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady	(858) 273-4067

(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)

