

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association Newsletter July 2006

Vol. 13, Issue 7

Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

July, 2006

July 11th Meeting

War Memorial Building - Balboa Park

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

Program

July's speaker will be James Bruce Joseph Sievers. For the past 30 years, he has spoken to more than 7,000 groups across America and has been awarded the George Washington Medal of Honor for his presentation, "An American in Love With His Country." Sievers has published five books, was a Green Beret in the US Army and is a devoted husband and father of five sons. His books and CD's will be available at the meeting.

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Menu - \$10 (new price)

July Picnic Fare

Delicious Sandwich Variety

Potato Salad/Fresh Vegetable Sticks

Coffee, Tea, Lemonade / Dessert

Reservations: call before Fri., July 7th at noon

Dora Garcia (619) 464-8595 or

Sylvia Tatum (858) 272-0494

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

At our June meeting, our Retirement Board Representative Joe Flynn introduced a special guest, the new Retirement Administrator David Wescoe. Mr. Wescoe, who was appointed in April to head SDCERS, is an attorney, has worked for the Securities and Exchange Commission and at the time of his appointment was executive director of a local investment firm. He told us that he did not need this job; he wanted the job - to return to San Diego, truly America's Finest City. His explanations of the status of the system and actions he was taking to improve it, were very reassuring. He stressed that it is the member's system and the need to improve customer service. In a meeting with him later that day, I told him that we hoped he performed as well as he spoke!

I was left with the definite impression that he will. Since this was just an introduction, we have invited Mr. Wescoe to be our speaker at our September meeting. With a longer time available we will be able to have an extended question and answer period. Plan now to attend!

Bob West, who years ago served as a CERS Boardmember, gave a history of when and how retiree health care benefits came to be provided starting when the City offered it in exchange for our vote to get out of Social Security. He then introduced David Arce, CERS Operations Division Manager, whose staff administers our health benefits programs; Val VanDeweghe, Risk Management Claims and Insurance Manager, who stated there was very little change this year - but that the City wants to reduce the number of plans offered in order to maximize economies of scale; and Nancy Fase Guernon, of Care Counsel. Members were then invited to individually approach representatives of CERS, Pacific Care, Kaiser and Care Counsel with their specific questions. Care Counsel is a wonderful free service. My personal experience with them was in enlisting their help to get a medical bill paid. But they offer many others services. If you are having difficulty in identifying what health insurance program would best meet your needs, they can help. If you have been diagnosed with some type of affliction they can help to educate you about it and options available. They also now can offer a free service for one year that is computer access to all types of medical information - if you are interested, just give them a call and they can set it up for you. You can reach them at 1-888-227-3334, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m -5:00 p.m.

--Nancy

More News...

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SDREA WEB News! Logon to <http://www.csdrea.com> New articles and information are regularly added to the Press Articles Section: Many relate to the ongoing pension issues. Visit the members only section for these and more.

For members who use library computers to access the web site, you may contact us for the passwords, so you can read these articles.

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Remember, **GREETERS** can qualify for a **free lunch** at our December Holiday Luncheon.

July Greeter: Sorry, we have NO greeters for July. Please volunteer a few minutes at a future meeting. Call Dora (619) 464-8595. We will appreciate your help.

CSDREA Roster

President, Nancy Acevedo	(619) 579-5930
V-President, Programs, Ruth Ann Hageman	(858) 270-8530
V-President, Advocacy, Ty Rogers	(619) 233-1744
Treasurer, Sylvia Tatum	(858) 272-0494
Secretary, Patti Karnes	(858) 488-6895
Newsletter Editor, Lynn Swanson	(619) 698-1522
Retirement Board Rep., Joe Flynn	(619) 588-7078
Hospitality, Dora Garcia	(619) 464-8595
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady	(858) 273-4067

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

Retirement Trust Fund Board Update

by Our Representative, Joe Flynn

The June 16, 06 Ret. Bd. meeting was the first since 2004 that all 13 positions were filled. Since 2004, there has been a succession of 35 members.

The Committee system is back in service at the Bd. A schedule of meetings is on the SDREA website. Please try to attend a meeting. It helps Bd. members put faces with the numbers we deal with and it gives you a chance to learn more about key issues.

Health care funding is now the responsibility of the City, to comply with IRS rules. The Bd. recommended that Health Care admin. stay with SDCERS with City funding. We need to monitor this issue closely.

When I retired, like many of you, I had hoped to put paperwork, background reports, meetings and Council sessions out of my mind. Unfortunately, the events of the past five years have required that we stay involved, and that we continue to attend Ret. Bd. and Council meetings to speak on issues important to us. And there is a need for more of us to get involved, to attend meetings and spread the word. A few members have attended these meetings religiously and reported back to you. It's time to spread the workload. The first waves of Pension crisis have crashed and subsided, but there is always another set coming in. The Court cases are coming up, and key funding questions need to be resolved. We do not have paid staff to represent us, we have to do it ourselves, or it won't get done.