

# City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association Newsletter November 2006

Vol. 13, Issue 11

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November, 2006

Nancy Acevedo, President (619) 579-5930  
Joe Flynn SDCERS Board Representative (619) 588-7078  
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady (858) 273-4067  
(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)

## November 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### War Memorial Bldg -Balboa Park

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

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**Today's Menu \$10**  
**Chicken /Meatloaf**  
**Vegetables/Salad/Bread**  
**Coffee, Tea, Lemonade**  
**Pumpkin Pie**

*Reservations: call before Fri., November 10th at noon*  
Dora Garcia 619 464-8595 / Sylvia Tatum 858 272-0494

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## REMINDER!

### December Holiday Luncheon

Tom Ham's Lighthouse/Harbor Island  
California Room

Thursday, December 14, 2006  
11:00 a.m. til 3:00 p.m.

Make reservations- send your check payable to  
CSDREA for \$19 per person to  
CSDREA, 4185 Galt St., San Diego, CA 92117  
**by December 10, 2006.**

**SCRUMPTIOUS BUFFET**

Hot entrees, salads, vegetables, fruits  
Delicious desserts.

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### Message from President Nancy Acevedo

In the absence of our scheduled speaker, Joe Flynn provided a review of recent Retirement Board activities and responded to numerous questions. We are all very fortunate to have Joe representing us on the Retirement Board. One question that I have received is about Medicare prescription benefits, about which there is some confusion.

Val VanDeweghe, SD City Benefits Administrator, clarified this issue for us: "There have been many

questions, and some problems, that have arisen from the new Medicare Part D prescription coverage. I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify the important information about your prescription coverage through the City & unions health plans and how they work with Medicare Part D.

1. If you are enrolled in a City/union health plan you are automatically enrolled in Part D. This allows the health plan to request reimbursement from medicare to partially cover the cost of your prescriptions through the City's health plan. This will help hold down future premium increases because Medicare is essentially paying a portion of your prescription cost For this reason you should not enroll in an individual Part D prescription drug plan that you may be seeing or hearing about in the media. To enroll in such coverage would void the health plan's right to receive reimbursement on your behalf. In the event you enroll in an individual Part D plan you are no longer eligible for the City's health plan.

2. Some City health plans now require a separate ID card for your prescriptions. This card is different from your ID card that you use for all other medical service. If you provide your medical ID card for a prescription you will be told you have no prescription coverage. To avoid this from happening be sure to present the correct ID card when getting you prescriptions filled. For more information about Medicare Part D and how it works with your City health insurance please contact Care Counsel at 1-888-227-3334 M-F, 8:30- 5:00 p.m. PDT."

### Retirement Trust Fund Board Update

On Nov. 17 the Board is scheduled to act on the Corbett payment and the 13<sup>th</sup> Check. The funds have been available for some time, but all reviews must be completed before the Bd. can act. Yes, I too thought we did it earlier last year, but it was Nov. On this issue, the Bd. met with the actuary and agreed to include Corbett and the 13<sup>th</sup> Check in the pension liability. Some additional action is necessary but we are on the path to include both payments in the monthly pension.

The Bd. appointed Roxanne Story Parks as the new Compliance Officer. Her job is to make sure that SDCERS meets the highest ethical and legal standards. She has served as interim General Counsel, and has years

experience with SDCERS. Some court cases have been decided; Judge Barton ruled that SDCERS has the right to independent counsel, and that SDCERS is complying with existing law in paying current benefit payments the remaining case is the alleged conflict of interest by previous Board members and the legality of payments they adopted. Momentum at SDCERS is building. The fires of the first months have been put out, the Navigant Report eliminated claims of criminal wrongdoing, recommended changes have been put in place, a new actuary was hired and presented a report to the Bd. and the Council. We hired a new Administrator, General Counsel, and Compliance Officer. The office has been reorganized and the backlogs are diminishing. We still have much work to do. And as Satchel Paige said, "Don't look back; someone may be gaining on you."

### **Joe Flynn, Retiree Rep. to the Board**

#### **November Program:**

This month we have a speaker you won't want to miss. An individual with in depth knowledge about city issues that concern all of us, plus an honor filled military background. He is **John M. Kaheny, Colonel USMC, retired**, a decorated war veteran, former SD Assistant City Attorney and Chula Vista City Attorney. He retired from public office in 2003. John graduated from UC Hastings College of Law in 1974 and joined SD City Attorney John Witt's team for the next 23 years. First as a criminal prosecutor, then in 1980 as the Legal Advisor to Chief of Police William Kolender. In 1982 he became the City's labor lawyer and ultimately promoted to Assistant City Attorney before being appointed as Chula Vista City Attorney in 1996. In 1990, while

still a Chief Deputy City Attorney, John volunteered to deploy with the First Marine Expeditionary Force to Saudi Arabia to participate in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. For his service he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. As a 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday gift, John's wife Deralyn and their children gave him a plaque depicting his military career which is displayed on the Mt Soledad Memorial Wall. The plaque reads in part "John fought enemy forces as a platoon commander during the siege of Khe Sanh, Vietnam. During Desert Storm, he planned and directed combat against Iraqi forces." Under John's photograph on the plaque one can read "O' Cathniadh de Muide" which is the original Gaelic name of the (K) Caheny clan. It means "son of the battle champion of the river Moy". Some things never change! John's son Peter is a graduate of Anapolis and a U.S. Navy pilot who is leaving for duty in Iraq at the end of November.

A more thorough overview of John's history of public service will be provided by his presenter.

**Presenting our speaker** is our own SDREA Treasurer **Sylvia Tatum** who will give even more detail about our speaker. Sylvia started her city job in April 1956 as an Intermediate Stenographer to the Asst Director of Public Works (later General Services). In one year Sylvia promoted to Sr Steno (later called Exec Secretary) and served five directors of her dept. She helped write Spanish- English documents for the Interamerican Municipal Organizations Convention in 1960. She also helped direct managers within the division via their secretaries. She loved her job and looked forward to going to work each day. Sylvia retired in 1987.