

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association Newsletter June 2007

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Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

June , 2007

Nancy Acevedo, President (619) 579-5930
Carmen Lutes SDCERS Board Representative (619) 303-2246
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady (858) 273-4067
(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)

June 12th Meeting

War Memorial Bldg -Balboa Park

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

URGENT! WATERFALL ISSUE AT CITY COUNCIL AGAIN ON JUNE 5, 2007. This issue was continued (four times!) to permit efforts between SDCERS and the City to resolve differences in the wording of the proposed ordinance. However, the City Attorney is still opposed to any new language in the ordinance to protect our 'Waterfall' benefits -(Corbett payments, 13th Check and Supplemental Cola). **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO TELL THE CITY COUNCIL TO PROTECT OUR BENEFITS --** attend the meeting, or write, phone or email Councilmembers. More details will follow by email. and on the website (or call Virginia Silverman at 619-224-1876).

VERY IMPORTANT! If you are already receiving news via your Email about the City Council meetings concerning the "Waterfall issues", **DO NOTHING!** All others, please send your email address to swansong@cox.net There will be important updates over the next several days/weeks ABOUT ACTIONS NEEDED TO PROTECT our "waterfall" benefits. You will want the updates quickly which can be distributed **ONLY** by email and on the website. For **those who do not have email**, you will receive the news via newsletter or the website.

Menu \$10

Meatloaf/Mashed potatoes/Vegetable/salad/rolls

Coffee, Tea, Lemonade/ Dessert

Reservations: call before Fri., June 1st at noon

Dora Garcia(619) 464-8595 / Sylvia Tatum(858) 272-0494

Program:

It is time once again to discuss our Health Benefits and providers. Our speakers will be Valerie VanDeweghe City Risk Management Administrator, Rebecca Wilson, Caroline Hootman and representatives from Pacific Care & Kaiser as well as Care Counsel's Nancy Guernon. Together this panel will explain the upcoming benefit year and give us idea on how to navigate the various health systems and their providers.

Presenting this important program and speakers is CSDREA Board member Bob West who started as an Asst Civil Engineer in Field Division, Engr. Dept. in 1962. He worked in Special Projects - inspecting construction of the City Admin Bldg and SD Stadium. He also served at Public Works, Parks and Public Bldgs., and General Services Departments. He retired as Deputy Director, Buildings Division in 1984 and has been a member of CSDREA for nearly 23 years

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

Thanks to our longtime member Edith Hobgood for leading our flag salute.

Our speaker was Judith Copeland, of Copeland & Tierman, Attorneys, who specializes in elder law. Her topic was paying for long-term care, public benefits available, and under what circumstances. Medi-Cal, which is synonymous with Medicaid, is the only program that pays for long term care, but only in a nursing facility and protection of assets can be very complicated. We went through a few scenarios, which helped us understand the program and its potential impacts. She recommended that anyone anticipating placing a spouse or their self in a nursing facility should talk with an elder care attorney to determine the best plan for their financial/family situation. NAELA is an organization that you can contact for a referral to an elder law attorney - www.naela.org, or 520-881-4005. She also recommended as resources the Southern Caregivers Resource Center (for caregiver resources) - 800-827-1008, and CANHR, for nursing home and Medi-Cal issues - 800-827-1008. When asked about buying long-term care insurance, she called it a method to preserve an inheritance for heirs. After hearing her presentation, I would recommend

conferring with an elder care attorney in these situations.

Virginia Silverman updated us on the "waterfall" issue. It was on the Council Docket for May 1st, but was continued for the 3rd time to May 14, when we expect either new language being proposed or Council authorizing \$10,000 for the Independent Budget Analyst to hire outside lawyer to advise the Council regarding appropriate language to remove the words "surplus earnings" and insert verbiage to assure our Supplemental Annual Benefit (13th check), Corbett for pre-2000 retirees, and Supplemental COLA will still be paid and also meet the required IRS regulations. Be sure to check our website for updates as they happen.

We all expressed appreciation to John Mattis for his long service to CSDREA, as newsletter editor and maintaining the roster. John is moving to Texas to be near family - as he is soon turning 90. We will all miss you John. **Nancy**

SDREA WEB News! Logon <http://www.csdrea.com> Members only section for the latest news. This month you can access the informative paper **Bob West** wrote on health insurance. If you need the password, call a board member.

SDCERS Retirement Trust Fund Board Update by Carmen Lutes , Retiree Rep. to the Board

Carmen was scheduled to leave for Pennsylvania where she will be in a one-week training course as a new SDCERS Board Member, so she made her notes "very short and sweet."

Net Invested Assets - \$4.922 billion (unaudited) as of 5/4/07 (up 15% from a year ago). At this rate, hoping

to reach \$5 billion by early July.

Securities Lending Income – first 9 months of fiscal year totaled \$1,176,671. This is \$293,000 ahead of last years income for the same period.

Securities Litigation – Claims settlement received from Northwestern Corp. filing - \$90,914.79. This brings total securities recoveries claimed for the current fiscal year to \$3,307,395

COLA Payment – Approved 2% for eligible SDCERS Pension Plan Retirees; 1.5% for 1981 eligible Pension Plan Retirees (of which there are only 2 persons); Special Class Safety Fluctuator Retirees are not eligible for COLA increases.

Relocation of SDCERS Office – On schedule for July 31 to the 1st National Bank building, 401 W. A Street

Carmen

**THANK YOU to our May Greeters:
Janet Burgess & Mary Lynn Hyde**

VOLUNTEER as a **GREETER..** Give some time for CSDREA. Call Dora (619) 464-8595.

Do you know of a member who is ill or hospitalized? Notify Sharon Beach 858 273-4067 so the word gets passed along and a card is sent.

City of SD Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The problem solving assistance of **EAP is available to city retirees.** They offer counseling on an array of personal problems, such as marital/relationship; alcohol/drug; emotional stress; child/eldercare; medical; family; legal; financial; HIV/AIDS. This **assistance is confidential.** Call EAP **619-533-3460**