

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association

Newsletter January 2008

Vol. 15, Issue 1

Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

January 2008

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

- the results may be seen on the web site.

January 8th Meeting

War Memorial Bldg -Balboa Park

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Menu \$10

Chicken Cordon Bleu
Wild Rice / Broccoli / Pasta Salad
Coffee, Tea, Lemonade/ Blueberry Cake

Reservations: call before Fri., Jan 4th at NOON

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

Program

The speaker to start this year on a high note is **Erica Bouris, Ph.D.** She will tell us how to keep those brain cells active, sharp and interested!

Erica Bouris, Ph.D. is the Program Director at SDSU College of Extended Studies' Osher Institute (619-594-2863). She will speak to us on the general topic of "LEARNING LATER IN LIFE". Also, while CSDREA is not endorsing program offerings of any group, and retirees must make their own assessment, Erica will share senior learning opportunities made possible through an educational grant to SDSU. Other examples of senior learning opportunities include UCSD, Oasis, Adult Education through San Diego Unified, classes at libraries and volunteering at museums. Find your motivation to fire up your mind with us.

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

Our Holiday Luncheon was, as always, a great time to visit with many work friends. Thanks to Jean Hughes who made the meal arrangements and made sure the buffet line was short, and to Sylvia Tatum for handling the finances! Lynn Swanson was busy taking pictures

Fire Chief Tracy Jarman could not join us because she was meeting with the Mayor and Washington dignitaries, seeking future Federal assistance. So Assistant Fire Chief Javier Mainar joined us. He gave a power point presentation on the recent fire storm. He said that winds were such that they had a difficult time trying to stay ahead of the fires. One fact that he pointed out was that when there are numerous fires in Southern California, the City of San Diego is basically on its own. Although mutual aid agreements are excellent in handling normal situations, when fire storms occur those who we could normally call upon for assistance are already overburdened and unable to assist. He said that there were about 200 off-duty Fire Fighters available who did not have rigs to join, and got to the fires how ever they could. In particular, the Department is hoping to get an additional helicopter, which is an excellent fire fighting tool. It is hoped that recent interest on the part of the County, State and Federal governments will result in concrete results and that our City will be better prepared in these situations in the future.

In last month's newsletter it was reported that on the Purchase of Service Credits issue the Retirement Board had voted on November 16th to "...allow the existing purchased service contracts to remain as formulated and to continue to amortize the shortfall through the existing unfunded actuarial liability." This was good news for all who had purchased extra years of service. However, on November 20th the City Attorney filed a lawsuit seeking to set aside the Board's vote. A status conference on the case is scheduled for January 18th.

Next year's elections will include that for City Attorney. We learned that current City Attorney Michael Aguirre was seeking an early endorsement from the Central Committee of the San Diego Democratic Party. His initial request was declined but we were advised that he would make another request at the committee's January meeting. Your Board voted that I should send a letter to this committee requesting that the request not be granted. A copy of that letter may be viewed on our web site.

Hoping that all have had a pleasant holiday season and are looking forward to a happy new year! **Nancy**

SDREA WEB News! Logon <http://www.csdrea.com> Members only section for the latest news. This month all the recent postings on subjects important to retirees. You will also discover helpful links to other resources.

Attention! Marlene Fields and Don Kepner Your electronic newsletter email address is being bounced back. Please contact Newsletter Editor (858-578-4735) or Webmaster webmaster@csdrea.com

SDCERS Retirement Trust Fund Board Update by Carmen Lutes , Retiree Rep. to the Board and Board Member Patti Karnes

At the December meeting of SDCERS, the Board unanimously adopted a 14-point plan negotiated with the Internal Revenue Service to bring SDCERS' programs and practices into compliance with federal tax law. The City has 150 days to adopt an ordinance in compliance with the settlement. The IRS did not require additional city contributions to the fund, issue a fine or lift the retirement system's tax-exempt status. The key items of the negotiated plan include retro-active elimination of some current and past municipal union president retirement benefit that allowed them to count their union salary and city salary toward a retirement, and the elimination of the ability of firefighters to convert their annual leave to service credits. Also, the IRS will no longer allow the retirement system to pay retiree health benefits.

The IRS said the City has reimbursed the fund for past

payments, and all future retiree health benefits will be paid by the City.

Trustee Sheffler verified that the concerns of City Attorney Mike Aguirre were known to the IRS. Then Trustee Murray asked for a "field strip" of Mr. Aguirre's report on SDCERS. This means that SDCERS will investigate and verify or discount, with proof, all allegations in the report.

The City Attorney has also filed a court case to litigate the purchase of service credit issue, and the case will be heard before the Honorable Nevitt, Judge. It is titled City of San Diego vs. SDCERS, Superior Court No. 37-2007-1912-CU-WM-CTL.

SDCERS' 2006 financial report is expected to be approved in January, followed by the June 2007 Actuarial Evaluation. The Chief Financial Officer, Doug McCalla, reported that the fund is over \$5 billion.

THANK YOU December Greeters: Alyse Ford and Dora Garcia and all of you who greeted in 2007.

VOLUNTEER to be 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 issues. This **assistance is confidential**. Contact EAP at **619-533-3460**