

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association

Newsletter May 2008

Vol. 15, Issue 5

Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

May 2008

Nancy Acevedo, President (619) 579-5930

Dave Hall, SDCERS Board Representative Via website

Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady (858) 273-4067

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

May 13th Meeting

War Memorial Bldg -Balboa Park

Board Meeting9:30 a.m.

FORUM for MAYOR

11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Lunch ---- 1:00 p.m.

Special Notice - To our members who have email addresses: Over the next two months the CSDREA Newsletter will start being distributed ONLY to your email addresses. We request that you print your own hard copy, if you need one.

For ALL members who do NOT have an email address, you will continue to receive your Newsletters via U.S. Mail.

Any Member may request the newsletter via U.S. Mail by contacting the Newsletter Editor at 858 578-4735, and your email version will be stopped.

THANK YOU for helping to save the postage and paper so the funds can be used for other needs of our organization.

MEMBERS - Please be sure to notify both SDCERS (619-525-3600) and SDREA (858-578-4735) of any address change.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Barbara Hubbard and Carmen George

Menu \$10

Chicken / fish

Buttered Noodles / Vegetable

Caesar Salad / Bread & Butter

Apple Crisp / Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

Write your name on the back of your lunch ticket for a chance to win in this month's surprise drawing!

April winner was JJ Hunter

JJ won a \$20 gift card to Trader Joe's and two passes to the Chula Vista Nature Center. You might be the next winner. When you get the May Newsletter, sign up for lunch.

Reservations: call before Fri., May 9th at NOON

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

Program

Our program this month, sponsored by both CSDREA and the Retired Fire and Police Association is a

Forum for Mayor

Andrew Donohue, Staff Writer for the Voice of San Diego will moderate. We will hear the position of each candidate for this important elective office.

Our April program, a forum for City Attorney Candidates, was well attended and very informative. There was an article in the next day's Union-Tribune on the event stating the candidates' positions. At the last minute current City Attorney Mike Aguirre was a "no show." He cancelled due to having to work on an appeal due to be filed that Friday, on a pension case no less.

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

My last month's article got clipped mid sentence. My message was on the Council need to approve changes to the Municipal Code to conform with a voluntary compliance agreement with the IRS in order for SDCERS to retain its qualified tax status. Thankfully the Mayor's request was approved by the Council in a

very timely manner. We knew it was important for this to be approved, but learned at the last minute of the dire consequences for not only the City and current employees, but also for us retirees, if it had not been approved. If you want to read about the bullet we missed, check out the web site for the letter to our Association from David Wescoe, Retirement Administrator on the subject. Our thanks on the success of this agreement are due to SDCERS, and Roxanne Parks in particular, who has worked on the project for about three years. And special thanks to our Vice President for Programs, Patti Karnes, for speaking to the Council on our behalf.

We've been hearing rumors about changes to our health insurance plan options. To get your questions answered, plan now to attend our June 10th meeting, where we will have representatives of the insurance companies, Care Counsel, and SDCERS, as well as the City's Benefits Administrator. We've been told that you should be receiving your information packets a few days before that meeting.

At the SDCERS Board meeting of March 21st, Dave Hall was sworn in as the Retiree Representative, replacing Carmen Lutes. Dave retired from the San Diego Police Department as a Police Captain, later worked for the State, and then as Chief of the San Diego Harbor Police. We are very fortunate to have Dave as our representative, and look forward to working with him on retiree issues.

The City Council's agenda for April 29th included the Waterfall issue, which had been dormant for several months. Council continued the item to May 27th. Having the appropriate language to replace the waterfall language in the current Municipal Code is necessary for retirees to continue to receive their Annual Supplemental Benefit (13th check) and Corbett .

Nancy

SDREA WEB News! Logon <http://www.csdrea.com> Members only section for the latest news..

SDCERS Retirement Trust Fund Board Update by Dave Hall, Retiree Rep

Following is a synopsis of the SDCERS Board meeting of April 18, 2008. The Board meetings are televised at least twice on Channel 24 for San Diego residents. Friday evening following the day of the meeting is the first airing on Channel 24.

* Gene Kalwarski, SDCERS actuary from Cheiron gave the Board a primer presentation of what he will be discussing in great detail during the July Board meeting. As an actuary, his purpose is to ensure the Plan is being valued properly. He will be conducting a detailed review of key assumptions which are based at least in part on economics and demographics.

* An issue that was subject to discussion among Board members and SDCERS staff was the Surviving Spouse Continuation. In essence, does the Plan allow a former spouse to receive a surviving spouse continuation? As you can image, there are a variety of scenarios that generate an equal amount of unresolved questions concerning Surviving Spouse Continuation. This issue has been continued and will be appearing on a Board agenda in the near future.

* Rebecca Wilson and other staff presented the new SDCERS web site which became operational on April 17. Please take the time to explore the new homepage and find out how much you can learn with just three clicks of a mouse.

Dave

THANK YOU April Greeters. Also, **THANK YOU Janet Chelberg and Marylynn Hyde** at the lunch table. **VOLUNTEER** to be a **GREETER**.. Give some time for CSDREA. Call Dora (619) 464-8595