

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association

Newsletter January 2009

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Visit our Website at www.csdrea.com

January 2009

Nancy Acevedo, President (619) 579-5930
Dave Hall, SDCERS Board Representative via website only
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady (619) 934-8202
(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)

January 13th 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!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Brenda Love; Deanna Patrick and
Satchel P. Tucker

For your viewing enjoyment the photographs that were taken at the Holiday Luncheon at Tom Ham's Lighthouse have been posted on the website at www.csdrea.org Door prizes of See's Candy were awarded to the person who came the farthest- Maryann Cowan from Port Clinton, Ohio; the family that brought the most people - The Bob Snowden family; and the couple who have been married the longest - Mary and Al Sloatermen - 67 years. More See's certificates plus gift cards to Trader Joe's and Souplantation were also awarded. Before the drawing, all attendees who have ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces were asked to stand so we could give them a big round of applause to show our appreciation for their service. Plan now to be at the 2009 Holiday Luncheon. We will announce the date as soon as we have it so you get it on your calendars waaaaaaaay early.

Program

"PLANNING FOR BALBOA PARKS FUTURE"

Vickie Granowitz, our speaker on January 13th, heads the citizens' Balboa Park Committee. She will be here to update us. The City Council considers Balboa Park as a non-profit entity in January. Bring your questions and comments.

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

Our Holiday Luncheon was a really fun event. If you were unable to attend, plan now to put it on 2009's calendar. Our favorite past-president Shorty Beights, who is never at a loss for words, entertained us with some of his favorite stories. He is really a hard act to follow!

After lunch, our awards presentation was made. Five years ago, our Association Board of Directors created an awards and recognition program, which includes presenting an "Annual Outstanding Contribution Award" to a person who has made a significant contribution to the improvement of the City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association and its members. This year's presentation was made by Joe Flynn, whose past includes representing us as the Retiree Representative on the SDCERS Board.

Joe presented the award to Roxanne Story Parks, the SDCERS Compliance Officer. Roxanne is the attorney at SDCERS who makes sure that everyone complies with the letter of the law. In 2005, at the direction of the SDCERS Board, Roxanne began work to assure that SDCERS complied with the law, especially Federal Tax Law. This process was concluded in 2007 and SDCERS is now probably the only pension fund in the country to have completed a Voluntary Compliance Program. And in doing so she has contributed greatly to the confidence retirees should have in their retirement system. She is now invited to speak to groups throughout the country on the process. We are very fortunate to have Roxanne Story Parks working on our behalf. And for you old-timers, you probably remember her father, George Story, who was a news reporter and became the City's first Citizens' Assistance Officer. As Joe stated in his presentation, Roxanne is "an excellent writer with a tenacity that George would be proud of."

Some of our members who have Health Net have reported problems transferring prescriptions to Caremark. I'm told that if you have a problem having a prescription refilled, call Caremark and they will take it from there. Another question that arose was

whether or not members must reply to the survey that was sent to some members. The answer is no, the survey is entirely voluntary. And remember, if you have a problem with your health insurance, your first call for help should be to Care Counsel at 1-888-227-3334. I know from personal experience that they can be very helpful.

Hope you all have a great holiday and happy New Year! See you in January!

Nancy

SDREA WEB News! Logon <http://www.csdrea.org>

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.

SDCERS Retirement Trust Fund Board Update by Patti Karnes

At the SDCERS Board meeting on December 19, 2008, the Board noted that accumulated decisions made during this last year reduced the City's 2009-10 annual required contribution by \$7.6 million to \$154.0 million; (the City's 2008-9 contribution was \$161.7 million). Cheiron pointed out that averaging of past gains resulted in reduced losses. SDCERS again is on the national forefront of public pension plans, said David Wescoe, SDCERS' Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Wescoe noted SDCERS' responsiveness to market conditions this last month by providing the quickest monthly updates of SDCERS' assets to the City for inclusion in the City's bond offerings. The 2008 CAFR will be available on SDCERS' web site before December 31st. The printer

will have the paper version out in January. This was the fifth CAFR in two years' time; also the first CAFR on time in years. Mr. Wescoe thanked Sara Jimenez, SDCERS' Principal Accountant, for coming in many Saturdays to complete the CAFR on time. SDCERS met new national accounting standards. Additionally, Doug McCalla outperformed 94% of pension plans as Chief Investment Officer. During Investment comment, Ty Rogers, our Vice President of Advocacy, invited Doug to join our City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association. Ty thanked Doug for his years of service at SDCERS, and noted that Doug was CSDREA's first Annual Award winner for his investment achievements.

The SDCERS fund was \$3.586 billion (unaudited) as of November 30, 2008.

Patti

THANK YOU to our December Greeters: Burnie Gipson and Marylynne Hyde, and all of you who were greeters in 2008. VOLUNTEER to be a GREETER.. Give some time to CSDREA. Call Dora (619) 464-8595.

Do you know of a member who is ill or hospitalized, or who is over 80 and having a birthday? Notify Sharon Beach (619-934-8202) so the word gets passed along and a card is sent.

City of San Diego **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**