

City of San Diego Retired Employees' Association Newsletter March 2010

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Vol. 17 Issue: #3

March 2010

Tuesday, March 9th

Balboa Park Club - Balboa Park

Board Meeting (Santa Fe Room)	9:30 a.m.
General Meeting (Recital Hall*)	11:00 a.m.
Program (Recital Hall*)	11:15 a.m.
Lunch (Recital Hall*)	Noon

*The **Recital Hall** is located in the Palisades Building which is also home to the Puppet Theater and next door to the Balboa Park Club. Check out the Recital Hall at [Recital Hall](#)

Parking is available in the Pan American Plaza parking lot or the Organ Pavilion lot. More parking is available in the adjacent lots that are located behind the Hall of Champions and Starlight Bowl. If need be, you can take the Balboa Park Tram

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Marilyn Bradford, Metro Wastewater
Gay Davis, Purchasing & Contracting
William F. Brougham, Equipment Dept.
Janis O'Dell, Police Dept.
Marilou Seki, SDPD Communications

The Program and Hospitality Committees have selected Ranch Events for our March 9th, 2010 meeting. The Program meeting will be held in the Recital Hall, next door to the Balboa Park Club in Balboa Park, beginning at 11am and ending at approximately Noon. The luncheon is served immediately afterwards at about 12:15 p.m.

Our March menu catered by Ranch Events features:

Chinese Chicken Salad

Rolls and Butter

Assorted Cookies

Iced Tea - Coffee-Lemonade

Cost: \$8 - pay at the door

YOU MUST RSVP BY MARCH 5th to:

Hospitality Committee Co-Chair Janet Burgess
at

March Lunch Reservations or 619-463-7476

FYI: there is no permanent lunch list; everyone must RSVP or risk not eating.

Directions and Parking for the Balboa Park Club:

- Take Hwy 163 south to Park Blvd, go left at the stop light then left onto President's Way, which is the next stop light. Continue to the stop sign where you can go straight to park in the Pan American Plaza parking lot or make a right and park in the Organ Pavilion lot.
- The Balboa Park Club is located in the South Palisades area of Balboa Park, just north of the Puppet Theatre.
- More parking is available in the adjacent lots that are located behind the Hall of Champions and the Starlight Bowl.

MARCH PROGRAM

by Vice President (Programs) Dave Twomey

Liza Crisafi is our speaker this month. Liza Crisafi is the Chief Investment Officer for the San Diego City Employees Retirement System. Liza joined SDCERS in January of 2008 as Deputy CIO and moved into the CIO role in January of 2009.

Liza began her career in the investment industry in 1981 and has spent the bulk of her career managing investment portfolios for high net worth individuals as well as corporate pension and profit sharing plans. She has worked for a number of institutions such as US Bancorp, the Chicago Trust Co., La Salle Bank and has run her own investment advisory practice.

She received her undergraduate degree in Art History from the University of Notre Dame and has an MBA from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Business in Chicago.

Liza will give us a mid-year status report on the investment portfolio and a distant early outlook for 13th check and Corbett.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by CSDREA President Jim Baross

February saw our first meeting at the Balboa Park Club venue and the first meeting for me running the Board meeting; what a day! Yes, I was happy to be able to take an afternoon siesta after this one. And, yes, there is some stress involved with helping put on these activities. Although you should probably check with Board members and others who attended, I thought the location, speakers, food and opportunities to socialize went really well.

Thanks should go to all of the folks who each take responsibility for a part of what our REA does - from planning upcoming events to being hosts and hostesses. There's lots of effort behind the scene to bringing off successful events month after month. I am happy to be able to thank these folks for their efforts. And, I must forward my personal thanks to Joe Flynn for wishing me a Happy President's Day on Feb 22nd! I am now counted among some very important company it seems!

At our February meeting with such a good turnout of REA members and friends we seem to have instantly outgrown the Santa Fe room of the Balboa Park Club; especially for our luncheons. Your program chair, Dave Twomey and the Hospitality Committee have arranged for our March General meeting to be in a larger space, the Recital Hall located just next door to the Balboa Park Club - still in Balboa Park. While it may seem a bit like a slow game of musical chairs moving from one site to another, I do hope that all of you who can will keep track of the next meeting site and join us for these monthly get-togethers. The speakers that are planned, the opportunities to share concerns and hear from people who are making a difference in San Diego, as well as another chance to meet with old friends and work buddies is well worth your and my time.

For those of you who cannot attend, please stay in touch. REA is working to reach out to all our retired City employees with presentations at retirement workshops, our web site, the newsletter and for those of you who are on the e-mailing list, with important notices about the status of attacks and other changes that may occur on our retirement benefits. We're not alone in this stage of our lives, and we're stronger with our REA helping us. **Jim**

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

by CSDREA Board Member Dick Wilkin

Arguably, the most fundamental mission of the Retired Employees Association (REA) is to promote and protect the retirement benefits retirees have earned from the City of San Diego.

In recent years, the City's underfunding of our pension system and the loss of tax revenue as a result of the current severe recession have placed further economic pressure on both the City and the pension fund. Members of your REA Advocacy Committee have attended or monitored the pension trial before Judge Barton and have appeared on numerous occasions before the SDCERS Board and City Council to represent our collective interests.

Thus far, the benefits for existing retirees have not been impacted. Unfortunately, persistent efforts by some to reduce our benefits are certain to continue.

Some in our community continue to push the City towards Chapter 9 bankruptcy based on the mistaken belief that bankruptcy would be some 'magic bullet' that could solve the City's financial problems by wiping away pension and other debt obligations. At the same time, the Mayor, City Attorney, and most - but not all - members of the City Council have come out strongly against talk of bankruptcy for the City. We join them in the belief that the City would not qualify for bankruptcy and, in any case, that vested City pensions could not be eliminated through bankruptcy as they are protected by the California State Constitution.

Municipal bankruptcies are very rare. Orange County, CA went through bankruptcy some years ago. It faced a far worse financial crisis than San Diego does today. Contrary to popular belief, reductions in pensions or other retiree benefits were not included in the Orange County bankruptcy workout plan. The City of Vallejo, CA is currently going through bankruptcy proceedings. However, while the proposed bankruptcy plan for Vallejo does not touch the pensions of any existing retirees, the 'workout' plan does propose to cut health care payments for retired employees.

Members of the REA Advocacy Committee will closely monitor the Vallejo bankruptcy process and periodically report to you as events unfold. **Dick**

General Announcements

THANK YOU February Greeters

Mary Lynn Hyde, Janet Burgess and
Burnie Gipson

Janet Burgess and Mary Lynn Hyde have graciously agreed to be at the door this year to greet you. If you would be willing to help them by doing this one month, please contact Janet at 619-463-7576 or by email at [Hospitality 2](#) or Mary Lynn at 858-488-9283 or by email at [Hospitality 1](#)

Mary Lynn Hyde, our Hospitality Committee co-chair, has been placed on "injured reserve", and will be unable to perform her usual duties of checking members in for our monthly luncheons, at least for the immediate future. Anyone out there willing to fill in? It's about 4 hours once a month. If you can help out for a couple of months, please contact Janet Burgess @ 463-7576 or Dave Twomey @ 933-1407. Thanks!

**Winner of the February drawing was [Bill Lingo](#).
He received a free lunch next month, or at one of his choosing.**

BOOST YOUR BRAIN HEALTH - According to an article in the March/April issue of AARP Magazine, living an active life is your best bet for staying sharp. Exercise, eat right, get ample sleep, volunteer and make social connections. Puzzles are another way to keep those synapses firing properly. Play free crossword and jigsaw puzzles daily online by clicking this link: [AARP Magazine Free Games](#)

**TURNING 80? Then your CSDREA membership is FREE.
Call Sylvia at (858)272-0494.**

Do you know a member who is ill or who is over 80 years old and having a birthday? Notify Sharon Beach (619-934-8202) so the word gets passed along and a card is sent. Also, if you know of someone who has died, please let us know. You may also submit a short bio of that person for publication.

City of San Diego Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to city retirees. This assistance is confidential. Contact EAP at 619-533-3460.

WEBSITE NEWS

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

Reminder

The Retired Fire and Police Assn. has welcomed CSDREA members to visit their website at

[Retired Fire and Police](#)

Logon to see the mutually important retiree information they publish.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION BOARD

Board Members: (add link name) @csdrea.com

Position	Name	Email Link Name
President	Jim Baross 619-281-6908	President
Past President	Nancy Acevedo 619-579-5930	Past President
Vice-Pres Programs	Dave Twomey	VP Programs
Vice-Pres Advocacy	Patricia Karnes	VP Advocacy
Secretary	Ruth Ann Hageman 858-270-8530	Secretary
Treasurer	Gary Hess	Treasurer
Membership Chair	Sylvia Tatum 858-272-0494	Membership
Elected Rep to SDCERS Board	Dave Hall	Retiree Rep
Newsletter Editor	Janet Wood	Editor
Parliamentarian	Robert West	Parliamentarian
Director	Terry Flynn	Director 1
Director	Maggie Smith	Director 2
Director	Leonard "Ty" Rogers	Director 3
Director	Robert Korch	Director 4
Director	Dick Wilken	Director 5
Director & Webmaster	Art Brown	Webmaster
Assistant Webmaster	John Tsiknas	Web Assistant
MEA Representative	Helen Phillips	MEA Rep
Ret. Issues Task Force	Joe Flynn	Issues Task Force
Hospitality Co-Chair	Mary Lynn Hyde	Hospitality 1
Hospitality Co-Chair	Janet Burgess	Hospitality 2
Sunshine Committee	Sharon Beach 619-934-8202	Sunshine
Roster Maintainance	Kaye Carey	Roster

****To send a message with your comments, suggestions or questions to an officer, board or committee member, click on their E-mail link above and your mail system should bring up the e-mail form with the proper addressee. We look forward to your comments.**

The board members who have consented to listing their phone numbers in the newsletter have done so to provide you a way to arrange sending a card to a sick member, and to obtain a password for the "members only" section of the website. They are intended for the use of CSDREA members only. Thank you for your cooperation.